



**North Tyneside Council**

# Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee

9 June 2017

To be held on **Monday 19 June 2017 in room 0.01**, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY **commencing at 6.00pm.**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Apologies for absence</b> To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.	
<b>2. Appointment of substitutes</b> To be informed of the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.	
<b>3. To receive any declarations of interest</b> You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest.  You are also requested to complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting.  You are also invited to disclose any dispensation from the requirement to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests that have been granted to you in respect of any matters appearing on the agenda.	
<b>4. Minutes</b> To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2017.	<b>3</b>

Continued overleaf

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and receive information about it.

North Tyneside Council wants to make it easier for you to get hold of the information you need. We are able to provide our documents in alternative formats including Braille, audiotape, large print and alternative languages.

For further information please call 0191 643 5322.

- |    |  |           |
|----|--|-----------|
| 5. | <b>Work Programme 2017/18</b>  | 11        |
|    | To give consideration to and agree the sub-committee's work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year.              |           |
| 6. | <b>Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18</b>  | To follow |
|    | To receive a 2016/17 end of year progress report on the Children and Young People's Plan.                          |           |
| 7. | <b>Elective Home Education</b>   | 17        |
|    | To receive Cabinet's response to the sub-committee's Elective Home Education Sub Group report and recommendations. |           |

**To all Members of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee**

Councillor Alison Austin  
 Councillor Pamela Brooks  
 Councillor Joanne Cassidy  
 Councillor Karen Clark  
 Councillor Muriel Green  
 Councillor Karen Lee

Councillor Andy Newman  
 Councillor Pat Oliver (Deputy Chair)  
 Councillor Margaret Reynolds  
 Councillor Matthew Thirlaway (Chair)  
 Councillor Alison Waggott-Fairley  
 Councillor Frances Weetman

**Parent Governor Representatives**

Mrs Michelle Ord

**Churches Representatives**

Rev. Michael Vine, Church of England

Mr Gerry O'Hanlon, Roman Catholic Church

## Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

**20 March 2017**

Present: Councillor M Madden  
Councillors K Bolger, J Cassidy,  
K Clark, M Green, A Newman, P Oliver,  
M Thirlaway and J Walker.

Rev. M Vine                      Church Representative  
Mrs M Ord                        Parent Governor Representative

### **CES52/03/17          Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Austin, P Brooks and M Rankin and Mr G O'Hanlon, Church Representative.

### **CES53/03/17          Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members reported.

### **CES54/03/17          Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.

### **CES55/03/17          Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 February 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **CES56/03/17          Young Women and STEM Update**

The sub-committee received a report which provided details of work undertaken by the Council and its partners to increase the uptake of STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) particularly by girls in schools with the aim of improving access to STEM related jobs. The sub-committee had undertaken a study of this topic in 2015 and had presented a report with recommendations to Cabinet. At that time the sub-committee had concluded that although there were many activities to support the uptake of STEM subjects in schools there was still a significant gap in terms of girls taking up these subjects at GCSE, A level and in further education.

The sub-committee was presented with a table setting out the recommendations made to Cabinet, the action Cabinet had agreed to take in response to them and details of the progress that had been made in implementing the recommendations.

The national data regarding GCSE attainment, A-level subject uptake and A-Level attainment for the year 2015-2016 had been published by the Department for Education in January 2017.

This showed the rates of entry for EBacc Science (two or more GCSEs that cover the KS4 programme of study) in North Tyneside had seen a large increase and now entered proportionally more pupils than the national average for this qualification and the gender gap in entries in recent years was closer to gender parity. Almost 8% more (63.4% vs 55.5%) of North Tyneside students achieved two or more Ebacc sciences at grades A\*-C than the national cohort. Nationally a higher proportion of girls gained grades A\*-C in Ebacc sciences than boys (usually 5 or 6% higher) however this gender gap was far smaller in North Tyneside than the national gap.

In A-Level mathematics nationally there had been a 4.8% decrease (from 28.6% to 23.8%) in the proportion of 16-18 year olds entered although North Tyneside had only a 2% decrease. The decline in the proportion of girls with A-Level mathematics in North Tyneside was also lower than the national average. The decline was greater in North Tyneside than that seen nationally for students with A-Levels in biological sciences (3.9% decrease, national decrease of 3.4%) and in chemistry (4.9% decrease, national decrease of 3%). In A-Level physics whilst there was a 1.7% decrease (from 12.2% to 10.5%) in entries, this was better than nationally where there had been a decrease of 2.1% (11.4% to 9.3%). The proportion of girls with physics A Level has decreased by 0.5% this year, however this must be considered alongside the national 0.7% decrease.

The proportion of pupils attaining A\*-A in A-Level mathematics North Tyneside had remained broadly similar to 2015 but progress was in line with national attainment. A\*-A performance in biological sciences showed a three-year declining trend and in chemistry North Tyneside remained below national average, progress in both subject groups was significantly below national average. High grade attainment in A-Level physics had decreased from previous years but was broadly in line with national figures.

The data identified much strength, such as higher than average uptake and attainment and substantially lower than average gender gaps at key stage 4 (GCSE). In addition, against a national picture of declining entries at Key Stage 5 (A-Level), the rate of decline in North Tyneside was much lower than national in mathematics and physics. The data also presented some challenges, most significant of which was the lower than average Key Stage 5 entries in biology and chemistry, coupled with lower than average attainment in these subjects.

Over the next 12 months, the key priority would be ensuring that North Tyneside schools experienced a smooth transition to the new GCSE courses by ensuring that schools were supported in both curriculum design, delivery and assessment to ensure the borough maintained its current strong position. Improving uptake and attainment in A-Level biological sciences and chemistry, particularly amongst young women, was also a key priority. Steps to encourage more girls to choose these subjects at key stage 5 included increased promotion, the use of strong female role models and by targeting unconscious bias amongst school staff, parents and students themselves; research had shown that children as young as seven years old identified gender differences in roles and that at aged 14 had taken up stereotypes, negative associations and a poor understanding of what careers could be followed with STEM qualifications. On 29 June 2017 Dr. Carol Davenport would be addressing school leaders on how they could understand and tackle unconscious bias and this would be cascaded to staff and then students.

There were great events, projects and activities taking place in schools that promoted STEM to young women. An example was that students in Years 9 - 11 from Marden High School, John Spence High School and Norham High School had worked with Tyne Metropolitan College on the 'Science Expressways' project, which aimed to engage and

enthusiastic learners about STEM options post-16, offering engaging extra curricular sessions on evenings and school holidays such as Planetariums, Sensory Sessions and Engineering. The project started in Year 9 with students accessing sessions in all three sciences and attending a career fair with a wide range of STEM employers and facilitators, aimed at informing students of their options after Year 11. Since beginning 3 years ago, attendance for the project has been 74% female.

The sub-committee also received information on the work between the Council and partners to assist schools to increase the uptake of STEM subjects, particularly by girls, and the resultant access to STEM jobs. North Tyneside Learning Trust had continued to lead a number of projects for schools to encourage and support a range of STEM based initiatives. The Great North Maths Hub was leading several projects aimed at raising the profile of STEM subjects with young women, including a "Developing Mentoring for Girls" project which was being trialled in the summer term and if successful would be rolled out from September 2017.

A "WISDOM" (Women in Science Doing Outstanding Maths) event at Newcastle University had been organised for Year 10 girls, this was designed to overcome barriers preventing girls from taking up studies in maths and sciences at Key Stage 5. Tyne Metropolitan College had worked closely with both primary and secondary schools, providing access to events that the schools would not normally be able to attend, and by holding regular Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and best practice sessions for colleagues from surrounding secondary schools to look at ways schools could reproduce the style and type of lessons delivered across the college. It also held the 'STEMtastic' event which hosted 700 Year 6 students and their teachers across the Learning Trust schools. Learners attended sessions delivered by the school improvement team's curriculum staff and external facilitators and it was used as a CPD opportunity for teachers to develop innovative approaches to engage a wide range of students. Also, the Council's Employment and Skills team had delivered over 16 STEM events and at least 12 generic STEM career events in schools in 2016-17, allowing over 1500 students to access these events involving more than 30 STEM employers, including Engie, Rolls Royce, Owen Pugh, NHS, Advanced Industrial Solutions (AIS), Insure the Box, Galliford Try, Northumbrian Water, GE Oil and Gas and Accenture.

The sub-committee was also informed that a meeting had recently taken place with Elizabeth Mayes, Regional Director of the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) and Anne Reece of the Reece Foundation, with a view to establishing a pilot scheme for single sex teaching in North Tyneside. The Reece Foundation was keen to provide funding for this initiative and the early stages of consulting with schools on the logistics and intricacies of the project had just begun.

Members were particularly keen that attempts were also made to educate people of influence for young people outside of school, like parents and grandparents who may have a historic view of engineering, on the types of careers available with STEM qualifications and that an attempt at girls only lessons was made to try and overcome the gap that existed between girls and boys opting for STEM subjects.

It was explained that whilst evidence suggested that girls thrived in single sex classes the environment where a single sex class was taught was often not reflective of most schools which were co-educational. Also, boys did not flourish in single sex classes and even without that dilemma the logistics behind organising single sex classes for STEM subjects without having implications on other classes in the school were complex. Girls were performing to the same level of boys at Key Stage Four, the issue was that they did not

choose the subjects after G.C.S.E. or beyond, not that they did not attain when they did. It was agreed that a lot of family members of young people would not be aware of the opportunities for people with STEM qualifications and may hold prejudices about what types of subjects should be studied by boys and those which should be studied by girls and efforts were being made to get the message out that all subjects and careers were suitable for everyone. To overcome this prejudice and 'unconscious bias' the work needed to begin at primary school and it might be some years before the benefits of the work undertaken since the sub group's recommendations would become apparent.

It was **agreed** that the work undertaken by the Council and its partners in response to the report and recommendations of the sub-committee to increase the uptake of STEM subjects, particularly by girls in schools, be noted.

(During the discussion on this item Mrs Ord entered the meeting room)

### **CES57/03/17      Child Sexual Exploitation Update**

The Senior Manager for Safeguarding and Children's Services attended the meeting to provide the sub-committee with its regular update on the work being undertaken to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) in North Tyneside. The report provided information in relation to individual cases; what work was being undertaken across the council; and what work had been undertaken with partners.

The sub-committee was informed that there was currently 20 young people in the borough that had been identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation, this was reviewed on a weekly basis. The updated risk assessment tool for child sexual exploitation had been in use since 1 January 2017 and feedback from social workers and family partners had been positive with comments received that it was much clearer and enabled officers to assess and manage risk. Prior to implementation, briefing sessions had been held with managers and seniors and managers now had a responsibility to oversee and quality assure the document. The CSE risk assessment tool had also been shared with the children with disabilities team.

The social work secondment to Operation Sanctuary had only been funded by the police until the end of March 2017 and it was expected that the local authorities would fund their posts going forward. Newcastle City Council had agreed to fund their social worker but no decision had been taken on whether North Tyneside would also continue to do so. The Operation Sanctuary social worker and a safeguarding social worker had developed a workbook / presentation to deliver to schools around staying safe and healthy relationships. This had been piloted at Longbenton school following concerns regarding risks associated with young people and social media use and had been very well received by the young people and the school. This would be rolled out to other schools in the borough if the post continued past March 2017. In addition to this work the Sexual Exploitation Joint Sub Group had undertaken a mapping exercise to identify hotspots and areas of concern in the borough.

The North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB) held a conference in February on the theme of "Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People who are, or have been, missing, sexually exploited, or trafficked". The aim of the conference was to consider best practice in North Tyneside and its partners approach to working with children and young people who are, or have been, missing, sexually exploited, or trafficked. The conference was attended by 103 delegates and seven facilitators including Zoe Lodrick, an

expert in CSE, Richard Burrows, the Independent Chair of the NTSCB, social worker practitioners, a senior social work manager, police and young people from the SCARPA squad.

As recommended by the sub group CSE was included in the 'Section 11 audit' to ensure that all agencies had policies, procedures and training addressing the issue; a task and finish group has been set up to look at communication in terms of raising awareness across the borough and exploring ways to increase awareness amongst young males, BME groups and young people with disabilities; and training with taxi drivers has been ongoing. Following a review of the training provided to taxi drivers, it has been recommended that from 1 April 2017 there would be an e-learning module which would incorporate sexual exploitation and safeguarding of both children and adults. It would be a pre-requisite of being granted a licence to have successfully complete the e-learning.

Members sought clarification on whether the Council's partners were aware of and invited to attend the training on CSE available to Council employees; where the hotspots for North Tyneside were; what options were available for taxi drivers not able to access an e-learning module; and what awareness training was being done for social workers who worked with young people with ADHD to ensure warning signs were not misinterpreted as part of their condition.

The sub-committee was reassured that partners would be able to attend any training offered and checks would be made to ensure that message and awareness of the courses available were being disseminated to appropriate staff. Information on how the taxi licensing team proposed to accommodate drivers with no access to a computer would be sought and shared with the committee at a future date. Children with ADHD often had some support from the local authority and were known by their support workers who would be able to judge if their behaviour had altered and complete the CSE assessment tool with that personalised knowledge so the ADHD would not influence the outcome.

It was **agreed** (1) to note the updated information on the work being undertaken to raise awareness of, and protect children from, sexual exploitation and the implementation of the recommendations from the sub-committee's Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group; and (2) that the map showing the North Tyneside CSE 'hotspots' be provided with the next CSE update report; (3) that the Taxi Licensing Team be requested to explain how it was proposed to accommodate applicants for private hire/hackney carriage driver licences with no access to a computer to complete the required CSE e-learning training; and (4) that the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding be encouraged to find a way to ensure that the funding of the Operation Sanctuary social worker continued for the next financial year.

