

**SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

At a meeting to be held at **2.00 pm** on **Wednesday, 18 March 2015**  
at the Town Hall, Scarborough

**AGENDA**

- 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Pages 1 - 2)  
Members are reminded of the need to consider whether they have a personal or prejudicial interest to declare in any of the items on this agenda. If so, the nature of the interest must be declared at the start or as soon as the interest becomes apparent, of the meeting. In addition, the attached form must be completed and passed to the Committee Administrator. The Officers will be pleased to advise, if necessary, and any request for assistance should be made, in the first instance, to the Committee Administrator whose name appears at the end of this agenda. Ideally, such advice should be sought before the day of the meeting so that time is available to consider any uncertainty that might arise.
- 2. MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 6)  
To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2015. (Minutes attached).
- 3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
Public questions of which due notice has been given and which are relevant to the business of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 4. REVIEW OF COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS** (Pages 7 - 16)  
To consider the final report of the Task Group (Reference SCR/15/01 attached)
- 5. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15** (Pages 17 - 18)  
To consider a report by the Director of Democratic and Legal Services (Reference 15/75 attached)

***(N.B. If you have any questions, need further information about the meeting or require special facilities in order to attend, please contact St John Harris,***

**Democratic Services Manager, Town Hall, St. Nicholas Street, Scarborough –  
01723 383556 Fax 0870 238 4159 or e-mail [stjohn.harris@scarborough.gov.uk](mailto:stjohn.harris@scarborough.gov.uk).)**

**MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Name:	
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Meeting:	
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Date:	
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Agenda No & Item	
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Nature of Interest:	
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*If you are uncertain whether you have an interest, please seek officer advice before the meeting.*

- Is the interest:
- personal and non-prejudicial?
  - personal and prejudicial?
  - pecuniary interest?

(Please put an X against the appropriate interest and email to the Clerk for the meeting)

## NOTES

## **SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

At a meeting held on Wednesday, 21st January, 2015

Present:-

Councillor Ms T Davy (Chairman) in the Chair;  
Councillors J S Blackburn, G A Backhouse, D L Billing (as a substitute for J Ritchie),  
E Broadbent, Mrs H F Mallory, Mrs J E Mortimer and M H Ward

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chair reported that no public questions had been received.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES CRIME PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA 2014/15**

The committee considered the latest crime performance data for the Borough for the period 2014/15 to date. The Scarborough and Ryedale Commander, Superintendent Glyn Payne introduced the data noting the overall increase in crime of 8.6% since 2013/14. However, Mr Payne was of the view that the rise reflected in part the Police's approach in effectively 'creating' crime then to reduce it; in tackling the long term underlying causes of crime, rather than simply the offences themselves which were the symptoms. He gave as an example the Police's proactive and covert activity in targeting local drug dealers which led the Police to gangs based in Manchester, Leeds and other cities. Both apprehending drug dealers and cutting off the supply of drugs increased crime statistics, although happily some drug users were now seeking treatment for their habit. Mr Payne attributed the steep rise in sexual offences to historic crimes which were now being reported, but also to the Police's proactive approach in tackling child sex exploitation. In respect of burglaries, a problem for the Police was offenders serving shorter prison sentences during which their problem with addiction was not addressed, and then leaving prison and reoffending. This phenomenon reinforced the argument for the Police dedicating resources to arresting drug dealers. Mr Payne commended the Borough Council's investment in Automatic Number Plate Recognition which enabled the Police to track offenders both leaving and entering the Borough. As an example, Police had used the ANPR equipment to arrest a burglar in Durham. ANPR could also be used predictively by the Police to deploy resources in the right place at the right time. Mr Payne also acknowledged the multi-agency work in respect of crime

