

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**at 2.00 pm**

**in Committee Room B**

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Cambridge, Coward, Fleet, Griffin, Hargreaves, Lauderdale, London, Preece,  
Richardson, Shaw and Wistow

Co-opted Members: Elizabeth Barraclough, David Relton and Reverend Jesse Smith

Resident Representatives: Ian Campbell and Joan Smith

Education Advisor: Rob Lowe

**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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006 (*attached*)

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

No Items

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

No Items

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENTAL INSPECTIONS OUTCOMES**

No Items

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

- 7.1 Scrutiny of the Draft Children's and Young Peoples Plan – Draft Final Report – *Children's Services Scrutiny Forum*
- 7.2 Scrutiny of the Second Draft of the Children's and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) – *Director of Children's Services*

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 Co-opting Young People onto the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- 8.2 Co-opting Young People onto the Corporate Parent Forum (Presentation) – *Planning and Implementation Officer (Children and Families)*

**9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- a) **Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2006, commencing at 2.00pm in Committee Room B**

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

## **MINUTES**

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2006

### **Present:**

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Cambridge, Fleet, Griffin, Hargreaves, London and Preece.

Councillor R Waller, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services, was also in attendance at the invitation of the Forum.

Resident Representatives: Ian Campbell and Joan Smith

Education Advisor: Rob Lowe

Officers: Paul Briggs, Children's Services Consultant  
Maggie Heaps, Adult Education Co-ordinator  
John Robinson, Children's Fund Manager  
Jonathan Wistow, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

### **38. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Richardson and Wistow. Also from Co-opted Members Mr F Relton and Mrs L Barraclough.

### **39. Declarations of interest by members**

None.

### **40. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 were confirmed

## **41. Response from the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services – Adult Learning Inspection**

Members of the Forum received a report detailing the background and history of the Forum's involvement in the Adult Learning Inspection and were reminded that on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 the Forum's Final Report had been sent to the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services.

In response, the Portfolio Holder had agreed the findings and recommendations of the report and asked it to be noted that in light of the impending announcement from the Learning and Skills Council in the form of a document entitled "Future of Post-19 Funding" Scrutiny might wish to look at future configuration of Adult Learning services.

The Portfolio Holder was in attendance and advised that the Government were reconfiguring funding for Adult Learning and he felt this might not be beneficial to the Wards in Hartlepool. He expressed concerns about the lack of continuation of special needs post-19 funding and recreational course funding, etc often carried out in community based venues. The Portfolio Holder commented that although school standards are improving there are still a vast number of people needed to gain Level 1 and 2 education.

Bids had been put in for a share of £200,000 over two years, to be shared between six partners. The Portfolio Holder felt this should be awarded automatically.

The Adult Education Co-ordinator advised that there are two funding streams; The Further Education stream looks at vocational courses where learners are increasing their skills in order to improve employment prospects. The Adult and Community Learning stream looks at non vocational and leisure type learning where learners are able to increase their confidence and skills in a more informal way. It includes provision for Family Learning opportunities. The department had been told recently of the amount of funding available from each stream for 2006/07. Maggie indicated that the department were constantly having to realign provision to make best use of the funding available. This included having to bid for additional funds to other organisations.

The Portfolio Holder and other Members expressed their views that instilling confidence and raising aspirations is still vital for many people and courses that can attract them back into learning are needed.

A Member commented that the funding situation may not just be down to the Learning and Skills Council but it would be a good idea to keep this issue on the work programme of the appropriate Scrutiny Forum and invite a representative to update on the issue. Other Members agreed to this course of action for the future. The Adult Learning Co-ordinator indicated that, because of the funding timescale, input before May would be preferable.

The Portfolio Holder was thanked for his attendance and valued contribution to the meeting.

### **Decision**

That the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum be advised of:

- (a) the investigation into the Adult Learning service carried out by the previous Culture & Learning, now Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to date;
- (b) the Portfolio Holders comments, and
- (c) the need for further investigation into funding issues – with a suggestion that the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum could invite a representative of the Learning and Skills Council (Tees Valley) to a future meeting, if it could be included in that Forum's work programme.

## **42. Scrutiny of the Second Draft of the Children's and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) *(Director of Children's Services)***

The Children's Services Consultant, Paul Briggs, gave a presentation and, assisted by the Children's Fund Manager, John Robinson, spoke on the report that had been circulated to Forum Members. The purpose being to invite Members to comment on the second draft of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). A copy of the second draft of the CYPP had been circulated with the Agenda.