(During the discussion on this item, Mrs Ord left the meeting.)

### **CES58/03/17          Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan**

The sub-committee received a copy of the Corporate Parenting Strategy with information on how work against the Action Plan 2016/17 was progressing. The service manager for Looked After Children, Leaving Care and Performance Improvement was in attendance at the meeting to make the presentation and answer questions.

The five outcomes in the Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan were:

1. Our children and Young people achieve their educational employment and life skills potential.
2. Our children have a stable home and are safe.
3. Our children are healthy and well.
4. Our children build positive relationships.
5. Our children are listened to and respected.

The report covered the five outcomes and provided information on the current status and the impact of the work undertaken. The sub-committee was informed that there were 302 looked after children and young people in the borough with 114 statutory care leavers; 18 of which had gone onto university; this was a real achievement.

The key to effective corporate parenting was partnership working as the strategic responsibility for looked after children was shared amongst many people. The Participation and Advocacy team had a great working relationship with the young people and were good at letting the corporate side know when things were not working for the young people; this relationship was greatly valued by the service and the young people.

The *Care for Me* training, which had been undertaken by members of the Corporate Parenting Committee, some of whom also sat on this sub-committee, was an excellent method of ensuring Councillors' understood their responsibility as a corporate parent and it was suggested that all Councillors should be encouraged to undertake the training as each one would likely have a looked after child in one of the schools in their ward.

It was **agreed** (1) to note the information presented by the service manager for Looked After Children, Leaving Care and Performance Improvement on the Corporate Parenting Plan;

(2) that the six monthly updates on the corporate parenting plan would continue as part of the work programme for the next municipal year; and

(3) that the *Care for Me* training package be promoted and made available to all Councillors.

(During the discussion on this item, Councillors A Newman and M A Green entered the room and Mrs Ord left the meeting.)

### **CES59/03/17            Early Help and Integrated Locality Teams (previous minute CES29/10/16)**

The sub-committee received an update from the Senior Manager - Prevention, Early Intervention and Support Services on the development of the 0-19 Locality Teams and the integration of the Troubled Families (TF) work.

The sub-committee was reminded that the new Locality Model had been implemented in June 2016 and a six month review had been undertaken in November 2016 to see how it was working. The team had held 22 locality meetings between July 2016 and November 2016; a total of 133 families, who between them had 305 children, had been the subject of a 'Professional Conversation'. The Professional Conversation Framework allowed for more information sharing between agencies and partners working with families to enable the whole family situation to be understood by everyone working with the family; for example if the family was in rent arrears that information would be shared at the meeting.



88 out of 133 cases discussed were allocated a Lead Worker to carry out an Early Help Assessment (or to continue one) and support the family to make changes. Ten days before the meeting, partners were sent details of the families to be discussed for them to identify the appropriate lead worker and prepare for the meeting to ensure a full discussion could be held. 20 different partners had been invited to the meetings and 20 schools; they included: Child Adolescent Mental Health Service; Harbour; Housing/Safer Estates; Health Visitors / Public Health School Nurses; New Beginnings; Northumbria Police; Safeguarding; Social Work Assessment Team; Secondary Support Team; Safe Families for Children; Tyne Gateway; and the Youth Offending Team.

The success of prevention and early intervention was difficult to evidence because if it worked what had been avoided was unknown, however Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within the Early Help Assessment had been agreed as a 'proxy' indicator of impact. One of the main KPI's was the numbers of children who had been subject to an Early Help Assessment (EHAs) and who then subsequently were referred to the Front Door Service and/or who were subject to further assessment by the Social Work Assessment team. Looking at that data, there had been an increase in the number of schools completing EHAs, an increase in the number of reviews being carried out in a timely fashion; and an increase in the time it was taking. 221 of the 1321 Children who were the main subject of EHAs in 2014/15 and 2015/16 had subsequently been the subject of a Children's Social Care referral.

The sub-committee was also informed that a Troubled Families claim had been submitted in January 2017 and work was underway to finalise the last claim for this financial year which currently stood at 42 (subject to audit). The total number of claims for this year would be 89, against a target of 259. All other Local Authority's in Tyne and Wear were in a similar situation, along with many others across the country. This had been discussed with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Authority was waiting to hear if it could claim for the additional families later in the programme.

In response to their request at the 17 October 2016 meeting that the appropriate Cabinet Member and the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding consider relocating the north west locality team to an office based in the north west of the borough, the sub-committee was informed that it had been discussed with Councillor Grayson, Mark Longstaff and Iain Betham on behalf of the Strategic Property Group (SPG). Councillor Grayson was happy that this be considered as part of the review to examine the wider accommodation needs of the Authority as part of the service re-design linked to the business need; the sub-committee would be kept informed of developments.

