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Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 12th June, 2023

6.00 pm

Meeting Room A

Blackburn Town Hall

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**
6th March 2023 **2 - 3**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM **4**
4. **Youth MP's Update**
5. **Training Update**
Introduction to the LGA's scrutiny of children's services support offer BwD **5 - 6**
6. **Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Report**
The Strategic Director, Jo Siddle, will report on this item at the meeting.
7. **Work Programme 2023/24**
The Committee will receive information from the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Health on their priorities and objectives for 2023/24, which will assist the Committee in agreeing its Work Programme for 2023/24.

Date Published: Friday 2nd June 2023
Denise Park, Chief Executive

Agenda Item 2

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6th March 2023

Present- Councillor Liddle, in the Chair, Councillors McCaughran, Raja, Salton and Slater.

Also Present:- Julie Gunn, Executive Member,

M. Bapu, Youth MP.

Jo Siddle, Strategic Director,

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The chair welcomed those present to the meeting and received apologies for absence from Councillor Hussain. The chair congratulated Jo Siddle on her recent appointment to the role of Strategic Director.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2022 were submitted.

Resolved- that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the inclusion of Councillor Julie Gunn in the list of those who had attended.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

4. Youth MP and the work of the Youth Forum.

The Committee received an update from the youth MP on the work that was ongoing. The Committee also looked at the work of the youth forum who were involved in a number of campaigns and projects including the young inspectors programme and the Youthfonia event held in Blackburn which had focused on the issues of Violence, LGBT and the cost of living. Members welcomed the work of the forum and their involvement in the work of the Committee.

Resolved That the work of the Youth MP and Youth Forum be noted and that the members of the Forum be congratulated for the excellent work that they have undertaken during the year.

5. Children's Attainment

The Committee received an update on the attainment of children in the borough and how this compared to regional and national averages. The data provided a snapshot of attainment at Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 and beyond and how the work that had been done to improve attainment was working. The Committee looked at how attainment had improved over time and the work

that had led to this including working with schools, introducing programmes borough wide to improve the learning foundations and how this was monitored.

Resolved-

1. That the progress on the excellent attainment of young people in the borough be welcomed.
2. That the Committee continue to monitor the attainment of children in the next municipal year.

6. **Update on Improving Speech, Language and Communication- Early Years Strategy.**

Members noted that earlier in their work programme for the year they had looked at the early year's strategy for improving speech, language and communication. The provision of high quality early education, particularly in early language skills could greatly improve a child's attainment throughout primary school and that almost half the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers at key stage 4 has emerged by the age of five. Nationally, Speech, Language and Communication are the biggest barriers to children making progress.

The Committee were informed of the significant progress that had been made across the Authority and the level of commitment from all education providers in the borough since the introduction in October and how this would be progressed.

Resolved- That the Committee welcome the progress that has been made in the development of early years Improving Speech, Language and Communication through the introduction of the Strategy and will continue to monitor the outcomes in the new municipal year.

7. **Self -Assessment Framework**

The Committee were updated on the work that was ongoing on the Self-Assessment Framework for Children's Social Care. The framework was using a systemic approach to what we do and the difference that has been made. The Committee were made aware of the work that was still be done and the challenges that need to be faced. The Committee will keep the progress on the self-assessment frame work under review and hold the Executive Member to account for delivered outcomes at future meetings.

Resolved- That the Committee be kept informed of the progress on the self-assessment frame work under review and hold the Executive Member to account for delivered outcomes at future meetings.

Chair of the Committee.....

Date.....

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.

Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.

MEETING: **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OSC**

DATE: **12TH JUNE 2023**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)

Effective Scrutiny of Children's Services

Proposed LGA Support to Blackburn with Darwen

Aims of our offer

As part of the LGA's continuing work to support political and corporate leadership for children's services, we offer a training and development offer to support councils to improve the effectiveness of their scrutiny of children's services. Our offer aims to:

- Support scrutiny committees to understand 'what good looks like' for effective children's scrutiny and identify strengths and areas for development
- Use a mixture of workshop sessions and resources to improve the confidence and ability of scrutiny chairs and members to use their roles to have a positive impact on the lives of children and families

Proposed development session for Blackburn with Darwen's children's scrutiny committee

We propose delivering a workshop for Blackburn with Darwen's children's scrutiny committee that will explore effective scrutiny practice in relation to the '6 steps for effective scrutiny' below, and identify actions that can be taken by the committee to develop further.

1. Knowledge of children's services
2. The role of children's scrutiny
3. Work programming and planning
4. Demonstrating value and influence
5. Engagement and working with others
6. Creating a strong organisational culture

Within these themes the session would particularly focus on equipping the committee with the skills to:




- Develop effective questioning techniques
- Develop a work programme that will add value and support improvement whilst making the best use of collective committee resource and expertise
- Use influence and impactful recommendations to make a difference to the lives of children and young people

This session would also be used to identify any further needs that the committee may have that could be supported by the LGA.

Method of delivery

The session would be run as a 2 hour in person workshop at a time to suit the committee. It would be facilitated by an LGA associate with significant experience of supporting councils with effective scrutiny, working with a Member peer with recent or current experience of children's services political leadership.

LGA wider support for effective scrutiny

Courses 	Resources 	Peer Mentoring 
<p>The LGA offers Leadership Essentials courses for councillors providing learning and networking opportunities on specific themes:</p> <p>Leadership Essentials: Children’s Services 2-day programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Lead Members and children’s Scrutiny Chairs with the key challenges they face in the changing policy landscape An opportunity to network and share learning. <p>Leadership Essentials: Effective Scrutiny 2-day programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading and managing a scrutiny review Ensuring impact of scrutiny recommendations Increasing participation by members and public Chairing scrutiny meetings <p>Interactive online training modules on a range of topics and skills are hosted on the LGA’s E-learning platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to children’s services Corporate parenting 	<p>The following resources can be found on the LGA website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor workbook on scrutiny Councillor workbook: Equality, diversity and inclusion Your first ten days as a lead member for children’s services Includes a glossary of key children’s services terms. LG Inform: benchmarking and data reports generated for your area ‘Must knows’ for Children’s Services Must Know: Children’s services guide to effective cross- council working LGA Children and young people policy pages 	<p>Peer mentoring for Scrutiny Chairs from an experienced children’s services lead member or scrutiny chair.</p>