

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING SUB OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING

Monday, 10 July 2017

PRESENT: Councillor B Oliphant (Chair)
Councillor(s): J Adams and M Hall

CO-OPTED MEMBERS Jeremy Cripps

CP1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Clelland, Cllr S Craig, Cllr McMaster and Cllr Simcox.

CP2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

CP3 CONSTITUTION

RESOLVED - That the Constitution of the Committee and the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair as approved by the Council for the current municipal year be noted.

CP4 SEN AND LAC

The Committee received a report providing an update on SEND pupils in care of the local authority.

The report covered provision and activities undertaken to support children and included detailed information on:

- Progress of SEND LAC
- Type of support available from the service
- Current challenges for SEND LAC and REALAC team

The Committee were advised, as of July 2016 there were 244 LAC. In Gateshead there were 97 SEND pupils of whom 53 had Education Health Care (EHC) Plans or Statements. This is 22% of the LAC number of pupils. There were 44 pupils receiving SEND support therefore 18% of the LAC pupils. Overall 97 were SEND LAC which is 40% of pupils.

Of the 53 pupils with Plans for SEND, the largest area is Social, Emotional, Mental

Health (SEMH) with 23 pupils, with relatively small numbers in other areas.

SEND LAC Progress on Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 were reported to Committee.

The Committee were updated on the challenges currently facing the team:-

There are a significantly increasing number of permanent exclusions from Gateshead schools. This is impacting on the need to intervene with schools to prevent permanent exclusions. This has predominantly taken most of the teams support time over the last three terms. Mostly arrangements are made that maintain pupils in school by managing moves through the Fair Access system, however, in primary and secondary schools there are a growing number of pupils the schools will not accommodate because of their behaviour that are on shared place arrangements with alternative programmes. The pupil BSS was full this year which meant it was extremely difficult to find provision for the LAC SEMH pupils.

Those pupils with SEND EHC plans that are now on the LA complex needs list where special schools out of borough don't maintain them because of their SEMH and they lose their school place.

Schools that have left it too late to identify a special educational need for SEMH and wish to permanently exclude, particularly younger pupils in KS1 and KS2.

RESOLVED - that the information be noted.

CP5 FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received the annual report for April 2016 – March 2017 which provided an update on Gateshead's Fostering Service, highlighting the progress made over the last 12 months and the plan for developing the service.

In April 2011 the Government published new National Minimum Standards and Regulations for Fostering Services in England. Whilst there is no requirement under the regulations for the executive side of the local authority to receive written reports on the performance of its fostering service, it is deemed good practice to produce an annual report in order to monitor the management and outcomes of the Service and ensure that the agency is effective and achieving good outcomes for the children in its care.

RESOLVED – that the information be noted.

CP6 SUPPORT FOR DISABLED LAC

The Committee received a report outlining the Council's provision made to support disabled Looked After Children. This includes arrangements made for children accommodated under Care Orders (S31), those placed in voluntary care (S20) or those accommodated for an agreed series of short term breaks (S20).

The Committee were also advised that everything that can be done is being done in

order to ensure that Grove House remains open and providing the invaluable service it does.

RESOLVED – that the information be noted.

CP7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business in accordance with the indicated paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

CP8 REGULATION 44 REPORT

The Committee received a report on the Ofsted inspection outcomes and regulation 44 independent visits carried out in the Council's children's homes. The reports written as a result of the visits are circulated to the Service Director, Social Work, Care Wellbeing and Learning, Service Manager for Looked After Children and the Registered Manager of each home.

RESOLVED - that the information be noted.