It was **agreed** to note the information provided by the Senior Manager - Prevention, Early Intervention and Support Services on the work of the locality teams and the Troubled Families programme.

### **CES60/03/17      Report of the Elective Home Education Sub Group**

The sub-committee received a report from the Elective Home education (EHE) sub group which had been established to carry out a review of the Authority's current practices in relation to EHE and a local authority's role in relation to home education. The sub-committee was required to endorse the report and its recommendations for submission to the next meeting of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee to request it approved the report for submission to Cabinet.

The sub group had met on a number of occasions to receive information and discuss their findings and also held a series of evidence gathering meetings with officers from the Council and with elective home educating parents. The sub-group had made eight recommendations, with one to lobby to change the powers of local authorities in relation to accessing electively home educated children and others to make some small changes to the way the Authority currently engaged with parents to provide more efficient and effective support.

During discussion concern was expressed again about the lack of powers available to the Authority to see children who were being home educated or to monitor the standard of education being provided. To support the recommendations of the sub group it was suggested that recommendation 1 be amended by adding the words 'and encourages other Leaders, Elected Mayors and Executive Members for Education at other Local Authorities to do the same'. The recommendation would then read as follows:

"The Mayor write to the Minister for Education asking for a change to the law which would give local authorities guaranteed access to children being home educated and provide a clear definition of a 'suitable' and 'efficient' education, along with some minimum educational standards and also encourages other Leaders, Elected Mayors and Executive Members for Education at other Local Authorities to do the same".

The sub-committee considered that other local authorities would agree that children had a right to a good education and would add their voice to North Tyneside's for a change to the law. It was also suggested that Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee be requested to refer the matter of elective home education to the North East Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to seek support for the change in the law which would give local authorities guaranteed access to children being home educated and provide a clear definition of a 'suitable' and 'efficient' education, along with some minimum educational standards.

It was **agreed** that (1) subject to the amended recommendation, as set out above, the report of the Elective Home Education Sub Group be endorsed and referred to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee with a request that the report be submitted to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 10 April 2017; and (2) that Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee be requested to refer the matter of elective home education to the North East Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and requests them to make a recommendation to the North East Leadership Board that the Chair writes to the Minister for Education asking for a change to the law which would give local authorities guaranteed access to children being home educated and provide a clear definition of a 'suitable' and 'efficient' education, along with some minimum educational standards.

**Meeting:** Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

**Date:** 19 June 2017

**Title:** Work Programme 2017/18

---

**Author:** Elizabeth Kerr, Democratic Services Tel: 643 5322

**Service:** Law and Governance

**Wards affected:** All

---

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the topics received for potential inclusion in the 2017/18 Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee work programme.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The sub-committee is recommended to agree the draft work programme detailed in Appendix A and identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that could be included in the 2017/18 work programme.

## **3. Details**

- 3.1 The process of establishing the 2017/18 overview and scrutiny work programme began in February 2017 with an email to all Members and Tier 1, 2 and 3 managers, seeking ideas for topics scrutiny could usefully look at. It was explained with this request that, as in previous years, the focus of overview and scrutiny would be on contributing to policy development.
- 3.2 A press release was issued on 7 February 2017 seeking the views of members of the public as to what services would be important for scrutiny to focus on. An article was also placed on the Authority web site and communication platforms inviting members of the public to raise issues that they thought would be suitable for scrutiny to investigate.
- 3.3 The Senior Leadership Team also discussed the work programme and identified key policy areas for scrutiny to focus on. The work programme process and suggestions received to date were also discussed at a meeting of scrutiny chairs and deputy chairs.
- 3.4 In addition senior officers within the Children, Young People and Learning Service identified a range of scrutiny activities for the year ahead. These have been shared and discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sub-committee at a pre-agenda meeting and members of the committee were also requested to put their suggestions forward.
- 3.5 As a result of this work a draft work programme has been formulated and is attached as Appendix A.

- 3.6 As has been practice in previous years, it is recommended that sub groups (of around 4/5 members) be established to carry out the scrutiny of the topics that have been selected for in-depth investigation. These sub groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, often over a shorter period of time. When dealing with a specific topic, this focused way of working is often more productive than trying to achieve the same in a formal committee setting. Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub group per committee/sub-committee can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.
- 3.7 The Chair and Deputy Chair have agreed that the sub group examining the transition process between children and adult services for looked after children established at the January 2017 meeting of the sub-committee (previous minute CES46/01/17) should continue into the 2017/18 municipal year.
- 3.8 During the meeting, Members will have the opportunity to raise any other topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that they think should be included in the work programme. Additional topics raised will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

#### **4. Appendices**

- Appendix A – proposed work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year.