and the night time economy which was now starting to show results. Members then questioned Mr Payne about the report. In response, Mr Payne resisted the argument that attributed the rise in acquisitive crime to austerity, referring rather to the cuts in the criminal justice system and shorter prison sentences as mentioned above. Increases in burglary were in large part due to reoffending, as opposed to new people turning to burglary. He recognised the scale of the challenge facing the Police (and all public sector organisations) as austerity continued to bite. The Police had to work smarter and better with other agencies, to understand better the demand so to reduce it, and to invest more in technology to try and meet this challenge. He cited the new street triage system and the new place of safety for people with mental health problems as examples of better dealing with, and so reducing demand. He underlined the importance of the multi-agency approach enshrined in the New Psychoactive Substances Strategy, since although the substances were technically legal (chemical compounds could be altered so as to evade the temporary ban list), their effects were often lethal. Moves were underway to amend the legislation which placed more onus on the supplier. Safety Camera Vans had proved to be effective in reducing the number of fatalities and injuries as a consequence of speeding motorists. The vans were deployed on the basis of road accident statistics, often on the approach to accident blackspots. The key here was education and the sanction of driver improvement schemes for offenders. Revenue from speeding fines was well used towards further improving safety. The Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager, Ms Sandra Rees then commented on the extensive work being done to make safer the night time economy. There had been a shift in emphasis away from the Police presenting at Community and Police Group meetings on this issue and from physical police presence on the streets at night time, since the Police was only one of several agencies involved in a coordinated approach. Mr Payne referred to the continuing problem of young people 'pre-loading' before going out for the night. It was very difficult to prove that bar staff had sold alcohol to a person who was already inebriated, but work had been done with door supervisors (e.g. using breathalysers), and with mystery shoppers. If problems persisted, then the premises' licence could be reviewed. The Chair thanked Mr Payne and Ms Rees for attending to present the report and answer Members' questions.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**5. NORTH YORKSHIRE COAST COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW 2013/14**

The committee considered the annual report of the North Yorkshire Community Partnership which consisted of a family of partnerships which assisted the Council with the delivery of key services through shared service arrangements and service redesign in a number of areas including community safety, reducing harm from substance misuse and alcohol, and financial inclusion. In reply to questions, the Partnerships and Sustainable Communities Manager acknowledged that the Community Partnership's website was in need of an overhaul which was in progress, and during the past year the partnership had improved its social media presence.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**6. HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REVIEW 2013/14**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Service Delivery (Reference 15/39) which reviewed the activities and achievements of the White Rose Home Improvement Agency during 2013/14. The report included details of the agency's three main areas of work – disabled facilities grants, handyperson services, and the Well Being service – and of its operating costs and budget. Members then discussed the report and asked questions. They welcomed a very positive report but queried the Borough Council's financial contribution to the budget compared to that of Ryedale District Council, and why there was no measure of service user satisfaction in the report. Members were advised that some inflationary increases were evident in the budget, and it was inevitable that there would be some adjustments to the budget after the first year of providing these new services in partnership with another council; however, from an officers' point of view the split with Ryedale District was felt to be about right. Overall, the Borough Council's financial contribution was decreasing because of income from other sources, whilst Ryedale District Council's financial contribution was rising. Officers apologised for neglecting to include performance data on customer satisfaction and delivery targets which would be circulated separately to the committee. In respect of the preference to locate ramps to the rear of properties so to reduce the risk of crime, the HIA Manager undertook to raise this matter with the County Council Occupational Therapy Team which made recommendations in this regard. Members highlighted the HIA's considerable success in embracing new technology and procurement expertise to deliver services quickly and efficiently within budget.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND EMPTY HOMES PROGRESS REPORT**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Service Delivery (Reference 15/36) which outlined progress in the delivery of affordable housing in the Borough and in bringing empty homes back into use. Members were advised that 270 affordable housing completions were projected for 2014/15, the highest figure in the Borough for decades. This success was set to be sustained for the foreseeable future, reflecting the Council's robust and proactive approach: the strong relationships with the Homes and Communities Agency and a range of registered providers; the Land Group which identified Council owned land for affordable housing development; and continued support for the Rural Housing Enabler programme. There had been less success in reducing the number of empty homes which constituted just over 1% of the housing stock in the Borough. This was for various reasons, principally the limited availability of funding for Registered Social Landlords to bring empty homes back into use, and the length of time to undertake enforcement action which along with other approaches could be very resource hungry. Unfortunately, the National Empty Homes Loan Fund programme had also folded. However, officers' work with the Council Tax section had proved fruitful in identifying 'empty' properties which were now

