

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28<sup>th</sup> March, 2011

**PRESENT** – Councillor Lister (in the Chair): Councillors Armstrong, Burton, Cossins, Curry, Francis, Long and J.M. Lyonette. (8)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Galletley and Richmond; Mr. R. Egan, Mr. T. Fisher and Mr. D. Moyes. (5)

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEES** – Mr. N. Rees. (1)

**ABSENT** – Councillor Davies, Mr. J. Fitt, Mr. M. Frank and Mrs. V. Mitchell. (4)

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

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – George McQueen, Assistant Director – Planning and Resources, David Goodchild, Policy Advisor and Debbie Jones, Sexual Exploitation Worker.

**CYP60. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**CYP61. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2011 and the Joint Meeting with Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

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

**CYP62. PERFORMANCE REPORT 3RD QUARTER 2010/11** – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members to scrutinise the four service plans for which we are responsible for and also those elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy for which this Scrutiny have responsibility.

It was reported that the overall aggregated target for the four service plans was being achieved, with the Planning and Resources plan showing above target performance. Data was available for 96 out of 141 indicators at quarter 3 with 23 performing above target, 49 on target and 24 below target. Using the latest data there were 141 indicators in the four service plans, 31 (22%) were performing above target, 78 (55%) on target and 31 (22%) are showing below target performance. Data was unavailable for one indicator.

Discussion ensued on the indicators below target in relation to Children and Families, Early Intervention and Prevention and School Improvement and Development. Members made particular reference to the indicators in relation to Looked after children within the Children and Families Service Plan; Secondary school persistent absence rates and the achievement of 5 or more GCSE grade A\*-C or equivalent including English and mathematics within the Early Intervention and Prevention Service Plan; and Key Stages 2 and 4 attainment for black and minority ethnic groups within the School Improvement and Development Service Plan.

**RESOLVED** – Members noted the performance against the service plans and considered performance against the Sustainable Community Strategy for those indicators which the

Committee is responsible for scrutinising and noted the overall performance, with reasons for under performance.

**CYP63. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11** – The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the draft Annual Report, outlining the work undertaken by this Scrutiny Committee during the Municipal Year 2010/11.

**RESOLVED** – That the draft Annual Report be approved for submission to Council on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2011.

**CYP64. POLICY REVIEW - (1) Review of Progress on Policy Review Items** – There was no progress to report.

**(2) Review Items Final Report Back** — There were no final reports.

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

**CYP65. 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.

**CYP66. BARNARDO REPORT ON CHILDREN VULNERABLE TO SEXUAL ABUSE** – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to consider the report at the earliest time, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of this Scrutiny Committee of a new project established in Darlington (in partnership with Barnardos), aimed at children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

The submitted report outlined the five aims of the project and the methodology used in the work and outlined the dangers posed by sexual exploitation of young people, usually by adult males, and the steps taken to prevent abuse. The programme concentrated on heightening young peoples' confidence and feelings of self worth

Debbie Jones, the local co-ordinator gave a presentation on her role since she came into post in September, 2010. Debbie delivers a one-to-one working with vulnerable children at risk of sexual exploitation and currently has a caseload of 6 young people. She informed Members of the ways in which the Police and the youth justice system work jointly to combat exploitation. She further informed Members that such exploitation is always classed as 'significant harm' triggering a Section 47 enquiry under the Children Act, and referral to the Social Services duty team. Funding has been secured for a two year post based in Darlington, specifically aimed at the sexual exploitation of young people and Debbie is based within the Family Intervention Team and links closely to Council services in addition to Health and the Police.

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

(b) That this Scrutiny Committee support the work of the project and will receive updates on the work and its findings at a future meeting.