

Addendum - Update from Scrutiny Chairman to Cabinet: 13 September 2016

This addendum provides an update on the following scrutiny meeting:

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 6 September 2016

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1. The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met on [Tuesday 6 September 2016](#), to consider items on 'CYP Budget / Cost Savings Impacts' and 'School Infrastructure and Capacity Planning'. The recommendations arising were as follows:

Agenda Item 6 – CYP Budget / Cost Savings Impacts

2. The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet, the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and the Director of Children and Young People's Services, to:
 - a) Commend the sincere, effective and efficient efforts of the Council's officers in keeping Suffolk children safe, and the associated Good Ofsted rating, in the face of increasing demands and the challenge of the budget deficit, for which solutions other than fairer funding for Suffolk are not clear.
 - b) Request an information briefing on the numbers, costs, pros and cons of Special Guardianship Orders (SGO).
 - c) Request a map and additional information to show the geographical breakdown of the Looked After Children (LAC) statistics, including for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), and the likely causes and trends underlying the numbers, including moves from other local authorities' areas of responsibility.
 - d) Request an information briefing in a few months on any shared learning arising from the 'edge of care' intervention methods used in Essex.

Agenda Item 7 – School Infrastructure and Capacity Planning

3. The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee recommends to the Cabinet, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and the Director of Children and Young People's Services, to:
 - a) Encourage greater publicity and awareness around the good news of 91% Good/Outstanding Ofsted ratings for the Early Years settings in Suffolk, in addition to the ongoing publicity about the greatly improved Primary and Secondary schools' Ofsted ratings.

- b) Include within the Education Learning and Infrastructure Plan (ELIP) an indication of which local authorities have in place a 5-year land supply of housing, and also information on asset disposals such as redundant Middle School buildings.
 - c) Give due regard to Early Years provision needs when disposing of properties, such as redundant Middle School buildings.
 - d) Request an information briefing item on the Cornerstone trial regarding Middle School asset disposal.
 - e) Request sight of the Early Years Action Plan and more information on what the Early Years service is doing to develop, support and encourage new provision in the market for early years services, to address the government requirement for an increase from 15 to 30 hours/week of free childcare for 3-4 year-olds in 2017.
4. The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee resolved that the Chairman should write to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) on behalf of the Committee, noting the good level of communication and engagement between the RSC and Suffolk County Council, highlighting recent concerns about communication relating to new Free Schools, and referring to the RSC's comment in his written submission regarding sharing published information about the need for school places.
5. The next meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee will take place on Thursday 1 December 2016, when the Committee will consider 'Pupils aged 16 to 25 with Education and Health Care (EHC) Plans' and 'MyGo (young people employment centre) and Age 16-18 NEETs'.