

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1st September 2014

PRESENT – Councillor C. Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Galletley, L. Hughes, Kelley, E.A. Richmond, L Vasey and Wright. (8)

APOLOGIES - Councillors Crumbie, Hutchinson, Lister, Mr. Fitt and Ms Regan.

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None. (0)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. T.R. Fisher and Ms. E. Coltman (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C. Hughes. (1)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Service Director, Children’s Services; Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning and Jean Langthorne, Specialist Family Support Manager.

CYP8. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP9. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 9 June, 2014.

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

CYP10. PERFORMANCE – Pursuant to Minute CP41/Mar/14, the Head of Organisational Planning gave a further presentation on the Performance Management Framework which has been developed and as a baseline to set the scene for the coming year.

It was highlighted that work has been 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. The delivery indicators will set out how the change will be made against the strategic indicators and in the case of this Scrutiny Committee ‘giving children and young people the best start in life’

Following discussion previously on the table of indicators and Members reference in particular to the Social Norms Survey Indicator; Smoking Status and Members concerns with the link between E-cigarettes and young people, the Head of Organisational Planning advised the Members that data on E-cigarettes was still being sought; Members had already received a report on Social Norms and Destinations at 16-18 (Minute CYP5 and 6/Jun/14 refers); and the analysis of children living in poverty by ward was due to be circulated to Members

The presentation included statistical and graphical information to outline the 11 delivery indicators in more detail and to show comparisons between the situation in

Darlington compared with the North East and England over a number of years and also to highlighted trends over the years; variances between Wards; and a chart to show if the gap between the worst performance and the best performance is narrowing or increasing.

Members raised questions in particular with regard to the information provided in relation to the percentage of children in Reception and Year 6 who are overweight or obese; the percentage achieving a good level of development (expected or exceeding in the Early Learning Goals); and the percentage of children living in poverty.

Particular emphasis was made on the strategic partnerships and the Sustainable Community Strategy and the positive impact of agencies working together and also the need to be able to map delivery of the indicators between the various partners.

The Head of Organisational Planning reported that a further presentation will be made to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

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

CYP11. TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME – The Director of Services for People submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members of this Scrutiny on the progress made on the Troubled Families Programme.

The Troubled Families Programme was introduced by the Government in April 2012 with a commitment that nationally 120,000 troubled families would be ‘turned around’ by the end of Parliament (2015).

Darlington have a dedicated team which builds on the already existing Family Intervention Team who work intensively with families to make positive and sustainable change. The additional finance available via the Troubled Families Programme has helped to expand the team and the number of families it is able to work with and to date the team have identified 320 households who meet the troubled families criteria and 171 who have met the outcomes and are eligible for Payment by Results.

It was reported that Darlington are on track to meet the target of ‘turning around’ 275 families by the end of the current programme.

It was also reported that the expanded programme is due to commence on 1 April 2015 and has some significant differences to the current programme and will work on a ‘basket of indicators’ to include parents and children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour; children who have not been attending school regularly; children who need help; adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness; families affected by domestic violence and abuse; and parents and children with a range of health problems. The Government will pay an upfront attachment fee of 1,000 per family for those families included in the local programme and in addition the Government will pay a ‘Troubled Families Co-ordinator Grant’

Members questions were in relation to domestic violence; what is done by the authority when children are not attending school; and how well the family intervention is received by the families targeted.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That this Committee receive an update report at a future meeting.

CYP12. 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 Monitoring and Co-ordination Group had given approval for Members of this Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review of STEMNET and what is being done to enable young people to understand applications of STEM subjects.

Members also received the Minutes of the meeting of the Young Carers Review Group meeting which was held on 4 June 2014 and advised that it was agreed to arrange a further review group meeting in six months for Members to review the Action Plan and receive an update on progress.

With regard to the review of the social care IT system, and following a briefing held on 18 February 2014 with the Information Manager and the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Chair advised Members that based on a number of issues not least of which were usability and fitness for purpose, a recommendation has been made to seek to replace Care First with another solution. It has also been recommended to look to support this with a mobile working solution and document management system, with a view to delivering as much of a single point of access within the council for social care where possible whether based in the office or out and about. A report was scheduled to go to Cabinet on 2 September 2014 to seek its approval to proceed with the replacement project and to initiate the procurement exercise (via a framework) with Murray Rose as the Project Sponsor.

With regard to the Member request to include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee, the chair advised Members that a briefing had been arranged with the Police and Public Health to discuss the issues around FGM and Members will be updated at the next meeting.

Following discussion on future items for the inclusion in the Work Programme it was agreed to receive a reports on School Organisation and Parenting Programmes.

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

(b) That approval be sought from the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group for reports on School Organisation and Parenting Programmes to be included in the work programme.

