



Northumberland County Council

Family and Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monitoring Report 2017 - 2018

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Terms of reference:

(a) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:

- Early Years
- Education and Schools
- Special education needs and disability
- Adult and Community Education
- Training and Vocational Education
- Lifelong Learning
- Youth Offending
- Social Services for Children and Young People
- Children's Health
- Teenage Sexual Health
- Looked After Children
- Safeguarding - Children
- Youth Services
- Family Services
- Children's Centres

(b) To oversee and monitor school improvement, as follows:

- (i) To receive feedback on the Ofsted inspection of schools.
- (ii) To support the work of the County Council and the progress of schools on the School Intervention and Support Programme in specified categories.
- (iii) To receive an annual report about the number of schools that have been on the School Intervention and Support Programme, the reason(s) for their inclusion, the support given by the Council and the success of this support.
- (iv) To receive an annual report on the performance of schools.

ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

Regular updates:

Safeguarding Activity Trends Report
Finance and Performance Six Monthly Report
Children Permanently Excluded from School
Schools performance

Issues to be raised:

Review of Looked After Children
Safeguarding and CSE Update (incl reporting and confidentiality procedures)
Work of the Children's, Adult and Community Safety Safeguarding Boards' Sexual Exploitation Sub Committee - Update
Youth Offending Overview of practice and performance
School Transport Safety
Supporting Families in Poverty
School Organisation Plan
Peer Challenge
Reduction in pupil roll in Berwick Partnership

Themed Scrutiny:

Retention and Recruitment of Teachers

**FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OSC
MONITORING REPORT 2017/2018**

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1	29/06/2017	Changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy Payment Options	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee endorsed the recommendations outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the OSC comments when it determined the report on 11 July 2017
2	29/06/2017	Regionalising Adoption Proposals	RESOLVED that Cabinet be asked to consider the comments made by this Committee in endorsing the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the OSC comments when it determined the report on 11 July 2017.
3	29/06/2017	Annual Report of the Virtual School Headteacher 2015-16	RESOLVED that the achievements of pupils in care and the effectiveness of Northumberland's Virtual School be acknowledged and that staff be thanked and congratulated.	No further action identified.
4	29/06/2017	Themed Scrutiny	RESOLVED that a Task and Finish Group be established to look at the Recruitment and Retention of Teachers with the Membership and Terms of Reference to be agreed at the next meeting.	Group established with Membership as follows: M Swinburn (Chair), T Cessford, M Richards, G Renner-Thompson and R Wallace A report on the findings to be brought to OSC in 2018.

5	20/07/2017	Performance and Finance Quarterly Report	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The information be noted; 2. The position regarding the £2m unallocated savings was acknowledged and the Committee requested that this figure be removed; 3. A report on School Improvement Visits would be brought to a future meeting. 	A report to be brought to a future OSC on School Improvement Visits.
6	20/007/2017	Safeguarding Activity Trends Report	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action required at this time.
7	08/09/2017	Education in Belford	RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to agree to the recommendations in the report.	Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when determining the report on 12 September 2017.
8	21/09/2017	School Transport Safety	<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>The contents of the reports be noted; The implementation of action points listed under Future Plans be supported; and Schools be encouraged to promote 100% seat belt use.</p>	No further action required.
9	21/09/2017	Northumberland Adult Learning Services Annual Report	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action required.

10	21/09/17	Trans identity & Gender Diversity. Supporting young people in Northumberland	RESOLVED that the resource be approved for launch and made accessible to all schools.	No further action required.
11	21/09/2017	Care Proceedings & Public Law Outline Annual Report	RESOLVED that the information provided be noted.	No further action required.
12	21/09/2017	Special Educational Needs & Disability Strategy	The Interim Director of Children's Services requested comments to be provided by email.	The final report would be considered by this Committee prior to being presented to Cabinet in March 2018.
13	31/10/17	Proposed Closure of Acklington Church of England First School	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee whilst supporting the recommendation to approve the proposal from the Governing Body of the James Calvert Spence Federation to close Acklington CE First School the date of closure should be 31 August 2018.	Cabinet considered and agreed to the recommendation of the OSC at its meeting on 7 November 2017.
14	31/10/17	Consultation process for closing or making changes to schools	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action required.
15	16/11/17	Report by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee noted the contents of the report.	Cabinet resolved to note the contents of the report at its meeting on 12 December 2017.
16	16/11/17	Education Infrastructure Contribution Policy	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 12 December 2017.
17	16/11/17	Northumberland Safeguarding Children's Board (NSCB) Annual Report	RESOLVED that:- The report be accepted and noted; and A report on the Children's Services	A report on the Children's Services Improvement Plan be provided at a future date. Improvement Plan considered by this Committee on 15 March 2018.

			Improvement Plan be provided at a future date.	
18	16/11/17	Safeguarding Activity Trends (quarterly report)	RESOLVED that no issues were identified and the Committee noted the report.	No further action required.
19	16/11/17	Adoption Agency Annual Report	RESOLVED that the performance information in regard to the period April 2016 - March 2017 be noted.	No further action required.
20	16/11/17	Fostering Agency Annual Report	RESOLVED that the performance information in regard to the period April 2016 - March 2017 be noted.	No further action required.
21	16/11/17	Regional Adoption Agency Update	RESOLVED that the Committee:- Noted the update provided and endorsed the delayed launch date. Noted that the preferred business model option for Adopt NE in the form of a Local Authority owned Joint Venture still stands, however work was ongoing to look at whether a hosted model might be viable. Noted that the full business model which had been anticipated would be presented for consideration to Cabinet in late summer/autumn would now be delayed until the new year in 2018.	A further report would be received early in 2018.

22	06/12/17	Outcomes of consultation on school organisation in Belford	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report and note that Ellingham First School and Duchess High School had been aware of the consultation.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 12 December 2017.
23	14/12/17	Education in the West of Northumberland	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 19 December 2017.
24	14/12/17	Schools National Funding Formula	RESOLVED Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as detailed in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 19 December 2017.
25	18/01/18	School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2019/20 Academic Year	RESOLVED Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as detailed in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 13 February 2018.
26	18/01/18	The role of the Director of Children's Services - Test of Assurance	RESOLVED that the Committee was satisfied that the arrangements for discharging the role of Director of Children's Services passed the "test of assurance" required by statutory guidance.	No further action required
27	18/01/18	SIF Improvement Plan	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	Update on annual children's social care conversation with Ofsted be brought to a future meeting.
28	18/01/18	Principal Social Workers Report	RESOLVED that:- (1) The contents of the report and the work completed over the last	No further action required

			year be noted; and (2) The priorities for 2018 be agreed.	
29	18/01/18	Director of Education & Skills Annual Report & Presentation on Educational Outcomes 2017	RESOLVED that:- (1) The contents of the report be noted; and (2) A report be provided to a future Committee on the reasons for the decreasing pupil roll within the Berwick partnership including information on the number of pupils attending school in Scotland.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 13 February 2018. A report be brought to this Committee on the decreasing pupil roll within the Berwick Partnership.
30	06/02/18	Education in Belford	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supports the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 8 February 2018.
31	06/02/18	Netherton Northside First School	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supports the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 8 February 2018.
32	06/02/18	Consultation Exercise For Proposed Changes To Post 16 Transport Policy	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supports the recommendations included in the report and would ask that a further recommendation be included as follows:- "Cabinet agree that the final decision on the granting of school transport funding lies at the discretion of NCC".	Cabinet agreed to the recommendation of the Family and Children's Services OSC that "the final decision on the granting of school transport funding lie at the discretion of the County Council" be approved when determining the report at its meeting on 13 February 2018.

33	06/02/18	Elective Home Education	<p>RESOLVED that the Committee:-</p> <p>(1) Noted the concern and potential impact on safeguarding and education outcomes for children; and</p> <p>(2) A further report be provided in the summer term or when the Home Education (Duties of Local Authorities) Bill was passed whichever was the sooner.</p>	A report to be provided in the summer term
34	06/02/18	Finance and Performance - six monthly report	<p>RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted; and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services be requested to raise concerns regarding the level of permanent exclusions from Academies with the Regional Schools Commissioner.</p>	Report to be provided in six months.
35	15/03/18	Outcomes of the special Educational Needs & Disability Strategy and Capacity Consultation	<p>RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 as outlined in the report and that recommendation 2 should be changed to read:-</p> <p>“Approve a more detailed consultation on options to expand capacity for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities with a focus on all parts of the County particularly the North.”</p>	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the Family and Children's Services OSC when determining the report. The change to recommendation 2 was accepted with an amendment to substitute the words “particularly the North” with “in Northumberland”

36	15/03/18	Children's Social Care Improvement Plan	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendation to note the progress made against the actions of the Improvement Plan and that no further areas for additional scrutiny had been identified.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the Family and Children's Services OSC when determining the report.
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