

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

15 July 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services
Sally Robinson, Assistant Director of Children's Services
(Safeguarding & Specialist Services)
Sue Johnson, Assistant Director - Planning & Service Integration
Ian Stamp, Children's Services Officer
Francesca Magog, Partnership and Integration Development
Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

1. School Term and Holiday dates: School Year 2009/2010 (And 2010/2011) *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The report was presented to seek the agreement of the Portfolio Holder for the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2009/2010 for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. The report also sought the agreement of the Portfolio Holder in recommending those dates to the governing bodies of aided schools in Hartlepool. The report was also to make Children's Services Management Team, senior colleagues, schools and governing bodies aware of the draft 'setting the school calendar – guiding principles for the North East and Yorkshire Regions' that were currently being developed. The Portfolio Holder was also asked to consider the draft proposals for 2010/2011 as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the current state of play nationally regionally and locally on the pattern of the school year, and recommendations for the school year

2009/2010 which had been agreed by the majority of Authorities and Schools after consultation with head teachers, governing bodies, relevant teaching associations and schools. The 2010/2011 term and holiday dates were still under discussion as secondary head teachers were concerned that the preferred Option 2 would mean that Key Stage 3 SATS would take place in the first week of the school term. Consultations had taken place with North East and Yorkshire Local Authorities and a draft guidance 'setting the schools calendar guiding principles for the North East and Yorkshire Regions' had been prepared.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the schedule of term and holiday dates for 2009/2010 for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool as shown in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder recommended the schedule of term and holiday dates for 2009/2010 to the governing bodies of aided schools in Hartlepool as shown in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder approved the guidance and framework of "setting the school calendar – guiding principles for North East Region and Yorkshire" as shown in Appendix 3 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder agreed to defer the decision for the 2010/2011 calendar until Hartlepool is able to obtain the views of neighbouring and regional Local Authorities' consultation events.

2. Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2009 - 2012 *(Partnership and Integration Development Manager)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The report presented a new draft vision statement and reported on the emerging issues arising from recent consultation on the first draft CYPP for 2009-2012.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Local Authority was required to produce a Children and Young People's Plan through section 17 of the Children Act 2004 and the Children and Young People's Plan (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2007. The existing plan which expires on 31 March 2009 required reviewing and updating to meet new requirements on Children's Services Departments

and their partners.

The Children's Services Department, through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership had completed the first round of consultation as outlined in the previous Portfolio Holder report dated 20 May 2008.

The original vision statement would be changed to reflect the priorities set out in the government's Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures and reflect the successes of the previous plan and changing practice within Hartlepool. The new draft vision statement was set out in the report as well as findings of the consultation carried out. The cost of consultation programme would be met by grant funding from the Department of Children, Schools and Families to support the development of Children's Trusts. The current round of consultation was due to end on 31 July 2008 and a further draft would be produced by the end of August and brought back to the Portfolio Holder for comments and then further consultation with stakeholders.

The first round of consultation had identified a number of emerging issues some of which were known, others of which were being highlighted for the first time. For example teenage pregnancy remained as an area that still needed to be improved and whilst it was acknowledged that a significant amount of work had been undertaken in relation to bullying over the past three years, cyber bullying is a new issue/concern that is being raised particularly by children and young people. The Portfolio Holder suggested that there should better targeted support for problem families.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted concerns that knife crime seemed to be an emerging national issue and that the youth service did not deal with young people under the age of 13. The Assistant Director - Planning & Service Integration stated that the Children's Fund was attempting to bridge the gap between Sure Start and Youth Service/Connexions. Some young people were also receiving help through the Family Intervention Project.

The Portfolio Holder said she hoped that more facilities for young people under the age of 13 who were not involved in crime or anti-social behaviour would be provided as they seemed to miss out on funding.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the new draft vision statement and emerging issues arising from the first round of consultation on the CYPP for 2009 – 2012.

The Portfolio Holder noted that as the consultation progressed a further draft of the plan would be brought back for approval in September 2008.

3. Local Government Access to Information

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 4 – Children's Homes: Regulation 33/34 Reports (Para 1 – information relating to any individual

4. Children's Homes: Regulation 33/34 Reports– Director of Children's Services (Para 1)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To present the Regulation 33/34 (formerly Regulation 22) report of visit to Children's Home for Exmoor Grove.

Issue(s) for Consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The report covered the months of February and March 2008.

Decision

That the report be noted.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

| **Publication Date – 18 July 2008**