

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31st October, 2011

PRESENT –Councillors Crudass, Curry, L. Hughes, Hutchinson, Lister, J.M. Lyonette, E.A. Richmond, C. Taylor, J. Vasey and Wright. (10)

APOLOGIES – Mr. T. Fisher and Mr. M. Frank. (2)

ABSENT – Councillor Galletley.

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. R. Egan and Mr. D. Moyes. (2)

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – George McQueen, Head of Education Services and Melanie Brown, Children’s Trust Partnership Manager.

CYP1. CHAIR – RESOLVED – That Councillor Lister be appointed Chair of this Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2011/12.

CYP2. VICE-CHAIR – RESOLVED – That Councillor C. Taylor be appointed Vice-Chair of this Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2011/12.

CYP3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP4. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 5th September, 2011.

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

CYP5. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12 – Pursuant to Minute CYP8/Sep/11, the Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the work programme items scheduled by this Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2011/12 and to approve the terms of reference for each topic.

Members were advised of the ambitious programme of change across the Council and the key role of Scrutiny being to ensure that the programme was able to deliver the service improvements and the budget savings necessary and that when considering their work programme, any work focused on delivering outcomes rather than service delivery.

Terms of references were submitted for approval for each of the areas of work agreed at the last meeting namely Looked After Children and the role of the Corporate Parenting Panel; Behaviour Strategy for Key Stage 1 and 2 and Key Stage 3 and 4; Child Poverty and Vulnerable Children; Early Intervention and Children and Families Service; Attendance at Key Stage 1 and Reception; and Extending Participation in Education and Training to 18 years.

It was also emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee prior to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council. The Chair also advised Members that this Scrutiny Committee would also be involved in the Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan along with the other Scrutiny Committees.

Members also continued to consider Cabinet's Forward Plan to determine any further items they might wish to include in their work programme.

RESOLVED – (a) That the work programme be noted.

(b) That the terms of reference submitted be approved.

CYP6. DRAFT DARLINGTON'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2011-2014 – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to consult with Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on the draft Darlington's Children and Young People Plan 2011-14 as part of the overall consultation process.

The Children and Young People Plan is a single, overarching plan for all services which directly affect children and young people in Darlington and demonstrates how the local authority and relevant partners will integrate provision to improve well-being across all five Every Child Matters outcomes.

The submitted report outlined the extensive consultation which had been undertaken to seek the views of parents and children and young people and to date, 411 young people had been involved in focus group work considering the proposed priorities. A steering group had also been established which developed the facebook fan page 'The Blueprint'; a young person friendly flyer including comments from the Youth Member of Parliament; and which publicised the excellent work that the young people had undertaken over the past 6 months, the development of a short film, which Members viewed during the meeting.

The submitted report also outlined the stakeholder consultation which had been undertaken with partners between December and January, 2011 on the needs assessment which informed the development of the Children and Young People's Plan priorities. Further stakeholder consultation took place between February and April, 2011 around the commissioning priorities that would be included within the new plan. Stakeholders included the Council's Children's Services; the LSP Executive Group; Durham Policy Authority; General Practitioners; Youth Offending Service; Darlington Association of Governors; Job Centre Plus; Schools and many more. Statutory impact assessments and a disability assessment have also been undertaken.

During discussion of the priorities for 2011-2014 and the action plan it was acknowledged that the work programme of this Scrutiny Committee complements the priorities of the Children and Young People Plan and any outcomes or recommendations from the work undertaken by this Scrutiny Committee can be fed into the Plan. It was also agreed that the processes contained within the Terms of References of the work programme items for Looked After Children, Behaviour and Attendance, Vulnerable Children and Child Poverty and Participation in Education and Training until 18 years take into consideration the priorities and strategic action plan of the Children and Young People Plan 2011-14.

RESOLVED – (a) That the draft Darlington’s Children and Young People Plan 2011-2014 be noted and the comments of the Members of this Scrutiny Committee be forwarded as part of the consultation process.

(b) That any outcomes and recommendations from the work programme of this Scrutiny Committee be referred to the Children’s Trust.

(c) That, where appropriate, the terms of references for work programme items of this Scrutiny Committee take into consideration the priorities contained in the Children and Young People Plan 2011-2014.

(d) That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor outcomes against the actions contained in the Children and Young People Plan 2011-14.

CYP7. ATTENDANCE AT KEY STAGE 1 AND RECEPTION REVIEW GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT – The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members of the Committee on the work undertaken to date by the Attendance at Key Stage 1 and Reception Review Group and to formally approve the Terms of Reference for the Review Group.

RESOLVED – (a) That the progress of the Review Group be noted.

(b) That the terms of the reference for the Review Group be approved.