

North Somerset Council

Report to the Children & Young People Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 20 October 2022

Subject of Report: CYPS task-and-finish groups update

Town or Parish:

Officer/Member Presenting: Councillor Wendy Griggs

Key Decision: NO

Reason:

The report does not meet the key criteria for a key decision.

Recommendations

- i) That the Panel considers the activities of the CYPS working groups; and
- ii) That Members take this into account when setting the Panel's Work Plan.

1. Summary of Report

There are four working groups set up by the Children and Young Peoples Policy and Scrutiny Panel. They are:

- i) The Care Leavers Not in Employment, Education or Training working group. This was set up to identify and recommend sustainable and effective delivery and creation of opportunities for all care leavers in NSC who are NEET.
- ii) The Front Door working group. This was set up to focus at a strategic level on scrutinising the delivery of the Children's Improvement Plan.
- iii) The SEND Improvement Plan working group (formerly known as the Accelerated Progress Plan working group). This was set up to identify and recommend further effective delivery of the Council SEND Improvement plan in relation to the experiences of Parents and Carers.
- iv) The School Organisation working group, which looks at school operational changes, the school's capital programme and school place planning.

This report will update the Panel on the activities of these working groups so far this municipal year.

2. Policy

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's vision for: an open, fairer, greener North Somerset. Policy and Scrutiny Panels have an integral role in the delivery of the Council's aims and priorities by engaging with the development of policy, monitoring performance and holding decision makers to account.

3. Details

3.1 CYPS Care Leavers NEET working group

- The Working Group has been organised to identify and recommend sustainable and effective delivery and creation of opportunities for all care leavers in NSC who are NEET for the next 6-8 months and beyond.
- The meeting of 17 March 2022 looked at qualitative and benchmarking data for review by Members.
- The meeting of 28 April 2022 looked at further data.
- The meeting of 9 June 2022 looked at the barriers to mentoring by care leavers and some initiatives supporting NEET Care Leavers in North Somerset.
- The meeting of 8 September 2022 gathered information from Junction 21, specifically on their mentoring support for care leavers, and the results of the survey of care leavers using the Young People's Room at the Town Hall.
- The final meeting, to be held on 14 October 2022 will review evidence gathered to date in order to develop and propose an action plan to improve NEET outcomes with clear timescales over the coming 12 months.

3.2 CYPS Front Door Working Group

- Focussing at a strategic level on scrutinising the delivery of the Children's Improvement Plan.
- A meeting of the Focus Group took place on 7 April 2022, which looked at information received from the many partner agencies that use the Front Door. Presentation on a number of case studies showing the different pathways into the Front Door and beyond.
- A further meeting on 24 November 2022 will gather feedback from service users.

3.3 CYPS SEND Improvement Plan Working Group

- The working group has been set up to identify and recommend further effective delivery of the Council SEND Improvement plan in relation to the experiences of Parents and Carers.
- Meetings on 24 March 2022 and 1 June 2022 focussed on: a review of data on waiting times for ECHP'S, referrals to health specialists, and responses from North Somerset and other partners, as well as results of any available parents / carers surveys. There was also feedback from parents and children during a working group visit to Bourneville Primary School.
- A further meeting on 6 September 2022 gave feedback on the working group visit to Nailsea School, and update Members on the reorganisation plans for the SEND team.
- The next meeting of the working group will be on 1 November 2022, and will look at feedback gathered from the working group visit to Baytree School.

3.4 CYPS School Organisation Working Group

- This Working Group looks at school operational changes, the school's capital programme and school place planning. The Steering Group met on three occasions in the 2021/22 school year, and once so far in the 2022/23 school year.

- At the meeting on 10 September 2021 the Panel was provided with updates and asked questions about the Baytree School Expansion project, the recently completed delivery of Chestnut Park Primary and considered a draft paper about the proposed second school in the Haywood Village area
- The 15 December 2021 meeting concentrated on an Overview of the SEND Improvement Plan and outline plans for Nurture Groups/Hubs, it reviewed the responses to the updated Baytree Consultation Review in relation to this school's expansion and received, as part of its regular updates, progress on actions within the Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024
- The Working Group received an update on 18 January 2022 on the progress being made in the delivery of the Winterstoke Hundred Academy and Baytree Expansions, it reviewed and made recommendations in relation to the Term Date Consultation for the 2023/24 School Year and North Somerset's maintained schools School Admission Policies. The latter included considering the draft Community and Voluntary Controlled School Admission Arrangements 2023-24 and the North Somerset Coordinated Schemes 2023 - 24.
- At the meeting of 20 September 2022, Members were updated on the Education Commissioning Strategy; were given an update on the Winterstoke Hundred Academy and Baytree Expansions, the opening of Lime Hills Academy and five Nurture Groups and the Capital Projects at Banwell and Kewstoke Primary Schools; projections for 2022-27 (including thoughts on the Local Plan); the projections for a need for a new primary school in Weston; and the SEND High Needs Capital Consultation. A visit to Lime Hills Academy in Nailsea is being planned for 19 October.

4. Consultation

None.

5. Financial Implications

None specific.

Costs

None.

Funding

None.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

Policy and Scrutiny Panels operate within legislation and the Council's Constitution.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Not applicable.

8. Risk Management

Not applicable.

9. Equality Implications

Not applicable.

10. Corporate Implications

None.

11. Options Considered

Not applicable.

Author:

Brent Cross, Policy and Scrutiny Senior Officer.

Email: brent.cross@n-somerset.gov.uk Telephone: 01275 888078

Appendices:

None.

Background Papers:

None.