

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.....