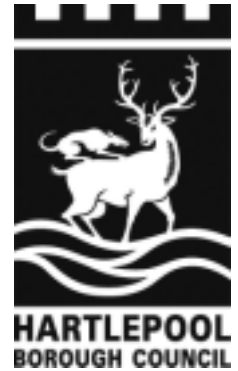


CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday, 23 February 2010

at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: 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 20 January 2010

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

No items.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Scrutiny Investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work

7.1 Targeted Youth Work:-

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Manager*; and

(b) Presentations from:-

- (i) Youth Development Officer / Operations Manager;
- (ii) Full Time Youth Worker; and
- (iii) Partner Organisations.

7.2 Targeted Youth Work – Feedback from Site Visits:-

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Manager*

(b) Verbal evidence from Members.

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting :- Monday, 22 March 2010 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

20 January 2010

The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm 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

Young Peoples Representatives: Rebecca Richards

Also Present: Kelly Goulding, Participation Officer, Barnardos
Zoe McKenna

Officers: Sue Johnson, Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Manager
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

56. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Coward and Shaw, Children's Services Portfolio Holder, Councillor Hill, Co-opted Member Tracey Priestman and Young People Representatives, Arran Frame, Karen Forcer and Chris Lund.

57. Declarations of interest by Members

None

58. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2010 were confirmed.

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

None.

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

None.

61. Children's Services Department Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals 2010/11 (*Scrutiny Manager*)

The Scrutiny Manager advised that as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2010/11 this item provided the opportunity for the Forum to consider the Child and Adult Services Department's pressures relating to the provision of Children's Services. The Forum's comments would be fed back to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to enable a response to be formulated and presented to Cabinet on 8 February 2010.

The Assistant Director presented the report which included the Executive's finalised budget proposals together with details of the pressures relating to the Children's Services areas of service provision. Cabinet proposed that the pressures identified be funded. In addition, and as part of the overall budget strategy, a cross departmental increased income target of £0.3m was established. Proposals to achieve this target were provided as set out at Appendix B of the report.

The Forum recognised the nature of the budget pressures relating to Brierton School site pre Dyke House decant and home to school transport costs and supported the pressures, as reported.

With regard to the proposed potential sources of additional income, the proposal to utilise profit of tuck shop sales which had historically been retained and delegated back to projects in consultation with young people, Members were of the view that this income should continue to be utilised for funding of such projects for young people and did not support this proposal.

Recommendation

- (i) That the pressures relating to the Children's Services areas of service provision within the Child and Adult Services Department be supported, as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation

- proposals for 2010/2011.
- (ii) That the income generation proposals, as part of the overall budget strategy, be supported with the exception of the proposal to utilise profit of tuck shop sales and this continue to be utilised for funding of projects for young people.
 - (iii) That the comments made by the Forum as detailed above, be presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 29 January 2010 to enable a formal response to be presented to Cabinet on 8 February 2010.

62. Issues Identified from Forward Plan

None

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

The Scrutiny Manager reminded Members that there was still an opportunity for all Members of the Forum to attend site visits in relation to Targeted Youth Work. Confirmation of the various sites would be provided under separate cover.

64. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on 23 February 2010 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 4.50 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHILRENS SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

23 February 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: TARGETED YOUTH WORK - PRESENTATIONS - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Members that representative's from the Youth Service and partner groups/organisations (Salaam Centre, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender Group (LGBT), Young Carers Group, Teenage Pregnancy Group and Child Deaf Youth Project) will be in attendance at today's meeting to deliver presentations and participate in discussions in relation to the operation of targeted youth work services in Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 As part of the Forum's ongoing investigation in to the provision of targeted and detached youth work services, Members will today receive presentations and evidence from the following individuals and groups/organisations:-

(i) **Beth Storey, Youth Development Officer / Operations Manager** – Presentation to provide:

- An overview of targeted youth work in Hartlepool;
- Details of the recent IYSS Ofsted results (**Appendix A**);
- Details of the findings of Ofsted survey into the impact of integrated youth support (with specific reference to the provision of targeted youth services); and
- Evidence on the recruitment & retention of staff working in Detached and Targeted Youth Support.

