

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2007 at County Hall, Northallerton.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor Heather Garnett in the Chair.

County Councillors:- Michelle Andrew, Andrew Backhouse, Elizabeth Casling, Tony Hall, David Heather, Michael Heseltine, Christopher Pearson, Caroline Seymour, Jim Snowball and Melva Steckles.

Members other than County Councillors:- Michael Barrie (Parent Governors) Gill Gentle (Voluntary Sector – as Substitute for Maggie Allen).

In attendance

Executive Member County Councillor Caroline Patmore.

Officers:- John Bell, Stephanie Bratcher, Dave Griffin, Bernadette Jones, Steve Loach and Andrew Terry.

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Herbert Tindall and Brian Simpson, Helen Suckling (Parent Governor), Rosemary Readman (Secondary Teacher Representative), Anne Swift (Primary Teacher Representative) and Maggie Allen (Voluntary Sector Representative).

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

122. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 July 2007, having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

123. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS

The Committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting.

124. SEN REVIEW

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service, requesting Members to consider progress in taking forward the Phase One Implementation Plan for delivering the agreed outcomes of the review of provision for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD). The agreed pattern of provision for SEN and BESD in North Yorkshire was agreed by the Council in December 2006 and was outlined in Appendix 1 to the

report. The agreed timescale for the delivery of the strategy was outlined in Appendix 2 to the report. The Implementation Plan was highlighted at Appendix 3 to the report.

The main purpose of the report was to give details of the progress of the implementation of Phase One of the strategy.

The key elements were outlined as follows:-

New Specialist Mainstream Provisions

Four types of new mainstream specialist provision had been reviewed with the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of the school's concerned. There had been a high degree of "Sign Up" from the schools concerned and strategic services were currently identifying potential costs to inform the Capital Programme of the phasing of work.

Networks

Training and development plans for teaching staff were being prepared, to outline the required qualifications and expertise. Network Co-ordinators were due to be appointed shortly which would be crucial to the leadership of the networks.

BESD School and PRUS/Behaviour Partnerships

Potential sites being investigated for possible use as BESD skills included Netherside Hall School and another site on the west of the County. Determination of the sites that would be used would be undertaken in the near future.

Potential sites for PRUS had been identified in the Selby, Craven and Hambleton/Richmond areas with site assessments currently underway.

Details of the next behaviour partnership to be developed, in the Harrogate area, were outlined, with a single management and delivery structure to be developed for the Pupil Referral Unit and REOTAS provision in that area. It was expected that the facility would be in place by September 2008 and meetings with officers and representatives of headteachers would continue to plan this development.

Special Schools – Interim Issues

Work had been undertaken with three "pairs" of Special Schools on post 16 issues, including some joint provision. Funding for 2007/08 had been secured from the Learning Skills Council to develop a learner centred partnership approach to learning and training opportunities for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in the coastal area. Work was continuing with Special Schools and mainstream schools to improve arrangements for post 16 young people.

Communication

It was emphasised that it was difficult to communicate developments until they came on stream. Dialogue with the service providers and their professional associations would be on going as implementation progressed and it would be ensured that full publicity was given to the delivery of the strategy.

A meeting was held with Support Service staff in July 2007 to outline how their service would be affected by the changes. Every effort would be undertaken to ensure that staff were fully appraised of the developments in the service.

Strategic Alignment

Alignment with other aspects of the service delivery of the Directorate, for example developments in early years provision and extended services were co-ordinated through a whole directorate approach to the delivery of major strategies, including this one.

Timescales and Priorities

It has become apparent, during the development of Phase One, that further time would be required to deliver this. As a result, the implementation plan would be re-drafted, with a revised timescale for completion being September 2010. Within that period delivery would be prioritised so that the Primary Learning Support Unit and Enhanced Secondary Schools for Specific Learning Difficulties and PRUS would be achieved first and within the original timescale. The extension to the implementation would allow issues to be resolved in respect of capital guidelines for school buildings from the DCSF.

Statutory notice for some of the new specialist mainstream provisions would be published in December 2007 and others would follow as the sites were confirmed.

Further Consultation

The new issues emerging from the original consultation relating to the BESD school, Netherside Hall School site and associated PRU would require further consultation, which was being arranged for November 2007, once the options had been determined.

Funding

The capital and revenue funding impacts of the strategy were outlined in the report.

