

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday 18th April 2023

Present: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Jackie Ramsay

Apologies: Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor John Taylor

72 Membership of Committee

Apologies were received from Councillors Yusra Hussain and John Taylor.

**73 Minutes of Previous Meeting
Resolved –**

That the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 6th February and 7th March 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

74 Interests

No interests were declared.

75 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

76 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

77 Scrutiny of Loneliness in Kirklees

A report was submitted which provided an update on the progress of the work of the Committee in looking at the issue of loneliness in Kirklees.

Members discussed the additional areas that they wished to cover, prior to giving consideration to their conclusions and recommendations. It was noted that:

- The evidence at both national and local level indicated the impact of loneliness was highest amongst young people; those aged 16 to 24 years, and people in the most deprived areas.
- It was considered that there was a need for some work to be undertaken in education settings to assist young people in being able to communicate effectively in respect of their wellbeing.

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Resolved –

(1) That all those groups and individuals that had provided evidence to the Committee to date be thanked for taking the time to make a contribution to this piece of work.

(2) That further evidence be sought in respect of:

- (i) the views of young people in relation to:
 - What opportunities they have/ what provision is in place to allow them to make/maintain social connections.
 - How they find out about what is available.
 - If there are better ways to communicate that information.
 - The barriers to accessing provision.
 - What would they like to see/how could things be improved.
- (ii) What is done, or could be done, with young people, at an early age, to assist them in acquiring life skills on how to make and build connections, to better understand loneliness and to equip them to address it.

78 **Lead Members' Updates**

The Lead Members for the Children's Scrutiny Panel and the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel updated the Committee on the work being undertaken by their panels and expressed thanks to all the members of their panels for their contributions during the last twelve months.

79 **Work Programme 2022/23 and 2023/24**

The Committee reviewed its Work Programme for 2022/23 and had an initial discussion about the work to be undertaken during 2023/24. It was noted that a work programming workshop was to take place on 6th June.

The Chair expressed her thanks to all the Lead Members, the members of the standing panels and the co-optees for their participation in, and valuable contributions to, scrutiny over the last twelve months.