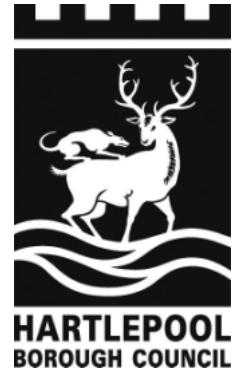


CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday, 20 January 2010

at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Aiken, C. Akers-Belcher, Coward, Fleet, Griffin, London, Preece, Shaw and Simmons,

Co-opted Members: David Relton, Tracey Priestman and 2 vacancies

Resident Representatives: Joan Steel and Sally Vokes

Young People's Representatives: Michael Burford, Karen Forcer, Arran Frame, Chris Lund, Rebecca Richards and 1 vacancy

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 12 January 2010 (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.

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

6.1 Children's Services Department: Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals 2010/11 – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No items

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

i) Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 23 February 2010 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

12 January 2010

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

Present:

Councillor: Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: C Akers-Belcher, Coward, Fleet, Griffin, London and Simmons

Co-opted Members: Tracey Priestman

Young Peoples Representatives: Karen Forcer, Chris Lund and Michael Burford

Also Present: Councillor Cath Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder
Councillor John Marshall
Rebecca Wise, Participation Team
Lee Cain, Barnardos (The Fast Team)
Young People involved with the Council's Youth Service and the Fast Team

Officers: Sue Johnson, Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services
Peter Davies, Principal Youth Officer
Steve Sproston, Senior Youth Worker
Beth Storey, Youth Development Officer/Operations Manager
Teresa Driver, Team Leader
Linda Wood, Team Leader
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

41. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Aiken and Preece, Co-opted Member David Relton, Resident Representatives Joan Steel and Sally Vokes and Young People Representative Rebecca Richards.

42. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

43. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2009 were confirmed.

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

None

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

None

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

None

47. Scrutiny Investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work – Presentation from Principal Youth Officer (*Scrutiny Manager*)

As part of the Forum's investigation into the provision of targeted and detached youth work services, the Principal Youth Officer had been invited to the meeting to provide evidence in relation to a question raised at the meeting of the Forum on 1 October 2009. The following figures detailed Youth Service Outturns for 2008/09 relating to detached and mobile services and building based services:-

(All different young people)	Detached & Mobile		Building Based
	Detached	Mobile	
Contacts	639		856
Participants	330		856
Recorded Outcomes	64		525
Accredited Outcomes	14		25
	Detached	Mobile	
Minimum Attendance	7	4	15
Maximum Attendance	30	18	75
Average Attendance	15	10	35

It was noted by Members that from April – December 2009 Detached and Mobile Youth Workers had been in contact with 859 individual young people.

Recommendation

That the information given, be noted and be used to assist the Forum in completing its investigation.

48. Scrutiny Investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work – Presentation from Senior Youth Worker (Scrutiny Manager)

As part of the Forum's investigation into the provision of targeted and detached youth work services, the Senior Youth Worker had been invited to the meeting to provide a presentation in relation to the practical provision of detached and mobile youth work in Hartlepool. The Senior Youth Worker provided a comprehensive presentation which focused on detached and mobile youth work provision and included the following issues:-

- Types of work carried out with young people
- Top 6 issues raised during sessions with young people
 - Alcohol
 - Education
 - Relationships
 - Sexual Health
 - School issues
 - Employment
- Bottom 6 issues raised during sessions with young people
 - Asylum
 - Suicide
 - Isolation
 - HIV/Aids
 - Refugees
 - Neglect
- Examples of group work by area – knife crime, Rossmere statepark development, shoe box Christmas appeal, endangered species project
- Residential activities by number and by area
- Other activities provided utilising local authority facilities where possible:-
 - High Ropes Course (30 young people)
 - Archery (30 young people)
 - Ten Pin Bowling (28 young people)
 - Quad Biking (20 young people)

A discussion ensued which included the following issues:-

- (i) A Member expressed concern that the examples of activities provided did not include any provision for the Dyke House area which was an area of deprivation and in desperate need of sustainable youth provision and questioned what proposals were in place to address this problem. In response, Members were

advised that the nearest mobile youth bus was located at Mill House which is in the Stranton Ward. This mobile youth bus was accessed by young people from the Dyke House area and Detached Youth Workers would cover the neighbouring Wards of Dyke House and Grange. The limited level of detached youth work undertaken in Dyke House was noted and it was recognised that this needed to be developed. It was reported that dedicated youth provision was scheduled for the Dyke House area as part of the Wharton Trust's successful bid to the Youth Capital Fund plus programme.

- (ii) The Forum recognised that any reduction in funding available for youth services would contribute to the decline in activities provided. However, Members were of the view that in such instances alternative arrangements should be made to ensure young people continued to be supported. It was suggested that a strategy be developed to identify areas in the town where there was currently a lack of provision as well as the next steps, key recommendations and longer term proposals in order to maintain sustainable services in the event that funding was withdrawn.
- (iii) With regard to the location of services, the Principal Youth Officer advised that young people were involved in a scoring system which identified that young people preferred services to be located in the centre of town and also as close to home as possible.
- (iv) In response to a request for clarification, the criteria and process as to who could attend residential weekend activities was outlined to which a young person advised on their involvement and contribution to the grant application process and how this supported their views of their community.
- (v) The potential links between lack of youth service provision and crime were highlighted and the importance of ensuring youth services for young people continued across the town and particularly in areas of multiple deprivation. Members reiterated the need to address gaps in provision and co-ordinate services externally as well as in-house.
- (vi) The impact that potential budget cuts could have on future youth provision was further discussed at length. Members recognised that the current provision was good and emphasised the need to be prepared for reductions in funding and establish how projects could be maintained in the community once funding ceased.
- (vii) The Forum discussed the benefits of partnership working, the importance of continuity of services, the need to ensure services were not duplicated and that safety issues be considered when determining location of services.

Recommendation

That the information given, be noted and discussions be used to assist the Forum in completing its investigation.

49. Scrutiny Investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work – Presentation from Barnardos (The Fast Team) (Scrutiny Manager)

As part of the Forum's investigation into the provision of targeted and detached youth work services, a representation from the Fast Team, Barnardos had been invited to the meeting to provide a presentation on the provision of detached youth services in the third sector. The representative advised that the Fast Team worked closely with the Youth Service and received funding support for small projects. The remit of the Fast Team together with some of the challenges were outlined.

Challenges of the team included:-

- Tackling lack of understanding from other agencies and the public as to what could be achieved in limited time
- Gaining trust particularly from hard to reach groups – some young people reluctant to engage and therefore time consuming process
- Hotspots – involved in conflict between local residents and young people
- Delays in progressing project work as a result of conducting risk assessments etc creates frustration for young people
- Difficulties of working assertively with enforcement agencies and maintaining relationships and trust with young people

The Forum was advised that the team targeted all age groups, focused on early intervention with a view to reducing future problems and reducing serious intervention in the future. Support had also been provided to entire family units which had resulted in significant successes. Details of the types of projects that young people had been involved with were also provided.

A Member pointed out the benefits of identifying areas of prevalent anti-social behaviour in consultation with community police teams, targeting support to those areas and ensuring sustainable support for the future. The Principal Youth Officer referred to the links to the Youth Crime Action Plan, the difficulties of working with enforcement agencies and maintaining positive relationships and trust with young people. A lengthy discussion ensued with contributions from the young people regarding the relationship difficulties between young people and the police and the importance of Youth Workers in providing young people with appropriate advice and support to deal with difficult situations.

Members acknowledged that issues of anti-social behaviour were not exclusively associated with young people and that it was important to understand that the young people were the police force of the future. It was suggested by Members that informal 'get-together's' be arranged between the PCSOs and young people facilitated by the Youth Service so that both sides could better understand each other.

Recommendation

That the information given, be noted and discussions be used to assist the Forum in completing its investigation.

50. Scrutiny Investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work – Feedback from Site Visits

Following a short comfort break, Members received a report referring to a selection of site visits had been undertaken by Members of the Forum. Appendix A outlined the general findings from these visits. In addition, a further visit was undertaken by the Chair of the Forum on 21 December, the outcome of which was provided at the meeting. The Chair stated that the visits had given Members a better understanding of the benefits of the youth service.

In response to suggestions regarding the advantages of providing a larger youth bus, it was considered that the feasibility of this option be further explored. Members also suggested that the bus could be utilised as part of an Integrated Youth Structure and by partner organisations (e.g. Youth Justice, Connexions, NHS Organisations) for other purposes when not in use on an evening by Mobile Youth Workers.

Recommendation

That feedback on the site visits, be noted and be used to assist the Forum in undertaking the scrutiny investigation.

51. Scrutiny Investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work – Evidence from Children's Services Portfolio Holder

As part of the Forum's investigation into the provision of targeted and detached youth work services, the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services had been invited to the meeting to provide evidence in relation to her responsibilities and views on the provision of targeted and detached youth work in Hartlepool.

The Children's Services Portfolio Holder commented on her commitment to support the service, her personal experiences as a retired youth worker, the benefits of residential activities and indicated that the targeted and detached youth work in Hartlepool was invaluable.

Examples of the success in the provision of detached and targeted youth work in Hartlepool were provided which included favourable comments from Ofsted regarding the level of participation of young people in the recruitment

and consultation process.

Recommendation

That the information given, be noted and be used to assist the Forum in completing its investigation.

52. Six Monthly Monitoring Update of Agreed Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations *(Scrutiny Manager)*

Details of progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations against investigations undertaken by the Forum since the 2005/06 municipal year were presented to Members. A summary report, attached at Appendix A, provided a break down on progress made by investigation and Appendix B provided a detailed explanation of progress made against each recommendation that was either expected to achieve target or not expected to achieve target. It was noted that since the 2005/06 municipal year, 83.7% of the Forum's recommendations had been achieved with 14.3% expected to be achieved.

With regard to recommendations CS/07-8/4a, CS/07-8/4c and CS/07-8/4d relating to the scrutiny investigation into sustainability of externally funded community initiatives in schools, the Chair pointed out that there had been no progress on these recommendations since the last monitoring report and requested an update in this regard.

The Chair reported that at a previous meeting, Members had been informed that Shelter had used the Forum's previous investigation into 'Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason' as a good practice example. An organisation called the National Youth Reference Group (St Basil's) had read the Shelter publication and requested use of the Final Report as a good practice example on their soon to be developed website. The Chair informed Members that details of the website would be circulated to the Forum once it became 'live'.

Recommendation

That the progress against the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations, be noted and a progress report on recommendations CS/07-8/4a, CS/07-8/4c and CS/07-8/4d relating to the scrutiny investigation into sustainability of externally funded community initiatives in schools be provided.

53. Issues Identified from Forward Plan

None

54. Any Other Items which the Chairman considers are urgent – Scrutiny Investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work – Site Visit Arrangements

The Chair reminded Members that there was still an opportunity for Members of the Forum to attend site visits in relation to Targeted Youth Work and that interested Members contact the Scrutiny Team regarding arrangements.

55. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on 20 January 2010 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 6.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

20th January, 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION PROPOSALS 2010/2011

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity, as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2010/2011, for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to consider the Child and Adult Services Department's pressures relating to the provision of Children's services.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 16th October, 2009, consideration was given to the Executive's Initial Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2010/2011 to 2012/2013. At this meeting it was agreed that the initial consultation proposals would be considered on a departmental basis by the appropriate Scrutiny Forum. This occurred throughout November, 2009.
- 2.2 The comments/observations made by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee were received by Cabinet on the 14th December, 2009 and taken into consideration during the finalisation of its Budget and Policy Framework Proposals for 2010/2011 on 22nd December, 2009. The Executive's finalised proposals were considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 15th January, 2010 and repeating the process previously implemented have again been referred to the appropriate Scrutiny Forum for consideration on a departmental basis.
- 2.3 As such, appended to this report, for consideration as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2010/2011, are details of the pressures relating to the children's services areas of service provision within the Child and Adult Services Department:-

Appendix A - Schedule of Budget Pressures 2010/2011.

- 2.4 Cabinet is proposing that the pressures identified are funded.
- 2.5 In addition, as part of the overall budget strategy a cross departmental increased income target of £0.3m was established. Of this target £0.224m has been identified, of which £0.038m relates to Children's Services. Proposals to achieve this target are set out at **Appendix B**.
- 2.6 It is also proposed to allocate an additional £0.1m contingency in respect of Safeguarding Children to provide staffing capacity to address issues recently raised by Ofsted.
- 2.7 To assist Members of this Scrutiny Forum in the consideration of the initial proposals, arrangements have been made for the Director of Child and Adult Services to be in attendance and an invitation to this meeting has also been extended to the relevant Portfolio Holder(s) (attendance subject to availability).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-
- a) as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2010/2011, consider the pressures and income generation proposals relating to the children's services areas of service provision within the Child and Adult Service Department; and
 - b) formulates any comments and observations to be presented by the Chair of this Scrutiny Forum to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 29th January, 2010 to enable a formal response to be presented to the Cabinet on 8th February, 2010.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 647
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

	£'000	Description
Brierton School site pre Dyke House decant	125	Part year costs of the LA operating the site whilst construction works are undertaken until Dyke House School moves to Brierton on 1st September 2010 - Rates, energy, caretaking, security etc. May be possible to fund part of these costs from alternative funding sources, such as DSG and these options are currently being explored in more detail.
Home to School Transport	220	Part year costs of transporting Dyke House pupils from home to the Brierton site wef 1st September 2010. Significant additional costs are likely depending on what Members agree regarding an exceptional rule to the Home to School policy. Legally we are only obliged to provide free transport to pupils travelling beyond 3 miles although the limit is 2 miles for low income families. (Again possibility that this could be DSG funded) Costs would be for 2 academic years only, spread over three financial years and would cease when Dyke House school reopens in September 2012. This figure is an initial costing and will be reviewed once Cabinet has determined a transport policy for decant period of Dyke House school.
Total	345	

Schedule of Proposed Income Increases 2010/2011

Children's' Services Department

Potential Sources of Additional Income - 2010/11.

Div	Section	Officers / Budget Holder	Item / Task Discussed	Estimated Additional Income £'000
RSST	1 Finance Team	Mike Wall	updated projection of school buyback SLA income	3
RSST	2 Performance Team	Kay Forgie	Fees from provision of training courses to schools	2
RSST	3 Admissions Team	Sue Beevers	Charges relating to co-ordinating and overseeing admissions process in Secondary Schools following their transfer to Foundation status	8
PSI	4 Youth Service - Admin	Peter Davies	Sale of places on Youth Service-run training courses to local area groups.	2
PSI	5 Brinkburn Youth Centre	Peter Davies	Updated projection of income received from room hire	1
S & SS	6 C&F - Staff Development Training	Louise Wood	Sale of franchise courses. Updated projection of income.	8
S & SS	7 Direct Payments - Packages	Mark Gwilt	A number of packages of care include health care needs in addition to social care needs. A more focussed approach to recharging the PCT for the health care element is resulting in additional income	6
PSI	8 English Martyrs Exclusion Project	Peter Davies	Net income from provision of project for pupils at risk of school exclusion.	3
	Sub total			32
S & SS	9 Care Proceedings	S O'Connor	Surplus of voluntary contributions from stakeholders towards court costs	2
PSI	10 YC Youth Advisory Balances	Peter Davies	This income represents profit on tuck shop sales to Young People. The Youth Service has historically retained and delegated this back to projects in consultation with young people	4
	Sub total			38

Risk impact	Risk probability	Risk score	Risk status	Other Comments
1. Low	1. Unlikely	1	Green	
1. Low	1. Unlikely	1	Green	
1. Low	1. Unlikely	1	Green	
1. Low	1. Unlikely	1	Green	
1. Low	1. Unlikely	1	Green	
1. Low	1. Unlikely	1	Green	
1. Low	1. Unlikely	1	Green	
1. Low	2. Possible	2	Green	
1. Low	2. Possible	2	Green	