

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

17

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services

to

People Scrutiny Committee

28th January 2014

Report prepared by:
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Chairman's update

A Part 1 Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on a few scrutiny matters, as follows:

- Update on request from October meeting re pupil premium grant;
- Update on request from November meeting re Schools Progress;
- East of England Regional Event;
- St Luke's GP- led health centre;
- Member briefings;
- Care Quality Commission; and
- Update on the in depth scrutiny project.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report and actions taken be noted.
- 2.2 That, as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the Report, a further representative be appointed to attend the regional Scrutiny event being held on 24th February 2014.

3. Updates

- 3.1 Pupil Premium for Looked After Children – at the meeting on 22nd October 2013 the Committee requested that a report be prepared on the super pupil premium for Looked After Children (Minute 425 refers). The Council has now received further information and guidance on this issue, as set out below:

This fund becomes available in the financial year 2014/2015. The Pupil Premium Funding for Looked After Children in Years Reception to 11 will increase from £900 to £1,900. Looked After Children will be eligible as soon as they come into care, rather than having to wait until they have been in care for 6 months. It will also be extended to children who have been adopted from care, (adopted here includes Special Guardianship Order and Residence Order). For adopted children, the 14/15 funding depends on parents proving the adoption/SGO/RO arrangements to the school by mid-January.

We plan to continue our existing arrangements for transferring monies to schools. These arrangements ensure the school links the way it spends Pupil Premium

funding to the educational needs of the child identified in the Personal Education Plan (PEP). The money will go directly to the schools concerned. Extrapolating from 13/14 figures we might expect something like £330,000. Current year allocation is £157,000.

3.2 Schools Progress – at the meeting on 26th November 2013 (Minute 551 refers), the Committee asked for some further information on the procedure for warning notices etc from the Department for Education (DfE), and this is set out below:

- Warning notices must be registered with DfE
- From that date the school has 15 clear working days to respond, or for the DfE to request a change to the notice
- The period within which the school must make the required changes/improvements must be stated in the warning notice, but is set by the LA
- Once the date for expected action has been passed the LA have two calendar months to take the advised actions or else the notice lapses.

3.3 East of England Regional event – the health scrutiny officers in the East of England Region have been discussing holding a regional event in February. One officer and 2 councillors can attend from each of the top tier / social services authorities in the region. The event will be on 24th February and hosted by Essex County Council.¹ Councillor Kaye will be attending the event and the Committee is asked to consider the other representative to attend.

3.4 St Luke's GP-led health centre – In November the Southend CCG Board considered a paper regarding the future of the GP-led health centre in St Luke's ward.

NHS England is responsible for commissioning primary care contracts (including St Luke's GP-led health centre), and the Essex area team have met with the 3 ward Councillors to discuss these proposals. At the Board meeting, the CCG recommended that the registered practice and walk-in services should continue.

The area team continues to seek to identify a permanent solution for housing the practice.

3.5 Member briefings – the Committee will be aware that member briefings have been held recently. At the session on 17th December, Jacqueline Totterdell, Chief Executive, Southend Hospital Trust provided an update on the CQC inspection, A&E performance, and maternity services and Sally Morris, Chief executive, SEPT, provided an update on the organisation and the challenges, opportunities and focus.

At the session on 13th January, Sue Hardy Chief Nurse / Deputy Chief Executive and Dr Kate Gretton, Southend Hospital Trust provided a briefing on palliative (end of life) care and Adam Wilkinson, Regional Manager, Terrence Higgins Trust, provided a briefing on the sexual health promotion and community HIV prevention service.

¹ The programme is being worked on. The Department of Health and the Care Quality Commission will be attending the event to present at the meeting.

The main benefit to the new approach is that it allows other members to attend these 'cross cutting' presentations rather than just those members of the particular scrutiny committee. The feedback from the sessions have been extremely positive.

- 3.6 Care Quality Commission – the Committee is asked to consider whether the CQC should be invited to discuss their inspection plans etc with members at a future briefing session.

4. In depth scrutiny project

- 4.1 At the meeting in July, the Committee decided that the topic for in depth study for 2013 / 14 would be – '*Southend primary schools' falling grammar school entry figures*' (Minute 145 refers). The project plan was agreed at the meeting in October 2013 (Minute 350 refers).
- 4.2 Witness sessions have been held on 28th November, 2nd December 2013 and 14th January 2014. The draft scrutiny report will be considered at the April Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities – Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.
- 5.2 Financial Implications - there are nominal costs involved in operating any in-depth scrutiny project, which can be met from the Council's scrutiny budget. The Pupil Premium grant received for Looked after Children will be directly allocated to schools as required by need.
- 5.3 Legal Implications – none.
- 5.4 People Implications – none.
- 5.5 Property Implications – none.
- 5.6 Consultation – as described in report.
- 5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment – none.
- 5.8 Risk Assessment – none.

6. Background Papers

Southend CCG Board paper re St Lukes GP led health centre
Papers associated with in depth project team

7. Appendices

None