

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Monday 12th June 2023

PRESENT – Councillor Sylvia Liddle (in the Chair) Councillors McCaughran, Raja, Ali, Gee, Slater Ju.

YOUNG PEOPLE REPRESENTATIVES – Muhammed Bapu, Youth MP, Roisa McCusker and Luca Marina (Youth Forum representatives).

ALSO PRESENT – Executive Member – Julie Gunn, Officers - Strategic Director – Jo Siddle, Andrea Sturgess, Head of Communications and Engagement, Liz Clarkson, Participation and Inclusion Manager and Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Democratic Lead.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular welcomed new Members, and Officers Andrea Sturgess and Phil Llewellyn, who were carrying out new roles supporting the Committee. Thanks were passed to Paul Conlon who had now left the Council, for all his support for the Committee,

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2023 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of interest

No Declarations of interest were made by Members of the Committee.

4. Youth MP and Youth Forum Update

The Youth MP verbally reported on recent events and activities including :

- The Annual Youthforia event at Ambleside.
- Ongoing work relating to the Leaving Care Service Inspection.
- As requested at the last meeting, feedback had been received on the awareness about the local elections, and Voter ID, awareness of which had been good, and also the view that more could be done at schools and colleges to educate young people why it was important to vote and what they were voting for etc.
- The Democracy Day event at the Olive School.
- Attendance at Mayor Making, with thanks to the outgoing Mayor for his support.

- The successful Climate Summit at King George’s Hall held earlier in the week.
- An update on the Food for Learning / Free School Meals campaign and involvement/discussions with the Blackburn and Rossendale and Darwen MPs.

Roisa provided an update from the Young Voices Group, which included involvement with recent staff interviews, feedback on information produced by the Council and attendance by Roisa at the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum.

Luca update Members on the work of the SEN YPS members, which included participation in consultation on the new Council website and a Volunteering video.

Muhammed requested an update on the procurement of Wellbeing Champions by the Public Health Team, and Councillor Gunn agreed to pursue this.

Members discussed the updates and thanked the Youth MP and Youth Forum for the ongoing excellent work.

RESOLVED- That the updates be noted.

5. Training Update – LGA Offer

The Committee discussed an offer from the LGA to hold a two hour in person development session for the Committee, which would explore effective scrutiny practice in relation to the ‘6 steps for effective scrutiny’ and the session would also focus on equipping the Committee with skills to develop effective questioning techniques, develop an effective work programme and using influence and recommendations to make a difference to lives of children and young people.

Members discussed the offer and best time to hold the training, which would be in the evening, ideally as soon as could be arranged, subject to LGA and Member availability.

RESOLVED –That the LGA training offer be accepted and arranged as soon as possible.

6. Children’s Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Report

Further to discussions at recent meetings of the Committee, Jo Siddle delivered a presentation which gave further details of the shift to a Blackburn with Darwen Place based model for the Children’s Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) from a Pan Lancs model.

The CSAP involved three statutory partners, the Council, Police and the Chair of the Integrated Care Board (ICB), and the Board had held a workshop day on 4th April 2023, which considered and discussed:

- Setting the Vision
- Strategic Aims
- Principles
- Sub Groups – Contextual Safeguarding, Neglect and Domestic Abuse
- New Priorities
- Immediate Challenges
- Scrutiny
- Risk Register
- Support Requirements
- Proposed Structure

A Development Day would be held w/c 19th June 2023, to discuss the Business Plan.

Members discussed the update, with Jo Siddle confirming that meetings would still be held involving Blackpool and Lancashire to share good practice and learning, and that an Independent Chair was required for the Board. Members requested a report back on progress in six months, and it was suggested that this be confirmed during discussion of Work Programme topics under the next agenda item.

7. Work Programme 2023/24

Following information from the Executive Member and Strategic Director, the Committee discussed its Work Programme for 2023/24, and agreed the following items be looked at in 2023/24, one key item per meeting, in the following order:

- **Corporate Parenting** – to ensure the importance of Corporate Parenting is fully understood by the Council and its Partners.
- **Local Safeguarding Assurance Partnership** – Update on last six month since update at today's meeting.
- **School Improvement Strategy.**

Jo Siddle advised that workforce retention was key to all 3 of these areas, together with the need to reduce the use of agencies, which was a national issue. KPI's would also need to be discussed and considered.

RESOLVED – That Work Programme for 2023/24 be agreed.

Signed:

Date:

Chair of the meeting
at which the minutes were confirmed