Members were reminded that Hartlepool Borough Council has a new duty under the Children's Act 2004 to prepare and publish a CYPP in cooperation with key partners and this item forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework for the Council, as set out in Part Four of the Council's Constitution. Consequently, Scrutiny is statutorily involved in this process prior to the draft Final Report being submitted to Council in April 2006.

The Presentation contained slides on the following and Paul added related information throughout. A copy of the Presentation is attached to these minutes as promised:

- The Key Facts
- Five outcomes
- Where are we now
- Listening to Children and Young People
- Children and Young People's Priorities
- Draft 2 Key Priorities

The process to date, the terms of reference for the Scrutiny Investigation and the key aspects of the content of the CYPP for consideration and comment from the Forum, were outlined in the report.

Members were advised that, although the responsibility for preparing and publishing, the Plan lies with the Local Authority, it is a joint Plan which is being developed in partnership. Consequently, the CYPP would reflect a range of agreements between those involved in the process.

Paul explained the proposed format/layout of the CYPP and asked for Members views. One Part was explained in more detail and Members were advised that each Part was in a similar format.

John indicated that the prior scrutiny investigation into Involving Young People had provided useful information. He added that giving children a say has really started to happen and a lot of effort had been put into all of the avenues available but the network is not as wide as Officers would like it to be. Diamond 9 was explained and the interesting results received. This was now being taken a step further and a future event had been booked to get more of an insight into Children's views on the 10 top issues that came out, ie bullying; acceptance of difference; be safe; have adults listen to your views; healthy food; crime; drugs; good schools; a settled home life and wanting the best for all children.

Officers had been talking to the Participation Network and other Local Authorities and there had been excellent engagement with the voluntary sector.

During the opportunity for questions and comments the following issues arose:

- Members recognised that lots of groundwork had been put in and positive steps had been made.
- Format – The separate Parts and format of each Part was acknowledged to be good; The Chair mentioned the Hype magazine circulated at the last meeting and commented that keeping the Plan interesting looking was important.
- A Member asked (a) who would police the Plan and the process, and (b) could the Summary show the distinction between children's and adults' priorities - Paul replied that policing would be undertaken in a number of ways. The Plan commits partners to work together and each partner has to be accountable. Within the Children's Services Department the Planning and Evaluation Group has outcome leads – some monitoring will be done by them. The Joint Area Review will also police. It was noted that young people had been involved in developing the Participation Strategy and that the CYPP should be part of this ongoing agenda. In terms of elected Member involvement in policing, Paul advised that it would be up to Members to make recommendations. Over time areas of the plan could be looked at more closely. Officers would be guided by Members. John indicated that he would remind children of the Elected Members in their Wards and children or groups may want to speak to Members – developmental groups were being set up along with participation group.

Furthermore, this Forum's Involving Young People investigation had recommended that a Member of this Forum should Chair the Participation Network.

- A Member asked if young people had been interviewed by Outreach Workers etc. - John advised that Officers had a number of partners and were very much involved in linking with children, through Fast and such organisations. The issue of how do we relate services to what the young people want today had been examined and John mentioned the peer mediation scheme at Brierton School.
- A Member suggested that it would be useful to outline the priorities for young people in the summary section of Part 1 of the CYPP *as well* as the overall or combined outcomes/priorities currently listed.
- A Resident Representative asked how Officers would estimate the scope and significance of parental involvement so far – enough or too little? John indicated that Officers would like to have done more and this needs to be build-in over time. Some involvement should have been undertaken by the Third draft and there would be further opportunity to do so as the CYPP develops over time. Paul admitted that “listening to young people” was the priority at this stage – less focus had been put on liaising with parents.
- A Member asked if the group developing the plan had examined work done outside, ie parent scheme done regionally etc – she said some schools were already tapping in. The Member also commented that the voluntary sector and regional bodies could be linked in. ie Millennium Volunteers etc - possibly more mention needed. Paul advised that there had been liaison on this with HVDA and John now had some work to link into the third draft. The Chair agreed that increased parental involvement could be part of future planning once the Children's priorities are clearer.

Councillor Hargreaves declared a personal interest at this point in the meeting – in respect of her current involvement with Aspire.

