

# NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 February 2009

## YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once 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. **9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 Call-in of decision of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) relating to institution of proceedings for judicial review of the School Adjudicator's determination on admissions to Community Schools in Harrogate.**

The purpose of this Call-In was to consider the decision to institute Judicial Review proceedings in relation to the School Adjudicator's determination of the 29<sup>th</sup> September on admissions to Community Schools in Harrogate.

The Committee heard from several members of the public who detailed their objections to, or support for, the decision of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services).

Members of the Committee discussed in detail the decision to apply for a judicial review and requested clarification on issues raised by officers and members of the public. They decided not to refer the decision back to the decision maker or to Full Council for further consideration.

2. **Joint Scrutiny Review – Transport for Young People (TrYP)**

There are a number of challenges facing North Yorkshire in relation to the 11-19 Strategy but in particular the issue of School to School Transport has been raised as a significant issue.

The Joint Scrutiny Review Group continues to develop a wider understanding of the transport issues for young people in North Yorkshire and to liaise with its paired authority in Derbyshire.

3. **Overview Reports – 23 January 2008**

- 3.1 Every Child Matters Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire (HRBQ) 2008

Members of the Committee were provided with a joint presentation by Officers from the Children & Young Peoples Service who described how the data was collected for the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire 2008; the findings (which are pupil's perceptions) and how the results informed future work.

All schools in North Yorkshire were invited to participate in the HRBQ survey and in total 11,543 pupils in years five, six, eight and ten participated in the survey. (169 Primary, 35 Secondary and 1 Special School).

Members agreed that the survey results made very interesting reading and were keen to ensure that the HRBQ is disseminated to as wide an audience as possible. Committee Members were informed that the 2008 survey results were about to be sent out to School Heads. They suggested that a copy of the 2008 survey results was also sent to the Chairs of Governors with a request in the accompanying letter that the information be made available to parents.

### 3.2 Comprehensive Area Assessment

Members were provided with a useful overview on the Comprehensive Area Assessment. They heard that this is a new approach to assessing the performance of local public services in an area and focuses on how well councils and their partners are delivering better outcomes and improving the quality of life for local people.

## 4. **Corporate Parenting Group**

In February 2008, the Corporate Parenting Group agreed at its last meeting that whilst arrangements for a Children in Care Council were being finalised the Corporate Parenting Group would be held in abeyance.

The refreshed group has been re-formed as a standing working group of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It met for the first time on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, immediately following the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting and members elected Cllr Michelle Andrew as its chairman. Terms of reference were agreed and it was also agreed that an annual report be brought to Full Council.

High on the list of priorities for the group are Safeguarding, Progress, Achievement and Attainment of Looked after Children, Regulation 33 Inspections, Health needs of Looked after Children and links to the Young Peoples Council.

The group also wished to emphasise that all elected members are corporate parents and noted that training for members is now a statutory requirement. It requested that this responsibility be made clear to elected members following the June election and that appropriate training be given as soon as possible.

## 5. **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee proposes to develop and theme its Work Programme for 2009/10 around the Every Child Matters five key outcomes as set out in the Children & Young Peoples Plan. This will enable the committee to monitor progress and achievements whilst ensuring there is involvement and participation by young people.

The Work Programme will continue to have the flexibility to include topics and issues as and when they arise.

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

18<sup>th</sup> February 2009