

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20th June, 2011

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair): Councillors Crudass, Curry, Galletley, L. Hughes, J.M. Lyonette, E.A. Richmond, C. Taylor, J. Vasey and Wright.

APOLOGIES – Mr. T. Fisher, Mr. J. Fitt and Mr. D. Moyes. (2)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEES – Mr. R. Egan and Ms. A. Blackburn. (2)

ABSENT – Mr. J. Fitt, Mr. T. Grant, V. Mitchell and Mr. D. Moyes (4)

NON-VOTING CO-OPTEE – Ms. S. Lund. (1)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C. Hughes, Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Murray Rose, Director of People and Mr. D. Mason, Family Intervention Team Manager.

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

CYP2. TIMES OF MEETINGS – RESOLVED – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 4.00 p.m.

CYP3. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 28th March, 2011.

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

CYP4. SCRUTINY – PRESENTATION AND UPDATE – The Director of People gave a presentation to Members on the future of Scrutiny and its way forward within Darlington to ensure that any future work programmes enhanced the effectiveness of Scrutiny and enabled it to focus on outcomes rather than service delivery.

The presentation provided information on the position in relation to the Medium –Term Financial Plan and the current position in relation to the savings within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee; projects within the Transformation Programme relevant to this Scrutiny Committee and an overview of the Government Policy changes which would impact on the outcomes for people and place.

It was reported that the Council would in the future aim to prioritise service delivery based on need and would provide consistent, high quality customer services and be a strategic commissioner of services which might in the future be provided by other providers.

The Director of People outlined the vision for the “Children and Families” programme with the key objectives being to reduce demand through effective prevention and to reduce the cost of provision through service re-design and effective commissioning. The target areas were services for children and young people with disabilities; Integrated Early Intervention and Prevention Services; services for children coming into care provision and improving outcomes; a review of

Early Years Inclusion Service; and a review of the duties the Council currently undertakes in its role as the Local Education Authority (LEA).

Discussion also ensued on the schools converting to Academy status from 1st September, 2011; arrangements for school admissions which were currently to continue with the LEA; changes around Special Education Needs provision; potential changes to home to school transport and the school funding formula; and social care funding arrangements.

The Chair thanked the Director for his presentation and advised Members that Scrutiny faced many challenges ahead in aiding the transformation programme and in managing the budget savings and that this Scrutiny would scrutinise the relevant projects with the aim of adding value to the work of the Council.

RESOLVED – That the position be noted.