



FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, 21 January 2016 at 4.00 pm at the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Jane Robinson

Item	Business
1.	Apologies for absence
2.	Minutes (Pages 1 - 8) The Committee is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 3 December 2015
3.	Liaison with Gateshead Youth Assembly (Pages 9 - 12) Report of Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning
4.	Review of Child Protection in Gateshead - Evidence Gathering (Pages 13 - 18) Report of Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning
5.	Review of Revised Membership Arrangements of the Corporate Parenting OSC (Pages 19 - 22) Report of Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning
6.	Analysis of School Inspections - Autumn Term 2015 (Pages 23 - 24) Report of Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning

Contact: Rosalyn White TEL: (0191) 433 2088 EMAIL: rosalynwhite@gateshead.gov.uk,
Date: Wednesday, 13 January 2016

This page is intentionally left blank

FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 December 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Malcolm Brain

Councillors: Caffrey, McCartney, Adams, Ronchetti,
Clelland, S Craig, Simcox, Oliphant

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Malcolm Brown, Jill Steer, Ray Tolley and John Wilkinson

F23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hawkins, Robson, J Graham and McNally and co-opted member Sasha Ban.

F24 Minutes

RESOLVED - The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015 be agreed as a correct record subject to the following addition;

Minute F18 'Performance Improvement Update – Children Presenting at Hospital as a result of Self Harm' – paragraph 10 to include the sentence:

“The Committee requested statistics around the waiting times for CAMHS, in particular how many young people’s condition worsened during the waiting period.”

F25 Case Study – Health in Schools

The Committee received a report and case study on The Gateshead Health in Schools Programme. It was noted that previously the national Healthy Schools programme was in place and had good take up within Gateshead, however this was decommissioned in 2011.

In order to continue addressing the challenges of the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Gateshead a locally developed Healthy Schools Programme was established. It was noted that Ofsted now recognised health and wellbeing as part of its inspection framework. A consultation period was held around the future of the programme and a simplified programme was developed, more outcome based approach based on locality.

An evaluation of the programme was held in 2013 and key areas for future development were identified. These formed the basis of the new Health in Schools Programme.

The overall aim is to improve health and reduce the health inequality gap. A number of objectives were outlined which the programme aims to achieve, including early identification and referral to appropriate services.

Due to financial pressure the programme will be offered for schools to buy back from September 2016 under a service level agreement. As Ofsted now recognise this as an important element of personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils schools do see the value and schools do receive funding that they could spend on emotional health and wellbeing.

The Committee received a case study on the work undertaken at Bede Primary School. The school chose to focus on the area of emotional health and wellbeing. The school is located in an area of high deprivation and historically there are high numbers of pupils with emotional health and wellbeing issues. In addition the school felt that a number of children were growing up facing negativity, hardship and lack of self confidence, due to the environment, family cycles and a lack of aspiration support. Therefore a number of interventions were implemented across the whole school;

- New assessment system focusing on 'super learning powers' i.e. perseverance, independence, positivity and cooperation
- Bringing emotional health and wellbeing to the fore in school, focusing on all areas of the school, including staff and parents, in order to think about themselves and others more positively.

These interventions have been built into learning, linked to all aspects of school to improve aspirations and academic performance.

Bede School's achievements so far were outlined;

- Regular talking sessions are being held for vulnerable children to discuss their worries and concerns
- Encouraging children to complete three self portraits across the year as a means of tracking progress on how they are feeling
- Yoga sessions have been introduced for children, parents and staff
- Parent and child craft sessions held as a means of expressing themselves
- Parents and visitors invited to school to talk to children about their own lives and how they have overcome adversity
- SRE introduced for KS2 around issues such as self esteem, self image and respect for yourself and others.

In relation to the next steps, regular Healthy School Conferences will be held, Bede School wish to share their practice with other schools. Training will be held around the self-harm protocol and buy back from the schools will be monitored. In addition, a localised health and wellbeing survey will be carried out, it was noted that there was poor take up in 2014 due to the timing and the fact that it was only available electronically. Therefore work is ongoing to provide a more local survey on a more timely basis.

It was questioned how this work links to the obesity strategy and educating children and families about food. It was confirmed that data from the child measurement programme are collected and schools can choose to focus on healthy eating as an option to focus on under the Health in Schools Programme. Also, the School Sport Partnership works to support healthy eating and physical education with a focus on the whole family approach.

It was noted that schools face pressure around the curriculum and have a lack of financial support and therefore it was questioned whether the programme would be sustainable if not all schools bought back. It was acknowledged that there is a need for buy in from the majority of schools in order for it to be viable, however it was felt that a number of schools will commit. It was noted that the Committee can be updated next year as to the number of schools who have signed up. It was pointed out that the School Sport Partnership is very well established and it receives no Council funding therefore there is optimism that schools will buy into the Health in Schools Programme. It was also noted that the cost is £500 per year and it is expected that most schools will buy in, especially in order to evidence to Ofsted.

In terms of secondary schools, various responsibilities are delegated to separate teachers, therefore it was suggested that officers should address a parents meeting rather than speaking through teachers. It was confirmed that officers have linked with Headteachers and Governors, however an opportunity to address the wider school community would be welcomed.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Committee would encourage all schools to buy into the new Health in Schools Core offer to help enhance and support their efforts to addressing health inequalities and promoting health and wellbeing within their schools.
 - (ii) That the Committee encourage schools to utilise School Sports Premium money to buy into the Health in Schools Programme.

F26 Vision 2030 and Corporate Plan – Delivery and Performance

The Committee received the six month update of performance and delivery of the Council Plan 2015-2020.

Overall achievements include the roll out of training to over 700 taxi drivers around recognising children at risk of being sexually exploited. This is now compulsory and Ofsted has recently recognised this as good practice. There has been 100% sign up by schools to Operation Encompass, which is in place to support children who have witnessed domestic violence. Gateshead College has been rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted, only one of two further education colleges to receive this rating in the academic year. 83 schools in Gateshead have been inspected by Ofsted, 28 were judged as outstanding, 44 as good, 10 require improvement and one has been judged as inadequate.

Active Kidz has supported over 375 children and young people during the school holidays, 70% of which were Social Care referrals.

In terms of areas for improvement it was noted that smoking in pregnancy has increased to 15.1%, compared to the national average of 11.4%. This is the first time there has been an increase since 2009/10, work is ongoing with the Baby Clear Programme to tackle this.

Readiness for school measures children achieving a good level of development at age 5, this is positive and there has been a significant improvement on last year of 7%.

Educational achievement for KS2 is positive, at 82% which is 2% above the national average. However, GCSE results have dropped slightly, although it was recognised that this is due to changes in performance measures by the DfE so the figures are not directly comparable to previous years and Gateshead remains strong in terms of national and regional figures. There has been an improvement in GCSE results for vulnerable groups, in particular LAC, however it was acknowledged that this remains an area of challenge. Work is ongoing with the REALAC team around Personalised Education Plans (PEPs) and ensuring Pupil Premium is being used appropriately.

Young people not in education, training or employment (NEET) is improving and continues to decline, this is based on locally driven data. Work is ongoing with Connexions to improve access to the labour market.

Figures for first time entrants to the youth justice system are reducing, this is an improving picture and the service is working with young people on the cusp of offending. This work is through the Prevention Programme within the Youth Offending Team.

In terms of early intervention and reducing the number of children subject to a child protection plan it was noted that there was a spike in the figures during 2013/14. This figure has fallen significantly in the first six months of this year, currently this number stands at 256. There is a large increase in the number of CAFs, 445 in the last six months and 1139 TAFs, working with families at early intervention stage.

The percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time is a proxy measure for the success of plans. In the first six months of the year 13 children became subject to a plan for a second time, eight of whom began their current plan over two years from their previous plan ending. In those cases it would be expected that there be changes in a child or young person's life. LAC numbers have increased since the end of March, there are 370 young people currently looked after in Gateshead.

In terms of placement stability, measured by the percentage of children living in the same placement for two years, performance is strong at 81%. 18 out of

371 (at the end of September) have been in three or more placements, this equates to 5.5% and is positive in terms of the national picture.

Self harm in young people aged 10-17 continues to be an area of focus, data has been broken down to identify incidents within this age range. Collaborative CAMHS work is ongoing and is a significant part of looking at how better to support these young people in the future.

Child Poverty rates have improved, currently 20.5%, this is measured by the number of children living in homes with 60% less than the median income. This rate is lower than the regional average and Gateshead is the only area in the region to see this. It was reported that from July this target will be removed and replaced with reporting on educational attainment, worklessness and addiction rather than relative material disadvantage.

