

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5th September 2022

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

Also Present- Mohammed Bapu, Youth MP

Deputy Youth MP

Stephen Ashley, Independent Scrutineer, Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and Blackpool
CSAP

Jayne Ivory, Strategic Director, Children's Services

Joanne Siddle, Deputy Director, Education

Elizabeth Clarkson, Youth Participation Manager,

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The chair welcomed those present to the first meeting of the Committee and outlined the revisions to the remit of the Committee agreed by the Council.

RESOLVED- that the revised remit of the Committee as agreed by the Council Forum be noted.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the Committee.

3. Youth Forum Update

The Committee received an update on the work of the Youth Forum and the Youth MP. The Committee were informed of progress on the campaigns and priorities of the forum including the take-over challenge, work on climate change and inspections. The Committee were updated on the leaving care forum and the work that they had undertaken during the summer.

The Committee were keen to continue with the work of the Youth Forum being reported to them and would support their campaigns and work where possible

RESOLVED- That the work of the Youth Forum be noted and that the Committee continue to receive regular updates on the work of the Youth Forum and the Youth MP.

4. Achieving Excellence Update.

The Committee received an update on the Achieving Excellence Board and the progress to date. Members received the terms of reference of the board and the time line for reporting and delivering on the key areas.

The Post Inspection Action Plan setting out 10 areas of recommendations was also considered and the Executive Member addressed member's questions on the processes and how this would deliver improvement.

RESOLVED-

1. That the Committee note the terms of reference of the Achieving Excellence Board and the progress to date
2. That regular reports on the progress on the post inspection plan and the 10 areas of recommendations be submitted to this Committee.

5. Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Annual Report.

The Committee received a presentation from Stephen Ashley, Independent Scrutineer, of the Safeguarding Assurance Partnership on their annual report for the year ending 2021. The partnership was a Pan Lancashire covering Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen and the 12 districts that constitute the Lancashire footprint. The Partnership was made up of the key safeguarding partners together with relevant agencies who were required to keep children safe. The Committee were informed of the way the partnership worked and how reviews of practices were carried out on the death of a child. These reviews were shared and disseminated to seek to prevent harm. The Committee looked at how the partnership developed the workforce to assist in keeping children safe with briefings and training. The Independent scrutineer was satisfied that partners had structures and processes in place as required by law and that they were working together effectively, work was undertaken by frontline staff and there was openness and transparency of the CSPA Executive Board which has enabled progress to be made.

RESOLVED- That the Committee welcomed the Safeguarding Annual report and the findings outlined therein.

6. Early Years Speech and Language.

The Committee were informed of the work that was ongoing on improving speech, Language and communication as part of the early year's strategy. The strategy highlighted the fact that the white paper on early years highlighted that high quality early years education, particularly early language skills can greatly improve a child's attainment throughout primary school. One of the authorities key focuses were on school readiness to give Children the best start to their education. The borough wide initiative was to improve outcomes for all children in all settings with targeted support. The strategy would also focus on children who have English as an additional language.

RESOLVED-

That the work on the development of the strategy for early year's speech and language be welcomed that the Committee would wish to see how the strategy makes a positive influence on the outcomes for early year's development over time.

Chair of the Committee.....

Date.....