

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30th August, 2007

**PRESENT** – Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Armstrong, Francis, Lawton, Long, Richmond, A. J. Scott and Walker. (8)

**STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – Canon Sheila Bamber and Mr. M. Frank. (2)

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – Mr. R. Bennett and Mr. T. R. Fisher. (2)

**OFFICER IN ATTENDANCE** – Murray Rose, Director of Children’s Services.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillor McEwan and David Heaton.

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Galletley and Lister, and Mr. D. Moyes. (3)

**ABSENT** – Councillor Davies, Ms. S. Robinson, Mr. R. Egan and Mrs. H. Ellis. (4)

**CYP1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**CYP2. ENQUIRY GROUP 2** – Members received an overview from David Heaton, Chair of Enquiry Group 2, which outlined the background of the Enquiry Group, the role of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), the question posed by the LSP in relation to Enquiry Group 2, and the work that had been conducted to date by Enquiry Group 2. David Heaton explained that, by working with a range of partners and stakeholders, the intention of the group was to identify areas and issues within the Education remit that could be challenged and improved, and to complement the progressive work being conducted by the Director of Children’s Services.

David outlined the main themes that had been identified during discussions with other stakeholders, which included the transition between Primary and Secondary schools, parenting, the disparity between performance in Secondary Schools and the role of Governing Bodies.

Discussion ensued on the capability of teaching staff; the link between education and the need to develop the economy and provide high quality jobs in Darlington; the ratio in relation to the number of teachers to pupils; the use of Positive Mentoring schemes and sharing best practice throughout Darlington’s schools; the use of peer influence in working with disruptive pupils; the need to raise the status of vocational education and the need to maximise natural abilities; the increasing requirement to engage parents within the school community and produce a mutually supportive environment; Parental Support Groups, the increased use of extended services; the need for a long term and consolidated approach, and the need for patience as said approach becomes embedded within the education culture; the need to promote the 14 – 19 Curriculum; the need to strengthen careers advice for 14–16 year olds; the importance of the ethos and culture of a school and its community; community involvement within Primary Schools; the perceived large turnover of head teachers; the need for different governors in feeder schools and secondary schools; the aspirations of both pupils and teaching staff, and the use of Admission policies.

**RESOLVED** – That David Heaton be thanked for the opportunity provided to contribute to the work of Enquiry Group 2, and that the points raised be taken into consideration within the work of Enquiry Group 2.