

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

6 December 2023

PRESENT: - Cllr T Foster (Chairman)

Cllr L Yeadon (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Armiger, Cllr P Clark, Cllr J Longcake, and Cllr K Vickers.

Mr Howsam

The meeting was held at the s01e, Church Square House.

25 SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllr Clark substituted for Cllr Wells. Cllr K Vickers substituted for Cllr Patterson.

26 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DECLARATIONS OF WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS (IF ANY).

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal or personal and prejudicial interests.

No whip was declared.

27 TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of this panel held on 3 November 2023, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairman.

28 PUBLIC SPEAKING REQUESTS, IF ANY.

There were no public speaking requests.

29 ANNUAL REPORT OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2022/23

The Chairman welcomed Rachel Smith, Interim Director: Children & Families, Jemima Flintoff, Assistant Director - Education, and Tom Hewis, Assistant Director - Children's Standards & Regulation, to the meeting.

The Chairman explained that Rachel, Jemima and Tom had been invited to update members on the annual report on local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. This was a key

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safeguarding document, and the meeting allowed members to seek assurance that all necessary arrangements were in place to ensure the wellbeing of local children and young people.

Rachel provided a detailed presentation on the report, describing ongoing work to improve local arrangements further, including by strengthening independent scrutiny of all sectors.

The Chairman then led a discussion on the presentation, with the panel asking questions about the mechanisms in place to prevent and address all forms of child exploitation, local intelligence, and training. Rachel, Jemima and Tom responded accordingly, confirming that the local arrangements were robust and wide-ranging. A further discussion on crossovers between safeguarding and youth offending was held. Officers confirmed that the local rate of youth offending compared favourably with peers. Members reflected that the report was an excellent publication, and that the panel had confidence in the local arrangements.

Resolved – (a) That Rachel Smith, Jemima Flintoff and Tom Hewis be thanked for the presentation and for responding to the panel's questions; and (b) that the report be noted and welcomed.

30 ADDED ITEM, IF ANY

There was no added items for consideration at the meeting.

31 ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED.

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting. The Chairman wished everyone present a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.