

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 15 April 2011 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

#### **PRESENT:-**

County Councillor Keith Barnes in the Chair.

County Councillors:- Andrew Backhouse, John Batt, David Blades, John Fort (substitute for Heather Moorhouse), Patrick Mulligan, Paul Richardson, Tim Swales and Cliff Trotter.

Co-opted Members:- Chris Head (Secondary Teacher Representative), Bjorn Risi (Voluntary Sector) Judith Broomfield (Voluntary Sector) and Mrs Suzanne Morris (Parent Governor).

Officers:- Cynthia Welbourn, Fiona Campbell, Andrew Terry, Jenny Morgan Carol-Ann Howe, Stephanie Bratcher (Scrutiny Support).

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Heather Moorhouse, Caroline Seymour, Janet Jefferson, Joe Plant, and Patricia Stowell (Parent Governor), and Jos Huddleston (Non-Conformist Church)

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#### **COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK**

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At the beginning of the meeting Cllr Paul Richardson noted NYCC's statutory responsibility for safeguarding and the ever present risk of a safeguarding issue arising, notwithstanding the extreme care and professional expertise within CYPS. In the circumstances of Cllr Caroline Patmore's resignation Cllr Richardson felt it was regrettable that neither the leader nor any member of the Executive was present to re-assure the YPOSC that Member responsibility was secure.

#### **64. MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2011 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **65. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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

#### **66. ANNUAL UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CONTACT, REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CHILDREN'S SERVICES – OFSTED LETTER (SUMMARY OF INSPECTION FINDINGS) DATED 23 FEBRUARY 2011**

The Chairman invited the Corporate Director to outline the key points of the unannounced inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment arrangements.

The Corporate Director informed the Members of the Committee that the whole inspection process had been thorough, that communication had been good and the outcome of the inspection was positive.

There were no priority areas for improvement identified and the two areas for development neither related to any shortcomings to Childrens Social Care or the Children and Young Peoples Service.

Members of the Committee congratulated the Corporate Director and her team of officers on the positive inspection outcome.

In relation to one of the areas for development, Members expressed their concerns regarding the inconsistency in Police domestic abuse referrals. The Corporate Director explained that North Yorkshire Police are in the process of producing an Action Plan but this was still in the development stage.

Members considered it was important to return to this issue and requested that the North Yorkshire Police Action Plan was presented at committee in due course.

#### **RESOLVED –**

That the information provided be noted.

That North Yorkshire Police are invited to present their Action Plan in relation to Domestic Abuse Referrals at a future meeting.

#### **67. SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN SCARBOROUGH**

##### **CONSIDERED –**

The report of the Corporate Director – Children & Young People's Service.

The Members received a report and briefing from Fiona Campbell, Strategic Planning Manager, Children and Young Peoples Service.

The briefing summarised the processes and initial investigations undertaken in relation to the request for the Local Authority to consult on a proposal to bring two schools together – Graham School and Raincliffe School and to become a single school. Both schools are Community schools and located on adjoining sites in Scarborough. The proposal would be achieved by the simultaneous and significant enlargement of Graham School and closure of Raincliffe as a separate school from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

Members were informed that two public meetings had taken place at Raincliffe and Graham School on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March respectively and that the initial feedback had been supportive. The consultation period which opened on the 14 March runs until the 2 May.

Members asked whether the Deepdale Housing Development had been considered in drawing up the proposal to develop a single school and whether there would be sufficient capacity in the long term for the young people from that community. Officers reassured the Members that this housing development had been taken into consideration.

In response to the Members concerns regarding insufficient information on the Raincliffe School site the Corporate Director thanked the Members for their comments and confirmed that an explanation will be added to subsequent reports.

The Committee agreed that the merger would appear to be of benefit to the Scarborough area but acknowledged that there will be unease amongst staff while there are uncertainties.

The Chairman thanked Fiona Campbell for her attendance and the information she had provided.

**RESOLVED:**

That the information provided at the meeting and in the report is noted.

**68. THE NATIONAL YEAR OF COMMUNICATION**

**CONSIDERED –**

The covering report of the Corporate Development Officer provided background information and an introduction to the *Hello Campaign Report* which marks the National Year of Communication.

The committee received a presentation from Officers Jenny Morgan (Network Co-ordinator, Communication and Interaction) and Carol-ann Howe (Speech, Language and Communication Consultant) on the awareness raising that is taking place in North Yorkshire. Working in partnership with the Communication Trust the aim of the year is to make communication for all children and young people a priority in homes and schools across the County.

The presentation went on to outline the range of events, targeted at the whole of the children's workforce and includes Children's Centres, childminders, schools and settings, youth services and social care services. The presentation also included information on the delayed language skills of nursery aged children and the language difficulties some boys and girls experience which can have a negative impact later in life.

Key points raised by members included the measuring of outcomes, children of parents with English not as their first language and future funding arrangements.

Members of the Committee welcomed the presentation and the range of events being organised.

The Chairman thanked the officers for a very interesting and informative presentation.

**RESOLVED –**

That the information provided at the meeting is noted.

**69. IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HEALTH VISITING AND SCHOOL NURSING SERVICE IN NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**CONSIDERED –**

The draft Final Report of the Scrutiny Task Group on their Review of Health Visiting and School Nursing Service in North Yorkshire.

County Councillor Andrew Backhouse, Chairman of the Task Group introduced the draft final report of the Task Group and referred to the tabled revised list of Recommendations.

He explained that the aim of this review had been to obtain a clear picture of the current service and to establish whether it was meeting the needs of local families.

The draft final report has been forwarded to North Yorkshire and York NHS for their comment and expressed the Task Groups thanks for the help, support and guidance they had received from the PCT in carrying out their review.

Members commented that the Report was timely and much needed and the Corporate Director added that it was helpful and had given a good account of the problems and challenges being faced in providing services for children and their families.

#### **RESOLVED –**

That the final report and recommendations of the Review of Health Visiting and School Nursing Service in North Yorkshire is approved and presented to the Executive in due course.

### **70. WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **CONSIDERED –**

The report of the Corporate Development Officer outlined the Mid Cycle Briefing agenda items covered at its last meeting and invited comments from Members on any of the issues covered.

The Chairman informed the meeting that in future all members of the committee would receive a copy of the Mid Cycle Agenda for information purposes. If however, there is an item on the Mid-Cycle that a member of the committee considers they can add to the debate or provide additional input they should contact the Corporate Development Officer for the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Members of the Committee raised the point that they had not received an update on Safeguarding matters and emphasised the case that this was a priority area of work for the Committee. The Chairman confirmed that although nothing specific had been covered many of the items presented at Committee had an element of safeguarding attached to them. He then went on to say that a safeguarding update from the Children & Young Peoples Service would seem appropriate and asked that this is added to the Committee's next agenda.

The Chairman suggested that further discussion regarding the next scrutiny topic should be covered at the June meeting and invited suggestions from members of the committee.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the content of the report, business scheduled for future meetings and information provided at the meeting be noted.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:45**

**SB/ALJ**