

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Monday 16 July 2007

at 4.30 pm

**in the Red Room, Avondale Centre,
Dyke House School, (Raby Road Entrance), Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors S Cook, Coward, Fleet, Griffin, A E Lilley, London, Plant, Preece, Shaw, Simmons and Worthy

Co-opted Members:

Elizabeth Barraclough, David Relton and Jesse Smith

Leigh Bradley, Jonathan Simpson, Chris Lund, Kelly Goulding, Cassie Jeffries and Gillian Pounder

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Evelyn Leck and Michael Ward

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007.
- 4. SHORT ICE BREAKER EXERCISE**

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

5. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM

- 5.1 Portfolio Holder's Response to the Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools – *Joint Report of the Director of Children's Services and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services*

6. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

No items.

7. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

No items.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Scoping Report – Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting Monday 20 August 2007 commencing at 4.30pm at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool.**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

11 June 2007

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm at Owton Manor Community Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Shaun Cook, Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Alison E
Lilley, Frances London, Michelle Plant, Arthur Preece and
Christopher Simmons

Co-opted Members:

Elizabeth Barraclough

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Evelyn Leck and Michael Ward

Young People Representatives:

Leigh Bradley, Jonathan Simpson and Chris Lund

Also Present:

Councillor Cath Hill, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
Councillor Geoff Lilley
Beth Hawkrige, Barnardos

Officers:

Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services
John Robinson, Children's Fund Manager
Charlotte Burnham, Scrutiny Manager
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Coward and Gladys Worthy and co-opted member David Relton.

2. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2007

Confirmed.

4. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

None.

5. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

None.

6. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents

None.

7. The Role of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum
(Scrutiny Support Officer)

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a brief report outlining the background to the approach to overview and scrutiny in the Council. The key roles of Scrutiny were detailed as:

- Policy development and review
- Holding the Executive to account
- Investigating issues of local concern

The role of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee was set out with a detailed description of the role and functions of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum. The report highlighted that the strategic direction of the Scrutiny Forums was to assess, monitor and advise on the Council's progress towards the seven priority aims. The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's remit was specifically to consider issues relating to specialist (intervention), targeted (prevention) and universal services for children and young people. A schedule of the Forum's meetings dates was also set out in the report and Members were asked to note that all scheduled meetings would commence at 4.30 pm to enable the young people's representatives to be in attendance.

Decision

That the report be noted.

8. Determining the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Work Programme for 2007/08 *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a report that requested the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to identify a Work Programme for the 2007/08 Municipal Year, together with a timeframe for each review, for consideration by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 29 June 2007.

The Director of Children's Services, the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services; Local Area Agreement Reward Element Targets (also known as LPSA2); Corporate Plan (BVPP); and the Viewpoint Surveys had been the foundation sources for the report to enable the Forum to compile its Work Programme.

From these sources and the work programme from 2006/07, the following list of potential subjects for investigation had been identified: -

Access to recreation facilities for young people in Hartlepool
Extended Schools
Foster Caring

In setting the Work Programme for 2007/08, Members were advised that consideration would also need to be given to Budget and Policy Framework documents which the Forum would need to consider throughout the year and the following 6 Monthly Progress Review reports; Raising Boys' Achievement – Bridging the Gender Gap and the Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools.

The Forum was advised to be cautious in setting an overly ambitious Work Programme for which it may be unable to deliver and the Scrutiny Support Officer recommended that only two issues should be listed for investigation at this time. This approach had proved to very successful in the previous municipal year. The Forum could revisit the potential list of investigations should time allow later in the Municipal year.

Members had a lengthy discussion in which the potential areas of investigation were considered. It was considered that the investigation into Access to recreation facilities for young people in Hartlepool be undertaken as a priority as this impacted on a number of other areas of concern including anti-social behaviour and was supported by the young people representatives on this Forum. Members acknowledged that in order to give this issue to attention it deserved a longer and more thorough in depth investigation was required. As such, it was agreed that one main topic would form the basis of the Forum's 2007/08 Work Programme whilst allowing for ad hoc responses to be made to emerging issues during the year.

