
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:-
 - **School Standards and Performance** – We received information on the cumulative standards of attainment and achievement recorded by schools in Darlington in 2008. This report augmented nationally unverified data this Scrutiny Committee received at our meeting on 27th April, 2009.
 - **Aspiring Darlington Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2008** – We received a report on the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Aspiring Delivery Plan 2008-2011 and progress to date on the overall performance against targets and actions contained within the Aspiring Delivery Plan. LSP Lead Officer, Melanie Brown gave an informative presentation to Members.
 - **Children and Young People Scrutiny Performance Report 3rd Quarter 2008/09** – As part of our continuous monitoring of scrutiny of the four service plans for which this Committee is responsible for, we received a report on the performance for the 3rd Quarter 2008/09 which also included dedicated monitoring of those indications contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement relevant to this Scrutiny Committee. I am also very pleased to report that overall, aggregated performance of the four service plans is on target as are the individual service plans.
 - **School Admissions 2009/2010** – Members received an update on the current 2009 intake for school admissions for both primary and secondary schools across Darlington. The report summarised the admission process for the 2009/2010 intake including a breakdown of the applications received, the number of successful applications and the number of appeals requested.
 - **Task and Finish Review Groups - Youth Offending** – Since my last report to Council I can now advise that a meeting of a Task and Finish Review Group Meeting of all Members of this Scrutiny Committee has been arranged for 7th May, 2009 to examine the partner workings to try to minimise youth offending, which is a specific area for which this Scrutiny Committee has performance indicator monitoring responsibility. Members of the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee have also been invited to attend.

Use of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's) Task and Finish Review Group – Following approval of this Task and Finish Review Group becoming a main Review of this Scrutiny Committee, Members have arranged to meet with Mike Crawshaw, Leisure Services and Christine Thompson, Children's Services on 13th May, 2009 to continue

investigations into the use of Multi Use Games Areas.

- **Language Learning Task and Finish Review Group** – A meeting of this Group was held on 19th March, 2009 at Corporation Road Primary School and Group Members discussed along with the Head Teacher and a Bangladeshi Community representative the level and areas of need in regard to language learning. The Review will comprise two strands – children and language learning and language learning and the community.
- **Draft Work Programme 2009/10** - The Committee considered the draft Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2009/2010, and examined Cabinet's Forward Plan, in order to identify areas of particular interest or concern and have included various reports for future meetings. We also gave consideration to topics/subjects that we may wish to review/scrutinise during the Municipal Year 2009/2010.
- **Annual Report of Scrutiny** – We considered and approved the draft Annual Report highlighting the work undertaken by this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2008/09 and forwarded to Council.

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

- A meeting of the Children's Trust;
- A briefing meeting with the Director of Children's Services;
- Monitoring and Coordination;
- Visited Paradise Cooperative Childcare on World Book Day;
- Attended the Darlington Arts Festival (held at Carmel College this year);
- Met with young people from a Banardo's Politics Project;
- Attended a meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education held at High Coniscliffe Primary School;
- Chaired a panel of judges at a Sixth Form European debating day sponsored by the European Commission; and
- Attended the official opening of new buildings at Carmel College

Councillor Cyndi Hughes
Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee