

North Yorkshire County Council18th July 2012**Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Statement by the Chairman**

1.0 Since the last meeting of the County Council the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee met for its scheduled meeting on the 15th June 2012. The Mid-Cycle Briefing, using three-way video conferencing, is fixed for the 19th July and agenda items are expected to include Headline Performance Indicators for the Children & Young People's Plan, The North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2011-12, Homelessness and Accommodation Update and discussion regarding the next In-depth Scrutiny Review.

2.0 In-depth Scrutiny Review on Youth Participation

The Task Group has completed its research and consultations with young people and is in the process of drawing up the draft final report which will be shared with the Youth Councils involved before being presented at the next Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting.

3.0 15th June 2012 – Committee Meeting – Items included on the agenda:-

3.1 Executive Member's Update

Executive Member Cllr Tony Hall summarised his activity as the newly appointed Executive and Lead Member for Children and Young People's Service and although on a steep learning curve with the enormity of this new role felt confident that CYPS professionals and partner agencies are all working in the same direction.

Executive Member Cllr Arthur Barker reviewed his first year including dealing with the many changes and the constant consultations coming from Government. And as the Children and Young People's Service is a diverse directorate with many statutory responsibilities he welcomes and values the input from the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Under the Executive Member's update the Corporate Director was asked to explain the "Early Help Offer" available to children, young people and families in the County and the range of complex services on offer and delivered in partnership.

3.2 Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) Savings and Transformation Strategy: Social Care Transformation

The Committee received an interesting presentation from Judith Hay Assistant Director of CYPS which described the developments and actions taken under the Transformation Journey to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The presentation detailed the national and local context for change and explained the proposed new ways of working with children, young people and families, which included improving frontline delivery, embedding evidence-based practice to reduce demand and deliver sustainable positive outcomes. The Assistant Director advised the Members that the Family Intervention Service will be

instrumental in working and supporting families with children on the edge of care, and early indications suggest this is working well.

3.3 Arrangements for Monitoring and Safeguarding Children and Young People in Education

Members were provided with a briefing on the safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in education and early years settings which included an outline of the policy background and the new OFSTED framework for schools issued in January 2012. The Committee were advised that work continues to ensure all arrangements for Child Protection and Safeguarding in maintained schools remain secure and monitored.

3.4 North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012/13

The North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board are required to provide an annual report to reflect on progress over the year, interagency working and serious case reviews. As is the usual practice a briefing was requested by the Committee but due to unforeseen circumstances the briefing did not take place.

Members had received the Executive Summary in their agenda papers but this was not detailed enough to allow for any discussion to take place. It was agreed that the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and group spokesperson would each receive a full copy of the Annual Report so that it could be discussed at the next Mid-Cycle Briefing.

4.0 And finally I visited the Young Offenders Institution in Wetherby with Cllr Tim Swales. This was a salutary reminder that young people's lives can go wrong, and therefore how valuable, and sometimes critical, the County Council's services to young people are. It was also good to meet the skilled and dedicated staff at Wetherby. I can recommend a visit to all Members.

County Councillor Keith Barnes
Chairman -Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
July 2012