- A Member mentioned Aspire, a scheme being paid for by the Government and she said that if Hartlepool is not linking in then young people and schools in the town could be missing out on what is available. Paul advised that he was attempting to link into schools – John Collings, Assistant Director, was keeping Heads/Secondary Heads updated at operational level. Paul agreed that good links with schools were important and more detail would be included over time.
- The Education Advisor commented that discussions had been interesting and fruitful so far but he had concerns - the Plan appeared to reflect the Children's Act requirements but actually something was missing from the Children's Act reforms – the five outcomes were being addressed and beyond that social and intellectual needs were being

considered but whilst everyone was concentrating on practical they were neglecting spiritual needs and these are a priority in lots of societies. He personally felt it would be good for Hartlepool to include this aspect in the Plan.

- A Member commented that whilst the town may have a number of facilities that should meet the demands of young people in relation to physical activities the young people themselves are identifying the lack of physical activity as a problem. Consequently, this should be reflected in the 'be healthy' section of the report.
- The Chair commented that the Forum should take more responsibility for the plan and look at separate parts more closely as part of the work programme. A Member agreed that this was a good idea and suggested that each of the Five Outcomes could be looked at by the most appropriate Scrutiny Forum for each so that as many Members as possible can be involved and take responsibility for the Plan.

The Scrutiny Support Officer noted the last issue above for further discussion.

The Chair thanked Officers for the interesting and informative reports and presentations and Forum Members for their valued input.

#### **Decision**

That the second draft of the Children and Young Peoples Plan be noted and the comments of Forum Members outlined above be taken into account when the Plan is updated. A Draft Final Report of the Forum's views in relation to the CYPP will be presented at the next meeting of the Forum.

### **43. Any other items which the Chairman considers are urgent.**

The Chair advised of the resignation of Jan Fawcett, Co-opted Member and indicated that steps were being taken to find a replacement. .

JANE SHAW

CHAIRMAN



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

7<sup>th</sup> March 2006



**Report of:** Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

**Subject:** SCRUTINY OF THE DRAFT CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Members of the Forum with an overview of their findings (thus far) in relation to the Second Draft of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

## 2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Hartlepool Borough Council has a new duty under the Children's Act 2004 to prepare and publish a CYPP in co-operation with key partners. This item forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework for the Council, as set out in Part Four of the Council's Constitution. Consequently, Scrutiny is statutorily involved in this process prior to the draft Final Plan being submitted to Council in April 2006.

## 3. SETTING THE SCENE

3.1 Since the beginning of September 2005 officers of the Children's Services Department have been engaged in discussions with a wide range of partners and other interested parties in the development of a first consultative draft of the CYPP, published on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

3.2 The consultation period on this first draft plan runs until 16<sup>th</sup> December 2005. This will then lead to the production of a second draft plan in January 2006.

3.3 Cabinet will meet in mid-January 2006 to consider the second draft of the CYPP. Following this meeting the second draft CYPP will be sent to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum for consideration. Public consultation on this document begins on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and ends 27<sup>th</sup> February 2006. Consequently, it may be possible to feed the results of this consultation into the meeting of the Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

- 3.4 Members should be aware that this is the first time a CYPP has been produced by the Authority. The Government expects that the CYPP should evolve over its first years of existence, and this will be reflected in Hartlepool as the Children's Services Department works ever more closely with partner organisations. It should also be noted that, given this is the first year CYPPs are being developed across the country, best practice will also develop over time.

#### **4. OVERALL AIM OF THE INQUIRY**

- 4.1 For the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to comment on the draft CYPP as part of the Budget and Policy Framework process for this item.

#### **5. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 5.1 Outlined below are the terms of reference for the inquiry, which were agreed at the meeting of this Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005:-

- 1) To consider the appropriateness of the proposed format of the CYPP in relation to the:-
  - a) Full version;
  - b) Summary for adults;
  - c) Summary for young people (This is being prepared with and for young people and because proper engagement and consultation with young people takes a significant amount of time, this may not be complete until the third draft stage. It may not, therefore, be completed in time for Scrutiny to examine it); and
  - d) Availability in other formats.
- 2) To consider and comment on the key aspects of the content of the draft CYPP, in particular:-
  - a) The accuracy of the section on the Hartlepool context;
  - b) The appropriateness of vision statements and key principles; and
  - c) The relevance of the priorities identified in the section dealing with the five Every Child Matters outcomes ('Be Healthy', 'Stay Safe', 'Enjoy and Achieve', 'Make a Positive Contribution', and 'Achieve Economic Well-Being').

- 5.2 It was also agreed that during the Scrutiny Investigation Members should be aware that, although the responsibility for preparing and publishing the plan lies with the Local Authority, the CYPP is a joint plan, which is being developed in partnership. Consequently, the CYPP will reflect a range of agreements between those involved in the process.