In addition to the above, the Forum had considered a referral from the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum into the role and meaning of Extended Schools. In considering this referral, the Forum was of the view that it was

inappropriate to undertake such an investigation at this time as a new Extended Schools Strategy had only been implemented in April 2007. Members were of the view that there would be greater value in undertaking a review of the effectiveness of the new strategy next year and agreed that the issue would be included in the Forum's list of possible Work Programme items for consideration in 2008/09. It was, however, acknowledged that there were a number of issues around the extended use of schools which could be considered as part of the 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool' investigation. These were to be considered further during the Forum's scoping exercise, at which time the aim of investigation was to be refined.

Decision

That the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee be advised that the Forum wished to undertake an in-depth investigation into 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool'.

9. Appointment to Outside Bodies (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

In accordance with authority delegated by the Cabinet, the Deputy Mayor in conjunction with other Executive Members, considered the issue of appointments to outside bodies. Two of these appointments had been referred to this Forum and were as follows:

- Schools Admissions Forum
- Schools Organisation Committee

However, Members were asked to note that since the time of writing this report, officers had been informed that the Schools Organisation Committee had been disbanded and therefore did not require nominations.

The appointments to the Schools Admissions Forum was subject to the political balance of the Council and as such 3 labour, 1 liberal democrat and 1 administrative group members were requested.

Decision

The following nominations to the Schools Admissions Forum were suggested for approval by the Deputy Mayor:

Councillors Sheila Griffin, Mary Fleet and Chris Simmons (labour)
Councillor Arthur Preece (liberal democrat)
Councillor Alison Lilley (administrative group)

10. Involvement of Young People in the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report which considered the effectiveness of the existing arrangements for the co-option of young people onto the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum, with a view to identifying possible improvements for implementation during 2007/08. A number of factors had proved instrumental to the successful co-option of young people onto the Forum and these were detailed within the report; most notably the enthusiasm of Members and the young people themselves.

On 29 May 2007, the Chair had met with the young people and representatives from Barnardos to obtain their views on the effectiveness of the arrangements for their co-option. During the course of these discussions, several suggestions were made for the development of the arrangements for 2007/08 and these were detailed within the report.

It was highlighted that the young people had experienced difficulty in attending all the meetings and as detailed earlier in the minutes, it was suggested that a change in start time for future meetings to 4.30 pm should ensure that a minimum of three young people were in attendance.

The Children's Fund Manager reported that the mentoring system suggested to support the young people had not yet been developed. For Members information, it was thought that acting as a mentor for a young person may involve a short meeting once a month to go through the issues being examined by the Forum. Members were therefore requested to contact either the Children's Fund Manager or the Scrutiny Support Officer if they would like to act as a Mentor to one of the young people co-opted onto this Forum.

Decision

- (i) The report was noted and the following future organisational arrangements approved:-
 - (a) The use of a coloured card system to assist in attracting the Chair's attention during meetings be piloted;
 - (b) A further 'Team Building' Workshop be organised for all members of the Forum;
 - (c) Ways of improving the format and presentation of reports be explored;
 - (d) All future meetings of the Forum to commence at 4.30pm;
 - (e) Short 'Ice Breaker' exercises be introduced at the beginning of

each meeting;

(f) Arrangements be put in place to ensure that a minimum of three young people attend each meeting;

(g) Arrangements be made for a young person to accompany the Chair during presentation of the Forum's future final reports to Cabinet;

(h) The use of 'mind mapping' as part of the scoping process be explored;

(i) Members contact either the Children's Fund Manager or the Scrutiny Support Officer if they were interested in act as a Mentor to one of the young people co-opted onto this Forum.

