

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31 March 2014

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Crumbie, Galletley, L. Hughes, E.A. Richmond, C. Taylor, L. Vasey and Wright. (9)

APOLOGIES - Councillors Hutchinson and Kelley; Mr. T. Fisher. (3)

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Ms. Rgan, Mr. Moyes, Ms. Coltman and Ms. Miah. (4).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors C. Hughes and MacNab.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning; Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning and Peter Roberts, Consultant – Sustainable Community Strategy.

CYP38. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP39. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10 February, 2014 and the Special meeting held on 4 March, 2014.

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

CYP40. DURHAM MUSIC SERVICE – The Deputy Head of Service, Ian Robinson, gave a presentation on the Durham Music Service (DMS) as the Lead Partner within the Durham and Darlington Music Education Hub.

The Deputy Head of Service advised Members of the history of the organisation which is supported by local authority colleagues and schools throughout Durham and Darlington and how DMS has achieved local, regional and national recognition for delivering positive outcomes for children and young people. The purpose and objectives of the Hub were also outlined and the Hub's mission, which is ensure that all children and young people regardless of ability and background, have access to the best quality music education.

Details of the numerous programmes delivered in schools were outlined with statistics as at January 2014 to show that approximately 2800 children were in programmes within Darlington Primary Schools and 60 hours of tuition had been provided each week within schools. There are also ten ensembles in Darlington which involved 292 students and details of the numerous events featuring students from Darlington schools since September, 2012 were highlighted.

The Deputy Head of Service also advised Members that the DMS is funded by monies from the Arts Council, parental charges and contribution from the schools via Service Level Agreements, however funding had been reduced by 48 per cent in the last two years and staffing levels had been reduced as a consequence. The Durham Music Service also provide an instrument hire service.

Following general discussion with Members on the work of the DMS a question was raised on how this Scrutiny could help support the Service in future and it was suggested that assistance with free venue hire would be helpful for use by the ensembles and for concerts. It was reported that some schools currently offer free of charge a venue for ensemble rehearsals i.e. Hummersknott Academy however further venues are always required. The Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning advised Members that she will discuss this issue further at the Joint Heads Forum. It was also suggested that the Town Hall Council Chamber may be an option for a venue and also that there may be businesses in the town who would be willing to offer venues and Councillor C. Hughes, the Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio agreed to take this suggestion forward to the Strategic Partnership.

RESOLVED – (a) That Ian Robinson be thanked for this interesting and informative presentation.

(b) That this Scrutiny examine ways to assist the Durham Music Service in securing venues for its ensembles and concerts.

CYP41. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND POSSIBLE LINKS WITH FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME – Pursuant to Minute CYP37/Mar/14, the Head of Organisational Planning gave a presentation on the Performance Management Framework which is currently being developed and outlined how it linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy.

It was reported that the Performance Management Framework will assist Members in developing their work programmes over the next Municipal Year thereby ensuring that work undertaken will reflect the strategic aims of the Council.

Currently work is being undertaken on the high level indicators which have been devised as a set of key indicators to measure performance. The high level indicators are strategic indicators which include all the Partners and will be used to assess the outcomes of the Strategy.

Members received an overview of the eight strategic outcomes and the indicators which sit alongside each outcome and gave particular attention to the outcome for this Scrutiny Committee for 'giving children and young people the best start in life'. It was recognised that all the outcomes contained within the Strategy may have an impact on children and young people.

Discussion ensued on a table of indicators (circulated at the meeting) and Members referred in particular to the Social Norms Survey Indicator; Smoking Status and Members concerns with the link between E-cigarettes and young people; tracking destinations of young people beyond NEET and if there is a skills gap; and further

information on the proportion of children in poverty to include a break down to show the pockets of depravity within Wards.

The Head of Organisational Planning advised Members that there was an indicator to highlight skilled workforce to meet business need but no indicator for school leavers so she would look to include this in the 'more business and more jobs' outcome. With regard to a potential skills gap, the Head of Organisational Planning agreed to bring an update to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Head of Organisational be thanked for her interesting and informative presentation.

CYP42. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to present to Members a working draft of a revised Sustainable Community Strategy.

Members commented on an updated version of the One Darlington : Perfectly Placed vision in advance of the preparation of the revision of the Sustainable Community Strategy document (CYP37/Mar/14 refers).

The draft document incorporated the Vision on a Page and explained the context in which the plan had been prepared, described the three conditions – Build Strong Communities, Spend Every Pound Wisely and Grow the Economy and provided the headlines underpinning each outcome.

It was highlighted that the document was a working draft and that further development and refinement will be carried out before its final approval by Council in May 2014 and that it had been presented to Scrutiny as a working draft to enable Members of the Committee to contribute to the development of the document in the areas of specific interest to this Scrutiny Committee.

The Consultant – Sustainable Community Strategy advised Members that it has now been agreed to include the role and priorities of the Local Strategic Partnership within the Strategy.

In relation to the eight outcomes within the Strategy, it was highlighted that there was a need to map out the connection between the outcomes and the work programmes of the Local Strategic Partnership who all contribute to the delivery of the outcomes through the work programmes they put in place.

Members gave particular attention to the outcome for 'children and young people with the best start in life' and the Consultant – Sustainable Community Strategy invited comment thereon.

Discussion ensued on the list of arts and cultural places within Darlington and a Member requested that the Forum be included as a valuable asset for young people; work being undertaken to address lack of ambition in young people; and the development of people and skills where there is a language barrier.

RESOLVED – (a) That the working draft of the revised Sustainable Community Strategy be noted.

(b) That Members of this Scrutiny Committee continue to contribute to the ongoing development of the document.

CYP43. 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.

With regard to the proposal to include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee, the chair advised Members that she was to arrange a briefing with the Member of Parliament for Darlington and the Police to discuss the issues around FGM and will update the Members at a future meeting with a view to developing a quad of aims.

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