

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday, 3 March 2009

at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Aiken, Fleet, Griffin, Kaiser, London, McKenna, Preece, Shaw and Simmons

Co-opted Members: David Relton

Resident Representatives: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Joan Steel and Sally Vokes

Young Peoples Representatives: Arran Frame, Danielle Howie, Dean Jeffries, Chris Lund, Gillian Pounder and Graham Skinner

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 13 January 2009
 - 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2009
4. **SHORT ICE BREAKER EXERCISE**
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 Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service – *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

7.1 Corporate Plan 2009/10: Proposed Objectives and Actions – *Scrutiny Support Officer / Director of Children's Services*

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Scrutiny Investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason

8.1 Evidence from Housing Hartlepool and Nightstop Hartlepool

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*;

(b) Verbal Evidence from the Director of Housing Services, Housing Hartlepool;

(c) Verbal Evidence from a Representative from Nightstop Hartlepool.

8.2 Evidence on the Benefits and Financial Support Available to Young People

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*;

(b) Joint Presentation by the Principal Housing Officer and a Representative from Department for Work and Pensions.

9. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be 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 the paragraph 3 of Part1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006; namely, Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

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

- 12.1 Portfolio Holder's Response to Call-In of Decision: Service Specification for Children's Centre Outreach Package – *Portfolio Holder for Children's Services*

13. ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 24 March 2009, commencing at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

13 January 2009

The meeting commenced at 4.30 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Frances London (In the Chair)

Councillors: Martyn Aiken, Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Arthur Preece and Chris Simmons.

Co-opted Member: David Relton.

Resident Representative: Joan Steel.

Young Peoples Representatives: Chris Lund and Graham Skinner.

Officers: Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services
John Robinson, Children's Fund Manager
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

94. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Kaiser, McKenna and Shaw. Councillor Cath Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder.

95. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

96. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2008 were confirmed. Consideration of the minutes of the meeting of the forum held on 5 December was deferred to the next meeting.

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

No items.

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

No items.

99. Children's Services Department: Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals 2009/10 (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Director of Children's Services presented the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals 2009/10 as they related to the Children's Services Department. The Director outlined the proposed efficiencies, pressures, contingencies, area based grant allocations and working Neighbourhood fund allocations which were set out in appendices to the report. The Director focussed on the final appendices which set out the proposed 1% additional budget reductions as these had not previously been reported to the forum in the earlier round of consultations as at that time it was not known that they were needed.

The forum raised the following questions/comments and the Director's responses are set out as appropriate.

- Were redundancies still required? The Director commented that there had been no shift in the number of vacant posts, so unfortunately redundancies would be required as detailed in the report.
- Members questioned the reduction in the subsidy to support attendance at Lanehead and Carlton Outdoor Centres. The Director clarified that there had been an error on this and the previous report in that this reduction would not affect those from low income families.
- Would the reduction in the use of agency foster carers provide additional savings? It was reported that the figures quoted included an anticipated saving in that regard.
- The Director highlighted the transfer of the commissioning role from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in relation to 16-19 education and training. £63,000 had been highlighted in the contingencies as at this time it was not known when the responsibility would be transferred and the level of financial and staffing resources that would come from the LSC.
- Members asked if work was being undertaken to share the knowledge and good management from those community facilities that didn't require financial support to those that did. The Director commented that this work was being undertaken but the need for further support was still anticipated

and £42,000 had been included in the contingency. In relation to the additional 1% savings Members commented that the proposed 10% reduction in the training and conferences budget was of great concern. Members considered that the training and development of staff was essential to the continued development of services.

In concluding the debate, the Chair indicated that subject to the comments in relation to staff training, the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee should be informed that at this stage the forum had no substantial objections to the savings set out in the report.

Recommended

That Scrutiny Coordinating Committee be informed that Members supported the Children's Services departmental Budget for 2009/10. The Forum did, however, like it to be noted that they had some concerns relating to the proposed 1% additional budget reduction for a reduction in the Department's training budget.

100. Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report that outlined progress made by investigation and provided a detailed explanation of each recommendation that is either 'expected to achieve target' or 'not expected to achieve target'. Members were informed that since the 2005/06 Municipal Year 84% of this Forum's recommendations have been achieved, 13% are expected to be achieved, 1% are not expected to be achieved and 1% have either been rejected by the Executive or are no longer deliverable to due circumstances beyond the Authority's control. Members welcomed the report.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

101. Scoping Report – Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer reported on proposals for the forthcoming investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People. The report set out the proposed terms of reference for the investigation (set out below), the potential areas of enquiry and sources of evidence and the timetable for the investigation.

