

SCRUTINY ADVISORY BOARD - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny Advisory Board - Children and Young People held on Friday, 7 December 2018 at 10.30 am at Conference Rooms, Cumbria House, Carlisle.

PRESENT:

Mrs V Tarbitt (Chair)

Mr B Shirley (Vice-Chair)	Mr P Dew
Mrs C Bowditch	Mr AW Wonnacott
Mrs S Evans	Mr W Clark
Mr CP Turner	Mr GD Cook
Ms C Driver	

Also in Attendance:-

Mr D Hamilton	- Democratic Services Officer
Mr J Rasbash	- Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor
Mr J Macilwraith	- Executive Director - People (Deputy Chief Executive)
Mr D Barton	- Assistant Director - Education and Skills
Ms H Murphy	- Business Planning & Improvement Assistant

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs EA Mallinson – Mr LN Fisher attended in her place. Ms L Berryman - Assistant Director Children & Young People gave apologies and Mr J Macilwraith – Executive Director – People (Deputy Chief Executive) attended in her place.

23 MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that Ms Caroline Johnston had been appointed as the Parent Governor Representative for a four year term.

As two vacancies remain, in line with legislation, there must be another appointment round in a year's time then every 6 months after that until all vacancies are appointed to.

It was **AGREED** that a thank you letter be sent to the previous Parent Governors.

Members noted that no Church representatives had attended the Scrutiny Advisory Board for some time and members asked officers to investigate this.

24 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

25 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items of business on the agenda

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, the minutes of the previous meeting 14 September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

27 CHILDREN'S IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Members considered a report from the Executive Director – People (Deputy Chief Executive) on the Children's Improvement Plan. The report provided the Board with an update on the progress of the plan and of the issues raised at the last meeting of the Joint Chair's Group.

Three areas were identified as being particular concerns;

- CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation
- CLA in EET – Children Looked after in education or training
- Management oversight

A discussion took place about the portfolio for Early Help and how changes might be made to assure progress in this area, including joint working practices.

Members discussed facilities for victims of CSE after concerns are raised over the future of a centre in Barrow. The Board was informed that a Police and Crime Commission report into the condition of Victim Support contact centres would be brought to a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.

Transitions and disabilities are cited as focus areas as changes in the functions of the directorate (People now incorporates Children and Adults) will allow for a more seamless provision of services.

RESOLVED that,

- 1) Revisions be made to the format of the presentations as a standing item for future boards. To include: brief narrative overview which sets the context of improvement and performance over the period; glossary of acronyms; a revised format of coloured bar charts.
- 2) Future items include district breakdowns of data particularly where performance is concerned.
- 3) A private presentation be made to the Board in February on the introduction of the Signs of Safety model.
- 4) An update be provided on the location and capacity of facilities for victims of sexual assault in Cumbria, and link this in to the mapping that the Police and Crime Commissioner is working on regarding victim support services.
- 5) An enquiry be made into how looked after children and young people are supported in finding 'weekend jobs', given the decline of work in this area.
- 6) Information be provided into the recruitment and vacancy rates of Social Workers including an update on progress with the Social Worker Academy.

28 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

The Board received a presentation from the Executive Director – People (Deputy Chief Executive) on the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Members were asked to consider the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan and whether they reflected the priorities of the Board and to consider how the Board could be kept involved in the delivery of the CYPP once the refresh had been agreed next April.

Following the 2017 Ofsted inspection, Cumbria moved from a rating of 'Inadequate' to 'Requires Improvement'. There were many aspects of the service which were rated as 'Good', and the Children's Improvement Plan sets out what was required to make sure that a rating of 'Good' or 'Outstanding' was reached.

The Programme Officer talked members through the presentation which discussed the following;

- The Children and Young People's Plan
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Headlines from Engagement
- What have Children and Young People told us so far
- Timeline and Next Steps

In discussion of the Children Looked After Recovery Plan it was made clear to members that there were still a number of challenges to be overcome if the goal of being an 'Outstanding' local authority was to be achieved. The number of children looked after in Cumbria was above the average for local authorities with similar populations. The officer explained that as of June 2018 Cumbria had:

- 690 children looked after
- 294 in foster care (own provision)

- 10 in Cumbria County Council residential care
- 78 in other arrangements (e.g. placed for adoption or placed with parents)
- 308 were in externally provided placements (95 in residential homes and 213 through Independent Fostering Agencies)
- There had been a decrease in children under 1 year old coming into care, but an increase in 10-15 year olds, who have proved harder to place.

RESOLVED that,

1. An item on Curriculum for Life and Digital Wellbeing be brought before the Board in May.
2. The Director of Public Health provide the Board with a briefing on breastfeeding and rationale for reduction as a policy goal, as well as progress in delivery of the alcohol strategy.
3. To bring to a future meeting of the Board an item on Child Poverty.

29 SCHOOL ATTAINMENT

The Board had before them a report from Executive Director – People (Deputy Chief Executive) about pupil outcomes for all Key Stages for Cumbria in 2018, together with an update on Ofsted School Inspection outcomes.

