

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15th December 2010

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1.0 The Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met on two occasions since the last County Council - their scheduled meeting on the 12th November 2010 and an extra meeting on the 8th December the outcome of which will be too late to be included in this statement.

1.1 In the present climate of severe budgetary cuts, the key challenge for councillors is to identify priorities. To do that we rely heavily on officers to make sure we are fully aware of the scope of services, who benefits from them, and how they will be affected by different levels of cuts. What are the options and what are the costs and benefits of each option?

2.0 Committee Meeting – 12th November 2010

2.1 Initial discussions with the Executive members included potential cuts to schools' and non-schools budgets, and the new Academies offer.

2.2 **Children & Young Peoples Service – Savings & Transformation Strategy Project 7 – Home to School and College Transport**

At the previous meeting of the committee, members were provided with an overview of the Children & Young Peoples Service (CYPS) Savings and Transformation Strategy which identified eighteen project areas.

A report on Home to School and College Transport (Project 7 of the Savings & Transformation Strategy) looked at the measures to be addressed and identified a number of options being considered in order to achieve the required savings target of £1.6m by 2013. Officers summarised the options under consideration and described the engagement plan for consultation.

Members' comments centred on proposals under consideration which affected those areas where service provision was discretionary; that careful consideration is given to the proposal to charge SEN pupils (16-19yrs) for home to school transport and asked for reassurance that all Area Committees would be included in the consultation exercise.

2.3 **Review of Provision for Children and Young People aged 5-19 in North Craven**

The report presented to the Committee summarised the lengthy and complex consultation process that had been undertaken on the review of provision for schools in North Craven. Members were also made aware that two petitions had been received objecting to the proposals which would be debated at Craven Area Committee.

The outcome of the consultation was presented to Executive on the 30th November, and at that meeting the Executive agreed to publish proposals and statutory notices to reorganise schools in North Craven.

2.4 Post Inspection Action and Next Steps Improvement Plan

Members of the Committee were provided with an update on the actions taken by the County Council arising from a September 2009 Ofsted inspection of safeguarding arrangements and services for looked after children in North Yorkshire. In presenting her report the Assistant Director Children's Social Care informed the committee that the majority of actions identified in the post inspection action plan had been successfully delivered and had led to significant improvements in working practices. An example of this was the campaign to recruit social workers which had resulted in appointments being made to an additional 22 posts.

2.5 Changes to Performance Management

Many of the general local authority performance arrangements have been dismantled, but until further notice there remains in place a rigorous and elaborate Ofsted performance framework for children's services. Local performance management arrangements are being reviewed, with a particular focus on preventative services.

3.0 Committee Meeting – 8th December 2010

Children and Young Peoples Service - Savings and Transformation Strategy (second briefing).

The purpose of this second briefing is to provide an opportunity for Members of the Committee to receive an update and comment on the Directorates response for increased and accelerated savings following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcements. Any comments from the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be fed into the Budget Workshop planned for the 10th December 2010.

4.0 In-depth Scrutiny Review – Health Visitor & School Nurse Service in North Yorkshire

There have been a number of concerns over health visiting and school nursing capacity across North Yorkshire and recent information suggests that this County has seen the biggest decrease in the number of health visitors in Yorkshire and Humber, with a loss of some 67 specialist practitioner health visitors over a five year period. School Nursing has faced similar reductions.

The aim of this review is to obtain a clear picture of the current Health Visitor and School Nurse service being commissioned and delivered across North Yorkshire; gain a better understanding of what future provision will look like and how equitable that provision will be.

The Task Group held its first meeting with representatives of NHS North Yorkshire & York PCT which was a useful and objective first meeting.

County Councillor Keith Barnes
Chairman
Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

3rd December 2010