

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 September 2009

Work Programme Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

This report asks the Committee to:

- a. note the information in this report.
- b. confirm, amend or add to the list of matters shown on the work programme (attached at Annex A).

2.0 Mid Cycle Briefing – 6th August

1. New Look, No Shush! Strategy for our Library and Information Services

This strategy has already been presented to the Safe & Sustainable, Communications and Care & Independence Overview & Scrutiny Committees and due to the busy agenda of the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee it was agreed to bring this to the Mid Cycle Briefing.

Members welcomed the strategy and during discussions asked if any consideration was being given to library opening hours. They were advised that a Review of Service Delivery is underway, but this is in the early stages of development.

The Chairman commented that the committee would be interested to learn of the outcomes of this review in due course.

As a last comment your Chairman suggested that a visit to the newly opened Catterick Library, by a small group of members, would be a useful opportunity to see for themselves what is being done to welcome and encourage young people and future generations into 21st century libraries. He has requested your Scrutiny Officer to liaise with Library Services to accommodate a mutually convenient time to visit.

2. Harrogate Admissions arrangements

A briefing paper was circulated with the Mid Cycle agenda papers which set out the issues/background, policy implications, the options for alternative admissions arrangements for Harrogate and the proposed consultation process for the revised admission arrangements for 2011/12. (Copy attached at annex B)

On behalf of the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee two requests were made (i) to have sight of the timetable of events for the Consultation Process in Harrogate (venues/dates etc) and (ii) that the outcome of the Consultation is presented to the Committee.

3. Liaising with Secondary Schools in adjoining LEA's – requested by Cllr Blackie

Cllr Blackie raised the matter of cross border liaisons between primary and secondary schools.

Officers explained that there is information available to help parents decide where their child(ren) should be educated and that all parents receive a copy of the Guide for Parents Admission to Schools and together with a copy of the Common Application form. The Guide advises parents on completing the Common Application form and advises that all schools should be listed in order of preference including any school in a neighbouring local authority.

It is a statutory requirement for NYCC to liaise with the Schools Admission Authority by a certain date to advise them of the names of all parents who have expressed a preference for a particular school. The Admissions Authority replies and confirms whether they can meet that preference.

4. Septembers Agenda – ‘Enjoy & Achieve’

Members agreed that it would be useful to have a balanced picture of achievements by Young People across North Yorkshire to include the position on curriculum developments and a particular focus on young people at risk of under achieving.

5. Post Scrutiny Review update – School Meals Service

A briefing paper was circulated which set out the take up of school meals in both primary and secondary schools. This item will be discussed in more detail at the October Mid Cycle briefing.

3.0 Early Support Programme Users

Following the briefing on Improving the Health and Well-Being of Young Children at the July meeting it was suggested that a small group of Members meet with 3-4 parents to hear their views on Services for young children and their families, and their opinions on how well they were consulted about services which are important to them.

A meeting has been arranged for the 8th September at the Thirsk Children’s Centre and the outcome of this event will be fed back as a verbal report at today’s meeting.

4.0 Work Programme

Next In-depth Scrutiny Review

At the Mid Cycle briefing Members debated the focus of the next scrutiny review and considered the suggestions following the last committee meeting:

- Support for Young carers
- Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Education and attainment of looked after children and transition arrangements
- Evaluating Extended Schools
- Support for gifted and talented young people

The Chairman referred to the recession triggering a surge in the number of young people aged between 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training and considered that a scrutiny review on Young People NEET in North Yorkshire would be timely.

Reducing the proportion of young people NEET is a key national priority for the DCSF and also a priority for North Yorkshire County Council who have the lead responsibility for reducing the proportion of young people NEET in their area (Local Area Agreement NI 117).

5. Next Meeting of the Committee

The next meeting of the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee is the 13th November and looks into the priorities under Make a Positive Contribution. Members of the committee may wish to contribute to the agenda on specific priority areas under this next key outcome or indeed, raise any other topic or issue.

4.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a. note the information in this report.
- b. confirm, amend or add to the list of matters shown on the work programme (attached as A).

HUGH WILLIAMSON
Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance
County Hall, Northallerton

Report compiled by: Stephanie Bratcher, Scrutiny Support Officer extn 2049
Email: stephanie.bratcher@northyorks.gov.uk
Date: 2 September 2009
Background Documents: None
Annexes: Annex A - Work Programme
Annex B – Harrogate Admissions Arrangements