

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Monday, 31 March 2008

at 4.30 pm

in Owton Manor Community Centre

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 and David Relton

Young Peoples Representatives: Leigh Bradley, Hannah Shaw, Chris Lund, Kelly Goulding, 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 25 February 2008 (to follow)
- 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

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

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

- 6.1 Six Month Progress Report – Scrutiny Investigation into the Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) In Hartlepool Schools – *Director Of Children's Services*

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

None

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

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

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting – Monday, 7 April 2008, commencing at 4.00 pm, in Committee Room B, Civic Centre**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

25 February 2008

The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

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

Co-opted Member: Elizabeth Barraclough

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge and Evelyn Leck.

Young Peoples Representatives:

Leigh Bradley, Kelly Goulding, Hannah Shaw and Judith Kelsey.

Also Present:

Councillor Cath Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder
Beth Hawkrige, Hartbeat, Barnardos
Nikki Pearson, Barnardos B76
Jill Bousfield, Barnardos B76
Sharon Pounder, Housing Hartlepool
Michelle Mincher, West View Project
Arran Frame, West View Project
Rebecca Wise, West View Project

Officers: Sue Johnson, Assistant Director (Planning and Service Integration)
John Robinson, Children's Fund Manager
Peter Davies, Principal Youth Officer
Tracy Liveras, Young People and Play Co-ordinator
Andy Pearson, Parks and Countryside Manager
Claire Lowthian, Policy and Services Integration Graduate Trainee
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Sajda Banaras, Strategy and Performance Officer
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

87. Apologies for Absence

Councillors John Coward and Michelle Plant, Co-opted Member David Relton and Resident Representative Michael Ward.

88. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

89. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2008 were confirmed.

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

No items.

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

No items.

92. Draft Corporate Plan 2008/09 – Proposed Outcomes and Actions *(Director of Children's Services and Assistant Chief Executive)*

The report provided the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum with the opportunity to comment on the proposed actions and outcomes included in the Corporate Plan 2008/09. The comments of the forum would be fed into the meeting of the scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 14 March 2008.

Members highlighted that over recent years the focus had always been on achievement at the four Key Stage assessment points. It was highlighted in the report that under the theme Lifelong learning and Skills the outcome was title 'Enjoy and Achieve'. Members considered that children's enjoyment of the education system would be an area worth looking at in more detail to see what schools actually did to create an atmosphere of enjoyment for students.

Member also commented that under the theme of Health and Care the outcome 'Be Healthy' was one with particular relevance to the work of the forum with the increasing occurrence of childhood obesity. The Assistant Director (Planning & Service Integration) of Children's Services stated that all schools were committed to the health schools standard which was being rolled out through the schools in the town having originally being funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF). Members indicated that they would like

to see how the standard had made a difference and suggested that it be included in the list of potential investigations for next year.

The Chair was critical of the use of abbreviations with in the report without reference to what they stood for and asked that this didn't occur again.

Recommended

That the comments of the forum be reported to the meeting of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 14 March 2008.

93. Draft Final Report – Sustainability of Externally Funded Community Initiatives in Schools *(Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum)*

The Chair indicated that the draft final report would be submitted to the meeting on 25 March 2008.

Recommended

That consideration of the Draft Final Report on the investigation into the Sustainability of Externally Funded Community Initiatives in Schools be deferred to the meeting on 25 March 2008.

94. Presentation from the Forum's Co-opted Young People – Scrutiny Investigation into 'Access to Recreation Activities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool' *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer reported that as the investigation drew to a close and in accordance with the process agreed through the 'scoping' exercise, the young people's representatives co-opted onto the Forum had been asked to make a presentation in relation to:-

- (i) The implementation of the 7 Vision Statements on Partnerships in relation to the provision of recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool; and
- (ii) What they have learned and their views on possible recommendations for the way forward in the provision of recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool.