The proposed terms of reference were: -

- (a) To examine the different circumstances and outcomes that can lead to youth homelessness;
- (b) To gain an understanding of the role and responsibility that Hartlepool

- Borough Council has towards tackling youth homelessness, including the provision of relevant information and appropriate accommodation;
- (c) To examine the range of accommodation options used and available for young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for whatever reason;
 - (d) To gain an understanding of the Benefits and other sources of financial support currently available to young people to help tackle youth homelessness;
 - (e) To review Hartlepool Borough Council's policy, procedure and practice in relation to Care Leavers, with reference to supported accommodation and other appropriate accommodation; and
 - (f) To examine good practice examples of Youth Homelessness strategies at other Local Authorities.

It was proposed that a visit be undertaken to Stockton Borough Council as they had beacon status for the delivery of these services. Members also suggested the inclusion of Community Campus 87 in Stockton who had tackled homelessness through the re-use of derelict properties and Nightstop, a charity providing accommodation to homeless young people.

Recommended

That the terms of reference, the potential areas of enquiry and sources of evidence and the timetable for the investigation as set out in the report be agreed.

102. Issues Identified from Forward Plan *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

No items.

The meeting concluded at 5.15 p.m.

CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

27 JANUARY 2009

The meeting commenced at 4.30 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Jane Shaw (In the Chair),

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Chris McKenna, Arthur Preece and Chris Simmons.

Co-opted Members: David Relton.

Resident Representatives: Joan Steel and Sally Vokes.

Young Peoples Representatives: Chris Lund.

Also Present: The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Cath Hill, Children's services Portfolio Holder
Beth Hawkridge, Barnardos.

Leigh Bradley and Kelly Goulding, Barnardos Participation Team
Jill Bousfield and Lindsey Holmes, Hartlepool Young Voices.

Officers: Jim Murdoch, Head of Business Unit (Young Persons),
John Robinson, Children's Fund Manager
Ian Merritt, Head of Commissioning and Children's Partnership
Linda Igoe, Principal Housing Advice Officer
Siobhan Rafferty, Supported Housing Coordinator
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

103. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Aiken, Kaiser and London and Resident Representative Christopher Akers-Belcher.

104. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

105. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2008 were confirmed.

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

No items.

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

No items.

108. Scrutiny Investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason – Setting the Scene Report (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Liveability welcomed the Forum's investigation into the provision of services and accommodation to young people who were homeless. The Mayor indicated that there were a range of service provided for young people by the Council and he introduced Linda Igoe, the Principal Housing Advice Officer who gave a presentation to the forum outlining the legal framework that applied, the Homelessness Strategy, the focus on prevention and the Joint Protocol for the assessment of housing and support needs for 16/17 year olds, the Supported Housing Coordinator and Panel and the Young Persons Accommodation Officer.

Members were happy to hear of the extensive range of services and advice given to young people who were, or may become homeless. The Mayor drew attention to a recent claim that there was a significant problem of young people sleeping rough in Hartlepool. The Principal Housing Advice Officer commented that she too had been surprised by the claims. An external consultant had been employed by the Council to undertake 'street walks', visiting the places that people were likely to sleep rough. The study was on-going, and while it did show some evidence of people sleeping rough, the consultants view was that Hartlepool didn't have a particular problem. The Mayor commented that he would welcome any evidence from the forum of problems within Hartlepool that needed to be tackled.

In response to Members questions, the Head of the Young Persons Business Unit indicated that the Council had a responsibility for young people leaving care until they were 21 years old. The Council would provide accommodation until they were 18 and would continue to support these young people until

they were 21. Some would understandably not want support from the local authority but social workers would track and keep in touch with these young people from time to time.

The Principal Housing Advice Officer commented further on some of the figures outlined in the presentation. Of those young people aged 16-17 that the authority had to accept a duty for, none had become homeless. There were supported accommodation units within the town and care was taken to ensure young people were referred to the right scheme. Officers were still assessing whether there was any gaps in service provision and share Members reticence in young people being placed in inappropriate accommodation. There were some issues with specific B&Bs for example. There was, however, a welcomed new emergency bed for the night' being provided at Gainford House by the Stonham Housing Association. Comment was made by the young people of some of the costs associated with the supported housing schemes, which in some cases seemed prohibitive or were significantly above the single room benefit for young people.