occupied, and the Empty Homes Strategy would be refreshed in the coming year, to build on this closer working with the Council Tax and Finance teams in the authority. Members then discussed the report and asked questions about the impact of introducing the Community Infrastructure Levy on the viability of affordable housing in new developments; the definition of affordable housing; and could the Council do more to encourage the development of flats above shops? In response, Members were advised that the impact of CIL was difficult to quantify (this was more a matter for planning officers); affordable housing could also include accommodation targeted at specific vulnerable groups such as extra care facilities and women's refuges; and the Empty Homes Strategy focused on existing accommodation rather than creating new properties; however, previously the Council had used discretionary grants to incentivise owners to develop flats above shops, but these monies were no longer available.


**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Democratic and Legal Services (Reference 15/11) in relation to the committee's work programme for the current year. The Chair noted the paucity of items for the next scheduled meeting of the committee on 18 March and so encouraged Members to suggest potential items to the Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**Chairman**

	<b>REPORT TO THE SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 18 MARCH 2015</b>	
	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Council support for care leavers</b>
<b>Corporate Aims</b> <b>Safe and Healthy Inclusive and Vibrant</b>	<b>Task Group (if applicable)</b>  <b>Cabinet Portfolio Holders</b>	<b>Council support for care leavers</b>  <b>Councillors W Chatt and M Donohue-Moncrieff</b>

## REVIEW OF COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS - FINAL REPORT

**SCR/15/01**

**WARDS AFFECTED: All**

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**REASON REPORT REQUESTED:** This report originates in a proposal by Cllr John Ritchie that scrutiny undertakes an investigation into how the Council can improve its support for Looked After Children (LAC), in particular young people leaving care. Howard Smith MBE, North Yorkshire County Council's Leaving Care Manager presented to this committee in January 2014 in respect of the County Council's draft Looked After Children Strategy 2013-15 (which became North Yorkshire's Children and Young People Looked After Strategy 2014-16) and the following May, the committee agreed the scope for a scrutiny review and invited councillors to form a Task Group. This report is the result of the investigation.

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To present the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee with the findings and recommendations of this review.

**STATUS OF REPORT:** This report is the work of the Member Task Group, on behalf of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee, and where opinions are expressed it should be pointed out that they are not necessarily those of Scarborough Borough Council. While we have sought to draw on this review to make recommendations and suggestions that are helpful to the Council and its partners, our work has been designed solely for the purpose of discharging our terms of reference. Accordingly, our work cannot be relied upon to identify every area of strength, weakness or opportunity for improvement.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** The Task Group wishes to extend its thanks in particular to Howard Smith MBE who provided most of the information for this review, but also to his colleague in the Leaving Care Team, Jane Tait, and care leaver, Sasha Bleech who contributed valuable detail towards the end of our investigation.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Task Group responsible for this review comprises Cllr John Ritchie (Chair), Cllr David Jeffels and Cllr Amanda Robinson with officer support from Simon Featherstone, Employment and Skills Manager, Andrew Rowe, Housing Manager and St John Harris, Democratic Services Manager. Together we agreed the following scope for our work:

### **Objective of the review**

To identify opportunities for SBC (and partners) to improve the level of support provided to Looked After Children in their transition to adulthood in relation to (i) their housing/accommodation needs, and (ii) their employment, education, training and skills development

### **Outcome of the review**

- More care leavers entering full time employment, vocational training, apprenticeship schemes and further education
- Better support for local care leavers in identifying and finding suitable accommodation

### **Questions to be addressed**

#### **General**

- What support do young people leaving care receive to access housing, tenancy support, access to benefits, employment, further and higher education and training?
- What do former looked after children and young people themselves say about their experience of leaving care and the support that is and was provided?

