

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28th June, 2010

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Armstrong, Curry, Davies, Francis and Galletley. (6)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Burton, Long, J. Lyonette, Richmond. D. Moyes.

ALSO – Councillor Hughes (Cabinet Member).

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEES – Mr. T. Fisher, Mr. N. Rees and Mr. C.J. Taylor (3)

NON-VOTING CO-OPTEE – Ms. S. Lund. (1)

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Andrew Dunn, Assistant Director, School Improvement and Development, Catherine Shaw, Sex Education and Relationship Officer, Paul Richardson, Head of 16-19 and Helen Ellison, Lead officer 16-19 all within the Children's Services Department.

CYP6. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Councillor Davies declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Item CYP9 below as she has been secondment to the Young People's Learning Agency and took no part in the discussion thereon.

CYP7. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 26th April, 20th May and the Special Meeting held on 14th June, 2010.

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

CYP8. TIMES OF MEETINGS – RESOLVED – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 4.00 p.m.

CYP9. RAISING EXPECTATIONS – ENABLING THE SYSTEM TO DELIVER – 16-19 LEARNING COMMISSION – The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the transfer of funding and commissioning responsibility for the delivery of high quality education and training for young people aged 16-19 (16-25 for learners with an identified learning disability), from the Learning and Skills Council to individual Local Authorities from April, 2010.

Under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, Local Authorities have a statutory obligation to have in place arrangements and be accountable for securing the provision of high education and training for 16-19 year olds (and 19-25 year olds subject to a learning difficulty assessment), and for those young people in youth custody aged 10 to 18. Local authorities will be supported by a small non-departmental public body – the Young People's Learning Agency which will ensure coherence of planning and budgetary control at a national level.

The submitted report outlined the progress to date locally, sub-regionally and nationally with the transfer of duties and the financial implications involved

Members questions related to the sub-regional shared service of a 'virtual team' who will undertake certain duties on behalf of the local authority; funding for academies which will be administered by the Young People's Learning Agency taking account of the views of the local authority, the academy and its own local intelligence; and the holding of the budget regionally by the Young People's Learning Agency.

Following discussion on the transfer of funding and commissioning responsibility for 16-19 learning it was suggested that there may be a training need for Members and this can be arranged after spending review in October.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

CYP10. DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION ON SCHOOL DELIVERY – TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND CONCEPTION RATES – The Locality Director of Public Health for Darlington submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on progress against the local Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and priority actions for 2010/11.

The submitted report outlined the 4 priority actions for Darlington to provide better access to contraception and sexual health provision, early identification and intervention pathways, better Sex and Relationship Education in and outside of educational settings, for the workforce, families and communities, and better integrated support for all young parents.

Progress against the recommendations for Darlington were also highlighted in relation to Darlington response to the Department of Health's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, the provision of friendly access to contraception and sexual health provision, strengthening of early identification and intervention pathway, and the development of Sex and Relationship education within primary, secondary and out of school settings.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

CYP11. WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 – Pursuant to Minute CYP76/Apr/10, the Director of Corporate Services 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 detailing the dates of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee together with those plans, strategies and reviews which could be considered at each of those meetings.

Following discussion on the Work Programme it was proposed to include in the work programme an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan and its implications in relation to Education. With regard to review topics it was suggested to undertake a review into the provision of children's residential services in this Council's Children's Homes; issues with regard to facilities for disabled children and children with learning difficulties and transition from primary to secondary school.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme 2010/11 be noted and the suggestions for work to be included.

CYP12. POLICY REVIEW - (1) Review of Progress on Policy Review Items – There was no progress to report.

(2) Review Items Final Report Back – Teenage Pregnancy and Conception Rates and Health Education in Schools Task and Finish Review Group – Final Report – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to consider the findings and recommendation at the earliest time, the Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to present the outcome and findings of the Review Group established by this Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise teenage pregnancy and conception rates and health education in schools.

This is a joint piece of work by each of the Scrutiny Committees around the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 'Healthier Lives for Children and Young People in County Durham and Darlington' and each Scrutiny identified a key message within the report which they felt would be beneficial for their individual Scrutiny Committee to explore.

RESOLVED – (a) That the final report and recommendations of the Teenage Pregnancy and Conception Rates and Health Education in Schools Task and Finish Review Group be approved.

(b) That the final report be forwarded to the Special Health and Well Being Scrutiny meeting scheduled for 6th July, 2010.

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

CYP13. 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.