
OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-

- (a) **Year One and Reception and Attendance – Actions** – We received a report to update Members with details of key actions planned to address low attendance at Reception and Year One and the ‘casual attitude’ at maintained nursery provision which continues into Reception and Year One of Primary School. The Action Plan is a result of the recommendations made by a Review Group of this Scrutiny which examined the issues of low attendance at primary and reception.

Actions to date include a letter being written and distributed prior to the Early Years Transition meeting to the providers from all schools and settings to raise awareness of the facts and seeking to support for a focus towards improving attendance; and Officers are arranging for a campaign to run over the Summer as a message for parents and carers and also to provide publications in Children’s Centres. We are also looking at working jointly with doctors and dentists to emphasise the importance of timings of dentist / doctor appointments and to return to school as soon as possible thereafter if a child has to be removed from school.

We will receive a further update to review the 2012/13 Reception and Year One attendance data in Autumn 2013 in order to measure the impact of the actions to address attendance.

- (b) **Work Programme** – We continue to give consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee and taking into account the ambitious programme of change across the Council and the key role of Scrutiny in ensuring that the programme is able to deliver the service improvements and the budget savings necessary.

Councillor Eleanor Lister
Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee