

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5th December 2022

Present- Councillor Sylvia Liddle, in the Chair, Councillors McCaughran, Raja, Akhtar, Julie Slater, and Salton,

Also Present- M. Bapu, Youth MP

K. Shar, Deputy Youth MP

Joanne Siddle, Interim Director, Children's Services

Elizabeth Clarkson, Youth Participation Manager,

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chair welcomed those present to the 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 Takeover challenge that had been held in November and focused on Child Poverty. The day had included work on issues such as resilience, food poverty and children's mental health. Over 80 schools had taken part from across the borough and great feedback had been received.

The committee were informed that the youth forum/ youth MP would now share the findings with schools and youth organisations and ask for their feedback. They would collaborate with schools, colleges and stakeholders on the issues raised and look at presenting the findings at various strategic bodies.

The committee were updated on the recent visit to the House of Parliament to take part in the national youth debate. The debates had focused on the issues affecting young people and reflected the main issues being considered by the youth forum.

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 and the Improvement Board.

The Committee received an update on the work following the OFSTED review and were informed that the Achieving Excellence Board had been replaced with the Improvement board which would support a board made up of partners. The board would look inward at what we do and how we do it and focus on deep routed reviews of the services that were provided for children of the borough. The committee were informed that even though the process had now been streamlined it would still focus on the inspection report. The committee would continue to be informed of progress and outcomes that were delivered.

RESOLVED-

1. That the Committee note the revised arrangements for the delivery of the improvement plan following the OFSTED inspection and that the Achieving Excellence Board would now be replaced with an Improvement Board.
2. That regular reports on the progress on the post inspection plan and the areas of recommendations be submitted to this Committee.

5 Self-Evaluation Framework.

The Committee received a presentation from the Interim Director Children and Education on the Self-Evaluation Framework. The frame work was a requirement that focused on what we did and how this made a difference to the lives of children in the borough. The committee were reminded of the challenges we faced as a borough together with the contextual information. The committee looked at the areas that the authority needed to address as part of its self-evaluation and the difference that it made to the lives of children in education and early years and special educational needs. The Committee were informed that part of the issues that we still needed to address needed a national lead such as the appointment and retention of social workers. The Interim Director undertook to provide information to members on the workloads of social workers in the borough and work that we undertook to retain them in the borough. Members drew attention to the improved provision of data which helped assess progress of service delivery and need. It was pointed out that data was useful however this still needed to be interrogated to ensure that it was understood properly.

- RESOLVED-**
- 1 That the progress on the Self-Evaluation Framework be noted.
 2. That information on Social work caseloads and the way we seek to retain social workers in the borough be forwarded to members of the Committee.
 3. That detailed information be provided to the Committee at their next meeting on progress and issues that needed to be addressed following the self-evaluation process.

Chair of the Committee.....

Date.....