Following the initial report a number of issues and points were outlined as follows:-

A Member asked whether the transitional period was having an affect on the children involved, while the work was going on, and whether statements were still being issued?

In response Members were reassured that there was no disruption for children with Special Educational Needs with an efficient service still being provided for them. Great care was being taken to ensure that children were not affected during the transitional period. In terms of statements, it was noted there were approximately 120 new statements issued per year and this had been maintained, this year, with no change to the practice that was undertaken in relation to these from before. It was emphasised that the actions emanating from statements were better than ever, with challenges put out to schools to ensure that they pick up on potential issues for young people. It was emphasised that there was no detriment to this through the work that was being undertaken to implement the new strategy and, in some cases, the service was better than before, particularly because the service is now being delivered through mainstream schools, which are at the heart of the local community.

A Member enquired as to the identity of the sites for the Pupil Referral Units. He considered that it was easy to identify a number of sites in the Craven and Hambleton/Richmondshire areas but was unsure as to where a unit could be placed in the Selby area.

In response it was stated that it was likely that a new build would have to be undertaken in the Selby area and some potential sites had been identified for this

purpose. In terms of the new build, the County Council operated under a three year capital programme for schools buildings which was currently coming to an end. Until the subsequent capital programme had been allocated by the Government, for the next three years, spending could not be undertaken on new projects. It was expected that an announcement on the three year capital programme would be made at the end of October 2007 and that this would then be processed through the usual County Council reporting system.

It was stated that the County Councillor would be informed of the sites identified for the Selby area outside of the meeting.

In further discussion on this issue it was noted that a site had been identified for the Hambleton/Richmondshire PRU, which would not require a new build and was to be located in a facility currently owned by the County Council.

A Member asked whether consideration had been given to fitting sprinklers to new builds or when buildings were refurbished?

In response it was stated that all buildings and refurbishment would comply with the appropriate building regulations. It was noted that there was still some concern regarding the fitting of sprinklers to buildings, as these could be set off accidentally. In response, the Member who raised the issue stated that it was very rare that these were set off involuntarily, as new mechanisms ensured that this did not happen.

The issue of the transfer for young people with Special Educational Needs into the adult care system was raised by a Member and he asked how the two providers co-ordinated the service and whether there was an issue in respect of young people not transferring from one provider to the other? In response it was stated that there was a national problem with this transition phase, which was currently being addressed. It was emphasised that all efforts were being made within the County Council to better align adult and children's social care to try and eliminate this problem and it was noted that the Assistant Director for Social Care was leading on this matter. The Member noted that the issue was within the Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but requested that this be brought forward for consideration at an earlier date.

A request was made for an additional column to be placed in the Action Plan to give details of when actions had been completed and it was stated that this would be provided in future reports.

It be noted that, during recent visits to a number of Care Homes, problems with assisted provision had been identified. In response it was noted that Adult Services and Children's Services were working closely to address this issue, particularly in respect of the effect it was having on young people and it was stated that the matter would be discussed at the forthcoming Mid-Cycle Briefing of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Member welcomed the initiative that was being taken on Special Educational Needs, particularly the work that was being undertaken between mainstream schools and special schools. She raised concerns, however, that the proposals were for a Pupil Referral Unit to cover both Hambleton and Richmondshire, although she was under the impression that Richmondshire was to have its own unit. She highlighted the number of rural communities in the Richmondshire area and one significant pocket of Special Educational Needs requirements. She expressed her surprise that there would be no stand alone PRU for the Richmondshire area and that she had not been informed of the decision to combine the two areas, in her capacity as local Member. She asked how Richmondshire pupils were to be catered for? In response to the issues raised, it was acknowledged that the Pupil Referral Unit would be

combined for both Hambleton and Richmondshire as this aligned with the plans for the Behaviour Collaborative. It was emphasised, however, that Pupil Referral Units were not stand alone facilities and appropriate measures would be introduced to assist young people in those areas. It was also emphasised that appropriate additional services, with easy access from the Pupil Referral Unit were required, to assist in the re-integration service for the young people involved.

The Member was re-assured that should a need be established for a stand alone facility for the Richmondshire area, particularly in view of the proposals for considerably increasing the size of Catterick Garrison, then further consideration would be given to SEN issues in that area.

RESOLVED –

That the progress in taking forward work on the implementation of the pattern of provision for SEN and BESD, together with the Committee's comments, be noted.

125. TRUST SCHOOLS

CONSIDERED –

An oral report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service outlining the characteristics of Trust Schools. A document outlining the various different characteristics of the different categories of school in England was circulated to assist the report.

It was explained that Trust Schools are Foundation Schools with a Trust attached to them. They are maintained schools, by the Local Authority, in the same way as other schools, with similar funding. The principal differences relate to the composition of the Governing Body, whereby representatives of the Trust can serve on that and in relation to the admissions policy whereby this can be set by the Governing Body, but this must comply with DCSF Regulations and School Admissions Code. The roles are similar to that of Voluntary Aided Schools.

The site and buildings would also be owned by the Trust, but the Local Authority could protect some of the assets contained within the school, should that eventually be disposed of. Overall, there were few differences with how a Trust School was operated in relation to other schools in North Yorkshire. It was emphasised that there was no financial advantage to becoming a Trust School.

The main advantage to Trust status was that the Government would prioritise improvements to the school, where it was experiencing difficulties with national standards, and would bring in expertise from outside to assist the situation.

Currently there were only two schools interested in developing Trust status, in North Yorkshire, John Pindar Community College, Scarborough and South Craven School.

In terms of South Craven School this would be to address long standing issues in respect of Selection/Admissions, in line with other schools in that area.

In terms of the John Pindar Community College, Scarborough this was being sought to strengthen the governance of the school, with a view to this becoming a sports based college. It was noted that a great deal of interest had been generated in the move for Trust status, in the local press in Scarborough. The college had been linked to developments between itself and Sheffield United Football Club and would like to have control of its own land and buildings to undertake proposed developments in that area. It was noted that some of these developments were somewhat contentious and further detailed discussions would be required in relation

to those, particularly in respect of possible developments on green belt land. Issues relating to the possible development of Scarborough Football Club's ground were also outlined.

A Member referred to the problems with admissions in the Craven Area, he stated that Ermysted's School and Skipton Girls High School were operating their own admissions policy, in an attempt to attract the highest attaining students to their schools, which was to the detriment of schools in the surrounding areas. The leaking of pupils to the schools was affecting the achievement levels of schools in neighbouring locations such as Settle, Ingleton, etc.

In response it was stated that the Local Authority worked closely with Ermysted's and Skipton Girls High School on their admissions policies, but the effects of falling rolls generally were starting to have some repercussions for schools, in the way described by the Member, and this was being felt throughout the County. It was acknowledged that there was a particular problem in relation to this matter in the Craven Area.

A Member raised concerns that, should a school achieve Trust status and, subsequently, expand the age range for children attending the school, should the Trust not work, this would cause major problems should the school wish to return to the control of the Local Education Authority. He wondered where the liability would be, should a Trust/Foundation School fail?

In response to this matter it was noted that Foundation/Trust Schools could publish their own notices and, could change the age range, admissions numbers, etc, but would have to consult with the Local Education Authority in relation to the changes. However, the Governing Body of a Foundation/Trust School did not have to act on the comments of the Local Education Authority, so, therefore, the changes could take place, despite objections. The Local Education Authority could then appeal to adjudication if they disagreed with the changes being made at the school. In terms of the liability, should a school in Trust status fail it was suggested that this would have to be checked with the DCSF for an answer to be provided to the Committee.

RESOLVED –

That the report on Trust Schools be noted, together with comments made by Members.

126. TRUANCY PATROLS IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young Peoples Service outlining the Local Authority's involvement in truancy sweeps (known as truancy patrols in North Yorkshire) as requested at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 July 2007.

North Yorkshire's Attendance Strategy Manager outlined how failure to attend school on a regular basis had a damaging affect on pupils.

He stated that the overall attendance rates in North Yorkshire's schools were very high in comparison to neighbouring Local Authorities. In 2003 North Yorkshire was 8% below the national truancy levels set by the Government. Attendance rates were also up in the area, until last year, when a flu epidemic had an affect on absence figures nationally.

North Yorkshire was currently on track to meet the total absence rates, set in the national targets of 4.5% for primary schools and 6.5% for secondary schools. The

Authority adopts a wide range of strategies to meet those targets. Part of the strategy was to undertake truancy sweeps in the area, which co-ordinate nationally with sweeps taking place throughout the country, however, the national sweeps had now ceased, although the North Yorkshire truancy patrols would continue.

