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

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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.

**Young Carers Review Group**

3. We have completed our review of Young Carers and presented our findings and recommendations to all Scrutiny Members at the meeting held on 23 February, 2015.
4. Members undertook this review to examine the Young Carers Action Plan and assess and monitor the progress made by the new service providers DISC since it took over the service September 2013.
5. Members have carefully examined the action plan and the outcomes in detail and questioned the service providers, including hearing the views of two young carers.
6. Members have been encouraged by the work of DISC which includes effective work to identify young cares through continued partnerships working and we will continue to monitor the Young Carers Action Plan as part of our work programme.
7. The recommendations of the Review Group were approved by Scrutiny Members and it was agreed to forward the findings and recommendations of the Review Group to Cabinet.

**Response to Barnardo's Beyond Care**

8. We received a report on this Council's response to the Barnardo's 'Beyond Care' report which we approved to be forwarded to Barnardo's.
9. The 'Beyond Care' report aims to challenge authorities regarding their level of service to care leavers and Barnardo's is campaigning to improve the accommodation and support given to young people as they leave care.

10. A number of key questions were posed in the report and Darlington's response was detailed for each question. The questions were in relation to the focus on children in care and care leavers, joint working, suitable accommodation and the use of Bed and Breakfasts, managing tenancies, support provided by Housing under the Homelessness Protocol and homelessness.
11. All Councillors as 'corporate parents' have an important role in ensuring advice and support is provided 'beyond care'.
12. I am confident that care leavers in Darlington are receiving a good service from us as corporate parents.

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