
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.

Work Programme

2. 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.

Performance

3. Members received a further presentation from the Head of Organisational Planning on the Performance Management Framework which has been developed and as a baseline to set the scene for the coming year.
4. Work has been completed on the high level indicators which have been devised as a set of key indicators to measure performance. The high level indicators are strategic indicators which include all the Partners and will be used to assess the outcomes of the Strategy. The delivery indicators will set out how the change will be made against the strategic indicators and in the case of this Scrutiny Committee 'giving children and young people the best start in life'
5. Following discussion previously on the table of indicators we have now received reports on Social Norms and Destinations at 16-18 and with regard to Smoking Status and Members concerns with the link between E-cigarettes and young people, the Head of Organisational Planning advised the Members that data on E-cigarettes was still being sought and will be forwarded to us in due course. We have also requested analysis of children living in poverty by ward.
6. The presentation was very informative and included statistical and graphical information which outlined the 11 delivery indicators relating to 'giving children and young people the best start in life' in more detail and showed comparisons between the situation in Darlington compared with the North East and England over a number of years and also highlighted trends over the years; variances between Wards; and a chart to show if the gap between the worst performance and the best performance is narrowing or increasing.
7. We discussed, in particular, the information provided in relation to the percentage of children in Reception and Year 6 who are overweight or obese; the percentage

achieving a good level of development (expected or exceeding in the Early Learning Goals); and the percentage of children living in poverty.

8. Particular emphasis was made on the strategic partnerships and the Sustainable Community Strategy and the positive impact of agencies working together and also the need to be able to map delivery of the indicators between the various partners.
9. We will continue to receive information which will assist us in developing our work programme over the next Municipal Year and will focus Members on ensuring any work undertaken would reflect the strategic aims of the Council.

Troubled Families Programme

10. We received an update on the progress made on the Troubled Families Programme.
11. The Troubled Families Programme was introduced by the Government in April 2012 with a commitment that nationally 120,000 troubled families would be 'turned around' by the end of Parliament (2015).
12. Darlington has a dedicated team which builds on the already existing Family Intervention Team who work intensively with families to make positive and sustainable change. The additional finance available via the Troubled Families Programme has helped to expand the team and the number of families it is able to work with and to date the team have identified 320 households who meet the troubled families criteria and 171 who have met the outcomes and are eligible for Payment by Results.
13. We were pleased to hear that Darlington are on track to meet the target of 'turning around' 275 families by the end of the current programme.
14. An expanded programme is due to commence on 1 April 2015 which has some significant differences to the current programme and will work on a 'basket of indicators' to include parents and children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour; children who have not been attending school regularly; children who need help; adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness; families affected by domestic violence and abuse; and parents and children with a range of health problems. The Government will pay an upfront attachment fee of 1,000 per family for those families included in the local programme and in addition the Government will pay a 'Troubled Families Co-ordinator Grant'
15. We will continue to monitor the progress of the programme and Phase 2.

Councillor Eleanor Lister
Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee