

Children's Services Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 24 January 2017
10am, Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich**

Present:

Mr R Smith – Chair

Mr A Adams	Mr D Ramsbotham
Mr R Bearman	Ms C Rumsby
Mrs J Chamberlin	Mr M Sands
Mr J Childs	Mr B Stone
Ms E Corlett	Miss J Virgo
Mrs S Gurney (Vice-Chair)	Mr B Watkins
Mr B Hannah	Mr A White
Mr M Kiddle-Morris	
Mr J Perkins	

Non-voting Parent Governor Representative

Dr K Byrne

Non-Voting Co-opted Advisors

Mr C Spencer	Norfolk Governance Network
Ms V Aldous	Primary Education
Ms C Smith	Secondary Education
Mrs A Best-White	Schools Forum Rep

The Committee welcomed Mr Chris Spencer to his first Committee meeting since being appointed Chairman of the Norfolk Governance Network. Mr Spencer had replaced Mr A Robinson as a non-voting co-opted Advisor on the Committee.

1 Apologies and substitutions

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr P Gilmour (Mr D Ramsbotham substituted); Mr D Crawford (Mr J Childs substituted); Mr J Joyce (Mr B Watkins substituted); Mr A Mash (Church Rep); Mrs H Bates (Church Rep); Ms V Aldous and Mr J Mason (Co-opted non-voting advisors).

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016, including the exempt minutes, were agreed as an accurate record by the Committee and signed by the Chair, subject to paragraph 15.2.2 being amended to read:
- 2.1.1 "Members were advised that national guidance recommended that road crossing patrols should not be provided at sites where a pelican crossing was in place".

3 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr C Spencer, Norfolk Governance Network, declared an other interest as he was a Director of the Engage Trust.

Ms E Corlett declared an other interest in item 17 (Contract pipeline for Children's Services) as she was a volunteer with Homestart, whose contract with Norfolk County Council was out to tender.

4 **Items of Urgent Business**

4.1 OSCA Awards

The Chair said he was pleased to announce that two members of staff within Children's Services department had received awards at the recent OSCA ceremony. Dan Reeve who had won the Managing Director's Award for his support for newly qualified social workers and Michael Meenan who had won the People's Choice Award for being a highly committed social worker whose creativity, caring attitude and perseverance supported a young person with extremely complex needs.

The Committee **agreed** that the Chairman should send a congratulatory letter to both winners in recognition of their outstanding work for Children's Services.

4.2 Interim Executive Director Children's Services

Andrew Bunyan addressed the Committee about the work he had been doing whilst Interim Executive Director of Children's Services. He said it had been a busy two months and that strong evidence of improvement was showing within the department, although there could be no complacency. He reassured the Committee that there were some outstanding front-line managers and practitioners employed by the County Council and it was important to continue to recruit and retain good staff.

The Interim Executive Director thanked Norfolk County Council for appointing him for the short time he had been in post and advised that the new Interim Executive Director of Children's Services, Matt Dunkley, would be joining Norfolk on 6 February 2017. Mr Dunkley had previously been Director of Children's Services at East Sussex County Council.

4.3 Looked After children and Care Leavers Strategy Workshop

The Chair reminded the Committee that the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Workshop would be held at 2pm on Tuesday 24 January in the Colman Room, County Hall and urged Members to attend.

4.4 Task and Finish Groups

The Committee thanked all officers for all their hard work on all the Task and Finish Groups commissioned by the Children's Services Committee.

4.5 Permanent Executive Director of Children's Services

In response to a question, the Chair advised that no firm update could be given as to when a permanent Executive Director of Children's Services would be appointed. He added that the process usually took about 8-9 months. Mr Dunkley would remain with Norfolk County Council until the next Ofsted inspection had taken place and, it was hoped, until a permanent appointment was made.

5 Public Question Time

- 5.1 The public question received and its response is attached at Appendix 1.

6 Local Member Issues/Member Questions

- 6.1 One question was received from M Chenery of Horsburgh. The question and response can be found at Appendix 1. As a supplementary question, Mr Chenery asked the Committee if it had listened to the concerns of parishioners and families.

The Chairman replied that all the points raised in the responses to the consultation had been taken into account.

7 Road Crossing Patrol

- 7.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services setting out the action taken since the last Children's Services Committee meeting and the responses received during the consultation process. The Committee was asked to read the report and consultation responses and decide whether they wished to proceed. If the decision was not to proceed, the Committee was asked to agree to continue to operate the service as we did now.
- 7.2 The following points were noted in response to questions from the Committee:
- 7.2.1 Mrs S Gurney proposed, seconded by Mr A White, to adopt Option 2 – Continue the service as it was. This would require an additional investment of up to £140,000 although this figure may reduce in-year as employees leave the sites which were below threshold and were not replaced.
- 7.2.2 Norfolk County Council's duties under the road traffic act meant that liability for providing road crossing patrols rested with the County Council. This liability would remain even if schools offered to provide a road crossing patrol service themselves.
- 7.2.3 Although Members felt that it was right that the cuts to the road crossing patrol service should not proceed, it was proposed that when staff left sites which were not meeting the threshold criteria, other means of schools purchasing a traded service should be explored.
- 7.2.4 Some Members suggested that illegal driving and bad behaviour by drivers should be brought to the attention of the Police. The Lead HR and OD Business Partner supporting Children's Services would consider the consultation responses to ascertain if there were any specific allegations and contact the Constabulary accordingly.
- 7.2.5 A suggestion was made that road crossing patrol operators could be given similar powers to that of traffic wardens, although this was not deemed possible.
- 7.3 The proposal from Mrs Gurney, seconded by Mr White, was put to the vote. With 16 votes in favour and 1 vote against, the Committee **RESOLVED** to adopt option 2 – to continue to operate the service as it was.

The Committee **agreed** to consider agenda item 18 (Tobacco Control in Norfolk) as its next item of business.

8 Tobacco Control in Norfolk

- 8.1 The Committee received the report by the Director of Public Health setting out Norfolk's Tobacco Control Strategy and Action Plan (2016) which had been developed by the Tobacco Control Alliance and approved by Communities Committee on 7 September 2016. Communities Committee had recommended that the report should be presented to Children's Services Committee in order to endorse the recommendations of the alliance, particularly in relation to children and young people.
- 8.2 In response to questions from the Committee, the following points were noted:
- 8.2.1 As e-cigarettes were deemed to be a safer option than smoking cigarettes, part of the advice from Public Health was for smokers to use e-cigarettes. Data was starting to show that more children were using e-cigarettes, although it would be a number of years before there was sufficient, robust evidence in this area.
- 8.2.2 Members fully endorsed the recommendation in the report and agreed that any measures to prevent young people from starting to smoke should be encouraged.
- 8.2.3 Dr Louise Smith, Director of Public Health suggested that the issue of how e-cigarettes were marketed as an acceptable form of recreation should be taken up with the organisation ASH nationally, who supported the strategy. Members considered there should be national guidelines on how e-cigarettes were marketed.
- 8.2.4 It was suggested that the pricing structure adopted by Government was not the right way of encouraging people to stop smoking as the high prices charged for cigarettes could lead to the import of cheap and dangerous tobacco products. The Committee asked if it was possible to contact the Government to let them know that their pricing structure and taxation was not working.
- 8.2.7 It was suggested that schools and the Norfolk Youth Parliament could assist in taking forward the findings from the report.
- 8.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:
1. Note the harm that smoking does and support the vision of a smoke-free county.
 2. Endorse the Norfolk Tobacco Control Alliance Strategy and Action Plan, focused on its strategic priorities to:
 - Prevent young people from becoming smokers.
 - Assist every smoker to quit smoking.
 - Protect people, especially children, from tobacco related harm.

9 Final Report by members of the Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Task and Finish Group.

- 9.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services and the Chair of the Task and Finish Group presenting the findings from the Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Task and Finish Group.
- 9.2 In introducing the report, the Chair of the Task and Finish Group, Ms E Corlett, thanked everyone for their involvement in the production of the report.

The Committee also heard from Meghan Teviotdale from NSFT youth council about her involvement in the task and finish group and she thanked the group for giving her the opportunity to take part and share her experiences.

9.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the recommendations in the report.

Recommendations for Norfolk County Council Services.

- A. All of the evidence we have found has highlighted the importance of early help/intervention in improving mental health and emotional wellbeing. We recommend that Children's Services ensure that the current emphasis on early help is continued and focus given to ensuring this approach is fully adopted when it comes to all service delivery associated with mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- B. We recognise the impact parental mental health can have on a growing child. Therefore we recommend that our colleagues on the Adult Social Care Committee review the threshold for access to Adult Mental Care provision in relation to parents and individuals with parental responsibilities (especially those with young children under the age of 8yrs). In addition we would ask that priority also be given to individuals with parental responsibilities in order to reduce the impact upon their family of not receiving treatment.
- C. Although schools do not come under the direct management of Norfolk County Council we feel that our overall, collective responsibility for safeguarding and championing children and families means that we need to develop a Norfolk standard together. This should clearly show what is expected of schools in relation to emotional wellbeing and encouraging positive mental health. Norfolk County Council's role is to help provide information and recommendations to assist schools in developing a whole school approach which can be evaluated to ensure approaches reflect best practice. It is on this basis that we recommend a guide be produced for schools as to what services exist along with the recommended route in to them. This guide should be produced in partnership with schools (including Governing bodies) and young people to ensure it is relevant. The senior management team in Children's Services are asked to identify relevant staff to take this forward.
- D. Connected to (C) we recommend that Norfolk County Council develop a core offer of services connected to mental health provision for children and young people. In addition this should include more complex services that could offered at a cost via Educator Solutions. This should also link in to the re-design of CAMHS services. The core offer should be developed in partnership with schools and young people based upon a clear business case to be developed in partnership with Public Health.
- E. Public Health are looking to deliver a year of positive action towards mental health. We heard from young people how important it is that they feel informed and involved in services to help them understand and take charge of their own health. We therefore recommend that any activity specific to children and young people involve them its design and commissioning, ensuring that it is relevant to them. This should then be promoted in schools to be used as a resource within lessons, providing them with a fully endorsed 'product' that ties in generally with

schemes by Public Health to improve awareness of mental health issues amongst young people.

- F. Given the scope of the issues impacting upon mental health it has been impossible to cover everything within the time limitations of this Task and Finish Group. The following are specific areas that the Group feel warrant attention:

- Looked After Children (LAC)
- Post 16yrs education

To this end Children Services Committee may wish to consider commissioning further work either through officers, to be reported back, or in the form of further Task and Finish work

- G. During the course of our work we were talked through in detail the impact of attachment for children and their families. In order to improve Members knowledge of this we recommend that all Members be invited to a workshop to improve general understanding and assist in informed decision making

Recommendations affecting services outside of Norfolk County Council

- H. We highly recommend that the Mental Health Trust responsible for mental health service provision in Norfolk (currently NSFT) collect (as part of triage), collate and share data associated with parental responsibilities for those accessing their services. This links to recommendation (B) to lower the threshold and give priority to individuals with parental responsibilities and will assist all relevant organisations to ensure that any safeguarding concerns can be quickly addressed through improved communication and understanding.
- I. We recommend that schools be encouraged to work together to share best practice in relation to mental health and emotional wellbeing of pupils in Norfolk
- J. Linked to (I) that the Education and Strategy Group be asked to support the production of an evaluation of best practice in Norfolk in connection to mental health and emotional wellbeing activity in schools. This piece of research should then be used to inform the re-design, where necessary, of existing CAMHS services.
- K. Mental health services need to be accessible, particularly for young people. Part of achieving this involves an understanding and recognition of the entire 'workforce' involved in improving mental health and understanding the skills and needs of our young people when addressing all levels of mental health need. Ensuring a broad range of professionals are available and aware of all available services. We recognise this is not an easy task but we recommend that:
- We develop a common language for social care, medical professionals and schools
 - We develop a map which can be used to signpost between services
 - Joint ways of working including opportunities for professionals to come together to discuss best practice be encouraged and their importance recognised in order to create better join up across Norfolk
 - That the Local Transformation Plan be scrutinised on a regular basis by Children's Services Committee in order to ensure it is delivering for the children and young people of Norfolk

10 Performance Management Report

10.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services containing the report cards and other key performance information.

10.3 The following points were noted in response to questions by the Committee:

10.3.1 Report Cards

10.3.1.1 Children in Need (CIN) plans continued to be a real focus for Children's Services and the Committee was pleased to note that significant improvement had been made and that the topic remained on the radar as an area of real focus.

10.3.1.2 The data that was used to formulate the report cards was used for a variety of reasons as well as being a management tool to monitor performance, so it would be difficult to include interim targets. The Red Amber Green (RAG) rating was used to ensure topics remained in focus.

10.3.2 Early Help

10.3.2.1 The graph omitted from the Troubled Families Payment by Results (PBR) Claim scorecard would be circulated to the Committee.

10.3.2.2 The trial of the newly purchased Rocket software had now taken place and was in the process of being embedded. The rocket software would enable data to be pulled from multiple sources quickly and help to ascertain where families were likely to achieve a successful outcome.

10.3.3 Social Work

10.3.3.1 School attendance of Looked after Children (LAC) was monitored on a daily and weekly basis, to identify if there had been any absences from school. LAC were not protected from the exclusion process. In Norfolk there had been 7 Norfolk LAC excluded since September 2016, 6 from Norfolk schools and 1 from a Suffolk School, although the reasons for exclusion could not be disclosed. The Committee was reassured that the topic remained in focus and work was being carried out to reconfigure some aspects of the education services to work more closely with schools in an attempt to prevent further exclusions.

10.3.3.2 Some of the rise in the number of LAC, particularly in the Breckland area had been a result of large sibling groups being taken into care.

10.3.3.3 Work was being undertaken with agencies to ensure care leavers were fully supported in Employment, Education or Training as appropriate. Unfortunately Norfolk did not have sufficient provision at the right level for young people to move to relevant further education or training and an area based review was being undertaken to consider how post-16 provision could be improved. The Committee noted that, in Norfolk it was known who the young people were, where they were and what they needed, although it was not always possible to find the pathway they wanted.

10.3.3.4 Norfolk had agreed to take 7 unaccompanied asylum seeking children to date, out of the 10 agreed by Council. The Committee would receive a separate briefing paper from the Assistant Director Social Work providing more detail.

- 10.3.3.5 The Committee noted that there were no issues with the Social Care Recording System project and that the project was on track for implementation by the end of November 2017.
- 10.3.4 Financial Implications
- 10.3.4.1 The Interim Executive Director of Children's Services had requested a spending freeze on all unnecessary spend until the end of March 2017.
- 10.3.4.2 The Adoption Support fund was used as a payment to prospective adopters who adopted a child with special needs to help support the family. The amount was based on the needs of the child and could be an ongoing spend.
- 10.4 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:
- **Note** the report.
 - Recommend to Policy and Resources Committee, that County Council approve the use of additional Dedicated Schools Grant reserves of £3.453m, Children's Services reserves of £0.799m and Schools reserves of £1.019m in 2016-17 as set out in section 6.8 of the report.

