

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 29 April 2014.

PRESENT: Councillors Brunton (Chair), Cole, Dryden, C Hobson, Mawston, P Purvis, Sanderson, J A Walker and Williams

OFFICERS: J Bennington, G Brown, A Crawford and E Pout.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Arundale, Kerr, McIntyre and P Sharrocks.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at this point of the meeting.

13/114 MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 1 AND 8 APRIL 2014

The minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 1 and 8 April 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

13/115 EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS FROM CARE2WORK PATHWAYS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

The Chair of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's main findings, conclusions and recommendations following a scrutiny investigation of the topic of Employability Skills-From Care2Work Pathways for Children in Care.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on evidence submitted and conclusions reached:-

(a) That the Pathways Team and the IYSS create an apprenticeship programme that builds on and develops the existing Employability Scheme. A menu of high quality opportunities must be developed, including: worksite visits, employment awareness sessions, pre-employment training, job shadowing, work tasters (1 or 2 days), work experience placements (1 to 6 weeks), traineeships and apprenticeships. Completion of NVQs levels 1-3, alongside apprenticeships, should be offered to cater for all academic abilities. Opportunities need to take into account both the support and learning needs of the group and differing levels of maturity, ability and attainment.

(b) That from Care2Work and the Pathways Team provide training and information sessions to Heads of Service and tiers of management to promote ongoing awareness of corporate responsibility and the need to create a wide range of employability opportunities for care leavers. Heads of Service and managers need to develop opportunities which inspire, raise expectations and take into account the support and learning needs of the group.

(c) That a dedicated IYSS Adviser be permanently located in the Pathways Team.

(d) That the Pathways Team further develop and enhance joint working protocols/agreements with nearby colleges and Teesside University.

(e) That the DWP and the Pathways Team establish a small working group with Social Workers, Work Programme providers and local voluntary organisations. The DWP to act as a gateway to support and training offered by such organisations.

(f) That links be established between DWP Advisers and Pathways Advisers and a regular information exchange takes place with regard to both individuals and care leavers as a group. The Pathways Team to forge closer links with the two DWP's Single Point of Contact (SPOCs) Advisers based at James Cook House and Thorntree House.

(g) That the IYSS conduct an investigation to review how Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) is currently being offered to children in care pre-16 and is monitored and

shared with post -16 services. Adequate monitoring and tracking is required to ensure aspirations are supported and career plans built upon. The investigation must highlight priorities and areas for development.

(h) That the Council offer guaranteed interviews to all care leavers who meet the essential criteria for a job. When there are a high number of applicants the process would normally mean that desirable criteria would be taken into account -care leavers will be exempt from this.

(i) That the Pathways Team work alongside From Care2Work to engage with employers in the area. That an event be organised, whereby all large employers within the area are invited, to raise awareness of care leavers as a group and ask for their support in providing packages of employability support and opportunities for young people leaving care.

(j) That the impact of these recommendations, on reducing the number of NEETs, be reported to the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel. With the implementation of these recommendations, the Scrutiny Panel expects a substantial reduction in the number of care leavers not in education, employment or training. For example, the Scrutiny Panel would expect to see a reduction of NEETs by 10%.

In commenting on the recommendations the Board suggested that consideration be given to indicating a date by which the Scrutiny Panel would expect a 10% reduction in NEETS as referred to in recommendation (j).

Members indicated that it was a comprehensive report and acknowledged the extent and appropriateness of the evidence sought. Reference was also made to beneficial work which had been generated as result of the scrutiny process thus demonstrating its positive impact.

An indication was also given of an update received by the Panel in respect of the review of Substance Misuse Among Parents and Carers with particular regard to the impact of the scrutiny process in respect of progress made with the implementation of a Joint Local Protocol to pursue a co-ordinated approach between all relevant agencies.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

13/116

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CAPACITY

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's main findings, conclusions and recommendations following a scrutiny investigation of the topic of Mental Health Service Capacity.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on evidence submitted and conclusions reached:-

(a) That Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, set up a system which uses quantitative and qualitative information to assess if service reconfiguration has improved patient outcomes and that the findings be reported back to the Panel in due course.

(b) That TEWV continue to develop a single point of access for information about Mental Health Services for GPs, which provides up to date information to enable all GPs to be fully informed about all of the Mental Health services that are available to their patients.

(c) That the Panel write to the Secretary of State for Health to outline the findings of the report, drawing attention to the information Members have heard from professionals about the lack of national strategic direction in Mental Health Services and how this has left professionals feeling disempowered and without a clear direction.

(d) That the Department of Care and Wellbeing work with the appropriate representatives from the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group/North of England Commissioning Service to reinvigorate the Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership. To include the following:

- (i) Providing a commitment to re-launch it, and ensure that a small resource is found to operate its secretariat.
- (ii) Ensure mechanisms should also be put in place which enables the Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership to have links with the Public Health Team so that the Partnership can be involved in helping to shape policy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- (iii) In order to ensure sufficient transparency any commissioning intentions and significant changes to Mental Health Services should be presented to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership as part of any consultation process.
- (e) That following any mental health services realignment of social care and mental health teams a system of referrals should be introduced which enables GPs to have a single point of contact between the two teams to ensure a seamless operation of service.
- (f) That the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider investigating the following area as a potential ad hoc scrutiny review - 'What mental health support service is offered to prisoners and people leaving prison following release from prison?'

In considering the report the Board had specific regard to recommendation (f) and the importance of recommendation (d) on the need to develop mechanisms which enabled the Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership to have links with the Public Health Team.

ORDERED as follows:-

1. That the findings and recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.
2. That the suggested topic for a scrutiny review as outlined in recommendation (f) be included in the draft scrutiny work programme 2014/2015 for future consideration by the Board.

13/117 **SCRUTINY PANELS - PROGRESS REPORTS**

A report of the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined progress on current activities.

NOTED

13/118 **CALL - IN**

It was confirmed that no requests had been received to call-in a decision.

NOTED

13/119 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS - VOTE OF THANKS**

The Chair and Vice-Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance, hard work and support throughout the last Municipal Year.

NOTED