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**OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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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) **Performance Report Third Quarter 2010/11** –The overall aggregated target for the four service plans was being achieved, with the Planning and Resources plan showing above target performance. Data was available for 96 out of 141 indicators at quarter 3 with 23 performing above target, 49 on target and 24 below target. Using the latest data there were 141 indicators in the four service plans, 31 (22%) were performing above target, 78 (55%) on target and 31 (22%) are showing below target performance. Data was unavailable for one indicator. We examined the indicators below target in relation to Children and Families, Early Intervention and Prevention and School Improvement and Development.
  - (b) **Barnardos Report on Children Vulnerable to Sexual Abuse** – We received a report to advise us of a new project established in Darlington, in partnership with Barnardos, aimed at children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation. The Barnardos CATE (Children Affected Through Exploitation) project which is still in its infancy, aims to raise awareness and train professionals to develop the project further and offer support to those young people most at risk.

The local co-ordinator gave a presentation on her role since she came into post in September, 2010. She delivers one-to-one working with vulnerable children at risk of sexual exploitation and currently has a caseload of 6 young people who have been the subject of exploitation. She informed Members of the ways in which the Police and the youth justice system work jointly to combat exploitation. Funding has been secured for a two year post based in Darlington and she further informed us that such exploitation is always classed as ‘significant harm’ triggering a Section 47 enquiry under the Children Act, and referral to the Social Services duty team. We gave our full support to the work of the project and will receive regular updates on the work and findings of the project.

**Councillor Eleanor Lister**  
**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