#### **Housing**

- Does the current housing/accommodation support match the needs of LAC?
- If not, what more can SBC (with partners) do to improve the situation?

#### **Education, training and employment**

- What more can SBC (with partners) do to create work and training opportunities for care leavers and ensure more care leavers take up these opportunities?
- What more can SBC (with partners) do to offer support for LAC who choose to enter further education?

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 North Yorkshire County Council fulfils the corporate parenting role for children in care, but is committed with partners, including district councils as the local housing authorities, to implementing an outcome-based strategy to ensure that LAC access the same opportunities and enjoy the same outcomes as their non LAC peers. To be defined as a care leaver and acquire entitlements to services, a child must be looked after beyond the age of 16 years. The County Council is responsible for providing services to care leavers at least up until the age of 21 years and, if the care leaver is in education, training or employment, that support continues until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 2.2 Although a very diverse group of people with a range of abilities and needs, care leavers can experience great challenges and difficulties in an often accelerated transition to adulthood and independent living. Nationally, the average age for a care leaver to move out of their foster/care home is 16/17, compared to an average of 22 for their peers. This can be a high risk period for a potentially high risk group, which is one reason why the County Council had done so much to enable LAC to remain with their foster carers for longer through the nationally recognised Staying Put scheme. For example, this scheme has been a significant factor in increasing the number of care leavers entering higher education. The County Council is currently supporting 30 care leavers over the age of 21, of whom a significant proportion are at university. A local authority retains responsibility for its care leavers regardless of where they might live. As of 1 January 2015, the County Council was supporting 68 care leavers from the Borough, although a number were attending university outside the Borough.
- 2.3 As the local housing authority and with our expanding work in regeneration and skills, the Borough Council also has a part to play in the achievement of Priority Outcome 6, 'Improve the transition to adulthood for young people and disabled young people leaving care.' This review set out to identify how the Borough Council can improve its contribution in these two areas of helping care leavers to access suitable accommodation and education, employment, and training.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The principal reference document for this review is the draft North Yorkshire Looked After Children Strategy 2013-15, later revised into North Yorkshire's Children and Young People Looked After Strategy 2014-16 which contains a number of priority outcomes and delivery actions. As stated, the priority outcome which concerns us is 'Improve the transition to adulthood for young people and disabled young people leaving care' together with two of its actions: 'Ensuring that all young people leaving care have access to safe, secure and appropriate accommodation' and 'Working with education, training or employment providers to increase the number of care leavers accessing and fully engaging with appropriate further or higher education, training or employment opportunities.' Our approach was to write to the County Council's Leaving Care Manager, Howard Smith with a series of questions to

ascertain the support young people leaving care receive to access housing, tenancy support, benefits/other financial support, employment, further and higher education and training, with reference to the priority outcome and two delivery actions above. From this initial picture, we wished to drill down to numbers and cases in Scarborough Borough, and then to explore with Mr Smith, his colleague, Personal Adviser, Jane Tait, and care leaver, Sasha Bleech in an informal meeting some of the principal issues and challenges, and potential ways the Borough Council could improve matters.