It was noted that during its recent inspection Ofsted questioned Councillors about housing for care leavers. It was confirmed that suitable accommodation is reported in relation to those care leavers that the service is still in touch with and there are currently 17 that the service is not in touch with. It was also confirmed that this is only a DfE definition and does not mean that the service is unaware of the whereabouts of those young people.

It was suggested that messages need to be disseminated to young mothers around the impact of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and it was questioned whether this is currently being done. It was confirmed that the information would be sought from maternity services, it was also noted that this issue has been raised at the LSCB and has been flagged previously at this Committee in relation to the number of unborn babies subject to a plan.

The point was made that there is no indicator around the number of homeless families, which should be linked to child poverty. It was confirmed that those figures are reported into the LSCB and it was agreed that future performance reports to this Committee should include that information.

It was queried why teen conception figures are currently high. It was confirmed that this is being looked at, however it was acknowledged that it is difficult to identify what it was that helped figures previously. In addition, there have been changes within the team and there is no longer an individual teenage pregnancy coordinator. It was suggested that this issue be included on the work programme for next year.

Concerns were raised over the workloads of the Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams and in particular the recent high turnover of staff. It was confirmed that staff have not left the service due to their workload but rather have either retired, moved to other teams within the Council or moved to other authorities who are currently paying a premium for experienced Social Workers. It was noted that presently there is a stable position in terms of staffing levels following recent recruitment, although there are a number of newly qualified workers which will impact on workload this will be monitored

on a weekly basis. It was recognised that some local authorities have had money invested because they have not done so well in Ofsted inspections, therefore there is a market for Social Workers and this will continue to be monitored. At the recent Ofsted inspection it was found that Gateshead Social Workers have appropriate caseloads and are well supported.

It was queried as to how this Committee's input changes policies within the Council. It was confirmed that it is reported to the Children's Trust Board, chaired by the Cabinet Portfolio holder for children and young people and Cabinet will also have the opportunity to question Strategic Directors. This is reported on a six monthly basis to allow actions to be taken in the intervening time. It was noted that concerns were formally raised by this Committee around LAC educational attainment and this prompted actions to be taken in order to make improvements. It was confirmed that Ofsted recognised a 'golden thread' throughout the Council and could see where gaps had been identified, mitigated against and used to improve outcomes for children and young people. It was suggested that the Cabinet member for children and young people should be invited to attend the Committee in order for Cabinet decisions and specific issues to be scrutinised.

It was questioned how figures were established in relation to Children's Centre reach, as many groups are being run independently and are nothing to do with Children's Centres. It was agreed that officers would check where the numbers have come from. It was assumed that figures from volunteer run centres must be included in these numbers, although they are no longer Children's Centres.

It was suggested that the take up figures for 'Fill the Holiday Gap' are low, based on local knowledge. It was agreed that this would be unpicked further and more information be brought back to a future meeting.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the OSC considered the activities undertaken during the last six months are achieving the desired outcomes in the Council Plan 2015-2020.
 - (ii) That the OSC agreed the report be referred to Cabinet on 9 February 2016, with the comments of the OSC for their consideration.

F27 OSC Work Programme Review

The Committee received a report seeking views on future review topics to be considered during 2016/17 and also the process and effectiveness of the current work programme.

It was confirmed that suggestions received so far for next year's work programme include; teenage conception, the consequences for alcohol consumption in teenage pregnancies and LAC aspiration.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That any issues identified as potential review topics by 18 December 2014 will be included in the list of review topics to be considered by the OSC at the start of the municipal year, unless such issues are being or would more appropriately be dealt with via other Council processes.
 - (ii) That the Committee was satisfied with the review monitoring process carried out so far.
 - (iii) That the Committee was satisfied with the effectiveness of the case studies carried out in 2014/15.

This page is intentionally left blank

TITLE OF REPORT: Liaison with Gateshead Youth Assembly

REPORT OF: Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning

Summary

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to more pro-active links with Gateshead Youth Assembly. This report outlines activity undertaken by both parties following the 2015 GYA Elections and priorities set by Youth Assembly for 2016.

Introduction

1. Ewan Taws was appointed Chair and Andrew Adams the Vice Chair following the Elections held in October 2015.

Hannah Douglass is the Youth Parliament member who represents Gateshead's young people attending regional and National meetings.

2. GYA supported a selection box and Christmas present collect for Gateshead Foodbank and are campaigning for people to add an extra item to their weekly shop and donate to the Foodbank. Child Poverty continue to be any area of concern that GYA want to support and have done so for a number of years.
3. GYA members continue to join forces with members from One Voice,
4. GYA continues to be called upon by GATESHEAD Strategic Partnership and Public Health to explore how young people can further support issues on Community Safety and Improving and promoting Good Health.
5. GYA want to develop, support and broaden their knowledge on Child Sexual Exploitation. They hope to invite Northumbria Police Cadets (Gateshead) to deliver their presentation on CSE and lobby schools to raise the issue and encourage dialogue between pupils and teachers.
6. Andrew Adams sits on the board of Governors for Gateshead Hospital Foundation Trust and we hope with his involvement it helps shape and influence developments at the QE's Children Unit.
7. GYA have identified Emotional Wellbeing, Staying Safe and Religious and Racial Harmony as issues and topics of interest.

8. Members of Gateshead Youth Assembly meet every week within the Council Chambers and plan to hold three Convivial Suppers and invite Overview and Scrutiny Committee members.

Members will deliver training to GYA on a monthly basis including Youth Work Core Skills, Confidence Building, Committee Skills and Community Volunteering and Activism.

Proposal

9. Members of the new Assembly attend future meetings and continue to discuss their activity in 2015 -16 and agree a focus on their activities to support the wider Gateshead agenda.

Recommendations

10. The Committee is requested to note the information presented in the report.

Contact: Val Wilson

ext: 2782

GYA 2015 – 2016

Plans, Priorities and Position Statements

Plans

We plan to hold weekly meetings during 2015 – 2016, with the exception of staff holidays. We plan to hold three Convivial Suppers during 2015 – 2016 and will invite Overview and Scrutiny Committee members, Directors, Chair of LSCB, elected members, parents and friends. We plan to deliver training to our members on a monthly basis including Youth Work Core skills, confidence building and self-esteem building, Committee Skills and Community Volunteering & Activism.

Priorities

We have a number of Priorities this year; they are in no particular order:

Emotional Wellbeing

To find funds to reprint our EWB posters

To work with other GYA members to develop a range of myth buster factsheets on a range of issues, including emotional wellbeing and mental health

Child Sexual Exploitation

Ask Police cadets to deliver their CSE presentation at GYA

Lobby schools to have the Police cadets in to deliver their session AND ask teachers to stay in the room so they can continue the discussions later.

Include in the myth buster leaflets

Engage with self-confidence and self-esteem training

Child Poverty

Hold a selection box/Christmas present collection for Gateshead Foodbank

Campaign for people to add an extra item to their shopping and donate to the Foodbank

Develop a poster around 'what poverty looks like' not just about financial poverty but also poverty of experience and opportunity.

Survey in schools to ascertain young people's knowledge on the support available to young people experiencing poverty related difficulties, and then address any issues which present by contacting the agency concerned and informing them.

Ask schools to make clear what they do to alleviate the effects of poverty on their students, while maintaining the students' dignity. We believe that Gateshead Schools do many great things and hope this will encourage other schools, possibly outside of Gateshead, to do better.

Publish finding of survey in Newsletter

Religious and Racial Harmony

Invite a range of speakers to address GYA, then lobby schools and youth clubs to follow suit. Follow up each session with a myth busting leaflet.

Arrange visits to organisations whose members are affected by racism to find out more and discuss what we, as young people, can do to help.

Staying Safe

Campaign for people to be aware of their surroundings when out and about, include headphones, the 'smartphone stoop' and making sure you don't inadvertently scare other people by your own behaviour.

Encourage members, and then others, to consider other people when making plans.

Share our Winter Tips leaflets

Encourage people to report incidents to the appropriate bodies, how else can they know what's happening?

Position statements

- We believe that everyone should be entitled to the living wage, the belief that young people don't work hard enough is just fluff, workers not working hard enough is a management issue.
- We believe that Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services should be improved with our help.
- We believe that Young People aged 16 and 17 should be able to vote in all public elections, nothing happens between 16 and 18 which makes 18 year olds better able to vote.
- We believe that Young People will be more ready to be properly contributing workers if they secured good quality work experience and careers advice.
- We believe that young people in Gateshead need and are entitled to a quality Youth Service; we further believe that the Government should commit funds to a properly funded statutory Youth Service.
- We believe that organisations, both public and private need to engage with young people in real, not tokenistic, ways.
- We believe that all young people should access support to develop their self confidence and self-esteem; this has been stated by Northumbria Police as the best protection against being exploited.
- We believe that it is everyone job to try and limit the effects of poverty on children and young people. Whatever the cause of the families' poverty, the children never had any influence over decisions made. We must all work to ensure these children are protected and their dignity preserved.

TITLE OF REPORT: Review of Child Protection in Gateshead – Third Evidence Gathering

REPORT OF: Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning

SUMMARY

Council has agreed that this committee should review how the child protection system operates in Gateshead. The review will examine each stage of the process and will explore the way decisions are taken, risks are managed, and the involvement of partners. The review will explore how Gateshead undertakes its safeguarding responsibilities in conjunction with partners within the policy context and legal frameworks for Child Protection.

The review will provide the committee with an overview of how the child protection process works in Gateshead and provide examples of how Gateshead's children's social work service operates with partners to ensure children's safety. It will focus in particular on the ways in which services work collectively and contribute to the future development and delivery of child protection within children's social care services.

Background

1. The Committee agreed the scope of the review at its meeting on 18th June and proposed that the focus of this review will be on the specific aspects of the system which are concerned with child protection. The review will follow the potential steps for a child who becomes subject to a child protection plan.
2. It is suggested that the key issues which this review will need to address are:
 - a. An understanding of the child protection system, the policy context and clarity on roles and responsibilities.
 - b. The opportunity for improvement of systems, processes and improving efficiency.
 - c. The effectiveness of multi-agency working, especially around communication and information sharing.
 - d. The ways in which the views of children, young people and their families are used.
3. The first evidence gathering session on the 10th September 2015 provided the committee with a precis of the legislative framework and statutory guidance, and set the scene for how the child protection system is organised and delivered in Gateshead.
4. The second evidence gathering session on the 22nd October 2015 provided the committee with an overview of how children and young people are

referred into children's social care, the thresholds that govern at what level the child and family should be assessed and how the level of support is determined to meet their needs.

Third evidence gathering

5. This third evidence gathering has been developed to provide the committee with an overview of the process of holding a strategy discussion or meeting and undertaking child protection enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
6. The session will enable the committee to follow the journey of a child and their family to illustrate the steps and considerations social workers and partners take from the point of referral through to a strategy discussion and section 47 enquiry.

