

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18th July 2007

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met twice since the last full Council. The committee continues to address a full work programme that reflects the County Council priorities and the five key outcomes under Every Child Matters. The following items have been considered by the Committee as part of their varied work programme.

1. In-depth Scrutiny Reviews

Sports Participation and Provision

Members of the Task Group continue to unravel the complexities of this review, gather information and evidence through a process of consultation and expert witness panels. The Task Group has taken a particular interest in sports provision for the harder to reach groups of young people including looked after children, BME groups, young people with special needs and excluded students.

The findings and conclusions are now being brought together in a draft Report which will be considered by the Committee in September.

Outdoor Education Service

Running concurrently with the scrutiny review on Sports Participation and Provision, the Committee has undertaken a short tightly focussed piece of work on the Outdoor Education Service. The aim of the review is to take a holistic look at the Service, the challenges and priorities facing this service and future development opportunities.

This Scrutiny Report will be considered by the Committee on the 31st July.

2. Overview Reports – 15th May 2007

Evaluating the Performance of the Children & Young Peoples Service

The Corporate Director of the Children and Young People's Service gave a short presentation and briefing evaluating the performance of the County Councils Children and Young Peoples Service. Members were advised that the revised plan was well underway and that the final version would be available from 1 June 2007.

Health Improvement Issues for Young People

This was the first visit by the North Yorkshire & York primary Care Trust to the Committee. The PCT provided Members of the Committee with a joint presentation on Children's Services commissioned and provided by them and reassured the Committee that despite severe financial difficulties the Children's Services budget allocation had not been reduced.

The Committee looks forward to inviting the Director of Operations and the Head of Children's Services back to committee at a future date.

North Yorkshire Police – Youth Policy and Engaging with Young People

Members listened with interest to Inspector Stuart Macklestone's presentation and briefing on North Yorkshire Police's Youth Strategy and overarching Youth Policy. The methodology described in the documents represent a change from the traditional

policing approach and was welcomed by Members of the Committee who look forward to receiving further information on the action plan and the implementation of it in due course.

3. ICT in Schools 20th June

Members of the Committee were invited to attend the Transport & Telecommunication Services Overview & Scrutiny on the 20th June 2007. The purpose of this invitation was to advise the Scrutiny Committees' of the current position regarding recent developments in Schools ICT provision.

Members were satisfied with the information they received and agreed no further action is required at present.

4. Overview Reports - 29th June 2007

- **Implementation of the national ContactPoint system**

The national index of all children in England has been named 'ContactPoint' and Members were provided with a briefing on the implementation of this national system. Members concerns focussed around the type of data held on the system and whether the proposed security measures were sufficiently robust. Whilst Members were reassured by the responses some concerns remained over the principles behind the system.

Implementation will be in early 2009 and Members are keen to remain aware and involved and have requested a further Progress Report in six months.

- **SEN/BESD Delegated Resources**

Particular concerns were raised by Members, parents and carers around the significant resources delegated to schools for the education of children and young people with SEN & BESD and how this was monitored by the Children & Young Peoples Service.

Members welcomed the newly developed robust processes used for monitoring, challenging and supporting schools in their use of SEN delegated resources and requested a progress report on the impact of these monitoring arrangements early in 2007.

- **Review of the Children & Young Peoples Plan**

The Corporate Director briefed Members on the Children & Young People's Plan Review/Annual Performance Assessment Self Assessment which evaluates the progress of objectives against milestones, the impact, the conclusions and the next steps. Members also received a copy of the draft C&YP Plan Year 2

5. Work Programme

School Meals - Members are aware of the significant increase in pay rates for Cooks following the outcome of job evaluation. The impact is particularly significant in North Yorkshire as there are many small kitchens.

The Committee agreed that a short task and finish review should be undertaken to examine the options available. Findings would be reported at the September meeting.

**County Councillor Heather Garnett,
Chairman Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee (July 2007)**