

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st February 2011

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Armstrong, Burton, Curry, Francis, Lister, Long, J.M. Lyonette and Richmond. (9)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Cossins, Davies, Galletley and Hughes; Mr. T. Fisher, Ms. S. Lund and Mr. N. Rees.

STAUTORY CO-OPTEES – Mr. M. Frank. (1)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEES – Mr. R. Egan and Mr. D. Moyes. (2)

ABSENT – The Ven. S. Bain, Mr. M. Frank, Mrs. V. Mitchell, Mr. T. Grant.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – George McQueen, Assistant Director – Planning and Resources and Mervyn Bell, Intergrated Service Manager, Early Intervention/Prevention.

CYP53. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP54. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10th January, 2011 and the Special meeting held on 24th January, 2011.

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

CYP55. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF DARLINGTON CHILDREN’S SERVICES – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) at the request of Cabinet to advise Members of the outcome of the annual assessment of Children’s Services in 2010 by Ofsted.

Each year Ofsted publish a summary of inspection judgements carried out in the preceding 12 months in each local authority area and provide a letter summarising the inspection judgements and other related data. The submitted report highlighted that the outcomes for children and young people are improving in Darlington and services for looked after children were graded as ‘good’ overall and services for safeguarded children were also graded as ‘good’ overall.

It was reported that Tim Loughton, the Minister of State has written to Ofsted to inform them that he is bringing forward legislation to end the annual assessment of children’s services and therefore a further annual assessment may be made depending on the timing of any legislative changes.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Annual Assessment Letter for 2010 be noted.

(b) That Members note that Tim Loughton as written to Ofsted regarding legislation to end the annual assessment of children’s services.

(c) That Members note the significant improvement in Darlington for children and young people.

(d) That any areas of concern be added to the Work Programme of this Scrutiny Committee.

CYP56. WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 – Pursuant to Minute CYP76/Apr/10, the Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that further consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme and Review topics for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2010/11.

The submitted report gave the background to the work programme and it was requested that Members give consideration to a schedule (also previously circulated) which had been compiled to detail the dates of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee together with those plans, strategies and reviews which could be considered for those meetings.

Following discussion on the work programme it was agreed that a report on the Barnardo's Report on children vulnerable to sexual abuse be brought to the next ordinary meeting and that a Review be undertaken on the Implications of the increase in Schools applying to become Academies and that the proposal for the Review be taken to Monitoring and Co-ordination Group for their approval.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Work Programme 2010//11 be noted.

(b) That a report on the Barnardo's report be included on the work programme for the meeting scheduled for 28th March, 2011.

(c) That approval be sought from the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group for a review to be undertaken on the Implications of the increase in Schools applying to become Academies.

CYP57. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – DARLINGTON YOUTH SERVICE – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to enable Members to see the dvd at the earliest opportunity, the Darlington Youth Member of Parliament, Ben Million gave a presentation and presented his dvd to Members on the potential impact of the cuts on the Youth Service.

The dvd showed interviews with young people who gave their thoughts on how they feel if the Youth Project was to be cut and how they think this would affect young people.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to Ben Million for his interesting and informative presentation.

(b) That Members note the concerns of the young people and that those concerns be forwarded to Cabinet,

(c) That this Scrutiny Committee will continue to keep the potential impact of the budget proposals on the Youth Service under review.