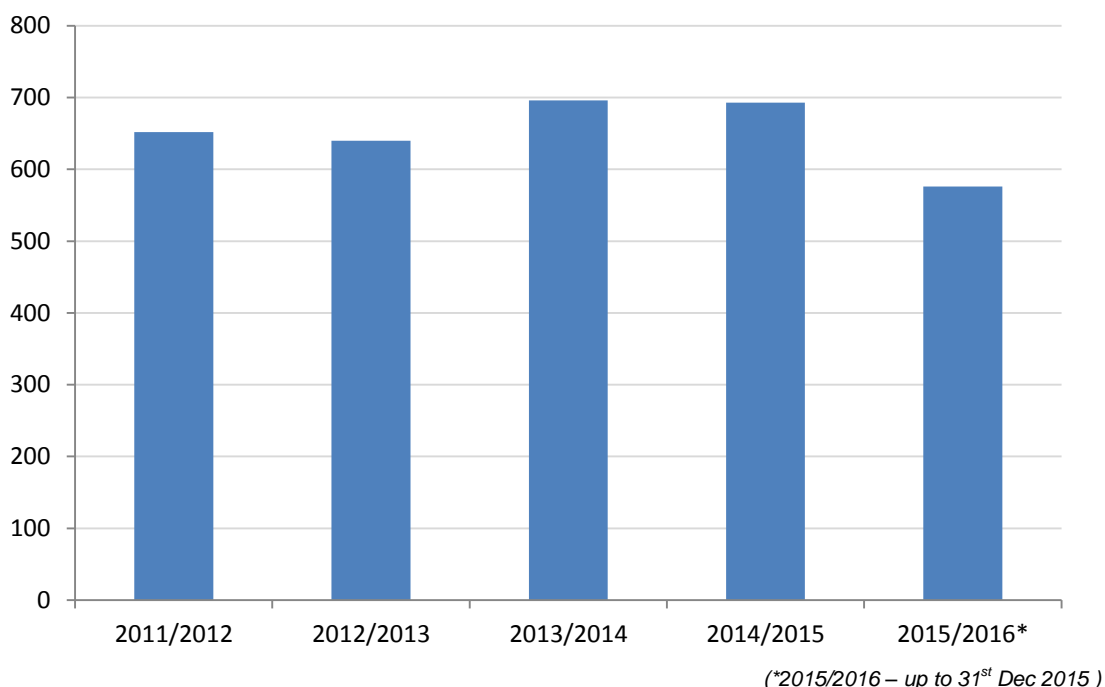
Strategy discussions

7. **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)** is the statutory guidance provides the framework for interagency working and sets out specific safeguarding arrangements where there are concerns that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.
8. This guidance states that whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm there should be a strategy discussion involving local authority children's social care (including the fostering service, if the child is looked after), the police, health and other bodies such as the referring agency. This might take the form of a multi-agency meeting or phone calls and more than one discussion may be necessary. A strategy discussion can take place following a referral or at any other time, including during the assessment process.
9. Local authority children's social care should convene a strategy discussion to determine the child's welfare and plan rapid future action if there is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.
10. The strategy discussion is convened by the social worker and their manager. Health professionals and a police representative should, as a minimum, also be involved in the strategy discussion. Other relevant professionals will depend on the nature of the individual case but may include: the professional or agency which made the referral; the child's school or nursery; and any health services the child or family members are receiving. All attendees should be sufficiently senior to make decisions on behalf of their agencies
11. The discussion is used to: share available information; agree the conduct and timing of any criminal investigation; and decide whether enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 should be undertaken.
12. Where there are grounds to initiate an enquiry under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, decisions should be made as to what further information is

needed and how it will be obtained and recorded, what immediate and short term action is required to support the child, and who will do what by when, and whether legal action is required.

13. In Gateshead, there were 693 strategy discussions held in 2014/15. This is an increase of 6.3% since 2011/12. There have been 576 strategies from 1st April to 31st Dec 2015.

No. of strategy discussions - Gateshead

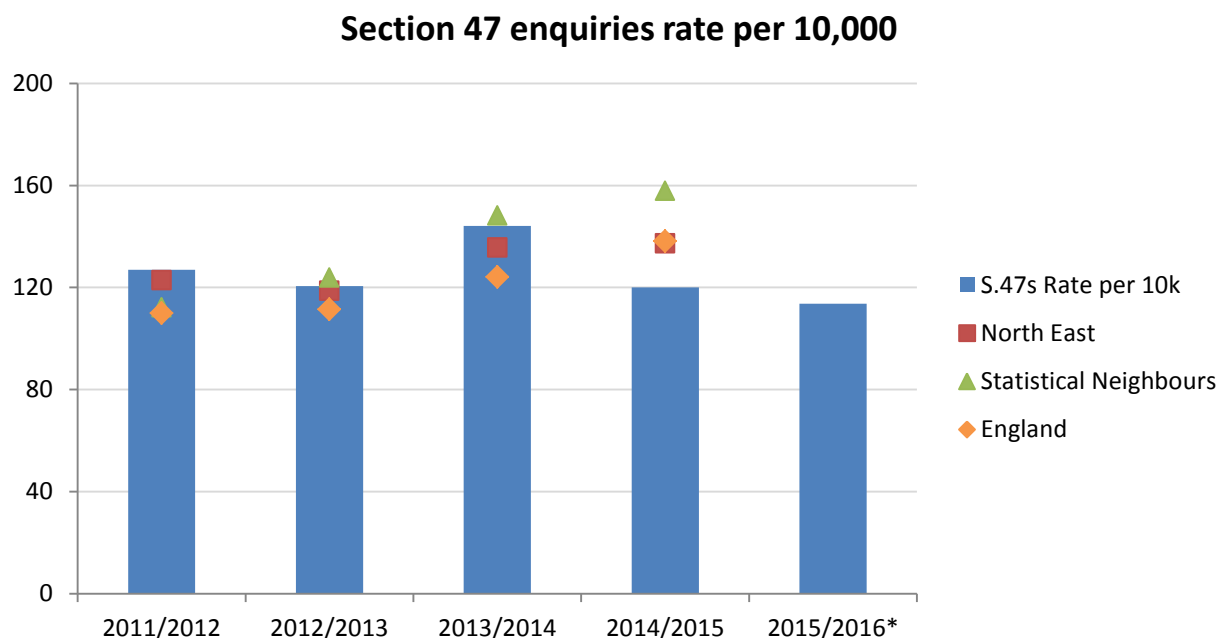


Enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989

14. A section 47 enquiry is initiated to decide whether, and what type of, action is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child who is suspected of, or likely to be, suffering significant harm. It is carried out by undertaking or continuing with an assessment in accordance with the guidance set out in **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)**.
15. Local authority social workers have a statutory duty to lead assessments under section 47 of the Children Act 1989. The police, health professionals, teachers and other relevant professionals should help the local authority in undertaking its enquiries.
16. Following section 47 enquiries, the social worker and their manager are responsible for deciding what action to take and how to proceed.
17. Where concerns of significant harm are not substantiated, the social worker and their manager will determine whether support from any service may be helpful. Other professionals may contribute to the development of any plan and provide services as specified in the plan for the child.

