

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22nd April, 2013

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

APOLOGIES – Councillors Galletley, Hutchinson, J.M. Lyonette and L. Vasey. (4)

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. M. Frank. (1)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. D. Moyes and Mr. T. Fisher. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C. Hughes; Kim and Stuart (Young Carers) and Rachel Dyne, Youth Worker, YMCA.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Murray Rose, Director of People; Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families; and Lisa Holdsworth, Service Development Officer.

CYP33. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP34. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 4th March, 2013.

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

CYP35. 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 – That the current status of the work programme be noted.

CYP36. YOUNG CARERS – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) on Young Carers in Darlington, their needs and the support available to them and to consider the Young Carers' Action Plan 2013-16 which has been developed and sets out the actions to be taken by all partners in Darlington to improve the identification of and provision of support to young carers.

The submitted report advised that Young carers are “children and young people under the age of 18 who provide regular and on- going care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuse substances”.

There are currently 117 young carers supported by the Darlington YMCA Young Carers Project however it has been estimated in BBC research published in

November 2010 that there may be as many as 712 young carers aged up to 15 years in Darlington.

Caring for a parent or sibling can have detrimental effects on children both during their childhood and in later life including problems at school and completing homework; isolation from other children and family members; conflict between the needs of the person they are looking after and their own needs; and feeling that they are different from other children.

Two young carers, Kim and Stuart also attended the meeting together with a Youth Worker from the YMCA to inform Members about their personal experiences of being a young carer which included their concerns and worries. Both of the young people stressed how much the support of the Young Carers Group helped them in their day to day issues with being a Young Carer.

Research undertaken by Becker and Becker on Young Adult Carers indicated a lack of support for young carers moving into adulthood therefore the remit of Young Carers Support in Darlington now covers all young carers and young adult carers up to the age of 25.

After hearing the views of the young carers and receiving the submitted report Members agreed to examine further the Action Plan and also to look at ways of identifying young carers and publicising the Young Carers Service more widely and raise awareness in the various educational facilities across the Borough.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Young Carers and the Youth Worker for attending the meeting and giving their thoughts and views.

(c) That a Review Group be established to examine further the Young Carers' Action Plan and potential opportunities for joint working with Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee be discussed further at Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.

CYP37. THE CHILD'S JOURNEY COMMISSIONING FOR RESILIENCE – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of this Scrutiny on the current services available for children and young people and the future direction based on levels of need, evidence and finance.

The submitted report aimed to provide a working document that brings together a range of documents in existence including national and local evidence that can be used for different purposes including Inspections/Challenges and for determining priority areas for focus in children's services for early intervention.

Members agreed that the document was very comprehensive and the information was presented in a user friendly way and the Scrutiny will continue to receive regular updates and use the document to form their future Work Programme.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.