#### **6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM**

- 6.1 Children's Services Scrutiny Forum 2005/6 Municipal Year:

Councillors: Cambridge, Coward, Fleet, Griffin, Hargreaves, Lauderdale, London, Preece, Richardson, Shaw (Chair) and Wistow

Co-opted Members: Mr F D S Relton, Rev J Smith, Mrs J Fawcett and Mrs L Barraclough

Resident Representatives: M Boreland, I Campbell and J Smith

## 7. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- 7.1 Over the course of the inquiry, between 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006 Members received detailed officer reports supported by verbal evidence. Furthermore, the information presented to the Forum by Council Officers (given the local authority's responsibility for preparing the plan) reflected the partnership working that has been ongoing throughout the development of the CYPP.

## 8. SCRUTINY FINDINGS

- 8.1 During the meeting of the Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006 the following interim findings/conclusions were reached by the Forum:
- a) Firstly, the Forum welcomed the Second Draft of the CYPP and, in particular, the work that had been carried out 'across the board' in developing the Plan.
  - b) The Forum agreed that Hartlepool is doing very well in developing its Plan and is clearly better co-ordinated than other local authorities.
  - c) In relation to the format of the Plan the Forum agreed that it was better to produce the Plan with separate documents for each of the five outcomes so that it is easily accessible to people wishing to focus on specific parts of the plan. Furthermore, it was suggested that HYPE magazine should be looked at as a potential format to enhance accessibility of the document for young people.
  - d) It was suggested that it would be useful to highlight the priorities for young people in the summary section of Part 1 of the CYPP *as well as* the overall or combined outcomes/priorities currently listed.
  - e) Whilst the town may have a number of facilities that should meet the demands of young people in relation to physical activities the young people themselves are identifying the lack of physical activity as a problem. Consequently, this should be reflected in the 'be healthy' section of the Plan.
  - f) The Forum were pleased to see connections with 'hard to reach groups' being developed through the consultation process, in particular through links to outreach workers and the FAST project.
  - g) A Member of the Forum questioned how involved parents had been in the process and argued that they should play a substantial role in this. Members were informed that adults had been involved in the process generally and there had been some specific focus on parents. However, given that this was the first time the CYPP has been produced, officers were extremely keen to ensure the focus was on

children and young people this time around and they hoped that there would be more parental involvement the next time the plan was produced.

- h) Whilst Members were very pleased with the way that the CYPP document reflected the Children's Act requirements, it was suggested that the Act itself may be neglecting spiritual needs. Consequently, it was suggested that Hartlepool look to develop this strand further in the future.
- i) In terms of the future reporting arrangements of the CYPP Members recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum should examine the Plan twice yearly (once as part of the Budget and Policy Framework Process and once again during the course of the municipal year). It was also suggested that given that the key outcomes of the Plan sit across all the Scrutiny Forum's specific outcomes could be looked at by the most appropriate Scrutiny Forum in the future so that as many Members are involved in the development of, and can take responsibility for, the Plan.
- j) A Member raised the issue of the 'policing' of the Plan and where young people and Elected Members fit in with the accountability of the Plan. The Plan commits partners to work together and each partner has to be accountable for the elements that it leads. Within the Children's Services Department the Planning and Evaluation Group has outcome leads and they are responsible for preparing the Annual Performance Assessment self-review. The Joint Area Review (JAR) process will also police the Plan and Hartlepool's first JAR is expected in November 2006. Elected Members will monitor the plan twice a year through the Scrutiny process.
- k) It was noted that young people had been involved in developing the Participation Strategy and that the CYPP should be part of this ongoing agenda. In addition, as part of the findings of the Involving Young People Inquiry it was recommended that a Member of this Forum should Chair the Participation Network.
- l) It was suggested that the CYPP should seek to engage with, and reflect, regional developments and funding opportunities and that an outward focus to the plan was key.

8.2 Item 7.2 on the agenda for this meeting indicates that Members requested further time to consider the Draft CYPP at the meeting of this Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> February and would provide further comments at this meeting. Furthermore, Members agreed that officers could make a presentation and table a supplementary written report at the meeting based on the public consultation for the CYPP, given the extremely short turnaround time between the end of consultation and the publication of the Plan. Consequently, any additional comments from Members will be incorporated into the Findings of the Forum.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Members of the Forum expressed their broad support for the development of the second draft of the CYPP. Given that this is the first year that the CYPP

has been produced Members were particularly pleased with the development of the Plan in comparison with other authorities. Furthermore, Members made a number of comments, that have been highlighted in section 8 above, that they would like to see incorporated into the current (where possible – given the tightly defined timetable for the development of the CYPP and the partnership working that has led to the current draft of the CYPP) and future development of the CYPP.