## **4. FINDINGS AND ASSESSMENT**

### **Ensuring that all young people leaving care have access to safe, secure and appropriate accommodation**

- 4.1 In addition to the delivery action, the County Council's performance as a corporate parent is judged on the percentage of its care leavers living in suitable accommodation. In the Borough, only two of its 68 care leavers were classed as living in unsuitable accommodation: one in custody and one in Bed and Breakfast. The majority of care leavers were living independently (42), six were on the Staying Put scheme, and five were in supported lodgings (predominantly through the Young Persons' Pathway). The YPP provides homelessness prevention options as well as accommodation and support to homeless young people, the majority of whom (16 and 17 year olds) would end up in care if the service were not offered. An independent review of the Pathway in November 2013 highlighted capacity issues within the hub, especially the need for units for young people with high/complex needs, some of whom may be care leavers. Mr Smith commended the Pathway in Scarborough, but suggested that the provision of more units of supported lodgings to meet the needs of more challenging care leavers would help further improve the service. This matter was recognised by the Cabinet when it reviewed the Borough Council's Homelessness Strategy and associated Action Plan in May 2014, and resolved to 'give strategic support for the development of additional supported accommodation for homeless young people', and 'instruct officers to work with partners to explore opportunities to develop additional accommodation for homeless young people'.
- 4.2 The development of any additional supported accommodation for young people does however have both revenue and capital funding implications. Revenue to pay for housing support is currently paid for within the Pathway through the North Yorkshire Supporting People Partnership. Like all areas of public sector funding, Supporting People is facing significant savings pressures and no additional or new money is likely to be forthcoming to develop additional units of accommodation. This means that the existing pathway would need to be reconfigured. e.g in order to develop additional High Needs units of accommodation then the number of units overall would most probably need to be reduced.
- 4.3 In addition the actual physical development of new accommodation would require a mix of funding from a variety of sources, including Housing Association borrowing against projected rental income and Homes and

Communities Agency grant funding. Given the nature of the kind of scheme that would be required (e.g. an accommodation based scheme with additional shared/communal facilities) then it is likely that Housing Association borrowing and HCA grant would be insufficient to pay for this, thus requiring additional grant funding from the Council and/or the County Council.

- 4.4 Given the County Council's responsibilities to young people and in particular given their legal responsibility to accommodate homeless 16/17 year old children under s20 of the Children's Act it would seem reasonable to expect a match funding contribution from the County Council toward the development of such a scheme. Indeed there is a precedent for this investment, the County Council having previously supported the development of a scheme for young people in Harrogate through the provision of a site at a discounted/ subsidised value.
- 4.5 Despite the recognised need for additional supported accommodation (a need recognised and accepted by all parties) there remains however a degree of uncertainty as to whether any growth within the pathway is a priority for the County Council or whether capital grant funding would be forthcoming.
- 4.6 To take this forward and in order to avoid the possibility of waste or aborted work for a Housing Association partner (and the risk of additional cost for the Borough Council) it is therefore recommended that the Borough Council seeks some formal assurance from North Yorkshire County Council that the development of an additional scheme for young people in Scarborough remains a priority for them and to commit 'in principle' to earmark capital funding if needed to support the development.
- 4.7 Nationally, North Yorkshire County Council services to care leavers are highly regarded. The Office for Children in Scotland invited the County Council to speak about how Staying Put had been implemented, and more recently the Department for Education made a similar invitation to the County Council to speak at the launch of the Staying Put Good Practice Guidance. Mr Smith attributes much of the service's success to the support work of his staff: 'individually constructed, holistic and persistently provided'. He continues: 'advisers develop enduring and meaningful relationships with care leavers and it is through that relationship that change occurs'. Our meeting with Personal Adviser, Jane Tait, and care leaver, Sasha Bleech was testament to the strength of this relationship which Ms Tait described as a 'substitute parent and grandparent'. This meeting also served to give an individual focus and meaning to a necessarily general strategy document and performance statistics. Ms Bleech valued the continuity of support she had received from the Leaving Care service through some challenging times in the six years since she had left care, in particular in accessing acceptable accommodation in the private rented sector. Although only one story, this example illustrates the importance of the Borough Council's objective through a variety of powers and tools, including licensing of Houses in Multiple Accommodation and enforcement, to drive up standards in this sector. What also became apparent was the scope to improve the working relationship between the Leaving Care Team and the services the Council can provide to assist the

care leaver in securing and remaining in decent rented accommodation, for example, through the inspection and enforcement work of Environmental Health Officers, and the advice of the Housing Benefits Team in respect of claiming Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payments.

- 4.8 A further issue raised by Mr Smith in respect of the Borough Council's role as the local housing authority were problems a very small minority of care leavers in the Staying Put scheme living with former foster carers had encountered in receiving housing benefit from this authority on the grounds the tenancy was contrived. The young person is eligible for Housing Benefit if they have a liability to pay rent that is both enforceable and is established on a commercial basis. In accordance with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) guidance the Housing Benefit Department will make a judgement on the facts, including being satisfied that the arrangement is not 'contrived' and does not include any unenforceable terms. Staying Put Guidance issued by the DWP, Department for Education and HMRC in May 2013 states that 'To ensure positive partnership working Children's Services staff and Housing Benefits staff should set up liaison arrangements to develop an understanding of their respective frameworks and to formalise joint working arrangements.' These disputes although very small in number, highlight we believe the need for a meeting between Housing Benefits and the Leaving Care Manager 'to develop an understanding of their respective frameworks and to formalise joint working arrangements', as recommended.

**Working with education, training or employment providers to increase the number of care leavers accessing and fully engaging with appropriate further or higher education, training or employment opportunities**

- 4.9 North Yorkshire County Council again perform very well in relation to the indicator of the percentage of care leavers participating in education, training or employment, and again the personal adviser/care leaver relationship is key. During 2013-14, the County Council managed to assist a little over 68% of its care leavers into education, training or employment, which placed it as the joint third highest performing local authority in the country. Discounting parenthood, illness, disability and being in custody, the percentage of care leavers who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) reduces to 12.7% (16 individuals) which is a lower percentage than the non-care NEET population. Locally, the percentage of care leavers in the Borough engaged in education, training or employment is even higher than the County average at 69%.
- 4.10 But as with housing issues, there a number of ways in which the Borough Council through Scarborough Job Match and the Yorkshire Coast Business Gateway can provide a direct link to the Leaving Care Team, to enable personal advisers to raise LAC's children's awareness of the opportunities available to access education, training, employment and business advice and thus to signpost LAC and care leavers in the right direction. Greater use of the internet and social media by both the Borough Council and the Leaving Care Team were also suggested as ways of improving communication with LAC and care leavers. Regeneration Services have also established a new

multi-agency Work and Skills Group which it would be appropriate for the Leaving Care Team to attend either as a regular attendee or to attend periodically to advocate the needs of LAC and to raise their own awareness of what support is available locally.