Approximately six patrols were undertaken in the Autumn/Spring terms, but patrols were not undertaken in the Summer term. The patrols were targeted to where truancy had been taking place and were undertaken by an Education Social Worker, together with a Police Officer/Police Community Support Officer. The uniformed officer was required because of the implications of adults approaching young people in the street. Approaches made during the truancy sweeps were made as friendly as possible, as, in a number of circumstances, there could be genuine reasons for the young person being out of school. Where young people were accompanied by their parents, approaches were made to ascertain information as to why that young person was out of school. In relation to this a database was in place which indicated reasons as to why young people may be out of school, for example, they could be taught at home, etc., and this would be checked to determine the circumstances.

It was noted that truancy patrols were only operated in the morning, as word would spread that the patrols were taking place and young people would take action to avoid being caught. It was stated, however, that where a problem was occurring at a particular school with pupils leaving at lunch time and not returning then afternoon patrols would take place.

The main reasons for undertaking the truancy patrols were public pressure to target this and identifying vulnerable young people and working closely with them to resolve their problems.

In terms of the target for North Yorkshire, the aim was to reduce absence within schools by 8% between 2003 and 2008 and the service was on course to achieve that target. Among other measures being used alongside the truancy sweeps were parenting contracts and targets for individual schools. Support was given by the service to assist both schools and parents to support young people attending school. Statistical information was provided to schools for them to determine how they were performing in relation to attendance.

It was noted that there was a correlation between schools with high absences and lower attainment and it was explained that where absences were beginning to be a problem for a particular school then the service would work closely with the school to address this issue. It was emphasised that similar schools were compared in respect of attendance issues and it was noted that schools operating on a like by like basis did not do as well where attendances were lower. The comparison of similar schools encouraged others to work better on attendance matters.

Following the initial presentation a number of issues and points were raised as follows:-

A Member noted that the report identified that there was a growing percentage of children who were accompanied with adults out of school, during the truancy sweeps and it was asked whether this was a growing trend or whether this was a result of the targeted response? In response it was stated that the problem did not appear to be growing out of control, however, there was a clear attitude/cultural problem in some areas, with some very blasé reasons given as to why children were out of school with their parents. In many cases the problems were linked to the same families, with the problems repeating themselves through the generations. It was stated that a campaign had been undertaken to target parents who regularly took their children out of school for holidays and how this could effect their attainment. It was also suggested that the attainment of other class members could also be affected as the

teacher often had to provide extra tuition to the pupil who had been away from school, to ensure that they caught up. This 'knock on' effect had a greater impact on the smaller, rural schools. Every effort was being made to get schools to challenge parents, where they are regularly taking their children out of school. It was emphasised that this related to only a small minority of parents and that North Yorkshire was doing well in relation to this situation. Other impacts on school attendance, with parents allowing their children to remain out of school included local events and multi-cultural issues. It was emphasised that exceptional circumstances could be taken into account and that, in most cases, schools had some flexibility to allow pupils to remain out of school, at the request of parents. This was limited to up to ten days within the school year and, only if the pupils attendance was very good.

A Member asked how truancy was defined? He considered that the issue was complex and that in many cases children seen as truanting, because their parents had taken them out for holidays, should not be categorised as so. He considered that many children benefited from holiday periods with their parents and, in a number of cases, parents were only able to get holidays from their employment during term time. He also considered that many pupils did not suffer from being out of school, in this situation, and that their attainment did not suffer due to this. He suggested that only a small proportion of pupils in North Yorkshire were implicated by this practice and felt that referring to all issues where pupils were out of school as truancy, did not accurately reflect the situation.

In response it was stated that, for the reasons stated by the Member, the term unauthorised absence rather than truancy was used in North Yorkshire although the patrols were referred to as truancy sweeps, because this term had been adopted nationally. It was recognised that there were a variety of reasons for young people's low attainment at school, however, absence was one of those reasons. It was recognised that some people were left with no option other than to take their children out of school during term time for holidays and this was why flexibility had been built in to holiday arrangements. It was emphasised that more effort was made in trying to prevent young people who are out of school for long periods of time, and then go on holiday, during term time, being prevented from doing this, by direct communication with their parents and the school.

It was stated that the strategy on truancy linked to the "See and Safe" initiative, whereby it was considered that when children could be seen at school, it was known that they were safe. It was therefore emphasised that attendance at school was not linked just to attainment, but there were other reasons for ensuring young people were there. It was noted that the all round achievement of young people was greatly increased if they regularly attended school.

A Member referred to the financial penalties that were put in place, where parents had taken their young people out of school to go on holiday and noted that, in many cases, the penalty imposed was lower than the amount that the family saved by taking their holiday in term time. She stated that she had some sympathy with parents who undertook this practice, because the financial benefits were so high and suggested that pupils could still gain high achievement, even when they had taken holidays during term time.

In response it was stated that the examples given were likely to be looked on favourably by the schools concerned and it would not be expected that penalty notices would be issued to families where they had taken their children out of school for a two weeks holiday. It was emphasised, however, that the aim was to change the mind set of parents that it is totally acceptable to undertake this practice, while at the same time recognising that, occasionally, it may be necessary. It was noted that over the last two years leaflets have been issued to parents, putting out a positive message in relation to this issue.

It was asked whether pupils late arrival at school was classed as unauthorised absence? In response it was stated that, where pupils arrive late, after registration, they would be marked as late for that particular lesson but would not be classed as being absent without authorisation.

RESOLVED –

That the issues raised within the report, together with the comments and issues raised by Members, be noted.

127. SPORTS PROVISION – DRAFT SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE MEMBER TASK GROUP

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Group, County Councillor Liz Casling, gave a brief summary of the work undertaken in preparing the review and provided a copy of the draft report “A Sporting Chance” that the Group had produced. She stated that it had been a difficult review mainly due to the extensive partnership aspect of sports provision and the different areas of accountability. In view of this, she suggested that a further meeting of the Scrutiny Review Group was required to take account of a number of additional issues to be provided in the report.

She stated that there had been a substantial amount of data gathered by the Review Group and, although further details were available, the Group had to draw a line as to the scope of the review to enable a draft report to be brought to this meeting. Further consideration would be given to the draft report before the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The draft report outlined the following:-

The corporate objectives and objectives of the review.

The national drivers for change.

The definitions of the provisions from each body.

The launch of the Physical Education School Sport And Club Links (PESSCL) Strategy in 2002 and the definition of the strategy.

Definitions of the different sports providing bodies.

Information as to how national targets are being met through the PESSCL Strategy and other sports provisions.

The PESSCL Strategy for the County – overseen by a local officer and driven by a great number of partnership bodies.

Schools Sports Partnerships/School Sports Colleges/Clubs.

Special School Sports Partnership – first in country.

North Yorkshire doing well to meet targets.

A number of schools not meeting minimum two hours physical education – view identifying reasons why.

Evidence to suggest that there is a link between good sports provision and educational attainment – highlighted in the report.

Schools Sports Partnerships embedded and working well.

Focus on hard to reach groups.

- Looked After Children.
- BME Groups.
- SEN.
- Extended schools.
- Links with Outdoor Education Service.

Case study evidence – New Park School – evidence of positive effects on pupils.

Summary and conclusions.

Recommendations:-

1. In support of the LAA stretch target County Council officers continue to work with School Governing Bodies and Schools Sports Partnerships to strengthen the case for increasing participation in PE and sport for all young people.
2. Suggestion that the PESSCL data base is broadened and even linked to educational attainment to help measure the impact that increased participation in sport and physical activity has on children and young people in North Yorkshire.
3. Consideration be given to the inclusion of the PESSCL data as part of the inclusion quality mark scheme.
4. Each Schools Sports Partnership considers developing a dedicated website with links to North Yorkshire Sport and Community Sports Networks.
5. Clarify the role of an Extended School in sport with partner organisations to promote an enhanced partnership working.
6. Promote a local sporting ambassador to the County Council's advocate.
7. That the issues raised by the Looked After Children Sports Audit are brought to the attention of the Corporate Parenting Group.
8. Efforts are maintained to develop good links with ethnic minority communities and to encourage participation in PE and sport wherever possible.

Following the outlining of the report the following issues were raised:-

A Member of the Committee congratulated the review group and the Chairman of the Group on the report that had been prepared. He suggested there was an opportunity, through the report, to improve future communication on this issue and publicise the good results, in sport, in North Yorkshire. He considered that an article in the North Yorkshire Times highlighting the achievements of the young people in the County and informing the public of these achievements, would be beneficial.

A Co-opted Member stated that there was no mention of the Voluntary Sectors contribution to sport for schools and young people in the area and noted that this

sector contributed a great deal to sport provision. In response the Chairman of the Review Group acknowledged the contribution of the Voluntary Sector and stated that the Group were not ignoring that, however, time and resource limits had seen the group concentrate on the primary suppliers of sports facilities in the area. She stated that she recognised that the contribution of the Voluntary Sector was worth mentioning in the report and would discuss the inclusion of additional material in relation to that with the Co-opted Member outside the meeting.

A Member suggested that the section relating to links to local clubs needed further enhancement when the Review Group considered the report further, as it was felt that this issue was vitally important. In response it was stated that further consideration would be given to this issue.

The Chairman of the Review Group welcomed the input of Members at the meeting and stated that there had been some useful issues highlighted that could contribute further to the report. She emphasised that there would be an additional opportunity both for the Review Group members and those of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the report before it was processed.

RESOLVED –

That the current situation in respect of the Scrutiny Review of Sports Provision for Young People be noted and that further consideration be given to this issue when the report had been completed.

128. WORK PROGRAMME

CONSIDERED -

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance giving details of the Committee's Work Programme and requesting Members to confirm, amend or add the list of matters highlighted in Appendix A to the report.

Members were asked to note the dates for Committee meetings and Mid Cycle Briefings for 2008 and it was highlighted that two additional dates had been reserved for potential extra meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on June 6 and 31 October 2008.

Members were reminded that all Members of the Committee were welcome to attend Mid Cycle Briefings, should they have a particular interest in an item being discussed, but it was emphasised that only the appointed Group Spokespersons could attend in an official capacity.

The report highlighted the forthcoming Local Democracy Campaign and it was noted that Youth Forums were in the process of being established. It was suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had a role in these Forums, to ensure that young people's concerns were being addressed. A suggestion was made that a Study Working Group be established to take account of the items that were referred back from the Youth Forums. In respect of this issue it was noted that resources would be required to establish the referral group and it was considered that this matter should be referred to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further discussion.

A Member strongly supported the establishment of such a group as it was felt important that there was engagement with young people in the area and that an appropriate reporting mechanism was in place to enable their views to be considered.

A Member raised concerns regarding the length of time that was being taken to report back on the health related behaviour survey. He noted that this was not due to be considered by the Committee until February 2008, which was a considerable delay, with the survey having been undertaken in 2006. He suggested that it would be more satisfactory to give consideration to the report at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In response it was stated that Members would be supplied with a copy of the report as soon as possible.

Disappointment was expressed that the issue of young people and diversity had been moved back for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was suggested that, with the large number of European migrants currently coming into the County, their impact should be included within this report and that the timescale for the delivery of the report to the Committee for consideration should be complied with. In response it was stated that the report would be submitted to the Committee in line with the timescale indicated in the Work Programme and that the issues raised would be taken into account.

It was noted that the Young People Arts Strategy had been referred from the Mid Cycle Briefing to the full Committee to ensure that the whole of the Committee could be involved in the briefing on the development of the Children and Young People's Arts Strategy.

It was asked why the issue of School Governors had been submitted to the Mid Cycle Briefing rather than the full Committee? In response it was stated that the issue had been taken to the Mid Cycle Briefing for an initial informal discussion to explore the issues related to school Governors and to decide whether to bring a report to a subsequent meeting of the full Committee. The meeting to discuss this issue would take place in January 2008 and the Committee would be informed of how this matter would be progressed at a subsequent meeting.

A Member stated that he thought the overview report on falling rolls in schools was to be submitted to this meeting of the Committee, but noted that that it had been placed in the Work Programme for November 2007. He asked that it was ensured that the report outlined the background relating to schools losing funding due to falling rolls and the impact that was having. Reassurances were given that this would be the case.

Members noted that the "Task Group" report on school meals had slipped back in the Work Programme and that it was expected that the report would be made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the near future.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted and the issues raised by Members be acted upon, where appropriate.

129. STARTING TIME OF MEETINGS

Members requested that consideration be given to altering the start time of the time of tabled meetings of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to 10.30 am rather than 10.00 am, to allow Members sufficient time to attend the meeting, for its commencement, particularly where child care issues were involved.

RESOLVED –

That the start time of future meetings of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee be changed to commence at 10.30 am.

(The Chairman agreed to the above item being considered as a matter of urgency to allow this issue to be put in place for the next meeting).

SL/ALJ