

Children and Young People's Services Select Committee

31 October 2018

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 12th September 2018, setting out the key issues discussed.

Recommendations

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

1. Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 None.

2. Background/Context

- 2.1 The BPG met on 12 September 2018, members in attendance were Mr Cloake, Mrs Hall and Mr High. Ms Lord and Mrs Mullins gave their apologies.

3. Recommendation from the Select Committee – Supporting Schools

- 3.1 The BPG considered how best to work with schools who had received a double 'requires improvement' judgement from Ofsted in order to support School Improvement. The following points were noted:
 - Lack of funding could not always be accountable for a poor Ofsted judgement. Some schools within the County were receiving 'good' or 'outstanding' judgements within the same budgets as those receiving 'requires improvement'.
 - The new School Effectiveness Strategy will see schools performing better.
 - Link advisors will visit those schools who receive consistently poor Ofsted outcomes, and will be given 6 half terms to improve.
 - If evidence of progress and improvement is not seen at review meetings, the school will be sent a warning letter.
 - At the same time as the warning letter, the Committee will invite the Chair of Governors and/or the Head-teacher to the Select Committee. A letter will be sent from the Chairman of the Committee expressing the Committee's concern, the requirement for an action plan, and that a response must be received within 21 days.
 - The school will have the opportunity to represent themselves at the Committee and to share the support they feel they need in order to improve.

4. Education and Skills Update

4.1 The BPG heard the following updates from the Education and Skills directorate:

- Key Stage 2 results data will be available at the next meeting of the Committee. This will form part of the School Effectiveness Strategy report which was deferred to the October meeting.
- The Director of Education and Skills post was out to advert, and interviews will take place in mid-October.

5. Children and Family Services Updates

5.1 The BPG heard the following updates from the Children and Family Service:

- The recent Ofsted judgement and subsequent closure of Seaside children's home has required the service to make the provision of children's homes their current priority. West Sussex's children's home offer as a whole was being reconsidered, and the priorities include the following measures: Safeguarding, Management, Quality Assurance and Facilities Management.
- The Director of Children and Family Services specified the pressure on the service in terms of demand and capacity, noting extremely high caseloads. Children's Social Care requires additional investment in order to recruit and maintain staff, subsequently reducing the caseload pressures. The current pace was unsustainable.

6. Total Performance Monitor

6.1 The BPG was updated on the current financial position for the Education and Skills and Children and Young People portfolios.

7. Work Programme Planning

7.1 Forward Plan

7.1.1 The BPG identified the following decisions in the Forward Plan for preview by the Committee:

- Alterations to the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service
- Provision of accommodation for Care Leavers
- Creation of additional Special Support Centres

7.2 Plan the October Committee meetings

7.2.1 Future Meetings:

- School Effectiveness Strategy (deferred from September)
- Alterations to the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service
- Provision of accommodation for Care Leavers
- Creation of additional Special Support Centres

7.3 Consider potential suggestions for the work programme:

- 7.3.1 The BPG to add a standing item on Children's Residential Homes which considers dashboard data of those difficult to recruit posts (Quality Assurance and Residential Managers), and oversight and governance.

7.4 Consider the latest Corporate Risk Register:

- 7.4.1 The BPG did not identify any priority areas for scrutiny or review.

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.

Michael Cloake

Chairman

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

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Background Papers: None

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