Recommended

That the Mayor's comments and the presentation on the council's current services be noted and welcomed.

109. Scrutiny Investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason – Evidence from Portfolio Holders (Scrutiny Support Officer)

Following on from the comments of the Mayor, the Children's Services Portfolio Holder, Councillor Cath Hill, also welcomed the investigation and congratulated the work of the supported housing team. There was a discussion on the merits of 'Nightstop' being introduced in Hartlepool. Nightstop was a charity group that organised emergency beds for the night for homeless young people.

Recommended

That the Portfolio Holder's comments be noted.

110. Scrutiny Investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason – Evidence from Young Peoples Representatives (Scrutiny Support Officer)

The Hartlepool Young Voices representatives gave a presentation to the forum setting out their view of the issue of homelessness among young people in Hartlepool. In their presentation the young people highlighted that from their research they had found that there was very little supported accommodation to offer within the town and they considered that there needed to be more for young people. Much of the current accommodation

required referrals to be made and young people being placed on long waiting lists. This often meant that a young person would not immediately be given a safe shelter away from the risks of violence, neglect, sofa surfing or for whatever reason they found themselves homeless.

The presentation went on to outline the current accommodation available to young people in Hartlepool who find themselves homeless, which includes St.Paul's, Gainford House, Anna Court and 50 The Front. Of these properties, 50 The Front, a bed and breakfast establishment was seen to be very inappropriate for young people. This view was shared by Members.

The presentation went on to give some statistics of homelessness among young people both locally and nationally and outlined the operation of Nightstop, an emergency accommodation scheme for 16-25 year olds who face being homeless. Host family homes are used as a means of getting homeless young people a place to stay for up to three nights. They offer a bed for the night, bathing facilities, evening meal and support to that young person if they wish to take it. Nightstop also offers a service called 'crash pad' where young people can stay for up to two months with a host family where they are assessed on their needs for future accommodation so that they can potentially move on to 'supported lodgings'.

In concluding, the young people considered that the current accommodation at St Paul's, Gainford House and Anna Court were of a high standard and a really good way to promote independence to those young people that they help. However, there is only a limited number of places and very long waiting lists; these schemes should be expanded so they could help more young people. As for emergency accommodation for young people who face homelessness either long term or just for the night, the young people believed that there really needs to be something extra put in place. They feel that Hartlepool should have a Nightstop facility. Nightstop has been running successfully across the Teesside area for the last eleven years and has helped to reduce the number of young people who have become homeless for whatever reason.

Members questioned why Nightstop was particularly popular among young people. The young people commented that they saw the scheme as a facility that worked well in other areas and could also in Hartlepool. Officers commented that Nightstop had made a bid for short-term funding from the Supporting People Fund. This bid had been unsuccessful but that in itself did not stop Nightstop from starting up in Hartlepool.

Recommended

That the presentation and comments from the Young Peoples Representatives be noted.

111. Children and Young Peoples Plan 2009-2020 (*Head of Commissioning and Children's Partnership*)

Ian Merritt, the Head of Commissioning and Children's Partnership, presented the revised draft Children's and Young Peoples Plan. Hartlepool Young

Voices were thanked for their role in the development of the plan. The plan had a new time frame, extending to 2020 and had been prepared to be much easier to read and navigate.

There were some concerns that the plan was only based on the outcomes directed by the Children's Act and took no regard of personal responsibility, integrity and civic responsibility. The Head of Commissioning and Children's Partnership commented that these areas were included within the Department for Children, Schools and Families had incorporated some aspects into the national Children's Plan.

Recommended

That the revised draft Children and Young Peoples Plan 2009-2020 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.30 p.m.

CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

3 March 2008



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

Subject: PORTFOLIO HOLDERS RESPONSE HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL'S FOSTER CARE SERVICE.

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 Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service, which was reported to Cabinet on 12 January 2009.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The investigation into Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service conducted by this Forum 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 12 January 2009, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum into Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service. 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 Following on from this report, progress towards completion of the actions contained within the Action Plan will be monitored through the newly created Scrutiny Monitoring Database, with standardised six monthly monitoring reports to be presented to the Forum. In addition to this, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will also receive a breakdown of progress against all Scrutiny Forums' recommendations on an Annual basis (July).

3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DECISION

3.1 Following consideration of the Final Report, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and

proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet 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:- Sally Robinson – Assistant Director (Safeguarding and Specialist Services)
Children's Services Department
Hartlepool Borough Council
Telephone Number: 01429 523733
E-mail – sally.robinson@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 'Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service' considered by Cabinet on 12 January 2009.
- (ii) Decision Record of Cabinet held on 12 January 2009.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

5.1
Appendix A

NAME OF FORUM: Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service

DECISIONMAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: November 2008

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(a)	That the current review of Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service be completed as a matter of urgency in order to stabilise recruitment and retention difficulties;	Team Manager has been appointed, new manager will take up post January 09. One social work post has been filled, further advert will be posted January 09. Upon taking up post, team manager will produce a detailed service development plan.	None	Jim Murdoch	31 January 09
(b)	That innovative approaches in the future marketing of the foster care service be further explored in the following areas:- (i) Lack of family group provision; (ii) Identification of suitable location(s) in the Town for a permanent advertisement for the recruitment of foster	Matching Needs and Services exercise to be completed profiling children becoming looked after to identify gaps in existing provision. Updated recruitment strategy to be produced benchmarking best practice nationally and exploring new ideas and mediums for advertising.	Costs to be met from within existing budget	Keith Munro Jacky Yeaman Vaas	31 March 09 31 March 09

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

5.1
Appendix A

NAME OF FORUM: Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Hartlepool Borough Council’s Foster Care Service

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: November 2008

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	(iii) carers; and Through untapped mediums, such as Radio Hartlepool and leaflets in doctor’s surgeries, libraries and shopping centres.	Targeted recruitment campaign to be undertaken		Jacky Yeaman Vaas	30 April 09
(c)	That the delivery of future training programmes for New Foster Carers:- (i) Be delivered in-house at set times of the year; (ii) Ensures opportunities for extending such training to external foster carers be explored; and (iii) Where in-house delivery capacity issues occur, that support is sought from other Local Authorities or	Review of foster carer training programme to be completed and new training programme and schedule produced. Meeting to be held with preferred provider partner to explore joint foster carer training arrangements Tees Valley fostering managers group to revisit opportunities for new foster carers to access training courses across the authorities.	None	Jacky Yeaman Vaas	1 May 09

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

5.1
Appendix A

NAME OF FORUM: Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Hartlepool Borough Council’s Foster Care Service

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: November 2008

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS		LEAD OFFICER	
	independent foster care agencies.					
(d)	That the Foster Care Service Section on the Council's website be redesigned to make it a more accessible and comprehensive source of information; and	<p>Consultation undertaken with foster carers about what would be required from a web page.</p> <p>Benchmark national best practice examples.</p> <p>Web pages to be updated and redesigned taking above into consideration and seeking advice and guidance on 'what works' from web designers.</p> <p>Work to be undertaken with departmental website representatives in conjunction with additional corporate advice to explore ways to promote a short cut link to fostering pages, and upload information packs</p>	None		Jack Yeaman Vaas	1 June 09

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

5.1
Appendix A

NAME OF FORUM: Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Hartlepool Borough Council’s Foster Care Service

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: November 2008

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	and application forms.			
(e)	That where a child is placed within his /her family, support services be made immediately accessible, including the provision of financial support, prior to the formalisation of a Kinship Care Arrangement.	None	Sally Robinson	31 January 09

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

3 March 2009



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: CORPORATE PLAN UPDATE FOR 2009/10:
PROPOSED OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to consider the proposed outcomes and actions for inclusion in the Corporate Plan 2009/10.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan is for the 2 years 2009/10 to 2010/11. This coincides with the Local Area Agreement and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review and allocation of funding to local government which is reflected in the Council's own Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is the Council's top-level plan. It sets out the Council's top priorities and contributions for delivering the Community Strategy aims in 2009/10.
- 2.3 The Corporate Plan is an important document because it formally communicates the council's vision and priorities. The process for producing the plan has been designed to ensure the risk is minimised and that the Corporate Plan is fit for purpose.
- 2.4 The focus of the Corporate Plan for 2009/10 is on priority activities for improvement at a strategic level rather than day to day service delivery objectives. The operational service delivery objectives are picked up through Departmental service plans which are reported to individual portfolio holders.
- 2.5 As in previous years it is proposed that the Corporate Plan proposals should be considered by each of the Scrutiny Forums in early March. A report will be prepared for Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, for the meeting on 20 March 2009, detailing the comments/observations of each of the Scrutiny Forums to inform a response to Cabinet.

