
OVERVIEW OF LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last ordinary meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work that have been undertaken by the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee:-
 - (a) **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)** – Following a recommendation from the Behaviour Support Task and Finish Review Group, Members of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from representatives of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Members were informed of the key priorities in relation to the engagement of young people, learning and development, and the EDUC / CAMHS initiative. Members also received information in relation to the CAMHS Early Intervention Strategy.
 - (b) **DOSH** – Members of the Committee were pleased to receive an overview from the Assistant Director, Community Services, on the Youth Opportunity Fund, promoted in Darlington under the name DOSH. Members received details about the nature of the scheme and spoke to representatives of the Youth Committee. The scheme provides young people with the opportunity to be involved in allocating funds to worthwhile causes, whilst learning about the Council and due process.
 - (c) **Eastbourne Church of England Academy – Project Update** – The Committee continued to receive its regular update from the Director of Children’s Services as to the ongoing progress of the proposed Academy School for Darlington. The Committee were informed of the submission of the finalised and revised versions of the Outline Business Case, the submission of the Funding Agreement by the Sponsors, the conditional grant of approval by the School Organisation Committee, the increased funding by the Partnership for Schools (PFS) and the revision to the procurement method for Academies. The Committee engaged in discussion regarding the proportion of work being conducted by the Council compared to that being conducted by the Sponsors, and the timescales involved in ensuring that a full staff is in place by September 2007. It was pleasing to hear that the Eastbourne Church of England Academy is on course to open in September 2007.
 - (d) **The Vision and Ethos for the Eastbourne Church of England Academy** – Following a resolution made at the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee on 26th March 2007, the Director of Education for the Diocese of Durham, and David and Anne Crossland, submitted a report outlining the vision and ethos for the Eastbourne Church of England Academy. The report outlined the three strands of the vision for the Academy, the vision for the Academy as a whole and the vision for the involvement of the Academy within the local community. The report also highlighted the development of an Academy Development Plan based on the vision, and the key pieces of work identified under the plan. Members of the Committee were

pleased to learn that the structure of the Governing Body was now taking shape and that plans were in place to develop a 'Parent Council' and a 'Stakeholder Reference Group'.

- (e) **Relocation of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) Services to the Former Rise Carr Primary School** – The Director of Children's Services submitted a report to inform Members of the progress on the development of the integrated Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) Service through the refurbishment of the former Rise Carr Primary School. It was reported that the Planning Committee had approved the revised plans and granted planning permission and listed building consent for the development, and that a contractor had now been appointed. It was disappointing to learn of the vandalism that has occurred at the site and Members of the Committee were keen that Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) be installed in the foreseeable future.
- (f) **School Attendance and Exclusions in Darlington** – The Committee received a report informing Members of the school attendance and exclusion levels within Darlington for this academic year to date. The report outlined an overall improvement compared with the figures at this time in the academic year 2005/2006 and the increased use of sanctions, however Members were concerned in relation to the number of exclusions, despite the positive strategies being implemented by the Pupil Support Service.
- (g) **Health and Safety in Schools Task and Finish Review** – The Committee received a report from the Health and Safety in Schools Task and Finish Review Group, updating Members of the Committee on progress made to date. A further meeting of the Health and Safety in Schools Task and Finish Review Group has been arranged on Tuesday, 9th July 2007.
- (h) **Work Programme 2007/2008** – The Committee considered the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2007/2008, and examined Cabinet's Forward Plan, in order to identify areas of particular interest or concern. The Chair extended an open invitation for the inclusion of additional items on the Committee's Work Programme.

Councillor Cyndi Hughes
Chair of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee

Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended the following meetings:-

- Attended the signing of the Learning Agreement between Union Learning Representatives and the Local Authority.
- Met with the Director of Children's Services.
- Monday, 4th June 2007 - Chairs Briefing in preparation for Scrutiny Meeting on the 18th June 2007.
- Attended two meetings of the Monitoring and Co-ordination Meeting
- Attended a training session on Scrutiny and Scrutiny Questions
- Visited Carmel College.
- Attended performances of "Cafod Caberet" at St. Augustine's Parish, Larchfield St.

- Attended a meeting arranged by the Racial Equality Commission.
- Visited Hurworth Comprehensive School.
- Attended a joint-committee meeting about Climate Change.
- Chaired a meeting of the Health and Safety Task and Finish Group.
- Met with David Heaton re: Skills Enquiry Group exercise.
- Attended a Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting with Environment Scrutiny about the Borough's Play Strategy.