The presentation outlined the following main points: -

- The previous discussions of the forum, including the site visits.
- A group exercise on how young people were perceived.
- What it was like to be a young person in Hartlepool.
- Public perceptions of young people and how young people could challenge those perceptions.

The recommendations that came from the young peoples consideration of the

issues were: -

- The MP should consult with all schools not just single out one, as had happened.
- The 'Pod' idea should be used in Hartlepool and they should be put in accessible areas.
- Youth service provision should be accessible at sensible times and available to all ages.
- Advertise and market all the services that are available to young people in all areas
- The vision statements should be incorporated as far as possible into all departments, organisations and the play strategy, as an end result of investigation.
- Just as with the presentation in October 2007, young people do not want the investigation to focus solely on anti-social behaviour.

The members of the forum thanked the young people for their presentation, the group discussions and the detailed work they had undertaken in the development of the recommendations. Facilities such as Café 177 were discussed as 'flagship' facilities by Councillors and resident representatives. The young people present commented, however, that Café 177 and other facilities were in their view provided for very geographically specific areas and groups. This frequently led to many groups feeling that they could not, or would not, attend certain facilities, such as Café 177 because it wasn't for the 'kids from their area' or they feared bullying from kids from other areas.

It was acknowledged that it was sometimes difficult to find out what was going on outside of the Council but officers also commented that it was also difficult to present the information in a format that would appeal to the various age groups. Work was being undertaken on this and a young people's version of the Play Strategy was being developed alongside the 'departmental' version.

Members considered that further young peoples democracy events should be held and encouraged the holding of these events as a way to start to promote communication between the age groups. It was accepted that most of the time they weren't talking the same language but the effort would produce results.

Recommended

1. That the young people involved in the work developing their recommendations and making the presentation to the forum be congratulated on the quality of their work.
2. That the recommendations made by the young people be fed into the draft final report.

95. Possible Barriers – Further Information *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer reported that during the course of the investigation various possible barriers to accessing recreation facilities by

young people had been discussed, including. These included:-

- (i) The cost of, and availability of funding for, recreation activities.
- (ii) The provision of funding / assistance to help young people access recreation activities (including young people with disabilities).
- (iii) The advertising of recreation activities.
- (iv) The availability of transportation to, and location of, recreation activities.
- (v) Physical accessibility of recreation facilities.
- (vi) The provision of what young people want (consultation)

Members commented that the facilities for children and young people needed to be accessible and not isolated. There would be many who would say that they didn't want these facilities in their areas or near their homes. The location of facilities raised the issue of travelling and the costs associated with that. It was commented that in Middlesbrough many young people were travelling quite some distance to access certain facilities. Members discussed the potential of subsidised bus passes for young people to access these facilities in Hartlepool and considered it to be a key aspect to be considered in future initiatives. Members considered that transport and its cost needed to be given some weight in the conclusions of the investigation. It was the view, however, of a number of those present that if young people wanted to go to some particular club, facility, event, then they would go regardless of whether they had to travel or if it was out of their area of the town.

Recommended

1. That Members note the evidence provided in Appendices A and B to the report and the comments set out above.
2. That Members note the possible barriers to accessing recreation activities by children and young people, particularly in relation to the provision of and the cost of transport, for inclusion in the Forum's Final Report.

JANE SHAW

CHAIRMAN

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 March 2008



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT – SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 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 an update on the progress that has been made in relation to the 'Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools' investigation, six months after the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum made its recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 During the 2006/7 Municipal Year Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum conducted an investigation into 'Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools'.
- 2.2 On 11 June 2007 the Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools - Final Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum was submitted to Cabinet for approval. Following Cabinet's decision in relation to the Scrutiny Investigation an Action Plan and progress report from the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services was considered by Children's Services Scrutiny Forum on 16 July 2007
- 2.3 This report has been produced six months after the Committee's recommendations were considered by the appropriate decision-making body and as such provides an outline of the progress made to date in relation to the recommendations made by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.
- 2.4 An updated Action Plan is attached at **Appendix A** with the progress made to date outlined in bold text under the proposed action.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 Members will recall that the overall aim of the Scrutiny Investigation was to review current practice in the provision of sex and relationship education (SRE) to young people in Hartlepool and suggest possible improvements.

4. DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE TO THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE UPON THE DELIVERY OF THE ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 There have been significant developments across all areas of SRE, (as detailed in the Action Plan). It is felt that Hartlepool will be in line with the recommendations in the current national review of SRE which is being chaired by the UKYP. Developments in SRE will continue to be made with partnership work and joined-up thinking as a central feature.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That Members note the progress to date in relation to the delivery of the Action Plan, and where felt appropriate seek clarification upon the achievement / none achievement of the delivery timescales / recommendations.

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Hartlepool Borough Council
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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.
- (iii) Portfolio Holders Response To The Provision Of Sex And Relationship Education (SRE) In Hartlepool Schools – 16 June 2007

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

6.1 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 (ii)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bespoke input as requested. • Still 1 primary school outstanding – this has been re-addressed. • Tees-wide meeting arranged for 31st February to discuss development of L+G and the way forward. • Capacity of SNS is an issue for delivery. 	<p>Sandra Saint - Primary</p> <p>Deborah Gibbin - Secondary</p>	<p>Sept 07 – Jul 08</p>

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

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(b)	<p>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>	Kate Peverell	Sept 07 – May 08
(c)	<p>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.</p>	Deborah Gibbin	<p>Oct - Mar 08 Jan 08</p> <p>As requested during academic year</p>

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RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(d)	<p>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.</p>	Sandra Saint	Mar 08
(e)	<p>That in order to further develop SRE provision in Hartlepool the Local Authority explore:-</p> <p>(i) Ways of improving the delivery of the 'relationship' element of SRE to better meet young people's needs;</p> <p>(ii) The use of less formal language in</p>	Deborah Gibbin	Sept 08

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

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
the delivery of the 'APAUSE' programme;	- Language used in APAUSE is appropriate to group Ensure that APUASE training includes recommended use of appropriate language	Kate Peverell	Oct – Jan 08
(iii) Ways of improving training and support for SRE teachers, to encourage their participation;	- Local and national PSHE CPD developed to ensure teachers participation To date: 22 (minus 2) Teachers achieved 13 (minus 3) Nurses achieved Currently underway: 3 Teachers 1 Nurse	Sandra Saint	Sept – Jul 08
(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	- The development of the new local SRE resource will achieve this (See e)	Deborah Gibbin	Sept 08
(vi) The development of improved information/best practice sharing systems/processes for schools, including the provision of a central resource/query line.	- Continue to raise awareness of the effectiveness of a spiral PSHE curriculum with all schools Continuous promotion and included in new LAA.	Sandra Saint	Ongoing
		Kate Peverell	Jan – Mar 08

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

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

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	- Develop a SRE school network		
(f)	<p>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.</p> <p>- Ensure that assessment is built into recommended programmes: Lucinda & Godfrey and APAUSE Part of developments – 31st March 08 - Assessment is included in the Speakeasy programme Assessment is undertaken as part of OCN accreditation - Training for teachers in assessment in PSHE CPD – 3rd June 2008</p>	Sandra Saint	Jul 09
(g)	<p>That the combining of external programmes, including the 'Time to Talk' and 'Speakeasy' programmes, with the 'APAUSE' system be explored.</p> <p>- Explore combining Speakeasy and APAUSE programmes Not viable to 'combine' Speakeasy with APAUSE however will be working closely with Children's Centres & Extended Services</p>	Deborah Gibbin	Dec 07
(h)	<p>That consideration be given to the renaming of 'Sex and Relationship Education' (SRE) to place primary</p> <p>- Consult with: Teachers Governors</p>	Deborah Gibbin	Mar 08

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RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	emphasis upon the relationship aspect of provision within Hartlepool schools.	Parents School Nurses Young people in respect of changing the name of SRE. Ongoing		
(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	Complete
(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

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

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
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