

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9th June 2014

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Crumbie, Galletley, L. Hughes, Hutchinson, Kelley, E.A. Richmond, C. Taylor and Wright. (10)

APOLOGIES - Councillors L. Vasey; and Miss Regan.

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. M. Frank. (1)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors C. Hughes and Culley.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning; Paul Richardson, Head of 16-19 (Learning and Skills); and Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health.

CYP1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP2. TIMES OF MEETINGS – RESOLVED – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 4.00 pm.

CYP3. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 31st March, 2014.

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

CYP4. RESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE – The Chair advised Members that Mr. D. Moyes, a long-standing Non-Statutory Co-opted Member of this Scrutiny Committee had tendered his resignation with immediate effect.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to Mr. Moyes for his hard work and dedication as a Community Representative on this Committee over recent years and that the best wishes of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to him for the future.

CYP5. HEALTHY BEHAVIOURS SURVEY 2013 – Paul Hindle, Darlington Drug and Alcohol Team gave a presentation on the social norms based survey which had been conducted in Darlington Schools and Academies for pupils in Years 7 to 11.

It was reported that annually since 2009, the Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) have commissioned a survey that is circulated to the secondary schools and academies in Darlington.

The 2013 survey had captured the behaviour and opinions of over 3,500 young people which equated to 74 per cent of the available school population giving a good representative sample of the general school population.

Social norms is a mechanism for looking at prevalence of an activity and addressing the misperceptions that young people are drinking and taking drugs which is often exaggerated by the media. It was reported that the survey had shown over the past years that a very high proportion of young people overestimate the amount of young people their age engaging in risk taking behaviours.

The purpose of the survey allows for follow up communication campaigns to be undertaken within schools and the development of educational materials to address these misperceptions, giving factual and value based feedback.

The presentation highlighted the range of questions and results in the Survey relating to tobacco, alcohol and drug use, bullying and sexual health (for older year groups) and the statistical information relating to each question was presented to the Members.

It was also reported that in the five years that the survey had been undertaken by DAAT, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team, risk taking behaviours had significantly reduced and that less than a tenth of all young people in Darlington regularly drink alcohol or get drunk and even fewer take drugs.

General discussion ensued on the content, methodology and results contained within the survey and it was suggested that this presentation be given to the School Governors quarterly meeting and to provide an opportunity to raise further awareness in the schools that did not participate in the 2013 survey.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to Paul Hindle for his interesting and informative presentation.

(b) That the Healthy Behaviours Survey 2013 and results be noted.

(c) That the results of the 2014 survey be reported to this Scrutiny in due course.

CYP6. DESTINATIONS AT 16-18 – Pursuant to CYP33/Feb/14, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an outline of 16-18 learner destinations.

The submitted report outlined that the numbers of 16 and 18 year old education leavers who studied in Darlington and went into sustained Employment, Education or Training (EET) was above the England average (+1 per cent and + 4 per cent respectively); and data shows that Darlington has a higher than average percentage of learners going on to higher education.

It was reported that a significant percentage of Tees Valley residents are studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects to degree level and 2010/11 data shows that 68.9 per cent of Tees Valley graduates found employment

within the Tees Valley with another 10 per cent finding jobs elsewhere in the North East.

The 2011 Employer Skills Survey reported that only four per cent of Tees Valley employers reported having a vacancy that was Hard to Fill and three per cent having a Skills Shortage Vacancy.

With regard to NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training), it was also reported that overall participation is increasing and numbers are reducing and the local authority has successfully reduced the number of 'not knows'. Darlington also has the lowest level of young people NEET in the Tees Valley.

It was also reported that Foundation for Jobs has worked hard to bring together school age students with employers and industries were sectors are facing skills gaps; schools and colleges are also working directly with businesses and STEMNET, the National Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Network to promote STEM opportunities; the Local Enterprise Partnership has developed a Skills Portal to promote local employment opportunities and give schools and young people a resource for careers development; and the National Careers Service also has occupational specific resources for young people.

Discussion ensued on the submitted report and particular reference was made to opportunities for young people to access training to ultimately move into engineering and also encouraging employers to take on apprenticeships to help reduce the decline in young people taking up a career in engineering. It was propose that Members meet with representatives from STEMNET to better understand what is being done to enable young people to understand applications of STEM subjects and to encourage the opportunities for apprenticeships. It was also proposed that the North-East report on skills, being led by the DCS of Hartlepool is circulated.

Paul Richardson advised the Members that Tees Valley Unlimited and Foundation for Jobs are working to promote engineering and there is a lot of work being undertaken to highlight young people of the job opportunities available.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report and action be taken be noted.

(b) That approval be sought from the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group for this Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review into the skills shortage areas and the availability of apprenticeships.

CYP7. 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.

It was reported that a meeting of the Young Carers Review Group was held on 4th June, 2014 and that a note of that meeting will be reported to a future meeting; and Monitoring and Co-ordination Group have given approval for a briefing meeting to be

held with the Durham Constabulary to discuss the issues around FGM and Members will be updated accordingly.

It was also proposed to include a report on the Troubled Families Initiative in the Work Programme.

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

(b) That a report on the Troubled Families Initiative be included in the Work Programme of this Scrutiny Committee.