#### **5. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

- Notes of the Chair and Deputy Chairs meeting held in March 2017.
- Notes of the SLT discussion on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year.
- Notes of the pre-agenda meeting held on 1 June 2017.

## Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee: Work Programme for 2017/18

Agenda Item	Report	Officer	External representatives
<b>19 June 2017</b>			
Work programme 2017/18	To consider and agree the Sub-committee's Work Programme for 2017-18.	Elizabeth Kerr	
Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18	<p>Monitoring the delivery of the Plan.</p> <p>The Sub-committee receive a bi-annual performance report on the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18. An end of year summary is to be submitted to the June meeting with a mid year progress summary provided in December.</p> <p>For this meeting, further information on the analysis of young people's employment destinations (i.e are they sustainable positions) and longer employment trend information to be provided with a more narrative report to explain the results and what policies may have impacted upon the results.</p>	Craig Anderson	
Cabinet response to the Elective Home Education Sub Group Report	To inform the sub-committee of Cabinet's response to the recommendations submitted as part of the Elective Home Education Sub Group Report (presented to Cabinet in April)	Elizabeth Kerr	
<b>17 July 2017</b>			
Child Sexual Exploitation update	To monitor the situation in North Tyneside regarding CSE. To include the CSE 'hotspots' map and info on the CSE e-learning module for taxi drivers.	Majella Tallack	
Ofsted Inspection	To receive a report on the outcome of the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services.	Jacqui Old	
Signs of Safety	To introduce the 'Signs of Safety' practice model for working with children and young people and their families which is being introduced in Children's Services.	Martin Birch	

Agenda Item	Report	Officer	External representatives
<b>Tuesday 19 September 2017</b>			
SEND Local Area Inspection	To receive a report on the SEND Local Area Inspection.	John Thompson	
Transforming Children's Services	To receive a report on the work to improve outcomes for families and children with new ways of working.	Jill Baker	
Adult Education	To receive a report on adult education in North Tyneside, in terms of the options available, feedback on delivery, take-up across the different areas of the borough and how many people progress to adult education after taking an adult learning course.	Mark Barrett	
<b>16 October 2017</b>			
Attainment and Progress Report	Report received annually on attainment and progress across the borough. To include information on attainment of Free School meals/Pupil Premium pupils to allow the sub-committee to monitor the effectiveness of the support and challenge programme of the FSM/PP programme to ensure comparable progress to those not in receipt of FSM as requested by O&S on 30/03/15.	Angela James	
North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2016/17	To receive the annual report which demonstrates how the Board is effective in co-ordinating safeguarding and joint working arrangements to protect children and young people in the borough.	Sue Burns	Richard Burrows – Chair of the NTSCB
Early Help and Integrated Locality Teams	To receive an update on the work of the Early Help Offer and the Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020. To include information on the survey of partners, staff and families on the new Locality Teams model.	Jill Baker	
Corporate Parenting Plan	Update report on progress – to include information on the Ofsted inspection of residential homes and Regulation 44 visits.	Jodie Henderson	

Agenda Item	Report	Officer	External representatives
<b>20 November 2017</b>			
Signs of Safety	To provide an update on the implementation of the 'Signs of Safety' practice model for working with children and young people and their families	Martin Birch	Signs of Safety
ADHD Sub Group Recommendations Update	To receive a report informing the sub-committee of the progress made against implementing the recommendations of the ADHD Sub Group as detailed in Cabinet's Action Plan submitted to Cabinet on 16 January 2017.		
Child Sexual Exploitation update	To monitor the situation in North Tyneside regarding CSE.	Majella Tallack	
Disabled Children's Transition to Adult Services Sub Group Report	To receive the report of the sub group examining the processes undertaken by both Adult Services and Children Services when a disabled child transfers to Adult Services.	Elizabeth Kerr	
<b>22 January 2018</b>			
Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18	Monitoring the delivery of the Plan. The Sub-committee receive a bi-annual performance report on the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18. An end of year summary is to be submitted to the June meeting with a mid year progress summary provided in December.	Craig Anderson	
<b>19 February 2018</b>			
Attainment on LAC	To provide the committee with information on how the authority is supporting the attainment of LAC/disadvantaged children.	Jane Pickthall – Virtual Headteacher	
Transforming Children's Services	To receive a report on the work to improve outcomes for families and children with new ways of working.	Jill Baker	
<b>19 March 2018</b>			
Child Sexual Exploitation update	To monitor the situation in North Tyneside regarding CSE and the progress made against the CSE sub groups recommendations.	Majella Tallack	

