

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 February 2014

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Crumbie, L. Hughes, C. Taylor, L. Vasey and Wright. (7)

APOLOGIES - Councillors Galletley, Hutchinson and Kelley; Mr. Frank, Ms. Coltman.

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. T. Fisher and Ms. Regan (2).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C. Hughes; Jeff Morgan, Show Racism the Red Card and Sgt. Jayne Freeman, Durham Constabulary.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning; Rachel Kershaw, Head of School and Pupil Support Services; and Paul Richardson, Head of 16-19 (Learning and Skills).

CYP29. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP30. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16 December, 2013 and the Special meeting held on 6 January, 2014.

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

CYP31. 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.

Councillor Wright proposed that this Scrutiny Committee examine the issue of Female genital mutilation (FGM) and communication of the issue within schools.

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

(b) That Monitoring and Co-Ordination Group be requested to consider the inclusion of a report on Female genital mutilation on the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

CYP32. ANTI RACISM PROGRAMMES IN SCHOOLS – Jeff Morgan, gave a presentation to Members on Show Racism the Red Card which is an anti-racism educational charity established in 1996.

Jeff Morgan advised Members that Show Racism the Red Card work in schools primarily throughout the North East and have delivered anti-racism workshops to more than 10,000 young people every year and in most local authority areas are funded to do this free of charge.

The presentation outlined the background to the Charity and how the team of educators and ex-professional football players can visit schools to educate young people from the ages of 5 years to 11 years against racism; feedback from beneficiaries and neighbouring local authorities; funding streams; and future aspirations and challenges for the charity which included Red Card ambassadors in schools, women coaches, education delivery and joint working.

It was also reported that Ron Hogg, the Police and Crime Commissioner has funding available for the next 12 months to undertake work in schools on the anti-hate agenda and schools are encouraged to take advantage of this funding and deliver anti-racism workshops within their school by contacting www.theredcard.org.

Members discussed ways that the work of Show Racism the Red Card could be better promoted in the borough and it was suggested that the Arthur Wharton Foundation and local Rugby Clubs could also be contacted. Members agreed to promote the work of the charity within their wards and to encourage schools within the borough to undertake a workshop.

Show Racism the Red Card also offer teaching and promotional resources to outline suitable activities to tackle racism and promote equality in schools.

RESOLVED – (a) That Jeff Morgan be thanked for his interesting and informative presentation.

(b) That Members note the work of Show Racism the Red Card and seek to encourage promotion of the Charity to schools within the borough and to encourage the uptake of funding available to schools through the Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner.

CYP33. RAISING OF THE PARTICIPATION AGE (RPA) UPDATE – Pursuant to Minute CYP20/Jan/13, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an update on the implementation of the requirements of the Raising of the Participation Age and examining the impact locally.

The submitted report outlined the requirements of RPA and the actions being undertaken to ensure that the local authority meets its requirements to promote the effective participation in education and training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in the area.

From summer 2013, young people were required to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turned 17. From 2015, they will be required to continue until their 18th birthday. Young people will be able to choose how they participate post 16 which could be through either full-time education: an

apprenticeship; or part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.

It was reported that Department of Education published data for local authority participation levels for the end of 2011 showed that 84 per cent of 16 year olds participated in education or training, below the North East average of 92 per cent and a national average of 91 per cent. It was also reported that 76 per cent of 17 year olds participated in education or training, below the North East average of 84 per cent and a national average of 84 per cent.

The submitted report also outlined the actions taken by the local authority to promote participation and to lower the RPA progress data for the number of 'Not Known'. It was reported that the latest Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) data indicates that participation is increasing at both Year 12 and Year 13, however there remains a core of young people, often with complex social needs and a history of poor engagement in education, who continue not to participate in further education or training.

Members discussions ensued on the availability of places for post 16 education within the borough; the lack of sanctions available for non-participation; and the partnership working with the Youth Offending Service and others for the large number of young people that are NEET who often have multiple social issues preventing them from engaging.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That the actions taken by the local authority in conjunction with its partners for the implementation of RPA and its duties regarding the promotion of RPA be noted.

(c) That a future report be brought to this Scrutiny Committee to update Members on further actions taken and progress towards full participation.

CYP34. 0-25 SPECIAL NEEDS SYSTEM – Pursuant to Minute CYP18/Oct/13, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the work of Darlington as a national pathfinder in developing new approaches for implementing the reforms associated with the 0-25 Special Needs System.

It was reported that new legislation which comes into effect from September, 2014, aims to implement a new approach which seeks to join up help and support from children and their families across education, health and care, from birth to 25.

The Pathfinder Steering Group and Project Team has now finalised guidance and documentation for a smooth and seamless roll out to all professionals and families affected by the implementation of the new legislation. The Steering Group and Project Team have also identified that further work is required in the development of an ICT system and data sharing protocols; embedding the principles of Key Worker support into the roles of all professionals involved in supporting children and young people; development of peer support for parents and young people; embedding the principles of person centred planning to ensure the needs of the child/young person

are fully identified; and developing a resource allocation system to enable families to understand the funding allocations used to support their child.

It was also reported that 97 families were engaged in the new processes and that significant consultation and engagement has been undertaken throughout all stages of developing this programme and families, children and young people and professionals from Education, Health and Care have all been fully involved in the new process.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That this Scrutiny Committee receive an update on the development of the new 0-25 special needs system across Darlington in Autumn 2014.

CYP35. SCHOOLS IN DARLINGTON – Pursuant to CYP19/Oct/13, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to continually provide Members with updated information on the current position with schools across Darlington and any new developments.

Out of the 41 schools in Darlington, 28 are now academies, nine are maintained schools and one Free School. The total included two maintained nursery schools, one of all age special school, one primary special school and a Pupil Referral Unit.

The submitted report outlined the role of Schools@OneDarlington, established in July 2008 as part of the local school improvement strategy as a way for schools to share best practice and to support each other and the current consultation to consider whether this arrangement should formally constituted.

The submitted report also gave information on Free School applications within the borough; School Organisation and supply of school places for all children within the borough; and the changes under the Education Act 2011 for establishing new schools.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.