

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

5<sup>th</sup> November, 2012

**PRESENT** – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Galletley, L. Hughes, Hutchinson, Kelley, E.A. Richmond, C. Taylor and Wright. (9)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors J.M. Lyonette and J. Vasey. (2)

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – Mr. R. Egan, Mr. T.R. Fisher and Mr. D. Moyes. (3)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillor C. Hughes, Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio and Pat Howarth, Head Teacher, Hummersknott Academy and Chair of the Darlington Behaviour and Attendance Partnership.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning, Joanne Benson, Head of Youth Offending Service and Yvonne Coates, Head of Family Support.

**CYP12. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**CYP13. MINUTES** – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.

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

**CYP14. 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.

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

(b) That a report on the current position with Academies in the borough be added to the work programme.

**CYP15. BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE PARTNERSHIP – PRESENTATION** – Pat Howarth, Head Teacher of Hummersknott Academy and the Chair of the Darlington Behaviour and Attendance Partnership gave a presentation to outline the work and role of the Partnership.

The Behaviour and Attendance Partnership was established in September, 2010 following a conference at Carmel College and aims to ensure that all students receive appropriate full time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have by regular attendance at school,

college, academy or otherwise through a Fair Access Protocol to ensure all follow the agreed process.

The Partnership consists of secondary and primary schools, further education schools, Darlington Borough Council, Education Other than At School (EOTAS) Services, Behaviour Support and the voluntary sector and meets half termly.

The Presentation outlined the remit of the Partnership; the initial tasks the Partnership aimed to address which included agreeing protocols and fair access for those children at risk of permanent exclusion and establishing a budget, which is managed jointly across the schools; the role of the Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Partnership Panel which comprises of Deputy Heads and Council staff with delegated powers to make decisions when discussing children and also for movement into and out of the Phoenix Centre, the Pupil Referral Unit; the role of EOTAS; achievements to date which has all secondary schools currently engaged and only 4 permanent exclusions in 2011-12; and the challenges facing the Partnership which include changes to the Funding Formula and possible changes in leadership at Individual Academies.

Following the presentation Members questions related to the review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) across Darlington and how this will work in an Academy situation; and what mechanisms could be put into place to encourage the Heads to remain as a collective body and to sustain the good work that is currently being achieved. It was suggested that a way forward could be to encourage involvement of School Governors in the Partnership.

**RESOLVED** – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to Mr. Howarth for his interesting and informative presentation.

**CYP16. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE – PRESENTATION** – Pursuant to Minute CYP8/Sep/12, Joanne Benson, the Head of Youth Offending Service gave a presentation to Members on the Darlington Youth Offending Service.

Each Scrutiny Committee has made a commitment to undertake scrutiny of Community Safety and this Scrutiny Committee agreed to gain an understanding of the Darlington Youth Offending Service.

The Presentation outlined the Youth Justice System national priorities and challenges; local priorities and challenges which aim to continue to reduce First Time Entrants year on year and embedding further restorative justice work to improve confidence and victim satisfaction; performance against National and Local Indicators; offending analysis for 2011/2; statistics relating to first time entrants by year; 2011/12 achievements which include significant reductions in the numbers of young people dealt with by the Youth Offending Service who were NEET (Not in Education or Training) and maintaining low custody levels for young people; the implications of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act which comes into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2012 and will bring about a single Remand Order for Youths which will apply to 12-17 year olds and local authorities to assume

costs of all secure remands; and changes to the Youth Offending Services in light of the Police Crime Commissioners.

Members discussion ensued on restorative justice processes; implications of the LASPO Act and in particular the financial implications to the authority; work being undertaken with schools for troubled families; and the implications of a number of Home Office grants which had previously been directed to the Youth Offending Service being redirected to the Police Crime Commissioners and in future Youth Offending Services will engaged with Police Crime Commissioners to maintain and further enhance some youth justice services.

**RESOLVED** – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to Joanne Benson for her interesting and informative presentation.

**CYP16. EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION – UPDATE** – Pursuant to Minute CYP23/Apr/12, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an update on the current work of Early Intervention Services, requested by this Scrutiny following the Review of Children's Early Intervention and Prevention.

The submitted report outlined the key principals which underpin early intervention work with the borough and the single line management structure, under which sits aligned teams of Foundation Trust Staff Borough Council Staff which are now based on a three geographical split within the borough. Staff Teams are developing new ways of working which aims to increase skills in family work and traditional job demarcations are being eroded.

It was highlighted that staff teams have a close working relationship with a number of other key partners such as schools, GP's, police and social care and there role is to increase the early identification of children and families with additional needs that require support using a common assessment tool (CAF).

It was also reported that the number of assessments has increased and on target for a 50 per cent increase by March 2013; registrations in Children Centres has increased by almost 65 per cent; and young people's participation and access to services remains high.

Areas of focus for 2012/13 are to work with the Commissioners from Health and the Council to further develop specifications of the service for 2013/14; to continue to develop the skills of individual workers to be confident in whole family problem solving; and to further develop the area model to include social workers who would work with families whose children are on the edge of care.

The Head of Family Support also outlined two case studies of a young man and a young single mum who have turned their lives around by the help and support offered by the Early Intervention and Prevention Team. It was proposed to circulate the anomised case studies to Scrutiny Members for information.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That a further update report be included in the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.