
OVERVIEW OF LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work that have been undertaken by the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee :-
 - (a) **Expression of Interest in an Academy for Darlington** – The Committee considered and discussed in detail the draft Expression of Interest for an Academy School in Darlington, prior to its consideration by Cabinet for on 9th May, 2006. The Director of Education, the Church of England Diocese of Durham Board of Education and the Council’s Director of Children’s Services were present at the meeting to hear the views of the Committee and answer questions on the draft Submission. Following discussion the majority of the Members of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee indicated their support for the content of the Expression of Interest. If this Expression of Interest is approved, the Committee also looks forward to being consulted on the next stage of the development, which will be the preparation of a Feasibility Study.
 - (b) **Children and Young People’s Plan** – Consideration was given to the content of the Children and Young People’s Plan, which brought together key partners to produce a single, strategic, overarching plan for all local services for children and young people in Darlington. The Plan, which follows statutory guidance, replaces several previous statutory and non-statutory plans and was prepared alongside the development of the Local Area Agreement, which has as its core focus, improved outcomes for children and young people. Significant consultation has taken place on the Plan throughout its development and it includes the views of children and young people.
 - (c) **Work Programme 2006/07** – A Committee Work Programme for 2006/07 has been agreed and will be considered and updated at each meeting throughout the year.
2. I also attended the following meetings/events as Chair of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee
 - (a) LEA Governors Appointment Panel.
 - (b) Pre-Agenda Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee Meeting with Children’s Services Policy Officer.
 - (c) Briefing with the Director of Children’s Services;
 - (d) Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) Meeting.

- (e) Attended the official opening of the nationally registered educational psychology portage service at Harewood House.

Councillor Cyndi Hughes
Chair of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee