

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20th January 2012

Work Programme Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report asks the Committee to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Note that the list of matters shown on the work programme has been covered as a separate item on the agenda.

2.0 Mid Cycle Briefing – 2nd December 2011

The following items were discussed at the last Mid-Cycle Briefing which are summarised below. Your Chairman is willing to answer any questions or clarify any matters under the items covered.

2.1 OFSTED Inspection of Children's Centres -

Changes in the Ofsted Inspection framework for Children's Centres were released on the 1st September. Officers informed the Members that an inspection of a children's centre now not only provides an independent external evaluation of its effectiveness and what it should do to improve and includes evidence from partner organisations, parents and prospective parents who use the centre and its services.

There is a strong focus on partnership working and how the sharing of information and data impacts on outcomes for children and parents and Safeguarding which is about a child's well-being has been broadened to include Fire, Road Safety and Safety within the Home.

With a very short lead in time three North Yorkshire Children's Centres – East Whitby, Filey and Selby were inspected mid-October under this new rigorous inspection framework. All three Centres were graded as 'satisfactory'.

Members voiced their concerns about the outcome of the Inspections carried out, the approach taken by the Inspectors and the grading of all three Centre's as satisfactory.

2.2 Draft Parenting Strategy -

Members were advised that the Parenting Support Strategy has been running since 2007 – 2010 supported by three years of earmarked funding. This money was used to help set up a parenting unit with two parenting experts to support the development and running of parenting courses and the Parenting Early Intervention Project (PEIP). The Children's Trust Board led on the writing and implementation of this parenting strategy with a multi-agency group monitoring the progress of its action plan.

By 2010 the entire action plan had been successfully completed and a major success for the strategy has been the creation and mainstreaming of the parent support adviser posts - there are currently 111 parent support advisers in Children's Centres, schools and enhanced mainstream schools providing early intervention support to families as part of the Common Assessment Framework.

Members acknowledged that parenting support is an integral part of early intervention work and were pleased to note that the multi-agency steering group has been reconvened to review the 2007-2010 strategy and create an updated version of the strategy which would incorporate lessons learned and the use of the many reports published related to parenting support and parenting programmes.

The Chairman thanked the Officers involved and suggested that the new 2011-2014 Parenting Support Strategy comes to full Committee in due course.

2.3 Parent Governor Representatives

This matter had been raised under the previous Work Programme Report in that Members were advised that no nominations had been received for the vacant post of Parent Governor Representative.

The Chair and Vice Chair had prior to the Mid Cycle Briefing requested to see a copy of the letter and information circulated to Parent Governors which sought nominations for a current vacancy on the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

At the meeting the Chairman outlined his concerns regarding the length of the letter, the clarity and purpose of the letter and whether the information would be more useful as an appendix. He also raised the matter regarding the processes used to disseminate this type of request.

Officers from the Governor Support Service gave their assurances that this matter would be looked into further and suggested:

- in the Spring they would run two campaigns for both Parent Governor vacancies
- look at making the letter shorter and more straightforward with relevant information added as appendices
- consider the process for disseminating these letters and information.

The Governors Support Services were grateful to the Members for raising this issue and will inform the Chairman and Committee on the outcome of the next campaign seeking nominations for both Parent Governor vacancies.

3.0 Work Programme Schedule

This item is covered as a separate matter on the agenda

4.0 Next Meeting of the Committee

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for the 16th March 2012 at 10:30 and future meeting dates for the remainder of the year are:

- 15 June 2012
- 14 September 2012
- 16 November 2012

Perhaps you would enter all these dates into your diary.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a. Note the information in this report.
 - b. Note the calendar of meeting dates in their diary

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