11 Looked After Children and Edge of Care Update

- 11.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services providing a breakdown of the current position with regard to key Looked After Children (LAC) data and detailed the edge of care actions we were taking which it was believed would lead to a reduction in LAC numbers.
- 11.2 The following points were noted in response to questions from the Committee:
- 11.2.1 Work was ongoing around reducing criminalisation of LAC, and the Committee would receive a report detailing information about how many LAC had been in custody and the reasons. Members also requested information about the life experiences of some of the children that had led to them coming into care.
- 11.2.2 The Chair advised that the Corporate Parent Executive Group was being reconstituted. Once the Group was reconvened, it would consider all issues around Looked After Children and Care Leavers. The Committee would receive an update at a future meeting.
- 11.2.3 The Committee was informed that the partnership working with Barnardo's included working with other partners to deliver the right services in localities across Norfolk. The details of the partnership with Barnardo's was currently being worked out.
- 11.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report.

12 Strategic and Financial Planning 2017-18 to 2019-20 and Revenue Budget 2017-18.

- 12.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services setting out proposals to inform the Council's decisions on council tax and

contribute towards the County Council setting a legal budget for 2017-18 which would see its total resources of £1.4bn focused on meeting the needs of residents.

12.2 The following points were noted in response to questions by the Committee:

12.2.1 CHL026 – Re-profiling of children’s centre savings over the final two years of the three year savings.

During the retendering process, Children’s Centre providers were asked how they would like to receive payment, for example all at once, or split into instalments throughout the year.

12.2.2 The Committee questioned the monitoring carried out by the HR Shared Service on whether staff with protected characteristics were disproportionately represented in redundancy or redeployment figures. The Committee was reassured that monitoring had found there was no disproportionate impact on staff with protected characteristics and that close monitoring would continue. Any issues would be reported and appropriate action taken.

12.2.3 The £5m bid for delivery of the CS Sufficiency Strategy referred to increasing capacity in children’s homes.

12.2.4 The savings shown in table 3 (Summary of saving removals and delay) which Children’s Services had been unable to achieve in 2016-17 had been removed and the funding permanently added back into the budget.

12.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

(1) **Note** the Committee’s specific budget proposals for 2017-18 to 2019-20, including the findings of public consultation in respect of:

- The budget proposals set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
- The new and additional savings proposals to contribute to the supplementary target of £4.000m for the Council as identified to Policy and Resources Committee in November 2016; and
- The scope for a general Council Tax increase of up to 1.99%, within the Council Tax referendum limit of 2% for 2017-18, noting that the Council’s budget planning is based on **an increase of 1.8%** reflecting the fact that there is no Council Tax Freeze Grant being offered, and that central government’s assumption is that Councils will increase Council Tax by CPI every year. The Council also proposes to **raise the Adult Social Care Precept by 3%** of Council Tax as recommended by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services. Bringing forward increases in the Social Care Precept will mean that the 2% increase planned for 2010-20 would not occur.

(2) **Note** the findings of equality and rural assessments, attached at Appendix 1 to the report and in doing so, note the Council’s duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (3) **Agree** any mitigating actions proposed in the equality and rural impact assessments.
- (4) **Agree** and **recommend** to Policy and Resources Committee the draft Committee Revenue Budget as set out in Appendix 2 of the report:
- including all of the savings for 2017-18 to 2019-20 as set out, together with increasing the “Refocus Education Service savings target” by £150k, to fund the Committee’s decision to take no action on removing road crossing patrols, (and reversing the 2016-17 £150k budget saving decision)
- For consideration by Policy and Resources Committee on 6 February 2017, to enable Policy and Resources Committee to recommend a sound, whole-Council budget to Full Council on 20 February 2017.
- (5) **Agree** and recommend the Capital Programmes and schemes relevant to this Committee as set out in Appendix 3 to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration on 6 February 2017, to enable Policy and Resources Committee to recommend a Capital Programme to Full Council on 20 February 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 12.05 noon until 12.15pm.

