

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

26th April, 2010

**PRESENT** – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Armstrong, Curry, Davies, Francis, Long and Richmond. (7)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillor Burton, Chapman, Galletley and J. Lyonette. D. Moyes, T. Fisher, B. Egan and S. Lund..

**ALSO** – Councillor Hughes (Cabinet Member).

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEES** – Mr. N. Rees. (1)

**ABSENT** – Mr. M. Frank and Mrs. V. Mitchell and Mrs. Taylor.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Murray Rose, Director of Children’s Services, Andrew Dunn, Assistant Director, School Improvement and Development, John Steel, Schools Lead Improvement Officer, Ruth Bernstein, Head of Libraries and Community Learning, Charmian Hobbs, Principal Educational Psychologist all within the Department of Children’s Services,; David Goodchild, Policy Advisor within Chief Executive’s Department; and Allison McKay and David Cox, Directors of Humantics.

**CYP68. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of interest declared at this meeting.

**CYP69. MINUTES** – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 1st March, 2010.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

**CYP70. PERFORMANCE REPORT 3RD QUARTER 2009/10** – The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to give Members of this Scrutiny Committee an opportunity to scrutinise and monitor the four service plans for which this Committee is responsible including those elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy ‘One Darlington : Perfectly Placed’ and the Local Area Agreement for which this Scrutiny have responsibility.

The submitted report outlined that for the four service plans ie. Children and Families, Partnerships, Planning and Resources and School Improvement and Development, the overall aggregated target was being achieved with the Partnership plan showing above target performance. Using latest data there are 150 indicators in the four service plans and of these 43 are above target, 69 on target and 38 are showing below target performance.

Discussion ensued around the indicators performing below target and Members discussions and questions arose in connection with NI045 – Young offenders engaged in suitable education, employment and training; NI 148 – Care leavers in education, employment or training; and NI088 – Percentage of schools providing access to extended services.

**RESOLVED** – (a) Members note the performance against the service plans.

(b) Set up task and finish review groups as necessary to scrutinise performance in identified services and/or for individual performance indicators as decided.

(c) Consider performance against the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement for those indicators which the Committee is responsible for scrutinising and note the overall performance, with reasons for under performance.

(d) Note the performance of all national indicators linked to all scrutiny committees where data is available.

**CYP71. 'CHOICES' FILM AND PRESENTATION ON E-SAFEGUARDING** – Following on from recent work of this Scrutiny Committee (Minute CYP36/Nov/09 refers) and the subsequent Task and Finish Review Group (Minute CYP48/Nov/09 refers) which was established to make recommendations to Cabinet regarding internet safety advice provided to all children and young people, John Steel, School Development Lead Schools Improvement Officer, accompanied by Allison McKay and David Cox, Directors of Humantics, Community Interest Company gave a presentation on recent developments regarding E-Safeguarding.

Members watched a film which had been produced by Darlington Borough Council in partnership with Humantics, the Youth Service and schools within the Borough to help address young persons safety with internet usage.

The Chair and Members acknowledged that the film was excellent and will provide a powerful tool in advising young persons about internet safety. A dvd of the film will be circulated to all schools within the Borough accompanied by a teachers pack.

**RESOLVED** – That the Choices Film Project be noted.

**CYP72. EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN DARLINGTON** – The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the work that has been undertaken by the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy Group and the inform Members about the 'Promoting the emotional health of children and young people: Guidance for Children's Trusts partnerships', including how to deliver NI50 – Emotional Health of Children (DCSF-January 2010).

The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Framework for all children and young people was launched in September 2009 and is available on the Children's Trust Board web site. Following the launch event and feedback from the consultation workshops thereat the Strategy Group developed an action plan. Key areas for the action plan are to further develop awareness and understanding of emotional wellbeing and mental health, develop a child and young person friendly version of the framework, continue to collect information and data on the work being undertaken across all agencies to support emotional wellbeing and mental health, link with commissioners to ensure maintenance of current good practice and quality assurance and review the framework and organise a further event to celebrate and promote work around emotional wellbeing and mental health.

The Director of Children's Services gave a short presentation to highlight where the United Kingdom fits into the overall picture as a country for performance on child well being and examined some of the reasons why the United Kingdom does not fair as well as some other countries in relation to subjective wellbeing, income poverty, risk behaviour and NEET..

**RESOLVED** – That the Children and Young People Scrutiny support the further development of the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Framework for all children and young people in Darlington through the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy Group.

**CYP73. DARLINGTON ESOL ACTION PLAN** – The Director of Children’s Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of this Scrutiny Committee on the content of the Darlington ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Action Plan.

Local authorities have been asked to lead on the development of an action plan in order to ensure that English language provision for adults meets local needs, is fundable and is delivered through a partnership arrangement. Following several meetings with stakeholders and providers the action plan has identified priority groups in Darlington and identified some key objectives to improve outcomes for English language provision.

Members of this Scrutiny Committee have been undertaking a Task and Finish Review into the provision of language learning and Members of the Review Group welcomed the action plan although expressed their concerns at the funding element of the provision of language learning. The Group Members felt the action plan satisfied their investigations into adult provision but did not sufficiently cover the provision of learning of other languages for children,

General discussion ensued on the various options for funding in the future; Post 19 adult education; and the work taking place at Carmel School to deliver English language learning in the community. Members requested that a report be brought back to this Scrutiny Committee on the future developments at Carmel School on language provision.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the Darlington ESOL Action Plan be approved.

(b) Members of the Review Group are now satisfied that their investigations and the ESOL action plan demonstrate that no further work is required by the Group into adult language learning provision at this time.

**CYP74. THE NEW OFSTED FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL INSPECTIONS** – The Director of Children’s Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members of this Scrutiny Committee on the Ofsted framework for school inspections which came into force on 1st September, 2009.

The submitted report set out a number of important changes to the Framework for Ofsted inspections. It is intended that from September, 2009 inspectors will work even more with schools and more proportionately to risk.

Some of the changes include a greater emphasis on attainment, inspectors to look more at 3 (or 4) years of data and trends, 5 years between inspections for good/outstanding schools and 3 years for other routine inspections, no more than two working days’ notice to be given prior to an inspection, inspections can be brought forward for issues around safeguarding, qualifying complaints, Federations and other partnerships will be inspected together and senior leaders to be more engaged in the inspections.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

**CYP75. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10** – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the draft Annual Report, outlining the work undertaken by this Scrutiny Committee during the Municipal Year 2009/10 prior to its submission to Council on 13th May, 2010. Members highlighted some minor changes to be made to the report before its submission to Council.

**RESOLVED** – That the draft Annual Report be approved for submission to Council on 13th May, 2010.

**CYP76. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11** - The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee’s Work Programme and Review topics for the Municipal Year 2010/11.

Consideration was given to the inclusion of an item on 16-19 Learning Commission and EOTAS (Education Other Than at School).

**RESOLVED** – That the Draft Work Programme for 2009/10 be noted.

**CYP77. POLICY REVIEW - (1) Review of Progress on Policy Review Items** – There was no progress to report.

**(2) Review Items Final Report Back** – There were no reports to consider.

**(3) Responses of the Executive to Reports of this Scrutiny Committee** – There were no responses from the Executive to report.

**CYP78. EXECUTIVE CALL-IN - (1) Call-In Items Relating to Key Decisions of the Executive** - There were no call-in items.

**(2) Other Call-In Items** - There were no call-in items.