

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 December 2013

PRESENT – Councillor C. Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Crumbie, Galletley, L. Hughes, E.A. Richmond and L. Vasey. (7)

APOLOGIES - Councillors Hutchinson, Kelley, Lister and Wright; Mr. T. Fisher and Mr. D. Moyes.

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Ms. E. Coltman.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C. Hughes.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning.

CYP21. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP22. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 28 October, 2013.

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

CYP23. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee and to consider any additional areas which Members suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

Following discussion Members suggested that a report on funding for schools in relation to Anti Racism; and a report on access in schools to Music and Performing Arts Funding be included in the Work Programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair reminded Members that a Special meeting of this Scrutiny Committee has been arranged for 6 January, 2013 to consider the proposals in the Medium Term Financial Plan under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.

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

(b) That Monitoring and Co-ordination Group be requested to give consideration to including funding for schools for Anti Racism and access in schools to Music and Performing Arts in the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

CYP24. PUPIL PREMIUM – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with information on the Pupil Premium Funding and its implementation.

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 as additional targeted funding for schools and was allocated to schools to work with pupils who have registered for Free Schools Meals at any point in the last six years and to children 'looked after' continuously for six months.

It was reported that funding has increased since its introduction and in 2014/15 the total fund will be £100m. For 2013/14 this amounted to £900 per eligible pupil. There have also been additional cohorts of funding announced in November, 2013 including the Service Pupil Premium for service personnel; Pupil Premium Plus for eligible 'looked after' children; and Summer School Programme funding.

The increased funding for children looked after provides opportunities to fund needs identified in the Personal Education Plan all looked after children have and the role of the Virtual Head Teacher is vital in ensuring the Pupil Premium Plus is spent supporting the individual children's plans and holding schools to account on this.

Members noted that the proportion of funding within an individual school budget can vary and Members had previously expressed their concerns that there had been a lack of take up for Free School Meals. Members are now encouraged to learn that schools are actively encouraging parents to take up Free Schools Meals in order to increase the overall school funding.

The submitted report also examined how Pupil Premium Funding is working and the effectiveness of Pupil Premium and its varying uses within Darlington schools; and the potential impact of funding on pupil performance and analysis shows that the Gap is closing in Darlington, with Free School Meals or Children Looked After pupils' performance improving across the last three years.

Members questions related to data collection for Free School Meals; work with Parents Groups to encourage guardians to declare; deprivation and child poverty and how data on this is presented.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That Members receive an update at a future meeting.

CYP25. CO-OPTED MEMBERS REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT – The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to outline the findings and outcomes of the Review Group established to examine the current position with regard to the statutory and non-statutory representatives.

RESOLVED – (a) That Officers seek to recruit to the vacant co-opted members positions for Parent Governor Representatives for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools.

(b) That the number of school representatives be reduced to 1 Primary School teaching representative, 1 Secondary School teaching representative and 1 representative for Further Education.

(c) That Officers seek to fill the vacancy for a Secondary School teaching representative and combine the representatives for the Darlington College and the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College to 1 further education representative.

(d) That the vacant positions for 1 representative of the Darlington Association of Governors and 2 representatives from the Darlington Partnership be removed.

CYP26. EXTENSION OF FUNDING TO 21 FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE –

The Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning gave a verbal update in response to a question from the Chair, on a change in the legal duty to provide support to enable, if needed, children to remain in foster care until the age of 21. It was reported that this authority currently operate a 'staying put' policy and offer a support lodgings arrangement to those children who desire it.

There are currently 16 Looked After Children aged 16 years and 11 aged 17 years who will fall into this category over the next 2 years so an additional funding arrangement will be required.

RESOLVED – That an update be included in the Work Programme for a future meeting.