(ii) **Andrew Hebron, Youth Worker** – Presentation to provide a more detailed view of the practical provision of targeted youth work in Hartlepool.

(iii) **Partner Groups/Organisations** – An opportunity to discuss the provision of targeted youth services with representatives from the following partner groups/organisations:

- Salaam Centre;
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender Group (LGBT);
- Young Carers Group;
- Teenage Pregnancy Group; and
- Child Deaf Youth Project.

2.2 In support of presentations and evidence to be provided, it was felt that it would be important for Members to be given the opportunity to hear the views of those who use targeted youth services in Hartlepool. In order to do this, and in addition to the visits outlined at item 7.2 of this agenda, of the following young people (from the above groups) will be in attendance at today's meeting to participate in discussions:

- Samaira Hussain;
- Asya Akram;
- Angeline Malik;
- Zobia Najib;
- Jordan Naylor;
- Mathew Black;
- David Tindale;
- Tommy Measor;
- Stacey Newton;
- Ryan Holroyd;
- Josh Buckley;
- Sarah Dawson;
- Amy Hunter; and
- Jaydean Oliver.

2.3 The following staff members who support these young people on a daily basis will also be in attendance at today's meeting to participate in discussions and assist Members were required:

- Anita Duffy (Child Deaf Youth Project);
- Sam Minton (Salaam Centre);
- Tammy Countnell (Teenage Pregnancy Group); and
- Sarah McCluskey (LGBT).

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That Members note the content of both this report and the presentations, seeking clarification on any relevant issues from the representatives in attendance, where felt appropriate.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 284142
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no background papers referred to in the preparation of this report.

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



14 October 2009

Ms S Johnson
Assistant Director (Planning and
Service Integration)
Children's Services Department
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Dear Ms Johnson

Ofsted survey inspection programme – the impact of integrated youth support

Thank you for your cooperation and hospitality, and that of the staff and young people we met, during our visit to Hartlepool on 22 to 24 September 2009 to evaluate the impact of integrated youth support.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. The published report will list the names of the contributing local authorities and we may feature individual case studies. Where this is the case we will consult with the respective local authorities. This letter will not be posted on the Ofsted website.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included interviews with officers and staff; discussions with young people; focus groups with partner agencies; and scrutiny of documentation. A small sample of work was visited including individual guidance and support sessions, open youth work, youth projects, and more formal work with schools.

The impact of integrated arrangements on the range and quality of young people's learning and development, through participation in youth work and positive activities in the community is good.

- In the small sample of work seen, the overall quality of learning and development was good with some outstanding aspects.
- In the most effective individual guidance sessions, through for example the Youth Offending Team (YOT) preventative work, young people with complex difficulties learned the essential skills of handling relationships, getting to the root of their own problems and planning their next stages.
- Much of the open community-based youth provision is engaging young people from more disadvantaged communities well and on a regular basis.

The provision also succeeds in attracting a broader cross section of young people more generally through, for example, youth award schemes.

- Practitioners from across all aspects of youth support delivery display a good balance of support and challenge in their work with individuals and groups.
- Some young people and workers commented negatively about what they perceived as a blanket emphasis on issues on such as drugs, sex and relationships, and alcohol education. Practitioners sought not to diminish the importance of such issues but to tackle them on a needs basis and through their relationships with young people.
- There have been obvious efforts and new resources to provide more 'positive activities' for local young people including extending weekend opening hours, creative use of buildings, mobile provision and drawing on the voluntary and community sector. Good use is made of youth centres for a range of purposes. Promoting a greater range of 'positive activities' has been hindered by difficulties in engaging sufficient staff and low uptake for some activities. Wider council services, such as sports development and extended services, form part of this collective response. Those schools which readily make weekend and evening sports facilities available also support the 'positive activities' drive well, but not all are equally accommodating.

