

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th September, 2011

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair): Councillors Crudass, Galletley, L. Hughes, Hutchinson, J.M. Lyonette, E.A. Richmond, C. Taylor, J. Vasey and Wright. (10)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Curry, (1)

STATUTORY CO-OPTEES- Mr. M. Frank.

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEES – Mr. R. Egan, Mr. T.R. Fisher and Mr. D. Moyes. (3)

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning and George McQueen, Head of Education Services.

CYP5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP6. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 20th June, 2011. It was reported that Ms. S. Lund, a Non-voting Co-optee had resigned from this Scrutiny Committee.

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

(b) That Ms. Lund's resignation be accepted and that the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to her for her commitment to the Committee.

CYP7. CHANGING ROLE OF SCRUTINY- (1) Issues relating to Children, Families and Learning – The Assistant Director of Children, Families and Learning gave a presentation to Members to outline the changes affecting Children, Families and Learning which included changes in government policies; changes in education, budget implications, increased levels of need and societal changes, increased public awareness of issues and professional anxieties.

The Assistant Director explained why there was a need to change which would reflect the savings and restructure that the Council has had to make; closer working with adult/children's services; the changes in education and increase in schools becoming academies; the increased numbers of children protection and children looked after; the need to improve services targeted at families and children most at risk; the budget; and the disability service now 'all age'.

The presentation also referred to the Peer Challenge which was undertaken in July 2011 and the Assistant Director outlined the key strengths which were identified from the 'Peer Review' and the key areas for consideration in the future including some suggestions for improvement which included reviewing the size of the Children's Trust; reviewing the Corporate Parenting Panel: requesting specialist support from C4EO for fostering, Common Assessment Framework, and Traveller Services; and to review Scrutiny by providing a greater challenge on a small number of key work aspects which was discussed further during the Review Groups item on the agenda (see below).

(2) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – Members discussed and developed ideas for a future Work Programme ensuring that any items add value and are able to show a demonstrable outcome. Members also discussed this Scrutiny’s involvement in Local Democracy Week and agreed to hold a special meeting during Local Democracy and invite the Children in Care Council, the ‘Darlo Care Crew’ to attend.

RESOLVED – (a) That 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; and any other issues that arise from the work of the Review Groups and new Policies be included in the Work Programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

(b) That a Special Meeting of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be arranged during Local Democracy Week to include the Children in Care Council.

(3) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Review Groups and Task and Finish Reviews – Members discussed, taking into consideration the comments of the Assistant Director Children, Families and Learning with regard to the challenges ahead, key areas of work for this Scrutiny Committee to focus on. It was agreed that all Members of this Scrutiny will be invited to each Review Group meeting and that the Review Groups and Task and Finish Groups will be primarily Member led.

RESOLVED – That the suggested areas of Review to be submitted to the Monitoring and Co-Ordination Group for approval are Early Intervention and Children and Families Service; Attendance at Key Stage 1 and Reception (performance); and Extending participation in Education and Training to 18 years (policy).