18. Where concerns of significant harm are substantiated and the child is judged to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, the social worker with their manager should convene an initial child protection conference which should take place within 15 working days of a strategy discussion.

19. In Gateshead, there were 482 section 47 enquiries undertaken in 2014/15. This was a decrease on the previous year's total of 581. The rate of enquiries per 10,000 of the child population was 120.1 in 2014/15, which is lower than the England average (138.2) and statistical neighbours (157.9). There have been 456 enquiries undertaken from 1st April to 31st Dec 2015.



External Scrutiny

20. In November 2015, Ofsted undertook an inspection of the Local Authority's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. Children's services in Gateshead were judged to be good. Ofsted noted a number of areas of strong practice in relation to children who need help and protection. They reported that:

"Referrals to children's social care receive timely responses that are thoroughly considered, safely managed and lead to swift and decisive actions. In almost all cases, child protection enquiries are thorough and benefit from effective multi-agency strategy meetings."

Evidence gathering continued

21. It is proposed that the fourth and final evidence gathering session will review child protection conferences, plans and reviews.

Recommendations

22. Committee members are invited to:

- i. Comment on this third evidence gathering;
- ii. Outline any additional information / evidence they wish to have included in the review at the fourth evidence gathering stage.

This page is intentionally left blank

TITLE OF REPORT: Review of revised membership arrangements of the Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Committee

REPORT OF: Alison Elliott, Strategic Director – Care, Wellbeing and Learning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views on the effectiveness of the revised arrangements for non-voting members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.

POLICY CONTEXT

1. Elected members of the Council have an overall responsibility for ensuring that looked after children and young people in their care are healthy, safe and achieving their potential, both while they are in care and when they leave care. The role of the Corporate Parent is to ensure all services that the Council provides contribute towards achieving positive outcomes for looked after children and young people.
2. Guidance on the Corporate Parenting Role of the Local Authority – Section 22(3) of the Children Act 1989 sets out the duty of a local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people who are looked after. This duty is exercised through the role of the 'corporate parent' to children who are looked after, emphasising the collective responsibility of a local authority to be a good parent. This responsibility is intentionally placed upon the authority as a whole, rather than a specific service and recognises the key role that schools, council services and partners have to play.
3. The importance of the Council's responsibility for children looked after has continued to be emphasised in successive government initiatives, with specific emphasis being placed on life chances and on educational achievement. In October 2003 the DfES, together with the Local Government Information Unit, published "If this were my child... a Councillor's guide to being a Corporate Parent."
4. The Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Gateshead maintains a comprehensive overview of the progress of children who are looked after and for care leavers, scrutinising the quality, effectiveness and performance of the services that support them.

Background

5. On 23 October 2014, the Families OSC reviewed the membership arrangements for the Corporate Parenting Sub OSC and considered examples of best practice in other local authorities across the UK with a view to further strengthening the scrutiny challenge and leadership of the corporate parenting role.
6. The OSC identified that it would strengthen the robustness of those arrangements, if the number of non- voting members on the Sub -Committee with knowledge and experience of services provided to Looked After young people and care leavers was increased. The OSC therefore recommended to Cabinet that the non – voting membership be extended to include a representative of the Foster Care Association, a Care Leaver, a school governor, a representative of the Gateshead Housing Company and a representative from the third sector.
7. In light of the OSC's recommendations, Cabinet agreed to increase the non-voting members appointed to the Corporate Parenting Sub OSC on 16 December 2014 and noted that the Families OSC would review the effectiveness of the revised arrangements in twelve months' time.