3 THE CORPORATE PLAN

- 3.1 As in previous years the plan will be produced in two parts. Part 1 describes the Council's overall aim, contributions to the Community Strategy aims and organisational development priorities.
- 3.2 Part 2 will continue to contain the detailed supporting information relating to performance statistics. The Council now has greater flexibility about what statistics it chooses to publish following the replacement of the Best Value Performance Indicators with the National Indicator set. Part 2 for 2009/10 will include performance statistics relevant to the Corporate Plan drawn from National and local indicators. Where available, the information provided will include 2007/08 and 2008/09 outturns and targets for 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12,
- 3.3 The performance information cannot be collected until after 31 March, and is therefore not available at present. As with previous years this will be presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee in May/June for consideration.
- 3.4 At this stage the Scrutiny Forums are only being asked to consider the proposed Corporate Plan outcomes and actions. In line with previous years, Children's Services Scrutiny Forum is only being asked to consider the proposed outcomes and actions that fall within its remit - attached at **Appendix A**.
- 3.5 As in previous years the remaining proposed outcomes and actions will be considered by the other relevant service Scrutiny Forums in early March, and their comments will be considered by Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 20 March 2009.
- 3.6 The proposed list of outcomes and actions for inclusion in the 2009/10 plan, at Appendix A, is not a final definitive list. Officers will continue to review the contents over the coming months and will amend, if deemed appropriate, and if changing priorities demand it. Any proposed changes to the list of outcomes and actions will be brought back to Cabinet and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee for consideration.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-
- (a) considers the proposed outcomes and actions for inclusion in the 2009/10 Corporate Plan as attached at **Appendix A**.
 - (b) formulates any comments and observations to be presented to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 20 March

2009 to enable a formal response to be presented to the Cabinet in April 2009.

Contact Officer:- Sue Johnson
Assistant Director (Planning and Service Integration)
Children's Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 734
Email: sue.johnson@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Corporate Plan 2009/10 –proposed Outcomes and Actions

Jobs and the Economy

Outcome: Achieve economic wellbeing for all children and young people ensuring that they are prepared for working life (Outcome Lead: Tom Argument)		
Code	Action	Lead Department / Division
CORP JE07	Reduce the level of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	Children's Services Department
CORP JE08a	Reduce the proportion of children in poverty	Children's Services Department
CORP JE09	Implement the Hartlepool 14-19 Strategy	Children's Services Department
CORP JE10	Implement the Machinery of Government Changes (MOG) in line with the Raising Expectations - Enabling the System to Deliver White Paper	Children's Services Department

Lifelong Learning and Skills

Outcome: Enjoy and Achieve (Outcome Lead: Caroline O'Neill)		
Code	Action	Lead Department / Division
CORP LLS01	Foundation Stage Profile - Narrowing the Gap: Improve the average Early Years Foundation Stage profile score of the lowest achieving 20% of results to narrow the gap between that and the median	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS02	Continue to improve overall levels of achievement and narrow the gap: Between Key Stage 1 - 2 improve the proportion of pupils progressing by 2 National Curriculum levels in English	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS03	Continue to improve overall levels of achievement and narrow the gap: Between Key Stage 1 - 2 improve the proportion of pupils progressing by 2 National Curriculum levels in Maths	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS04	Continue to improve overall levels of achievement and narrow the gap: Between Key Stage 2 - 4 improve the proportion of pupils making at least 2 National Curriculum levels progress	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS05	Continue to improve overall levels of achievement and narrow the gap: At Key Stage 2 increase the proportion of pupils achieving Level 4+ in both English and Maths	Children's Services Department

CORP LLS06	Continue to improve overall levels of achievement and narrow the gap: At Key Stage 4 increase the proportion of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including English and Maths	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS07	Continue to improve overall levels of achievement and narrow the gap: Narrow the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2 and 4	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS08	Provide enrichment opportunities: Increase the percentage of pupils participating in extra-curricular activities	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS09	Provide enrichment opportunities: Extend the opportunities for pupils to participate in an increasingly wide range of extra-curricular activities	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS10	Provide enrichment opportunities: Improve the availability of curriculum enrichment activities for all pupils including educational and residential visits, music, sport, creative and performing arts	Children's Services Department

Outcome: Transform teaching and learning opportunities, supported by £100m+ investment from Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programme (Outcome Lead: Paul Briggs)

