

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 27 January 2022

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
17/06/21	Ofsted Focused Letter	1) That the Cabinet Member for Education lobbies the Government, on behalf of the Council, to give local authorities additional powers with regards to the oversight of elected home educated children.	The Cabinet Member has received a briefing from the Head of Education and Early Years on Elected Home Education.	Partially complete
25/11/21	Key performance indicators - SEND	1) That, through the proposed SEND reforms, the service uses this opportunity to engage with the Parent and Carer Forum and SEND Information and Advice Service to encourage a more conciliatory approach to supporting parents of children with SEND, thereby reducing the number of appeals and tribunals.	The service is meeting with the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service in the spring term to establish what other LA's that the service is commissioned by, have in place in terms of their informal mediation/resolution services, with the intention of developing a new model in Southampton. This aims to resolve early any decisions that parents do not agree with/understand which should see a reduction in the number of appeals to the first tier tribunal. As with all service developments, this will be done in collaboration with the Southampton Parent Carer Forum.	Complete
		2) That the self-evaluation being developed in preparation for an Ofsted inspection is considered at a future meeting of the Panel.	The Head of Service for SEND will advise when the timeline for the new inspection framework publication is confirmed by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. A date for Scrutiny Panel to be briefed on the service self-evaluation will then be set.	Partially Complete
25/11/21	Children & Learning - Performance	1) That the figure for foster carer inquiries is added to the dataset considered by the Panel.	Foster carer applications is not something we can report on from Care Director. However, the service has provided the most recent performance information (attached as Appendix 2) and can easily update the Panel upon request.	Complete
		2) That, reflecting concerns about performance, clarification is provided on what the NEET indicators are actually measuring and how they are determined.	<p>NEET – Post 16 Education Team</p> <p>The NEET data is recorded on our CCIS system CORE+ and is all young people of academic age 16 and 17 (year groups 12 and 13) that reside within Southampton who are not in education, training or employment. The NEET group consists of those that are both available and not available (young parents, illness, carers). The cohort changes each September as the year groups change and we start to track</p>	Complete

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			<p>our 4500 young people. The first accurate set of data is from November onwards and is available up until August. The NEET group is approximately 3.5-4% of the cohort around 160-180 young people.</p> <p>NEET – LAC / Care Leavers</p> <p>The Virtual School (VS) oversees EET provision post 16 -18 for looked after children wherever they are placed in the country. To ensure tracking of attendance and engagement we use Welfare call, an electronic attendance tool to ensure year 12 and 13 students continue to remain in EET. Early oversight is in place if attendance dips and bespoke interventions can be negotiated – e.g. additional 121 tuition around preparation for exams (especially functional skills/GCSE English and Maths). Individual discussions around bursaries and additional financial support for transport, materials and resources. The VS also promotes high aspiration working in partnership with Solent University – providing workshops and information and guidance around transition to higher education. All opportunities for 16+ are advertised through the weekly designated teacher email distribution in and out of city and through the participation social media outlets.</p> <p>The pathway plan is scrutinised to ensure EET opportunities and support are prioritised to enable transition to independence in adulthood.</p>	
		3) That the Scrutiny Manager works with the Performance Manager to 'fine tune' the presentation of the performance dataset.	Mark Pirnie and Jo Feeney have liaised regarding this action. The presentation of the performance will continue to develop reflecting the views of the Panel.	Complete