

Children and Young People's Services Select Committee

11 September 2019

Children and Young People's Services Select Committee Business Planning Group

Report by the Chairman of the Business Planning Group

Executive Summary

Each Select Committee has a Business Planning Group (BPG) to oversee the Committee's work programme and prioritise issues for consideration by the Committee. This report provides an update of the last meeting of the outgoing BPG held on 8 July 2019, setting out the key issues discussed.

The Focus for Scrutiny

1. The Committee is asked to consider the contents of the report.

1. Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 Mr High declared a personal interest as a member of his family has an Education, Health and Care Plan.

2. Background/Context

- 2.1 The BPG met on 8 July 2019. All members were present.

3. Education and Skills Update

- 3.1 Members received an update on small schools and the SEND strategy, both of which were scheduled for the 11 September meeting of the Select Committee. It was agreed that the member day on 4 December on school admissions and placements was welcome, and that admissions should be added to the item on 23 October for the Committee.

4. Children and Family Services Update

- 4.1 An update was provided on the improvement plan, including the member briefing on 17 July. Members discussed the best ways to monitor and gather evidence for future scrutiny work, and structure meetings. This would include an overview report, appropriate decision reports, progress on recommendations, thematic meetings and a strong evidence base. It was also important to complement, rather than duplicate work by the Corporate Parenting Panel. Conditions of success, such as staff, leadership or technology, could also be considered.
- 4.2 In terms of performance, members requested a traffic light report on all twelve recommendations, to be presented at each Business Planning Group meeting.

5. Feedback from Performance and Finance Select Committee

- 5.1 Members considered requests from the Performance and Finance Committee following its November 2018 and March 2019 meetings. Updates will be provided to BPG members virtually, for a decision as to whether further scrutiny was required.

6. Contract Management

- 6.1 Members considered the report which provided information on the contacts that had been identified as strategic and business critical, which were relevant to the BPG's corporate priority themes in the West Sussex Plan. This would be reported to the meeting on a bi-annual basis. Members expressed concern on free school meals, and asked for an update on the contingency planning that had taken place in light of Brexit on all contracts.

7. Work Programme Planning

7.1 Forward Plan

- 7.1.1 No proposed decisions were identified for scrutiny.

7.2 Agree the work programme for the coming year and plan the September and October meeting

- 7.2.1 The BPG agreed the Committee's work programme as at appendix A.

- 7.2.2 Members requested that a scoping report be developed on 1001 Critical Days as a potential Task and Finish Group.

8. Implications

- 8.1 There are no resource, risk management, Crime and Disorder Act or Human Rights Act implications arising directly from this report. However, many of the substantive reports to the Committee will have some implications and an Equality Impact Report will be included in appropriate substantive reports to the Committee.

Paul High

Chairman

Children and Young People's Services Select Committee Business Planning Group

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Background Papers: None

Appendix A – Work Programme for Children and Young People's Services Select Committee.