13 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 13.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children’s Services presenting the changes to the distribution for the Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2017 in line with the Department of Education’s Fairer School Funding arrangements.
- 13.2 In response to questions from the Committee, the following points were noted:
- 13.2.1 To resolve the projected overspend of the High Needs Block a proportion of the schools block of funding would need to be moved. As far as possible this had been identified to have the least impact on school budgets. Members showed some concern about how the Dedicated Schools Grant could be managed without disadvantaging schools who already provided a very inclusive programme. A strategy to incentivise school inclusion, rather than exclusions, was proposed and the Assistant Director for Education indicated that a consultation would go out to all schools to look at this. The Headteacher Associations and Norfolk Governors Network had been made aware of the projected overspend and contributed ideas for moving things forward. Officers indicated that some difficult decisions about the use of this funding would have to be made in the future.
- 13.2.2 The Schools Forum had considered the proposals and had agreed the general principle for addressing the projected overspend of the High Needs Block in 2017 - 2018 and direction of travel.
- 13.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:
- **Agree** the Dedicated Schools Grant Funding.

14 Determination of Admission Arrangements 2018-19.

14.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services summarising the statutory consultation outcomes and proposing no changes to Norfolk's admissions co-ordination scheme and timetable for the academic year 2018-19.

14.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree :

Local authority admissions co-ordination:

- The co-ordination schemes and timetables including in-year co-ordination are approved for 2018-19.

Admission arrangements for Community and VC Schools:

- No changes are made to the current (2017-18) policies for 2018-19.

15 The Supply of School and Childcare Places in Norfolk.

15.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services setting out the Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan and the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

15.2 In response to questions from the Committee, the following points were noted:

15.2.1 The challenge of providing sufficient high school places while responding to parental preference for popular schools was acknowledged. The Committee noted that a lot of work had been carried out but this needed to be refreshed in line with new housing developments in some areas. In response to a particular concern about the expansion of Hellesdon High School, reassurance was given that the school had sufficient land to allow for expansion if required in the future. It was also noted that the Northern Distribution Road (NDR) was beginning to have an impact in some areas.

15.2.2 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money could only be used to provide buildings, and Section 106 Agreement funding could only be used to purchase land for schools and other community projects.

15.2.3 Information about all-through school provision would be included in future reports.

15.2.4 The Task and Finish Group on the introduction of 30 hour childcare would report back to Committee in March 2017.

15.2.5 The fall in the number of child minders by approximately 9% each year corresponded with national statistics.

15.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- **Adopt** the Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan and the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

16 Exclusion from Schools – Interim Report by Members Task and Finish Group.

- 16.1 The Committee received the report by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group and the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services setting out the work to date of the Exclusion from Schools Task and Finish Group.
- 16.2 In introducing the report, the Chair of the Task and Finish Group thanked everyone who had taken part in the group's work.
- 16.3 In response to questions from the Committee, the following points were noted:
- 16.3.1 The Short Stay School offered a range of services, other than the service purchased by Norfolk County Council, and some of these were available for schools to purchase if they wanted. These services were separate to the provision contracted by Norfolk County Council.
- 16.3.2 The recently experienced capacity issues at the short stay school for Norfolk had not yet been fully resolved, although capacity had improved. Work was being undertaken to procure an additional 32 places and it was expected that the Task and Finish Group's next report would offer some clear assurances as to this additional provision.
- 16.3.3 Pupils who could not be offered a place at the short stay school received e-learning or home-schooling for a short period of time until a place was identified at a school.
- 16.3.4 The Committee was reassured that a representative from the virtual school was present at exclusion hearings where a LAC was likely to be permanently excluded. They were further reassured that many schools worked hard to avoid exclusions and this was recognised and commended.
- 16.4 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

Agree that a plan should be developed with the explicit intention of:

- Reducing the number of permanent exclusions in Norfolk through an enhanced offer of alternatives to exclusion.
- Reducing the costs associated with exclusion, both within the High Needs Block and the NCC Transport budget, and for savings to be used, in part, to support schools' endeavours to be inclusive.
- Improving outcomes for pupils at risk of exclusions and for pupils following exclusion, ensuring that swift access to expert support, advice, guidance and provision is available across the county.

Support that these aims should be delivered through the development and implementation of a joint Local Authority and Headteacher/Governor Association Improvement Plan, to include for example:

- Managed move/reintegration protocol (with explicit prioritisation for Looked After Children).
- Publication via the Local Offer of guidance for schools and local authority teams on respective responsibilities for exclusions and sign-posting to information, advice, guidance and specialist support/provision services.

- Ensuring that different funding and support arrangements are aligned to maximise impact, for example:
 - Aligning Special Education Needs and Disability and Social, Emotional and Mental health (SEND/SEMH) support together with early help/Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
 - Ensuring that funding available within schools block and high needs block is targeted appropriately.

Support the requirement for reporting back to this Committee before the end of the current academic year to illustrate:

- Progress on development of joint LA and Schools improvement plan (end spring term 2017).
- Progress on reducing rates of permanent exclusions and increased sufficiency planning for specialist provision (end summer term 2017).

17 Corporate Safeguarding

17.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services summarising the roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children across the whole Council. The overall aim was to ensure these roles and responsibilities were exercised with respective services, in order to ensure that, as a whole authority, we maintained an organisational culture and ethos that prioritised the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

17.2 In response to questions from the Committee, the following points were noted:

17.2.1 DBS checks were only valid at the date of checking.

17.2.2 The Committee considered that the Safeguarding Policy should be presented to full Council to remind all Members of their responsibilities as corporate parents.

17.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- **Approve** the document summarising the roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding children (Appendix 1 of the report).
- **Distribute** the document to all elected members and senior officers.
- **Agree** that all elected members should undertake mandatory awareness training on safeguarding and corporate parenting, provided by senior officers from the Children's Services Directorate. Representatives from the Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Board will assist with the Safeguarding awareness training where appropriate.

18 Contract Pipeline for Children's Services

18.1 The Committee received and **noted** the report by the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services setting out an overview of forthcoming contract renewal dates for Children's Services so that Members had sufficient notice about forthcoming procurements to provide strategic input.

The meeting closed at 1.25pm

Chair



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**Children's Services Committee
Tuesday 24 January 2017**

5 Public Question Time

Question 1 from Mr Richard Doyle:

Are the committee happy with the data/evidence used to decide Colman Road / South Parks Avenue doesn't need a crossing patrol, and would they be happy to see more children driven to school?

Reply by the Chairman:

The controlled crossings by their very nature offer a safe form of crossing for pedestrians, traffic is held at a red light to allow pedestrians to safely cross. Having a Road Crossing Patrol on the site can cause confusion to motorists and pedestrians, the patrol cannot use their stop sign to override the traffic light sequence e.g. stop traffic against a green light.

At South Park Avenue and Colman Road (A140) the pedestrian crossing (green man) is part of the overall traffic light sequencing on this junction, it cannot be overridden by pedestrians by pressing the button.

Our aim is to ensure that all pedestrians, young and old, are confident to cross this road and indeed all roads at any time of the day, any day of the year and not just the 2 daily half hour patrols when the school is open.

This is why we have offered road safety awareness training to the pupils (and parents if they want it) to make their walk to school, with their parent or carer, safe.

6 Local Member Questions/Issues

Question 1 from Michael Chenery of Horsbrugh:

When the two crossing patrols at Heacham Infant and Junior Schools were being evaluated, how much recognition was given to the planned development of up to 100 new houses off Cheney Hill - a development which will significantly add to the number of children and cars on an already busy road?

Reply by the Chairman:

We can only monitor sites based on the here and now and not speculate on what might happen in the future. There is already a flashing 20mph School sign to slow traffic down.

We are aware of the development of approximately 60 houses but until the development is complete and residents move in we are unable to speculate on what difference it may or may not make to traffic or pedestrians.

At this time the site does not meet the national threshold.