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**OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. Since the last meeting of Council and under the Children and Young People Portfolio, Cabinet has received the following:

**Longfield School – Sports Project** – We gave consideration to the release of capital funds awarded from the Football Foundation for the Longfield School Sports Project and approved the release of capital funding of £52,679 for Project. The grant is for the purposes of improving sports facilities in the school to aid in the delivery of its Sports Diploma. It is not available for alternative use.

**Developments in Children’s Services**

2. **Annual Assessment of Children’s Services** - We were advised of the outcome of the Annual Assessment of Darlington Children’s Services for 2010 and particular concern was expressed to certain areas achieving minimum requirements. We agreed that the Annual Performance Assessment of Darlington Children’s Services be referred to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

**Schools**

3. I am pleased to report that St Teresa's RC Primary School and Borough Road Nursery School were visited by Ofsted and both schools were found to be 'good'. The Pupil Referral Unit had a monitoring visit by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education and I am pleased to note that satisfactory progress has been made since the last monitoring visit.
4. The Governors at St Augustine's RC Primary School have appointed Maura Regan as Executive Headteacher of the school. I am pleased that this arrangement has been made as it strengthens the management team at the school and builds on the existing links between St Augustine's and Carmel College.
5. Although the Education Bill currently in passage through the House of Commons is likely to take away the statutory duty for an Authority to maintain a Local Admissions Forum, I am pleased to report that members of the Forum in Darlington have decided to continue meetings in order to have the best opportunities for coordination of policies and to resolve issues around fair access for pupils.

## **Children Looked After**

6. On 31 December 2010, Darlington Borough Council had a total of 175 children looked after. On 31 January 2011, the total children looked after was 179, comprised of 76 girls and 103 boys. During the month of January, 9 children became looked after and 5 children ceased to be looked after.
7. Prior to the meeting of Darlington Borough Council held on 27 January 2011, members of the Children in Care Council (The Darlo Care Crew) accompanied the Mayor of Darlington in presenting the Investing in Children Award to Darlington's Corporate Parenting Panel. This is the first time that the Award has been made to a Corporate Parenting Panel. The nomination was made by the young people in the Darlo Care Crew as an acknowledgement of "feeling valued and their views being listened to by the Corporate Parenting Panel".

## **Child Protection**

8. The highest category for children subject to a child protection plan continues to be those at risk of neglect and this is reflected nationally.
9. At the end of January 2011 there were 81 children subject to child protection plans representing a small decrease from the previous month.

## **Meetings**

10. Since the last meeting of Council, I have:
  - (a) Met with Darlington's Youth MP
  - (b) Chaired a meeting of Darlington Children's Trust Executive
  - (c) Chaired a meeting of Darlington Children's Trust Board
  - (d) Attended Teesside University's Graduation Ceremony at the Civic Theatre
  - (e) Attended the Darlington Partnership Executive
  - (f) Briefed by the Director of People and Assistant Directors
  - (g) Attended the "Best of Darlington" Awards Ceremony
  - (h) Attended a service to celebrate "Education Sunday"
  - (i) Attended the Carers of Disabled Children in Darlington (CDCD) conference
  - (j) Attended the official launch of "Humantics"- community interest company

**Councillor Cyndi Hughes**  
**Member with Portfolio for Children and Young People**