

Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Friday, 22nd February 2008

BRIEFING NOTES

Children & Young People's Plan 2008-2011.

Work has now started on the future plan and an excellent working day was held in Harrogate for all the partners to take this forward.

Corporate Parenting.

A meeting was held at the Golden Lion in Northallerton for elected members and officers to hear from 8 young people, how, where and when they want to develop their Looked After Young People's Council. Their presentation was well put together and they are now to submit their needs in writing so the process can be taken forward. The Young People have requested that this Council be named "**The Young Persons' Council**", and the motto they have requested is "**Time for Change**". I will keep the committee informed of the progress.

Future reporting to C&YP O&SC on Educational Attainment of LACs, Homes Inspections, Numbers of LAC etc.

Further consideration needs to be given to how and when these matters are looked at by the C&YP O/S Com. when the future changes to the Corporate Parenting Group come about.

SEN Policy Document.

The Chairman of this O/S committee has expressed concern that this meeting did not have the draft policy document to consider before it went to the Executive. A process needs to be found where this automatically takes place. The SEN Policy Document has now been to full council and is, or will shortly be available.

Draft Policy Statement and Guidance on Access to Education for Children & Young People with Medical Needs.

This document is to assist parents and carers with young people unable to access education because of ill health. This has now been to the Executive and is, or will shortly be available.

Outcome of visits to C&YP residential homes and offices in Scarborough, Harrogate and Skipton.

Paul Nixon and I have had a preliminary meeting with the Director to consider how this matter is taken forward in the future.

Concerns about the lack of cover by School Nurses in our Special Schools. One Special School has express serious concerns that they are unable to have full day cover by a school nurse when they have severely disabled children to care for and teach. This isn't the first complaint of this kind that I have received, and the matter needs to be taken up urgently with the PCT and the Children's Strategic Board.

Excellent Ofsted Report on the Scarbough PRU.

This is very good news and the report is available. Congratulations to all concerned.

Voluntary Sector. Visit to YMCA in Skipton.

I was made most welcome by Ken Allinson of the YMCA at Richmond, and met several of the Young People they are supporting to access education, and/or find work and housing. The YMCA have plans and planning consent to refurbish their premises into apartments, making provision for young people needing help and support as they leave home. The Council have been asked to help them with a grant for this work from their second homes money.

Cllr Caroline Patmore