

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 February 2015

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

APOLOGIES – Councillor Hutchinson. (1)

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None (0)

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C. Hughes and S. Richmond. (2)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Sandra Kirkland, Team Manager, Looked After Children Team and Yvonne Coates, Head of First Contact and Locality Services.

CYP32. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP33. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 5 January 2015.

With regard to Minute CYP25/Jan/15 and the recent resignation of a Community Representative on this Scrutiny Committee it was suggested that officers seek to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

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

(b) That officers seek to fill the vacancies for Community Representatives on this Scrutiny Committee.

CYP34. YOUNG CARERS REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT – The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to present to Members the outcomes and findings of the Review Group established by this Scrutiny Committee to examine the Young Carers Action Plan and to monitor the progress made by the new service providers DISC.

It was reported that following a tendering process, DISC was identified as the new Young Carers' Service and took over from the previous providers, the YMCA in September, 2013.

During the review process Members questioned the new service providers, interviewed two young carers and also carefully examined the Darlington Young Carer's Action Plan and the six outcomes therefrom.

All Members of this Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend meetings of the Review Group and also two Members of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee were nominated to be members of the Review Group.

The Review Group concluded that they were satisfied with the good work of DISC since their commencement as the Council's Young Carers' Service provider and of the services provided for young carers, including the effective work that has been undertaken to identify young carers through continued partnerships working.

Members of this Scrutiny agreed with the findings and recommendations of the Young Carers Review Group and agreed to continue to monitor the Young Carers Action Plan as part of the work programme.

RESOLVED – That this Scrutiny Committee approves the following recommendations of the Young Carers Review Group for consideration by Cabinet:

(a) That the work of DISC since its commencement in September, 2013 as this Council's Young Carers Service be acknowledged.

(b) That the awareness raising with schools, and in particular with primary schools and faith schools and those schools with young people from the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (BME) be encouraged to continue.

(c) That the 'drop in' centre at the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College be actively advertised more widely.

(d) That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor the Young Carers Action Plan.

CYP35. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services 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.

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

CYP36. DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO BARNARDO'S BEYOND CARE – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to advise Members at the earliest opportunity, the Service Director, Children's Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members of this Scrutiny with a response from Darlington to the Barnardo's 'Beyond Care' report

It was reported that the 'Beyond Care' report aims to challenge authorities regarding their level of service to care leavers and Barnardo's is campaigning to improve the accommodation and support given to young people as they leave care.

A number of key questions were posed in the report and Darlington's response was detailed for each question. The questions were in relation to the focus on children in

care and care leavers, joint working, suitable accommodation and the use of Bed and Breakfasts, managing tenancies, support provided by Housing under the Homelessness Protocol and homelessness.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel be noted.