

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date: 19 September 2019

By: Chair of the Scrutiny Review Board

Title: Scrutiny Review – Support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

Purpose: To present the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review and make recommendations

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is recommended to consider and endorse the report of the Review Board, and make recommendations to Cabinet for comment and County Council for approval.

1. Background

1.1 In November 2018 the People Scrutiny Committee agreed to appoint a Scrutiny Review Board to explore issues relating to support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in East Sussex. Following an initial scoping exercise, a number of lines of enquiry were agreed. These included exploring the scope for delivering improved opportunities for mentoring support and social activities; and the potential for Members to help with raising awareness and support for UASC in their local communities.

1.2 Members were particularly aware of the unique range of challenges this especially vulnerable group of children and young people present to the Children's Services Department. For example, individuals may require specialist therapy as a result of trauma they may have suffered in their country of origin and/or during their journey to the United Kingdom. With such factors in mind, Members were particularly keen to develop practical, achievable recommendations that would complement the work already being undertaken to support young asylum-seekers.

2. Supporting information

2.1 The Scrutiny Review Board is comprised of Councillors Kathryn Field, Francis Whetstone and Trevor Webb. Councillor Field was appointed as Chair of the Review Board.

2.2 The attached report (appendix 1) contains the findings and recommendations of the Review Board. Copies of evidence papers listed in the report and other supporting documentation are available on request from the contact officer.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and endorse the Review Board's report for submission to Cabinet and County Council on 12 November 2019 and 3 December 2019 respectively.

Councillor Kathryn Field
Chair of the Review Board

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Scrutiny Review of Support for Support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None