
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) **Medium Term Financial Plan** – We gave further consideration to the draft Medium-Term Financial Plan following the feedback received on initial proposals released in November 2010 and the Local Government Finance Settlement received in December 2010. Members received an overview of the financial position and the pressures facing the Council over the next few years and scrutinised the impact of the proposals relevant to this Scrutiny and forwarded recommendations to a special meeting of Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 7th February, 2011.

We also received a presentation from Darlington's Youth MP, Ben Million, on the potential impact on the Youth Service as a result of budget proposals. A DVD of young people being interviewed and expressing their thoughts on how they would feel if the Youth Project was cut and how it would affect them was shown at the meeting.

- (b) **Annual Assessment of Darlington's Children's Services – Referral from Cabinet** – We have examined the Annual Assessment of Children's Services in 2010 by Ofsted. Each year Ofsted publish a summary of inspection judgements carried out in the preceding 12 months in each local authority area and provide a letter summarising the inspection judgements and other related data. Services for this local authority were reported as performing adequately, services for looked after children and safeguarding children were graded 'good' overall. We also noted that the Minister of State had written to Ofsted to inform them that he was bringing forward legislation to end the annual assessment of children's services.
- (c) **Work Programme 2010/11** – We continue to give consideration to the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2010/11, and examine 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 further topics/subjects that we may wish to review/scrutinise during the remainder of the year.

Councillor Eleanor Lister
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

