

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next ordinary meeting of the Sub-Committee to be held on 12 September 2019

Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee

11 July 2019

Present: Councillor P Oliver (Chair)
Councillors L Bell, S Brockbank, J Cassidy, K Lee, M Madden, E Parker-Leonard and M Wilson.

Mr S Fallon Church Representative
Rev. M Vine Church Representative

CES01/07/19 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Phillips and M Thirlaway and Mrs M Ord, Parent Governor Representative.

CES02/07/19 Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's Constitution the appointment of the following substitute member was reported:

Councillor L Bell for Councillor M Thirlaway.

CE03/07/19 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

CE04/07/19 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 March 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CES05/07/19 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Arrangements

The Sub-committee received an update on the new multi agency safeguarding arrangements in North Tyneside.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 required all Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) to be replaced with new local multi agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA). These arrangements were led by the three named statutory safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups).

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 also reinforced the duty, which currently existed, under section 11 of the Children Act 2004, on local organisations and agencies who delivered services to children (called relevant agencies) to ensure that they considered the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions. Responsibility for ensuring effective arrangements were in place lay with the three safeguarding partners who had a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

Mr Richard Burrows, Independent Chair of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board, reported that the new arrangements were an opportunity to be innovative, flexible and creative and the Council had supported and hosted discussions between the three strategic partners and consulted with the present Board.

The safeguarding Partners, in consultation with the Independent Chair and agencies who attended the Board had developed a plan (copies of which had been circulated to the Committee) which outlined the arrangements in North Tyneside. The plan was published on 24 June 2019 and Partners were working towards the new arrangements being in place by November 2019. Until then, North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB) remained the statutory body for ensuring the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children.

In drawing up the plan Partners had sought to welcome a strategic approach to safeguarding, prevention and early intervention across adults, children and young people as represented by a “Think Family and Community” approach and to build on the developments that meant as a whole system partners could become more proactive to understanding vulnerability, risk and needs, especially in the local context as a borough.

One of the important changes was the placing on the three statutory partners to exercise a shared responsibility for safeguarding joint working arrangements and the assurance that these were effective. The new partnership was not a replacement for the LSCB as this requirement and its statutory underpinning was removed; the continuing role of ‘independence’ was set in the context of scrutiny and a role of independent advisor.

The new partnership offered potential to embed and align the protection of children and young people with the promotion of their welfare; which remained a primary basis of the legislation that applied to all agencies, organisations and practitioners in the borough.

The LSCB welcomed the commitment of statutory partners to take forward the learning from the LSCB on the basis of an inclusive and innovative approach to partnership. The recognition that the opportunity to be able to objectively review practice and arrangements was maintained was important as this could be one of the hallmarks of protecting vulnerable children and young people.

In response to a question regarding how the new arrangements would be reviewed it was noted that the Independent Advisor would work closely in the new arrangements and there would be an opportunity for more partners to be more directly involved and to focus on practice. In terms of risks, the three safeguarding partners would be required to make arrangements to identify serious child safeguarding cases and commission and oversee the review of those cases.

In relation to questions regarding involving young people and front line workers and organisations working with children it was hoped that there would be a change of focus to

feed in the experience of young people and the Children and Young People's Partnership Board would support a wider community focused approach that enabled local people to play their part and the Executive Group membership would include a Head Teacher representative.

The Chair thanked the Independent Chair of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board for his report and attendance at the meeting. .

It was **agreed** to note the information regarding the new multi agency safeguarding arrangements in North Tyneside.

CES06/07/19 Work Programme 2019/2020

The Sub-Committee considered the proposed outline Work Programme for 2019/20 and Members were invited to raise any other topics relevant to the remit of the sub-Committee that they thought should be included in the Work Programme.

The following topics were submitted:

- Anti-bullying Policy for Schools
- Education early years help for children and corporate parenting elements
- Skills Shortages

The Chair stated that whilst more than one topic could be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub group could be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.

The Chair invited Members to email to Councillor Thirlaway any further topics for the Work Programme.

It was **agreed** that the above proposed topics be added to the proposed areas in the outline Work Programme and the outline Work Programme be considered at the next meeting.

CES07/07/19 Cabinet Response to Collaborative Working Sub Group Report

The Sub-Committee received a report on the response from Cabinet to the final recommendations made by the Collaborative Working Sub Group on the Effectiveness of Collaborative Working in North Tyneside.

The report had been submitted to Cabinet on 28 May 2019 and Cabinet had agreed to accept all of the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations in the Action Plan.

It was **agreed** that the Report be noted.