The Assistant Director - Education & Skills talked members through the presentation, which explained that following the disappointing 2016 pupil outcomes for Cumbria in all key stages, the CASL plan was revised and action plans implemented to ensure a much greater focus on pupil achievement.

This focus had a positive impact on pupil achievement in 2017, with recognition across the CASL partnership that improvements needed to be sustained throughout the three year period of the CASL plan.

This ambition was reaffirmed to all partners in autumn 2017, and revised action plans implemented, driven through the Learning Improvement Service (LIS), CASL priority groups and the three Local Alliances.

During the academic year 2017-2018, there were a total of 86 Ofsted inspections in Cumbria. Overall, judgements matched system predictions, with exceptions mainly due to relationships and culture within schools, rather than pupil achievement or the quality of provision.

Pupil achievement had shown strong progress in the Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. There had also been positive improvements in SEND outcomes in all phases. Despite some individual school and provider improvements at GCSE and Post 16, overall 2018 performance in these phases had been static in comparison to national figures.

- **Early Years**

In Early Years, Foundation Stage Profile headline results show that the proportion achieving a 'good level of development' has continued to increase in 2018, from 65% to 70.1% in Cumbria. Nationally, the proportion achieving the benchmark has increased from 70.7% to 71.5%.

Cumbria had increased at a faster rate than the national and has narrowed the gap for the third consecutive year, reversing a widening gap trend. The CASL plan target for year three was to achieve outcomes in line with or better than the national in 2019.

- **Key Stage 1**

In Phonics, 81.9% of pupils achieved the standard, compared with 82.5% nationally. This represents a three year upward trend, with a difference of 0.6% in 2018 compared with 2.2% in 2017 and 3.3% in 2016.

Cumbria was still slightly below the national for reading, writing and mathematics combined and for mathematics as a stand-alone subject.

The disadvantaged gap in Key Stage 1 between disadvantaged pupils and other pupils nationally had reduced in 2018, but was still higher in all areas than the national gap.

- **Key Stage 2**

In KS2 64.4% achieved the expected standard Reading, Writing, Mathematics (RWM) combined - (National 64.1%) - a substantial improvement of 3.9% compared to a 3% national increase.

Reading results (77.5%) exceeded national (75.0%). Writing results improved substantially and now exceed the national by 2.1%. Cumbria's results increased by 3.1% (to 80.3%), compared with a national increase of just 1.8%.

Maths results matched N (75.3%) after being slightly below last year. Results increased by 1.7% compared with just a 0.4% increase nationally.

In KS2, The performance of disadvantaged pupils achieving the expected standard in 2018 was more varied than in 2017. On the combined measure of reading, writing and maths, the disadvantaged pupils achieving the benchmark fell slightly

(down from 48.1% to 47.6%). This contrasts to an increase nationally of 2.3 percentage points and means Cumbria is below the country as a whole by 2%.

- **Key Stage 4**

Cumbria performed above the national average on the GCSE measure of the percentage achieving 9-4 grades in English & Maths (65.0% compared with 64.3%).

In KS4, the proportion of children achieving passes in English at grade 4 and above had fallen for disadvantaged pupils (down from 58.4% to 57.1%). Attainment at the end of this Key Stage is not showing significant improvement. All main attainment measures for disadvantaged pupils in Cumbria were below the national.

- **A Level**

The average points score for Level 3 qualifications (A 'Level and equivalent grade subjects) was 30.90 in Cumbria in 2018, slightly below the national figure of 31.59.

For A 'Level subjects only, the average points score per entry was slightly lower in Cumbria (30.97) than nationally (31.84). Cumbria has a notional grade 'C' compared to a national grade of 'C+'. Between 2017 and 2018, the Cumbria and national figures increased by roughly the same amount (up 0.94 for Cumbria and 0.99 for England).

- **Ofsted Outcomes**

There were a total of 86 inspections during the academic year 2017-2018. 34 were Section 5 inspections and 52 were Section 8 inspections. 63 schools retained a good or outstanding grade, eight improved their grade to good or better and four declined from good or better to Requires Improvement (RI) or Serious Weaknesses (SW). In two of the RI schools, leadership has improved from grade 3 to grade 2.

The impact of these inspections on the overall percentage of good or better primary schools in Cumbria was that this figure was now 92.94% compared with 91.85% at 1 September 2017.

The Board raised concerns over the areas where Cumbria was not achieving national average. The officers provided context of Cumbria's unique educational challenges and then discussion took place regarding the positive results seen in Primary Education and how these could be translated into secondary education.

Members asked for clarification on how the results vary across the county and officers resolve to provide a geographical breakdown for the Board.

RESOLVED that,

1. An item on Child Poverty be brought before a future meeting of the Board which provides an insight into the fall in Key Stage 4 attainment rates.

2. That further information be provided to the Board on how Key Stage attainment varies across the county.

30 CABINET MEMBER UPDATES

Members were given verbal updates on the work of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning respectively.

RESOLVED that, the report be noted.

31 BOARD BRIEFING

Members considered the Board Briefing report from the Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor. This provided an update of Board activity and notified the Board of items for the next Board meeting and any children related Cabinet decisions on the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that, the report be noted.

32 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the Tuesday 12 February 2019.

The meeting ended at 12:30pm