## General

- 4.11 Mr Smith has emphasised throughout our communications with him that care leavers are not an homogeneous group. He adds: 'some will make a successful transition to adult life with the need for a modest level of support from the local authority, whilst others will struggle to participate, both socially and economically, for the duration of their lives. For the group that struggle, their pre-care experiences will often have been so poor and abusive that care has not been able to adequately compensate for them. Children who have been adopted and then subsequently come into care in their teenage years have, in my experience, been the group that is most vulnerable to poor long term outcomes. For the group that makes a relatively successful transition into adulthood, they, as looked after children, will have often experienced a single placement within a family setting, which may extend beyond adulthood as a staying put arrangement, and they will have enjoyed achieving in education. The group that struggles will have experienced the opposite...'
- 4.12 In the two areas of housing and education/employment support which are the principal focus of this review, the County Council performs excellently, but in two-tier local government, there seems always the potential for the two councils to work more closely together to improve their awareness of each other's services for the benefit of the user/client. Support for care leavers is no exception. Further, our discussion with Jane Tait and Sasha Bleech highlighted that there is a role for the ward councillor to act as a community representative and contact to put the care leaver / personal adviser in touch with the appropriate council service and push for action. We believe that personal advisers in the Leaving Care Team would benefit from enhanced joint working with Environmental Health, Housing Benefits, Housing Options, and Regeneration Services to improve further the already excellent service they provide and suggest a liaison meeting is arranged to promote and cement this closer working relationship.
- 4.13 Mr Smith's comments above however also underline the importance of local authority support much further upstream in the form of stable and secure foster placements for LAC, and although it is strictly outside the parameters of this review, we call on the Borough Council to lend support and publicity to the County Council's campaign to recruit foster carers within the Borough. Lastly, as a service provider, the Borough Council can reduce the cost to care leavers of accessing Council leisure services by adding them to the list of groups eligible for concessionary rates through the Residents Leisure Card scheme.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The committee is asked to support the following recommendations to the Cabinet.
- 5.2 That the Cabinet endorse that:
- (i) a liaison meeting be arranged involving the County Council Leaving Care Team, the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Housing, the Chair of the Task Group, Scarborough Borough Council officers in Environmental Health, Benefits, Housing Options, and Regeneration Services to familiarise the Leaving Care Team with the services and advice these Council teams can offer Personal Advisers, and, in turn, the care leavers themselves in both accessing suitable accommodation (with financial support as appropriate) and education, training and employment opportunities;
  - (ii) Housing Benefits and Leaving Care meet to resolve the highlighted issue around Staying Put and eligibility for Housing Benefit, and so improve understanding of their respective frameworks and formalise joint working arrangements;
  - (iii) the results of this liaison meeting including evidence of a closer working relationship between the County Council Leaving Care Team and Borough Council services be reported back to the scrutiny committee;
  - (iv) the Borough Council provide support, through publicity and other means, to the County Council's campaign to recruit more foster carers in the Borough;
  - (v) the Council add care leavers living in the Borough to the list of groups eligible for concessionary rates for using Council leisure services through the Residents Card Scheme; and
  - (vi) the Council seeks formal commitment from North Yorkshire County Council with regard to the funding contribution toward the development of additional supported housing units for young people in the Borough.

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

- 6.1 No implications.

### **Legal**

- 6.2 No implications.

### **Financial Implications**

- 6.3 The Borough Council has already made an allocation toward the development of the additional supported housing units referred to in 4.2ff, and is seeking formal commitment from the County Council that it will match fund this high priority scheme.

**Sustainability Impact Appraisal, Equalities and Diversity, Staffing Implications, Planning Implications, Crime and Disorder Implications, Health and Safety implications, Environmental implications**

- 6.4 I have considered whether any of the above implications arise from this report and am satisfied that there is no identified implication that will arise from these recommendations.



**Councillor John Ritchie  
Chair of the Scrutiny Task Group**

**Background papers: None**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT  
ST JOHN HARRIS, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER ON 01723 383556  
e-mail [stjohn.harris@scarborough.gov.uk](mailto:stjohn.harris@scarborough.gov.uk)

## NOTES

## SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18 MARCH 2015

### WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

Date of Cttee	Agenda items
22 October 2014	<b>Consultation</b>
	Financial Inclusion Plan refresh (DCE)
	<b>Monitoring</b>
	HMIC interim report on crime data integrity 2014 – NY PCC and Police response
	Equalities and Diversity annual report 2013/14 (DDLDS)
	<b>Reviews and call-ins</b>
	Council support for care leavers – progress report
21 January 2015	<b>Consultation</b>
	-
	<b>Monitoring</b>
	Safer Communities Crime Performance Management data (Safer Communities Team/North Yorks Police)
	North Yorkshire Coast Community Partnership annual report 2013/14 (including safer communities) (DCE)
	Home Improvement Agency annual report 2013/14 (DSD)
	Affordable Housing and Empty Homes progress report (DSD)
<b>Reviews and call-ins</b>	
	-
18 March 2015	<b>Consultation</b>
	-
	<b>Monitoring</b>
	-
	<b>Reviews and call-ins</b>
	Council support for care leavers – final report
Items carried forward to 15/16	<b>Consultation</b>
	Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2015/16 and review of performance in 2014/15 (DCE)
	Homelessness Strategy revisions and Changing Lives project update (DSD)
	<b>Monitoring</b>
	North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel – update (NYCC)
	CCTV & Coastcall annual report (DSD)

## NOTES