

Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee

24 September 2020

Business Planning Group Report

Report by Chairman, Business Planning Group

Executive Summary

Each Scrutiny 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 to the Committee of the BPG meetings held on 9 March 2020 and 25 June 2020 setting out the key issues discussed.

1. Background

- 1.1 The BPG met on 9 March 2020, members in attendance were Cllr Barling (Chairman), Cllr Flynn, Cllr Hall, Cllr Lord. Also present were Rachel Allan, Natalie Jones-Punch, Katherine De La Mora (Democratic Services), Paul Wagstaff (Director of Education & Skills), Marie Foley (Service Leader - Business Support & Performance Group), Sara Boothroyd (Senior Solicitor). Cllr Sudan was absent.
- 1.2 The BPG met on 25 June 2020, members in attendance were Cllr Barling (Chairman), Cllr Flynn, Cllr Hall, Cllr Lord and Cllr Sudan. Also present were Vince Clark (Children First Transformation Director) and Paul Wagstaff (Director of Education & Skills).

9 March 2020

2. Education and Skills Update

- 2.1 The BPG heard that the number of children being Electively Home Educated (EHE) was approximately 1037. 41 of which had Education and Health Care Plans. The BPG requested further detail on the 1037 EHE children and the balance of primary and secondary age children.
- 2.2 The BPG felt that government feedback on EHE should be received before this came to the Committee as a substantive item.
- 2.3 The BPG were provided with an update on Alternative Provision for post-16, which confirmed that the service worked with Alternative Provision Colleges to work with rising 16's to get them college ready. Those that did not go onto college, were engaged by the post-16 support team to assist in moving into education, employment or training.
- 2.4 The BPG heard that the European Social Investment Fund would end in December 2020 and considered reviewing the impact of this at a later date.

2.5 The BPG also received an update on home to school transport, confirming that the service was working with SENAT, the Post-16 team and parents/carers to encourage more independent travel. The BPG was concerned at the continued overspend of the service as outlined in the TPM and agreed to refer this to the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee BPG.

3. Children and Family Services Update

- 3.1 The BPG received an update on the increasing costs in the conduct of child protection cases by legal services childcare and advocacy team, which was due to a 34% increase in caseloads. The BPG agreed to receive a further update should the increase in caseloads continue.
- 3.2 The BPG was informed on the development of proposals around the Early Help offer. The BPG agreed that a Task & finish group should be established to consider these proposals at the appropriate time.

25 June 2020

4. CYPSSC Work Programme Planning 2020-21

- 4.1 The BPG discussed the Committee's work programme for its meetings to March 2021. The Work Programme was updated and is attached at appendix A.

5. Date of next BPG meeting

- 5.1 Members noted that the next BPG meeting will be held at 10.30 on 18 November 2020.

6. Implications

- 6.1 There are no social impact, resource, risk management, Crime and Disorder Act or Human Rights Act implications arising directly from this report.

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Appendices - Appendix A - CYPSSC Work Programme 2020-21

Background Papers - None