Agenda Item	Report	Officer	External representatives
Early Help and Integrated Locality Teams	To receive an update on the work of the Early Help Offer and the Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020.	Jill Baker	
Corporate Parenting Plan	Update report on progress – to include information on support offered during the transition from child to adult services with specific reference to disabled CLA.	Jodie Henderson	
EHE Sub Group Recommendations Update	To receive a report informing the sub-committee of the progress made against implementing the recommendations of the Elective Home Education Sub Group.	Barbara Patterson	



**Meeting:** Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee  
**Date:** 19 June 2017  
**Title:** Elective Home Education Sub Group – Cabinet response

---

**Author:** Elizabeth Kerr, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 643 5322  
**Service:** Law and Governance  
**Wards affected:** All

---

## **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update the Sub-committee on the response from Cabinet to the final recommendations made by the Elective Home Education Sub Group which were presented to Cabinet on 10 April 2017.

## **2. Recommendations**

To note the Cabinet response to the recommendations of the Elective Home Education Sub Group.

## **3. Information**

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 10 April 2017 Cabinet received a report from the Elective Home Education Sub Group. In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet was required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Sub Group within two months.
- 3.2 Attached is a copy of the report submitted to Cabinet on 12 June 2017 to agree its response. The decision of Cabinet will be circulated to the Sub-committee on Friday 16 June 2017 after the publication of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

## **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Response from Cabinet to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee's Report on Elective Home Education.

# North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Member

**Date: 12 June 2017**

**ITEM 7(e)**

**Title: Cabinet Response to  
Overview, Scrutiny and  
Policy Development Report  
on Elective Home Education**

**Portfolio(s): Children Young People &  
Learning**

**Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Ian Grayson**

**Report from Service  
Area:**

**Attendance & Placement Service**

**Responsible Officer:**

**Mark Longstaff  
Head of Commissioning and Investment**

**Tel : 0191 643 8089**

**Report from Service  
Area:**

**Commissioning and Investment**

## **PART 1**

### **1.1 Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to the proposed response to the recommendations included in the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Report into Elective Home Education.

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Report into Elective Home Education within two months.

In providing this response, Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each of the recommendations and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

### **1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Cabinet agree the proposed responses to the recommendations from the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub Group in relation to its study into Elective Home Education Report, as shown in Appendix 1 of this report.

### **1.3 Forward Plan:**

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

## **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

The report supports the 'Our People' theme in the 'Our North Tyneside Plan' in particular

Be ready for work and life – with the skills and abilities to achieve their full potential economic independence and meet the needs of local businesses.

## **1.5 Information:**

1.5.1 At a meeting in July 2016, the Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee received a report which set out background information in relation to Elective Home Education.

1.5.2 Members of the Sub Committee had expressed some concerns as to the Authority's ability to check the quality of education being received by those outside of the formal school process. As the Attendance and Placement Team was due to review North Tyneside's policy on Elective Home Education, it was agreed that a review be undertaken to look at the current practices and Local Authority role in relation to home educating.

1.5.3 Following consideration of background information in relation to Elective Home Education, the Sub Group agreed the following remit at the beginning of the study:

- What are the key motivations for parents wanting to home educate their children?
- Is the increased demand on school places impacting on the number of parents that choose to home school?
- Do parents feel supported by the local authority in their choice? Do they require additional assistance?
- Should the government be lobbied to change the law to permit local authority's access to elective home educated children?
- To advise the officer team on the Authority's policy statement on home education and what networks could be established to reassure Members that all children being home educated were known about.

1.5.4 The Sub Group met with officers in the Attendance and Placement Team to gather information on the role that the Authority has in relation to Elective Home Education and the powers available to the Authority in ensuring an appropriate education is provided. The Sub Group also obtained information relating to why parents choose home education and the latest figures.

1.5.5 Cabinet has a statutory duty to respond to the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Report into Elective Home Education within two months. In providing this response, Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each of the recommendations and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

Cabinet accepts the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2

## Option 2

Cabinet does not accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2, and provides an alternative response to the report at the meeting.

### **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended in order to improve and develop support for those families who are currently or are considering home educating their children.

### **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Cabinet Response to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Recommendations, Completed Action Plan

### **1.9 Contact officers:**

Barbara Patterson, Senior Manager (Facilities and Fair Access) 0191 643 8340  
Rob Moffatt, Operational Manager, (Attendance & Placement) 0191 643 8387

### **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Report: Elective Home Education March 2017

[http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC\\_PSCM.PSCM\\_Web.download?p\\_ID=568584](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=568584)

- (2) Elective Home Education – Guidelines for Local Authorities

[http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/attachment\\_data/file/288135/guidelines\\_for\\_las\\_on\\_elective\\_home\\_educationsecondrevise2\\_0.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/attachment_data/file/288135/guidelines_for_las_on_elective_home_educationsecondrevise2_0.pdf)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

It is anticipated that actions can be completed within existing resources.

