
OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last ordinary meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work that have been undertaken by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee:-
 - (a) **School Admission Arrangements for 2009/10** – Consideration was given to a ‘call in’ from the Cabinet meeting held on 18th March 2008, and the Committee received further information to increase Members’ understanding of how the School Admission selection criteria is applied and verified, and the mechanisms for record keeping. Members of the Committee were satisfied with the information provided, however did agree to refer concerns surrounding the Associated Transport Costs to the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group for further consideration.
 - (b) **Developments in Darlington’s Schools** – The Committee were pleased to receive a report outlining the ongoing developments in Darlington’s schools. The report contained an update on the proposed amalgamation of Dodmire Infant and Nursery, with Dodmire Junior School, the relocation of the Pupil Referral Unit to the Phoenix Centre, the building developments at Carmel and Hummersknott School and Language College, and the progress made at Eastbourne Church of England Academy and North Road Primary School.
 - (c) **Under 18 Conception Rates – Update** – Members received a report informing of the progress made in reducing under 18 conception rates in 2007/08, and the opportunities and challenges for 2008/09. The report also outlined that Darlington achieved a 20% decrease in teenage conceptions from 1998 to 2006, which compared well to the English national average of a 13% decrease over the same period.
 - (d) **Admissions for the Reception Class and Year 7 in September 2008** – Members were pleased to receive a report to inform of the numbers of applications made for school places for the 2008/09 Academic Year. The report also highlighted the number of appeals lodged in respect of secondary places at Community schools, the appeals received in relation to Primary schools and figures outlining the overall inward migration figures in Darlington.
 - (e) **Work Programme 2007/2008 and 2008/09** – The Committee considered the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2007/2008, and also for the forthcoming Municipal Year, and examined Cabinet’s Forward Plan, in order to identify areas of particular interest or concern. The Committee highlighted a number of items to be included on the Work Programme. The Chair extended an open invitation for the inclusion of additional items on the Committee’s Work Programme.

Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

