

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21st May 2008

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met on four occasions since the last County Council. The committee continues to address a full work programme that reflects the priorities of the Council and the five key outcomes under Every Child Matters. I would like to highlight the main areas of the Committee's work and these are set out below:

1. In-depth Scrutiny Review – Young People affected by domestic violence

The Task Group has begun the next in-depth scrutiny review with a series of Witness Panel meetings. There are still several more partner agencies to consult with and it is anticipated that a further set of panel meetings will be organised.

External visits to date include the Scarborough, Filey & Rydale Domestic Abuse Forum and attendance at the North Yorkshire Police Domestic Violence Partnership Event. These meetings gave members an opportunity to network with relevant partner agencies and provided valuable insight into some of the frontline issues.

2. Overview Reports - 21 February 2008

Education, Training and Employment Strategy

Members received a progress report on the development of the Education, Training and Employment Strategy for young offenders. Members were pleased to learn of the progress made and requested a further update in 2009.

Young People & Diversity

The Committee was pleased to hear of the work being undertaken with schools to help prepare young people for the changing ethnic mix within the population. They also learnt how the CYPS responds to the needs of young people from varying cultural and language backgrounds.

Local Area Agreement 2

Members were made aware of the differences between the old and new Local Area Agreements noting that stretch targets have been retained but that there has been an overall reduction in the number of indicators.

This topic will remain on the Committees work program so that members can take a proactive role in monitoring progress on the achievement of the LAA2 targets

3. Call In of the decision of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service relating to School Clothing Allowance- 8 April 2008

The Committee considered a decision taken by the Corporate Director, in accordance with the scheme of delegation, to maintain the school uniform grant at £60 for 2008/09.

Members of the Committee debated the issue fully but decided not to refer the decision back to the decision maker or to refer the matter to full council.

4. Overview Reports - 2nd May 2008

Corporate Parenting

Members were provided with an update from the Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Group on the development of the Young People Council

Primary Capital Strategy

The committee was consulted on the Primary Capital Strategy and considered it important that encouragement is given to Primary Schools to respond to the consultation and asked that a list of Primary Schools in their divisions be circulated to each Member.

York & North Yorkshire Primary Care Trust

Members welcomed representatives of the PCT who briefed them on the PCT's priorities for Children & Young People. The Committee considers that including partnership working within its work program is important and recognises that it is an area of work that will develop further with the advent of LAA2.

5. Call-In of the decision by the Executive Member, Children & Young Peoples Service - Children's Services provision in Eastfield, including Middle Deepdale, Scarborough - 8 May 2008

The Committee was asked to consider a decision taken by the Executive Member in relation to Children's Services provision in Eastfield, including Middle Deepdale. __

Officers and the Executive Member of the Children and Young People's Service explained the background to this complex issue. After which Signatories of the call-in and a member of the public were invited to speak and a well balanced debate ensued.

The outcome of the call-in was that members of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee rejected the request to refer the decision back to the Executive Member for further consideration.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee continues to work towards developing an annual work programme which has the flexibility to include topics and issues as and when they arise.

**County Councillor Heather Garnett,
Chairman Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

12th May 2008