Targeted support is good

- Targeted support builds on a range of successful initiatives and strategies which have contributed to good overall improvement over a period of time. For example, the number of pupils excluded from school and the number of young people who are not engaged in employment education or training is falling. The approach adopted reflects the principles and practice of integration well. A good level of trust, pragmatism and a strong sense of ownership is evident among partners.
- The 'Team Around the Secondary School' (TASS) represents the area's major delivery strand of targeted youth support. Full introduction of TASS has yet to be achieved. Representation by key agencies at the TASS visited was excellent and those schools currently engaged have committed time and resources to its operation. The model has enabled earlier intervention and referrals, enabling young people to re-engage with their education, aided information sharing and brokered new possibilities for support among agencies.
- The role of the 'lead professional', responsible for facilitating packages of support for young people, is also at a formative stage. Evaluating its impact is rightly considered a priority.
- The Common Assessment Framework is identified as a key mechanism to assess needs and refer accordingly. While a training programme has been provided for staff, many are not confident in its application or sufficiently clear about its purpose.

The progress made by the local authority and its partners in developing an integrated approach to youth support is good.

- Delivery arrangements are premised on maximising discrete but linked services and are well defined. For example, police officers and youth workers work in a planned and complementary manner. YOT workers concentrate efforts on preventive activities as well as enforcement, and Connexions personal advisers know when and where to refer young people. However, a minority struggle to demonstrate the necessary level of understanding and skills required for effective multi-agency work in what the local authority considers to be a broader professional remit.
- Practitioners have a good and detailed knowledge of young people's needs and of their achievements. They use detailed case studies to good effect and are objective about the progress made within their respective projects.
- Managers have instigated a timely mapping exercise of the workforce development needs of front line practitioners, leaders and managers. Research on the same theme commissioned through Teesside University has provided useful and timely recommendations.
- Operational and strategic level plans do not take sufficient account of the increasingly multi-agency context within which services operate. Practitioners express a desire to agree published shared and collective targets against which partners and practitioners can measure progress.
- Young people, staff and managers are making a joint and concerted effort to improve the public image of young people and recognise their achievements through events and positive engagement with the local press.

Young people's active involvement in shaping decisions at a local level is outstanding.

- Youth participation is mature and embedded well. Young people contribute responsibly to strategic developments, scrutinise grants and determine expenditure. They have opportunities to monitor the quality of activities and are enabled to influence the design of their local neighbourhood projects. While the approach adopted is broad based, a strategy is apparent.
- The Children's and Young Peoples Plan clearly identifies the views of young people on a range of issues. These help determine the policies and strategies flowing from the plan and are reflected in the work of youth support services.
- The membership of the various decision making groups are periodically refreshed to attract new members, including those from minority groups.

The contribution of integrated support arrangements to broader strategic priorities for improving outcomes for young people is good.

- Local authority departments are contributing to, as well as gaining from, youth participation. Youth groups responsible for expenditure have their work audited by, and receive support from, the finance department. The active involvement by a local authority architect in the provision of a new skateboard facility helps ensure that the council is responsive to what young people want, but also enables young people to learn about processes such as procurement, contracts, health and safety and community consultation.
- Officers cooperate well and adopt a sufficiently critical and forward-looking role.
- Good working links exist between the statutory and voluntary youth sectors with new commissioning protocols beginning to emerge. The voluntary sector's capacity is hampered by short-term funding cycles and an underdeveloped infrastructure, often creating recruitment difficulties or leading to experienced staff moving to the more stable employment provided elsewhere.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include the need to:

- continue to review and monitor the detailed working of the TASS
- ensure that quality assurance arrangements are sufficient in identifying weaknesses in new and emerging systems
- encourage maximum use of school-based sports and community facilities
- consider the usefulness of an area-wide integrated youth support plan.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop integrated youth support arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Tony Gallagher
Her Majesty's Inspector

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

23 February 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: TARGETED YOUTH WORK – FEEDBACK FROM
SITE VISIT – COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To facilitate a discussion amongst Members of this Forum in relation to the site visits to observe targeted youth work in Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 As part of the evidence gathering process for the undertaking of the investigation into the provision of targeted and detached youth work services in Hartlepool, a selection of visits were undertaken by Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum between the 25 January 2010 and 12 February 2010. Feedback from these visits will be reported verbally at the meeting.

2.2 In line with good practice, Members of this Forum who were in attendance are requested to share / discuss their findings at today's meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members of the Forum discuss their findings from the site visits as outlined in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 284142
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no background papers referred to in the preparation of this report.