

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10th September, 2012

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Galletley, Hutchinson, Kelley, C. Taylor , E.A. Richmond and Wright. (7)

ABSENT – Councillor L. Hughes.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Cruddas, J. M. Lyonette and J. Vasey; Mr. T. Fisher and Murray Rose.

STATUTORY CO-OPTEE – Mr. M. Frank.

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEEES – Anita Blackburn (for Mr. Fisher), Mr. R. Egan and Mr. D. Moyes. (3)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C. Hughes, Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning, Rachel Jones, Placements and Asset Manager and David Chambers, School Place Planning Manager.

CYP6. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP7. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 18th June, 2012.

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

CYP8. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/13 –The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee and to consider any additional areas which Members suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme; and to approve terms of references additional pieces of work on the Draft School Organisation Plan and the Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board and the Behaviour Attendance Partnership.

The Chair advised Members of this Scrutiny Committee that Monitoring and Co-ordination at the meeting on 3rd September, 2012 had considered overall involvement of Scrutiny on Community Safety and suggested that this Scrutiny consider an update from the Youth Offending Service.

The Chair also advised Members that the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee had referred a matter to this Scrutiny for consideration regarding Oral Health Care and the barriers to children accessing dental practices.

RESOLVED – (a) That the current status of the work programme be noted.

(b) That the Terms of Reference for the Draft School Organisation Plan, the Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board and the Behaviour Attendance Partnership be approved.

(c) That an update from the Youth Offending Service be included in the work programme for this Scrutiny.

(d) That Oral Health Care be included in the work programme for this Scrutiny.

CYP9. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2012-17 – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to give Members an opportunity to examine the development of the School Organisation Plan for 2012 to 2017 which aims to provide a clear framework for school organisation and how it is achieved. There is a statutory duty on Local Authority's to assess local need for school places and ensure that every child that is resident within the borough can be provided with a place in a state funded school.

The School Organisation Plan provides an overview of current and future pupil places and the Placements and Asset Manager and School Place Planning Manager gave a presentation to highlight how the local authority keeps the provision of school places under review as school population fluctuates and how pupil forecasting is carried out taking into account school population changes including future births; expected housing delivery and housing growth sites across the borough including Central Park, Lingfield Point and the Town Centre Fringe; expected housing delivery and housing growth sites across the borough; parental preference and net inward migration.

The Plan highlighted that there was a need for additional primary school places and prioritised the areas where those places should be provided; there were enough projected places in the borough's secondary schools for the period covered in by Plan and future School Organisations Plans will address any possible shortfall in secondary places thereafter.

The School Organisation Plan will be reviewed annually against the priorities and will be re-issued if any significant changes such as change in central government policy or difference sources of funding become available and this Scrutiny will continue to monitor the progress of the Plan for 2012-17.

RESOLVED – That the School Organisation Plan 2012-17 and the on going work drawing up the Plan be noted.

CYP10. OFSTED AND CARE QUALITY COMMISSION INSPECTION ACTION PLAN – Pursuant to Minute CYP18/Feb/12, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the multi-agency actions taken as a result of the Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission multi-agency inspection in November, 2011.

The submitted report contained the most recent Action Plan that was presented to the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in July 2012 and further updates will be reported to Members.

Members also noted that immediate actions for the Council had been completed and actions to be completed within three months were either completed or on-going.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report and Action Plan be noted.

(b) That any Member concerns be reported to the LSCB Business Manager with will be able to liaise with the individual agency's lead officer.

CYP11. POLICY REVIEW – REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF POLICY REVIEW ITEMS – Corporate Parenting Panel Review Group – Final Report – Submitted – A report from the Director of People (previously circulated) to present the outcome and findings of the Review Group established by this Scrutiny Committee to examine the role of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Members of the Review Group met on two occasions to examine the Corporate Parenting Panel and its role and also that of the Children in Care Council (also known as the 'Darlo Care Crew'). Members also took into account the recommendations of the Peer Review carried out in November, 2011 in relation to the membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the production of an Annual Report.

RESOLVED – That this Scrutiny Committee approve the following recommendations of the Review Group and forward to Cabinet for their action :-

- (a) That the Membership of the Panel be increased to include a Liberal Democrat Member and also the Virtual Heads.
- (b) That meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel be formally agreed as part of the Municipal Calendar for 2013/14.
- (c) That Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel be allowed named substitutes.
- (d) That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee receive regular reports on the work of the Children in Care Council (the 'Darlo Care Crew').
- (e) To actively seek to promote the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel across the authority and to present an annual report to Council.