

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10th September, 2007

PRESENT – Councillor A. J. Scott (in the Chair); Councillors Armstrong, Francis, Galletley, Lawton, Lister, Long, Richmond, and Walker. (9)

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

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. R. Egan, Mr. D. Moyes and Mr. R. Bennett. (3)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Murray Rose, Director of Children’s Services, Andrew Dunn, Assistant Director, Children’s Services, Rachel Jones, Head of School Place Planning and Assets Team, Julian Kenshole, Head of Performance and Development, Children’s Services, Rita Taylor, Youth Offending Service Manager, Community Services and Gary Morley, Youth Offending Service Preventions Worker.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor McEwan, Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Children and Young People.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Davies and Hughes, Mr. T. R. Fisher and Mrs. H. Ellis. (4)

ABSENT – Ms. S. Robinson. (1)

CYP3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Councillor A. J. Scott declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Minute 7 below. Councillor Long declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Minute 7 below. Mr. M. Frank declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Minute 7 below.

CYP4. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 18th June 2007.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

CYP5. EASTBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY – PROJECT UPDATE – The Director of Children’s Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Committee Members on the project to establish the Eastbourne Church of England Academy in Darlington.

The submitted report outlined the recent developments that had taken place. These included the approval of the Outline Business Case, which confirmed the capital funding allocation for the new Academy to be £15.337 million, the approval of the Funding Agreement, the commencement of the Implementation Stage, the development of the procurement process, the long term programme, staffing implications and developments, and the governance arrangements.

Discussion ensued on staffing concerns, the appointment and qualifications of a Project Manager and the Project Management Team, the cost to the Authority of the payroll provider, the constitution of the Governing Body, the terms of the lease of the school building and Health and Safety responsibilities at the Eastbourne Church of England Academy.

RESOLVED – It was resolved that:

- (a) That the content of the submitted report be noted;
- (b) That a report outlining the ethos of the Eastbourne Church of England Academy, and how this has been translated into action, be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

CYP6. RELOCATION OF THE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT AND EDUCATION OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL SERVICES TO THE FORMER RISE CARR PRIMARY SCHOOL – The Director of Children’s Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the progress on the development of an integrated Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) Service through the refurbishment of the former Rise Carr Primary School.

The submitted report stated that a Head Teacher and a second Deputy Head Teacher had been appointed and that the appointed contractors have commenced preparatory work on the site.

Discussion ensued on the community use of the premises and the gender of staff appointments and the gender balance of teaching and non-teaching staff.

RESOLVED – That the content of the submitted report be noted.

CYP7. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN NATIONAL TESTS / EXAMINATIONS – 2007 – The Director of Children’s Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an early analysis of performance in the national tests and examinations in 2007, based on provisional figures.

The submitted report outlined the performance at Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Members entered into discussion on the provisional improved performance in some Secondary Schools, and expressed some concerns in relation to the disparity in Secondary School results. Discussion also ensued on the importance of contextual added value, the need to recognise vocational qualifications on an equal footing as academic qualifications, the proportion of children that leave school with no qualifications, the external factors that affect school performance, differing school systems in relation to culture and ethos, the implementation of the School Improvement Team, and the importance of sharing good practice.

RESOLVED – It was resolved that:

- (a) That the content of the submitted report be noted;
- (b) That the congratulations of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be extended to all pupils, teaching staff and school staff for the hard work conducted during the 2006/07 Academic Year;
- (c) That a further report be submitted to the next Ordinary Meeting of this Scrutiny Committee outlining the finalised results for the 2006/07 Academic Year, including the results of those completing vocational qualifications, the number of pupils leaving schools without any qualifications, and a comparison with more rounded indicators.

CYP8. PLACEMENT OF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE PREVENTIONS WORKER IN HUMMERSKNOTT AND SKERNE PARK SCHOOLS – Pursuant to Minute LLL37(2)(e)/Oct/06, the Youth Offending Service Operations Manager submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the current placement of one Youth Offending Service (YOS) Preventions Officer serving Hummersknott and Skerne Park schools and to provide information on recent changes in relations to the cluster arrangements.

The submitted report outlined the original key objectives of the YOS Preventions Officer placement, the development of the cluster plan, the intention to provide similar interventions at additional schools, and the introduction of a referral system to ensure provision is ‘needs led’. The report also highlighted the benefits of the introduction of the YOS Preventions Officer and activities undertaken in the last year.

Members also received a presentation on the ‘pod casting’ initiative developed for children at Skerne Park Primary School with regard to the transition to Hummersknott School.

Members welcomed the services provided by the YOS Preventions Officer and the ‘pod casting’ initiative, and discussed the funding arrangements available to roll the initiative out to further clusters.

RESOLVED – It was resolved:

- (a) That the content of the submitted report be noted;
- (b) That a report updating Members on the progress of the Preventions Officer initiative be submitted to this Committee in six months.

CYP9. CLIMATE CHANGE – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of this Scrutiny Committee of a decision taken by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group on 23rd July 2007, in relation to the inclusion of Climate Change on Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes.

Discussion ensued on the suggested areas of work that this Scrutiny Committee may wish to undertake.

RESOLVED – It was resolved:

- (a) That one of the themes of the forthcoming Special Meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, to be held on 15th October 2007, be Climate Change;
- (b) That those Members wishing to participate in the proposed Climate Change Mapping Exercise contact the Chair, Vice Chair or Democratic Support Officer to express their interest.

CYP10. 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 2007/08 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That a training session be arranged for Members in relation to the Council’s support and challenge to schools.

CYP11. POLICY REVIEW - (1) Review of Progress on Policy Review Items – Health and Safety in Schools Task and Finish Review Group – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the progress of the Health and Safety in Schools Task and Finish Review Group.

The submitted report outlined the work conducted to date and the ongoing work proposed.

RESOLVED – It was resolved:

(a) That the approach of the Health and Safety in Schools Task and Finish Review Group be endorsed.

(b) That the Health and Safety Manager be thanked for his invaluable assistance during the course of this review.

(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.

CYP12. 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.

CYP13. BEST VALUE - MONITORING OF PROGRESS ON BEST VALUE REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLANS - There was no progress to be reported back to this meeting