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Members note the content of the report and approve or amend this where appropriate. In addition, Members may wish to make additional comments / recommendations about the CYPP based on the further information (under item 7.2) provided at this meeting.

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## BACKGROUND PAPERS

*Children and Young People's Plan – Second Consultative Draft* January 2006  
*Scrutiny of the Second Draft of the Children and Young People's Plan* – Director of Children's Services 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006  
*Scrutiny of the Draft of the Children and Young People's Plan – Scoping Report* - Scrutiny Support Officer 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

7<sup>th</sup> March 2006



**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** SCRUTINY OF THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite members to comment further on the second draft of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.2 To inform members of the outcomes of consultation on the second draft.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Children's Services Scrutiny Forum met on 7<sup>th</sup> February to consider the second draft of Hartlepool's Children and Young People's Plan. Members received a presentation by officers of the Children's Services Department and raised a number of issues, as identified in the draft minutes of the meeting. It was agreed that, following the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February, individual members of the Forum would consider the content of the draft in detail and would provide further comments at their meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2.2 Public consultation on the second draft of the Children and Young People's Plan was scheduled to run until 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006. It was agreed that officers would report the outcomes of this consultation to members of the Forum at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Because of the extremely short time available between the end of the consultation period and the publication of this report, members agreed that officers could make a presentation and table a supplementary written report at the meeting.

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members of the Forum are recommended to comment further on the draft Children and Young People's Plan as part of the Budget and Policy Framework process for this item.
- 3.2 Members of the Forum are recommended to consider and comment on the outcomes of public consultation on the second draft of the Plan.

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# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

7<sup>th</sup> March 2006



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** CO-OPTING YOUNG PEOPLE ONTO THE  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide a brief introduction to the notion of Co-opting young people onto the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As part of its Involving Young People Final Report this Forum agreed (in recommendation 1e) that it would 'actively pursue the possibility of co-opting young people onto the Forum'.

2.2 The Forum qualified its recommendation by stating that it wanted to consider the likely impact that this will have on the way in which the Forum works. For example, the Forum may not be able to discuss certain items with young people present, the format of meetings may need to be changed, and so might the times.

2.3 Consequently, the Forum proposed that whilst it supports the principal of co-opting young people onto the Forum it will undertake a further evidence gathering meeting to discuss the practicalities of this in more detail and receive evidence from bodies that have co-opted young people onto their membership – such as the Corporate Parent Forum.

2.4 Consequently, item 8.1 b) is a presentation about the Corporate Parent Forum and how they have co-opted young people onto the membership of this Forum. A number of issues are highlighted that Members may want to consider in relation to the implications of co-opting young people onto the Scrutiny Forum.

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members note the content of the report and following the presentation at item 8.1 b) consider the practicalities of adopting a similar approach to the working practices of this scrutiny Forum. Members may wish to make a



recommendation on the basis of the information provided to the Forum today, and subsequent discussions, or to request further information.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*Involving Young People – Final Report* – Children's Services Scrutiny Forum report to Council 16<sup>th</sup> February.

# Co-opting Young People onto the Corporate Parent Forum

Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

7 March 2006

# What is the Corporate Parent Forum?

- A forum designed to ensure the Council does everything a good parent would do in ensuring the best outcomes for looked after children.( ie those in public care)
- The forum was re-configured and as part of this process looked after children and young people were invited to join

## What did children and young peoples involvement mean for the CPF?

- Change the time of the meetings – but not the venue
- Re-write remit of the Forum and the Terms of Reference
- Agree confidentiality issues
- Reduction in jargon and unnecessary formality

# Other things to consider?

- Press coverage – is there a need to train children and young people on dealing with the media?
- Is everyone up for it? There are no half measures!
- Children and young people must be treated as equal partners
- Need to attempt to engage the hard to reach

# The Positives

- A chance for children and young people to directly influence the decisions made in relation to the services they receive
- Children and young people tell it as it is! Be prepared to hear things that might make you uncomfortable

# Conclusion

*Are there are any better experts in scrutinising the services provided to children and young people than those children and young people themselves?*