

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28th April, 2008

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

STATUTORY CO-OPTTEES – Canon S. Bamber and Mr. M. Frank. (2)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTTEES – Mr. R. Egan, Mr. D. Moyes and Mr. N. Rees. (3)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – George McQueen, Assistant Director (Planning and Resources), Children’s Services, and Donna Thorne, Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Co-ordinator.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Mrs. Scott.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Davies, Galletley and Lister, Mrs. V. Mitchell and Mr. T. Fisher. (5)

ABSENT – Ms. S. Robinson (1)

CYP55. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP56. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 28th February 2008 and 3rd March 2008.

RESOLVED – (a) That, with the correction of two spelling errors identified, the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

(b) That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee visit those schools unable to attend the Special Meeting of this Committee on Thursday, 28th February 2008, to map the work and projects being undertaken in those schools in relation to Climate Change.

CYP57. DEVELOPMENTS IN DARLINGTON’S SCHOOLS – The Assistant Director (Planning and Resources), Children’s Services, submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of developments in Darlington’s schools.

The submitted report outlined the position in relation to the proposed amalgamation of Dodmire Infant School and Nursery School, with Dodmire Junior School, the relocation of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) to the Phoenix Centre, the building developments at both Carmel R. C. College and Hummersknott School and Language College, the appointment of the contractor for the design and build of the new Eastbourne Church of England Academy, and the proposal to design and build of a Primary School in place of North Road Primary School.

Discussion ensued on the appointment procedure for the new Head Teacher for the proposed, amalgamated Dodmire Primary School, the current jurisdiction of the Head Teacher at Dodmire Junior School in relation to the Service Level Agreements in place at Dodmire Infant School, the amalgamation projects previously undertaken by this Council at other schools in the Borough and the impact on those schools, the possibility of the formation of a federation in the Dodmire schools, the potential for any projected building work in the Dodmire schools, the possibility of further school amalgamations in the Borough, the possibility of staff redundancies at the Dodmire Schools, and the role of scrutiny in the amalgamation consultation and reporting process.

RESOLVED – (a) That the content of the report be noted.

(b) That further reports outlining the outcome of informal and formal consultations in relation to the amalgamation of the Dodmire schools be presented to this Scrutiny Committee.

CYP58. UNDER 18 CONCEPTION RATES – UPDATE – The Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Co-ordinator, Darlington Primary Care Trust (PCT) submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the progress made in reducing the number of under 18 conceptions in 2007/08, and outline the opportunities and challenges for 2008/09.

The submitted report highlighted that England had the highest rate of teenage conceptions in Western Europe in 2007, and that in 1998, Darlington had a significantly higher number of teenage conceptions, compared to the national average. The submitted report stated that Darlington had achieved a significant decrease since this time, and outlined the characteristics of those young people at risk of teenage pregnancy. The report also outlined the outcomes of early motherhood in terms of health and social exclusion.

The submitted report concluded by stating the priorities for both 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Discussion ensued on Darlington’s comparison with the current national average, and the pastoral programmes provided in schools to raise awareness of teenage pregnancy and sexual health.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

CYP59. ADMISSIONS FOR THE RECEPTION CLASS AND YEAR 7 IN SEPTEMBER 2008 - The Assistant Director (Planning and Resources), Children’s Services, submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the number of applications made for school places for the 2008/09 academic year.

The submitted report explained the application process for school places for both Primary and Secondary schools, and outlined the total number of applications, the total number of first preference allocations, the total number of those parents who

made no application and the total number of those that failed to obtain any of their preferences, in both Primary and Secondary schools.

The submitted report provided information in relation to the number of Appeals received and highlighted the increase in pupil numbers due to inward migration from other UK locations, military personnel and Europe.

Members entered into discussion on the figures involved in inward migration, the cost and provision of funding of a new Primary school, the inward migration from outside Europe, the balance of school provision with societies needs, and the reasons for those applications that failed to obtain any of their preferences.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

CYP60. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08 – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting consideration be given to a draft Annual Report, outlining the work undertaken by this Scrutiny Committee during the Municipal Year 2007/08, prior to its submission to Council on 22nd May 2008.

RESOLVED – That the draft Annual Report be approved for submission to Council on 22nd May 2008.

CYP61. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08 - The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that further consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme and Review topics for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

CYP62. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme and Review topics for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Consideration was given to the inclusion of an item on Language Learning for Minority Communities.

RESOLVED – That the Draft Work Programme for 2008/08 be noted accordingly.

CYP63. POLICY REVIEW - (1) Review of Progress on Policy Review Items – There were no reports to consider.

(2) Review Items Final Report Back – There were no reports to consider.

(3) Responses of the Executive to Reports of this Scrutiny Committee – There were no responses to consider.

CYP64. EXECUTIVE CALL-IN - (1) Call-In Items Relating to Key Decisions of the Executive - There were no call-in items..

(2) Other Call-In Items - There were no call-in items.

CYP65. BEST VALUE - MONITORING OF PROGRESS ON BEST VALUE REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLANS - There was no progress to be reported back to this meeting.