JANE SHAW

CHAIRMAN

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

16 July 2007



Report of: Joint Report of Director of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

Subject: PORTFOLIO HOLDERS RESPONSE TO THE PROVISION OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION (SRE) IN HARTLEPOOL SCHOOLS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the provision of sex and relationship education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The investigation into 'The Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools' conducted by this Committee falls under the remit of the Children's Services Department and is, under the Executive Delegation Scheme, within the service area covered by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder.

2.2 On 11 June 2007, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum into 'The Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools'. This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holder following the Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to this Forum's recommendations.

2.3 In addition to this report a further progress report will be produced for Member's consideration six months after the Final Report was considered by Council to enable Members to monitor the implementation of their recommendations.

3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DECISION

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Report, Council/Cabinet (delete as appropriate) approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Council/Cabinet (delete as appropriate) are provided in the Action Plan attached at **Appendix A**.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan, appended to this report (**Appendix A**) and seek clarification on its content where felt appropriate.

Contact Officer:- Sandra Saint, Healthy Schools Coordinator
Children's Services Department
Hartlepool Borough Council
Telephone Number: 01429 284256
E-mail – sandra.saint@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Final Report 'The Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools' considered by Cabinet on 11 June 2007.
- (ii) Decision Record of Cabinet held on 11 June 2007.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

5.1 Appendix A

NAME OF FORUM: Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: The Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: Cabinet on 11 June 2007

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
<p>(a) That all primary, secondary and special schools in Hartlepool be encouraged to provide SRE, as part of PSHE, and a uniform approach to its provision promoted, based upon the use of trained teachers, with:-</p> <p>(i) support from a health professional (e.g. School Nurse);</p> <p>(ii) an element of peer mentoring, where appropriate; and</p> <p>(iii) the use of specialist external providers where appropriate.</p>	<p>a) Continue to deliver and develop local SRE programmes in all primary, secondary and special schools in Hartlepool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APAUSE (Secondary) - Lucinda & Godfrey (Primary) - Special SRE adaptations (Special) <p>Utilising best practice (i) and (ii) and adding value by the use of external providers (iii)</p>	<p>Sandra Saint - Primary</p> <p>Deborah Gibbin - Secondary</p>	<p>Sept 07 – Jul 08</p>
<p>(b) That the establishment of a working relationship with Millennium Volunteers and further education establishments in Hartlepool for the provision of SRE peer mentors be explored.</p>	<p>Explore opportunities for delivering Peer education with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Millennium Volunteers - College of FE 	<p>Kate Peverell</p>	<p>Sept 07 – May 08</p>

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

5.1 Appendix A

NAME OF FORUM: Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: The Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: Cabinet on 11 June 2007

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(c)	That parental involvement/awareness plays a crucial role in the effective provision of SRE and more emphasis should therefore be placed upon the use of external learning sources such as the ‘Speakeasy’ programme and stalls/presentations at school events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of 2 Speakeasy Courses - Explore opportunities to develop capacity to deliver Speakeasy across the Town - Offer all schools opportunity for SRE involvement at parents evenings 	Deborah Gibbin	Oct - Mar 08 Jan 08 As requested during academic year
(d)	That in recognition of the sexual and emotional development of children and young people with special educational needs, work continues to be undertaken to develop, and modify, SRE materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adapt the Lucinda & Godfrey primary SRE for use in Special schools: Springwell Catcote 	Sandra Saint	Mar 08
(e)	That in order to further develop SRE provision in Hartlepool the Local Authority explore:- (i) Ways of improving the delivery of the ‘relationship’ element of SRE to better meet young people’s needs;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a local SRE resource for Secondary schools linked to the science curriculum and extending fact based lessons to include relationships 	Deborah Gibbin	Sept 08

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

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NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: The Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: Cabinet on 11 June 2007