REVIEW OF REVISED ARRANGEMENTS FOR NON – VOTING MEMBERS

8. Since the decision to increase the non-voting membership of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, the OSC has had the benefit of representation from a representative of the Foster Care Association, a school governor, and a representative of the Gateshead Housing Company. The addition of non-voting members has enhanced the level / range of scrutiny provided by the Committee as a result of their in depth knowledge on certain areas and strengthened the robust challenge within the committee. It has added additional value and focus upon how services are delivered to continuously improve services in order to promote positive experiences for looked after children.
9. There have, however, been challenges in seeking a third sector representative due to the need to avoid potential conflicts of interest and in gaining increased involvement from care leavers in the scrutiny arrangements. However, recently a third sector representative was identified and invited to become a member of the Sub Committee as of January 2016.
10. It has been challenging to identify a young person who had the time to undertake this important role as a non-voting member of the committee. The Looked After Service did identify a young person who was interested in contributing to the committee and had time in his week to attend. However an unforeseen situation has arisen recently for this young person which will prevent him from undertaking this opportunity. The service is continuing to seek to identify a young person and is discussing the role with young people.
11. As a result of these challenges, it has not been possible to fully implement the proposals to increase the non-voting membership and whilst benefits have clearly been derived from having the views of those non – voting members who have been appointed, these have been more limited due to the lack of additional representation from a care leaver and a representative from the third sector.

NEXT STEPS

12. The Chair of the Sub Committee has also suggested that it would be useful to recommend to Cabinet that the non- voting membership be extended further to include a co-opted member from the Families OSC to increase continuity and cement links between the Sub-Committee and the parent Committee.
13. It is proposed to formalise the arrangements for all the non- voting members by setting a specific term of office which will commence from January 2016 and be for a period of 3 years from that date.
14. This will allow the non – voting members appointed sufficient time to build up a level of knowledge and expertise to enable them to effectively contribute to the work of the Sub Committee whilst at the same time providing future opportunities for other external representatives to provide input into the Sub Committee.
15. It is also proposed that, as work is still ongoing to fully implement the original recommendations, that a further review of the effectiveness of these arrangements be carried out in 12 months' time.
16. The Looked After service will continue to discuss the role with young people and offer full support to enable them to attend as a non-voting member. This activity will be regularly monitored and feedback will be given to Debra Patterson, Service Director, Social Work Children and Families.

RECOMMENDATION

- 10 The Committee is asked to
 - give its views in relation to the arrangements for non-voting members
 - agree the next steps outlined at paragraphs 12 to 15
 - agree to a further review of these arrangements in 12 months' time

CONTACT: Elaine Devaney
Service Manager
Looked After Children and Corporate Parenting
Ext. 3420

This page is intentionally left blank

TITLE OF REPORT: Analysis of School Inspection Autumn Term 2015
REPORT OF: Alison Elliott, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

Summary

This report details the position of Gateshead schools in relation to Ofsted Inspection findings for the autumn term 2015.

Background

In this version of the school inspection framework each school is given an overall **effectiveness grade** based upon four areas;

- effectiveness of leadership and management
- quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- personal development, behaviour and welfare
- outcomes for pupils.

September 2015 has seen the introduction of a significantly different approach to school inspection. Essentially, “outstanding” schools are largely exempt, “good” schools receive a one day inspection and “requires improvement” schools a two day inspection. HMI, alone, having been inspecting good schools.

Ofsted use the following grading system

- 1 = Outstanding
- 2 = Good
- 3 = Requires Improvement
- 4 = Inadequate

Schools identified as “requires improvement” will usually be re-inspected within two years, and often before. Schools that are judged as requires improvement with a leadership management grade of requires improvement will receive regular monitoring visits from HMI.

Full copies of all inspection reports can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Outcomes

Over the autumn term 3 schools were inspected:

1 primary school
1 junior school
1 infant school

1 school was judged to be outstanding
1 school was judged to be good
1 schools was judged to require improvement

2 schools improved their overall effectiveness grade from the previous inspection
0 schools maintained its overall effectiveness grade from the previous inspection
1 school received a lower overall effectiveness grade from the previous inspection.

Primary/Nursery Schools

School	Previous Inspection	Present Inspection
Ryton Junior School	inadequate	good
Ryton Infant School	good	requires improvement
Sacred Heart RC Academy	requires improvement	outstanding

Update Ryton Infant and Junior Schools

The two Governing Bodies are in the process of forming a soft federation and appointing a single Headteacher to lead both schools from September 2016

Recommendations

OSC is asked to consider the position of schools in relation to ofsted inspections.

Contact: Steve Horne

Extension: 8612