Code	Action	Lead Department / Division
CORP LLS12	Select Building Schools for the Future Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Managed Service provider through Official Journal of the European Union notice and competitive dialogue	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS13	Select Building Schools for the Future Design and Build provider from National Framework through invitation to express interest and mini competition	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS14	Initiate ICT Managed Service at St Hild's School	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS15	Initiate construction work at Dyke House School	Children's Services Department
CORP LLS16	Procure initial Primary Capital Programme Projects, with a capital value of £8.4m	Children's Services Department

Health and Wellbeing

Outcome: Be Healthy (Outcome Lead: Sally Robinson)

Code	Action	Lead Department / Division
CORP HW03	Work with partners to reduce health inequalities e.g. by promoting breastfeeding, reducing smoking in pregnancy, tackling obesity	Children's Services Department
CORP HW04	Work with partner agencies, young people, schools and families to reduce under 18 conception rate by 55% from 1998 baseline and improve sexual health	Children's Services Department
CORP HW05	Work with partner agencies, young people, schools and families to tackle substance misuse (including alcohol)	Children's Services Department

Community Safety

Outcome: Stay Safe (Outcome Lead: Sally Robinson)		
Code	Action	Lead Department / Division
CORP CS10	Effectively implement the recommendations from Care Matters to improve outcomes for looked after children	Children's Services Department
CORP CS11	Develop and implement an e-safety strategy	Children's Services Department
CORP CS12	Develop the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board to achieve the wider safeguarding agenda, reflecting local priorities	Children's Services Department

Strengthening Communities

Outcome: Make a positive contribution (Outcome Lead: John Robinson)		
Code	Action	Lead Department / Division
CORP SC04	Support parents and carers to fulfil their responsibilities to their children effectively	Children's Services Department
CORP SC05	Promote children and young people's participation in decision making	Children's Services Department
CORP SC06	Promote emotional wellbeing in children and young people	Children's Services Department
CORP SC07	Work with partner agencies to reduce youth offending	Children's Services Department
CORP SC08	Improve the level of young people's participation in positive activities	Children's Services Department

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

3 March 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE FOR WHATEVER REASON – EVIDENCE FROM HOUSING HARTLEPOOL AND NIGHTSTOP HARTLEPOOL – COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that representatives from Housing Hartlepool and Nightstop Hartlepool have been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing investigation into 'Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 13 January 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence were approved by the Forum for this scrutiny investigation into 'Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason'.

2.2 Consequently the representatives from Housing Hartlepool and Nightstop Hartlepool have been invited to this meeting to provide verbal evidence on the issues that young people face in relation to this Forum's investigation into 'Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason'.

2.3 During this evidence gathering session with representatives from Housing Hartlepool and Nightstop Hartlepool, it is suggested that responses should be sought to the following key questions:-

(a) What is the role of your organisation in assisting the provision of appropriate accommodation for homeless young people?

- (b) To what extent and in what ways does your organisation education young people to:-
- (i) prevent youth homelessness?; and
 - (ii) ensure young people know where to seek advice and support when they become homeless?
- (c) Do you have any other view / information which you feel maybe useful to Members in forming their recommendations?

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the views of the representatives from Housing Hartlepool and Nightstop Hartlepool in relation to the questions outlined in section 2.3.

Contact Officer:- James Walsh – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
Email: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer titled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason – Scoping Report,' presented at the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum of 13 January 2009.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

3 March 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE FOR WHATEVER REASON – EVIDENCE ON THE BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that the Principal Housing Advice Officer and a representative from the Department for Work and Pensions have been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing investigation into 'Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 13 January 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence were approved by the Forum for this scrutiny investigation into 'Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason'.

2.2 Consequently the Principal Housing Advice Officer and a representative from the Department for Work and Pensions have been invited to this meeting to provide a presentation and verbal evidence on the benefits and financial support available to young people in relation to this Forum's investigation into 'Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason'.

2.3 During the presentation by the Principal Housing Advice Officer and a representative from the Department for Work and Pensions, it is suggested that responses should be sought to the key questions overleaf:-

- (a) What benefits and financial support are immediately available for a young person who finds themselves homeless?
- (b) Where can young people wishing to live independently, access the information relating to the benefits and financial support that they maybe eligible for?
- (c) What is the current time period for the calculation and payment of Housing Benefit to young people; ensuring that the risk of homelessness through rent arrears is minimised?
- (d) Do you have any other view / information which you feel maybe useful to Members in forming their recommendations?

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the presentation and the views of the Principal Housing Advice Officer and a representative from the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to the questions outlined in section 2.3.

Contact Officer:- James Walsh – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
Email: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer titled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason – Scoping Report,' presented at the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum of 13 January 2009.