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE										
	(ii) The use of less formal language in the delivery of the ‘APAUSE’ programme; (iii) Ways of improving training and support for SRE teachers, to encourage their participation; (iv) Ways of ensuring the continuation of SRE provision between Years 7 and 8; (v) Ways of increasing the current frequency of SRE provision within the curriculum; and (vi) The development of improved information/best practice sharing systems/processes for schools, including the provision of a central resource/query line.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that APUASE training includes recommended use of appropriate language - Local and national PSHE CPD developed to ensure teachers participation - The development of the new local SRE resource will achieve this (See e) - Continue to raise awareness of the effectiveness of a spiral PSHE curriculum with all schools - Develop a SRE school network 	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1514 600 1771 727">Kate Peverell</td> <td data-bbox="1771 600 2022 727">Oct – Jan 08</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1514 727 1771 855">Sandra Saint</td> <td data-bbox="1771 727 2022 855">Sept – Jul 08</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1514 855 1771 983">Deborah Gibbin</td> <td data-bbox="1771 855 2022 983">Sept 08</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1514 983 1771 1158">Sandra Saint</td> <td data-bbox="1771 983 2022 1158">Ongoing</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1514 1158 1771 1351">Kate Peverell</td> <td data-bbox="1771 1158 2022 1351">Jan – Mar 08</td> </tr> </table>	Kate Peverell	Oct – Jan 08	Sandra Saint	Sept – Jul 08	Deborah Gibbin	Sept 08	Sandra Saint	Ongoing	Kate Peverell	Jan – Mar 08
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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

5.1 Appendix A

NAME OF FORUM: Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: The Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: Cabinet on 11 June 2007

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(f)	That additional ways of assessing the effectiveness of SRE provision, including the introduction of a parental questionnaire and feedback forms for students following individual lessons, be explored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that assessment is built into recommended programmes: Lucinda & Godfrey and APAUSE - Assessment is included in the Speakeasy programme - Training for teachers in assessment in PSHE 	Sandra Saint	Jul 09
(g)	That the combining of external programmes, including the ‘Time to Talk’ and ‘Speakeasy’ programmes, with the ‘APAUSE’ system be explored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore combining Speakeasy and APAUSE programmes 	Deborah Gibbin	Dec 07
(h)	That consideration be given to the renaming of ‘Sex and Relationship Education’ (SRE) to place primary emphasis upon the relationship aspect of provision within Hartlepool schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with: Teachers Governors Parents School Nurses Young people <p>in respect of changing the name of SRE.</p>	Deborah Gibbin	Mar 08

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

5.1 Appendix A

NAME OF FORUM: Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: The Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: Cabinet on 11 June 2007

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(i) That the current Chair of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum meets with school governors to present the findings of this investigation and encourage ‘buy in’ for the provision of SRE.	Arrangements have been made for the Forum’s Final Report to be included in the booklet of reports to be circulated to all governing bodies in September 2007.	Joan Wilkins	September 2007
(j) That the young people who participated in the Focus Group Session on the 15 March 2007 be thanked for their involvement in the Forum’s investigation.	Letter circulated on behalf of the Forum.	Joan Wilkins	Complete

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM**

16 July 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO ACCESS TO RECREATION FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL – SCOPING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum for their forthcoming investigation into 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 11 June 2007 the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum selected 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool' as its main topic for investigation during 2007/8. The Forum's 2007/8 Work Programme was subsequently approved by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 29 June 2007 and the intention of this report is to scope the Forum's investigation.
- 2.2 In identifying this issue as a topic for investigation, Members of the Forum expressed concern in relation to the barriers which make access to recreation facilities difficult for young people across the town, including cost, location and transportation. Members were of the view that this Forum has a key role in the improvement of access and on this basis are asked today to 'scope' the investigation, formalising the overall aim, terms of reference and timetable for the investigation. Suggestions for each of these and other areas of the investigation are outlined below.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY

- 3.1 To examine the provision of recreation facilities for young people in Hartlepool and explore ways of removing barriers to access.

4. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the investigation are proposed:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of national and regional policy/guidance relating to the provision of recreation facilities for young people and the barriers to access that exist;
- (b) To consider, and agree, a definition of 'recreation facilities' and 'young people' for the purpose of this investigation;
- (c) To gain an understanding of the recreation facilities available for young people in Hartlepool, including:
 - How they are provided;
 - What existing research shows to be the barriers to access; and
 - The strategies in place to ensure that they are accessible to young people.
- (d) To explore the recreation activities/facilities which young people in Hartlepool enjoy/utilise and identify the barriers to access which might exist, including transportation and costs;
- (e) To identify ways of removing any barriers to access to recreation facilities for young people in Hartlepool that might exist;
- (f) To compare examples of best practice in other Local Authorities to improve access to recreation facilities for young people;
- (g) To seek the views of young people and local residents, including representatives of minority communities of interest and vulnerable groups, in relation to access to recreation facilities for young people in Hartlepool; and
- (h) To identify how those responsible for the provision of recreation facilities for young people in Hartlepool intend to implement the 7 vision statements on participation agreed by Cabinet on June 24th 2007.

5. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY/SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

- 5.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny review.
- 5.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-
- (a) Children and young people of Hartlepool who access local recreational facilities;
 - (b) Local Residents, including parents and carers of children who access recreational facilities;
 - (c) Member of Parliament for Hartlepool;
 - (d) Elected Mayor;
 - (e) Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Children's Services;
 - (f) Director of Children's Services;
 - (g) Officers from the Children's Services Department (including the Youth Service) and Adult and Community Services Department;
 - (h) The UK Youth Parliament and Hartlepool Young Voices; (Other suggestions welcomed from the Forum)
 - (i) Participants in Hartlepool Borough Council Playschemes and Oscars Holiday Care Schemes;
 - (j) Representatives from neighbouring Tees Valley Authorities (to ascertain their position and work being undertaken on the issue);
 - (k) Representatives from other Local Authorities with examples of good practice;
 - (l) Representatives from voluntary sector groups/bodies, minority groups and vulnerable people (*including OFCA, Hartlepool Access, Hartlepool Families First, Young Carers, Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group, West View Project, OSCAR's, Belle Vue Centre, Salaam Centre*) (Other suggestions welcomed from the Forum); and
 - (m) Ward Councillors.
- 5.3 The Forum may also wish to refer to a variety of documentary/internet sources, key suggestions are as highlighted below:-
- (a) Other Local Authority scrutiny reports;
 - (b) Neighbourhood Action Plans;

- (c) Draft Play Strategy (and Action Plan);
- (d) Parks and Countryside Strategy; and
- (e) Transportation Strategies.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

- 6.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and paragraph 5.2 details who the Forum could involve. However, thought will need to be given to the structure in the way that the Forum wishes to encourage those views.
- 6.2 In addition, diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. As such the views of local diversity groups will be sought throughout the inquiry where felt appropriate and time allows. Consequently, consideration has been given as to how the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage (for example, people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, black and minority ethnic people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people), which may not be gathered through the usual community engagement routes, can be included over the course of the inquiry.

7. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE DEDICATED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUDGET

- 7.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report, to the need to request funding from the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid Members in their enquiry. At this stage no additional funding has been identified as being necessary to support Members in their investigation. Members, however, may wish to seek additional funding over the course of the investigation and the blank pro forma attached at **Appendix A** outlines the criteria on which a request to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be judged.

8. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 8.1 Detailed below is the proposed timetable for the review to be undertaken, which may be changed at any stage:-

16 July 2007 – ‘Scoping Session’ - To formalise the process for the Forum’s investigation and receive evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services.

20 August 2007 - Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A 'Setting the Scene' presentation/report from the Department/Scrutiny Support (*Covering Terms of Reference (a), (b), (c), (d)*);
- (ii) Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (To be confirmed); and
- (iii) Evidence from the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool (To be confirmed).

1 October 2007 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A presentation from a particular recreation scheme to provide a more in depth demonstration of the facilities/activities provided, barriers to access and what could be done to remove them from a young persons perspective; (*Covering Terms of Reference (d)*)

(Group(s) to be decided and suggestions welcomed from the Forum)
- (ii) To compare examples of best practice in other Local Authorities to improve access to recreation facilities for young people; (*Covering Terms of Reference (f)*)

5 November 2007 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A presentation from a particular recreation scheme to provide a more in depth demonstration of the facilities/activities provided, barriers to access and what could be done to remove them from a young persons perspective. (*Covering Terms of Reference (d)*)

(Group(s) to be decided and suggestions welcomed from the Forum)
- (ii) Evidence on the views of young people in Hartlepool on the issue of access to recreation facilities in Hartlepool (*Covering Terms of Reference (d), (g)*):-
 - The results of a survey of participants in Hartlepool Borough Council Playschemes and Oscars Holiday Care Schemes.
 - The results of consultations with the UK Youth Parliament and Hartlepool Young Voices.

W/C (date to be decided) – Working Group to seek the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage.

(Suggestion - a small group (possibly 5 members of the Forum) to meet with people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental

health problems, black and minority ethnic people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people) (*Covering Terms of Reference (g)*)

10 December 2007 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A presentation from a particular recreation scheme to provide a more in depth demonstration of the facilities/activities provided, barriers to access and what could be done to remove them from a young persons perspective; and (*Covering Terms of Reference (d)*)

(Group(s) to be decided and suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

- (ii) Feedback from the Chair of the Forum on the outcome of the Working Group session with people from minority communities of interest or heritage. (*Covering Terms of Reference (g)*)

- (iii) Evidence from a selection of groups representing vulnerable individuals, including families with disabled children and children looked after by the local authority, on the barriers to young people accessing recreation facilities. (*Covering Terms of Reference (g)*)

21 January 2008 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A presentation from a particular recreation scheme to provide a more in depth demonstration of the facilities/activities provided, barriers to access and what could be done to remove them from a young persons perspective; and (*Covering Terms of Reference (d)*)

(Group(s) to be decided and suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

- (ii) Further evidence on specific barriers to access identified through the investigation and identify suggestions for the removal of these barriers to improve accessibility. (*Covering Terms of Reference (e)*)

- (iii) To identify how those responsible for the provision of recreation facilities in Hartlepool intend to implement the 7 visions statements on partnerships. (*Covering Terms of Reference (h)*)

20 February 2008 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) Further evidence on specific barriers to access identified through the investigation and identify suggestions for the removal of these barriers to improve accessibility. (*Covering Terms of Reference (e)*)

- (ii) Summing up of findings for inclusion in the Draft Final Report.

31 March 2008 – Consideration of Draft Final Report

18 April 2008 – Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

28 April 2008 - Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet

8.2 As part of the 'scoping' exercise Members are asked to consider the location of meetings and in view of the proposal for the presentation of evidence from particular recreation schemes. It is suggested that the location of meetings on the site of schemes, where practical and appropriate, be considered with arrangement to be finalised with the approval of the Chair of the Forum.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 Members are recommended to agree the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's remit of the Scrutiny investigation as outlined in the report; and

9.2 Consider the proposal for the location of meetings, as outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Blyth Valley Borough Council Scrutiny Report – Access to Leisure for Young People (2004);
- (ii) Youth Service Strategic Priorities, Needs Assessment for Operational Plan 2007-2008;
- (iii) Borough of Telford and Wrekin Scrutiny Report – Review of Youth Facilities (2004); and
- (iv) Children's Services Scrutiny Forum Report – Determination of Work Programme 2007/8 (11 June 2007).

APPENDIX A

**PRO-FORMA TO REQUEST FUNDING TO SUPPORT
CURRENT SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

Title of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Title of the current scrutiny investigation for which funding is requested:

To clearly identify the purpose for which additional support is required:

To outline indicative costs to be incurred as a result of the additional support:

To outline any associated timescale implications:

To outline the 'added value' that may be achieved by utilising the additional support as part of the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:

<p>To outline any requirements / processes to be adhered to in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules / Standing Orders:</p>
<p>To outline the possible disadvantages of not utilising the additional support during the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:</p>
<p>To outline any possible alternative means of additional support outside of this proposal:</p>