### **2.2 Legal**

There are no direct legal implications for the Authority arising from this report.

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Elective Home Education Sub Group in relation to its study into Elective Home Education with in North Tyneside within two months. In providing this response Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

Currently, Local Authorities have no statutory duties in relation to the monitoring of the quality of home education on a routinely basis, and also in regards to current legislation, parents are under no legal duty to respond to informal enquires into the education they are providing. However under Section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996 the Local Authority can intervene if it appears suitable education is not being provided, but there is no clear definition of what constitutes 'suitable' education.

## **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The Sub Group consulted with officers of the Authority as follows:

Barbara Patterson, Senior Manager (Facilities and Fair Access)

Rob Moffatt, Operational Manager, (Attendance & Placement)

Linda Sadler, Attendance Officer (Attendance & Placement)

### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

In preparation of the report the Sub Group consulted with the Elective Home Education community, although only one family responded to the opportunity to participate with the study however they did provide a valuable insight into home education.

## **2.4 Human rights**

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

## **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no specific equalities and diversity implications arising from this report

## **2.6 Risk management**

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

## **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

**PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Deputy Chief Executive  x
- Head(s) of Service  x
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  x
- Chief Finance Officer  x
- Monitoring Officer  x
- Head of Corporate Strategy  x

**Cabinet Response to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Recommendations  
Completed Action Plan**

**Elective Home Education**

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet are required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee within two months. In providing this response Cabinet are asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Recommendation	Officer Commentary	Cabinet Decision (Accept or reject)	Action to be taken (if any) and timescale for completion
<p>Recommendation 1: The Mayor write to the Minister for Education asking for a change to the law which would give local authorities guaranteed access to children being home educated and provide a clear definition of a 'suitable' and 'efficient' education, along with some minimum educational standards and also encourages other Leaders, Elected Mayors and Executive Members for Education at other Local Authorities to do the same.</p>	<p>Officers agree with this recommendation</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Mayor to write to the Minister by 1 September 2017</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: Cabinet ask officers in the Attendance and Placement Team to establish a 'notice board' page on the relevant section of the Council's website to allow parents to share advice and tips in relation to elective home education.</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will work with Officers in ICT to establish a "notice board" for Officers to post information to support parents in relation to elective home education.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement team will arrange a meeting to discuss and prepare an implementation plan.  To be online by 1 October 2017</p>

<p>Recommendation 3: Officers in the Attendance and Placement Team liaise with schools to explore the possibility of offering, for a small cost, surplus text books and equipment to electively home educating parents.</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will contact schools to encourage them to make such books and equipment available to parents who electively home educate. Information on how parents can collect these items directly from schools will be posted on the new "notice board". Any charges would be arranged between the school and the parent.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will update schools at Head teacher Briefing by 31 October 2017</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: Cabinet ask officers in the Attendance and Placement Team to review (and establish a continuous review process) all forms of written correspondence with parents electively home educating to ensure that material is clear, jargon free and demonstrates mutual respect.</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will review all written correspondence as recommended.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>This action is ongoing.  The Attendance and Placement Team will maintain regular contact with EHE parents and seek to consult on any new documentation before it is put into use, ensuring it is jargon free and clear whilst demonstrating mutual respect.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: Cabinet ask officers in the Attendance and Placement Team to review the consultation processes currently in place, with a view to increasing the feedback the authority gets from electively home educating parents</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will review the consultation process in place as recommended.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will review the consultation process in place by 1 November 2017.</p>



<p>Recommendation 6: Cabinet ask officers in the Attendance and Placement Team to arrange for information on inoculations to be sent to all electively home educating parents on an annual basis.</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will ensure this information is made available to all parents.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will ensure this information is made available to all parents.  The team will investigate timescales and work with colleagues to ensure this information is shared in a timely manner by 31 August 2017.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: Cabinet ask officers in the Attendance and Placement Team to liaise with colleagues in Public Health to ensure that all public health messages sent out via schools are also circulated to families that are home educating.</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will ensure this information is made available to all parents.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The team will investigate timescales and work with colleagues to ensure this information is shared in a timely manner by 31 August 2017.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: Cabinet ask officers in the Attendance and Placement Team to write to all schools in the borough to establish whether a buddying system is already in place and if not to enquire if schools would consider such a system in future especially in circumstances of home educated young people returning to school.</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will contact each school regarding a buddying system for children returning to school from home education.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Attendance and Placement Team will contact each school regarding a buddying system for children returning to school from home education.  This will be included in the Head teacher Briefing noted in Recommendation 3.</p>