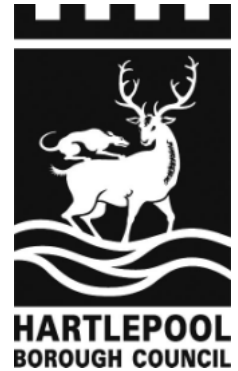


CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday, 29 June 2010

at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Fleet, Griffin, Ingham, Lauderdale, Maness, Simmons, P Thompson and Wells

Co-opted Members: David Relton and 3 vacancies

Resident Representatives: 3 vacancies

Young People's Representatives: David Clark, Karen Forcer, Arran Frame, Chris Lund, Rebecca Richards and Nathan Storm.

- 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 30 March 2010
- 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 Holders Response To The Cabinet Decision On Targeted And Detached Youth Work Provision In Hartlepool – *Joint Report of Director of Child and Adult Services and the 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

No items

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The Role of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

- 8.2 Scrutiny Forum's Work Programme 2010/11:-

- (a) Introduction from the young people and the Young Inspectors including suggestions for work programme topics;

and

- (b) Determining The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Work Programme For 2010/11 – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

- 8.3 Appointments to Outside Bodies – *Assistant Chief Executive*

9. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting:- Monday, 6 September 2010 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

30 March 2010

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

Present:

Councillor Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Martyn Aiken, Sheila Griffin, and Francis London.

Resident Representative: Joan Steel.

Also present: Kelly Goulding, Barnardos.

Officers: Sue Johnson, Assistant Director, Planning and Service Integration
Peter Davies, Principal Youth Officer
Beth Storey, Youth Development Officer / Operations Manager
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Manager
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

80. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Coward, Fleet, Preece and Simmons, Resident Representative Sally Vokes and Young Peoples Representatives Arran Frame, Chris Lund and David Clark.

81. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

82. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2010 were confirmed.

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

No items.

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

No items.

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

No items.

86. Draft Final Report – Detached and Targeted Youth Work Provision in Hartlepool (*Scrutiny Manager*)

The Chair introduced the draft final report of the Forum's investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work Provision in Hartlepool. The Chair outlined the conclusions and recommendations set out in the report and sought the forum's approval to the draft report being forwarded to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee for consideration and approval before being submitted to the Executive.

The Principal Youth Worker commented that in relation to the Recruitment and Retention of Staff section in the report, he was concerned that the draft report gave the impression that there had been a reduction in staff in the team. This was not the case and the number was lower due to a number of unfilled vacancies at that time. The Forum agreed to amend the wording of the report to reflect the reduction of staff *in post* over the year.

The Chair, in closing the meeting, thanked all the Members, resident representatives, co-opted members, young people and officers involved in the investigation for their time and input into this valuable investigation.

Recommended

That the draft final report of the Forum's investigation into Detached and Targeted Youth Work Provision in Hartlepool, subject to the amendment detailed above, be approved for submission to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee meeting on 23 April 2010.

The meeting concluded at 4.38 p.m.

JANE SHAW

CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

29 June 2010



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

Subject: PORTFOLIO HOLDERS RESPONSE TO THE CABINET DECISION ON TARGETED AND DETACHED YOUTH WORK PROVISION IN HARTLEPOOL.

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 the Final report and recommendations of the investigation into Targeted and detached youth work in Hartlepool that was reported to cabinet on the 10th May 2010.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The investigation into targeted and detached youth work in Hartlepool conducted by this Forum falls under the remit of the Child and Adult Services Department and is, under the Executive Delegation Scheme, within the service area covered by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder.
- 2.2 On 10th May 2010, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum into targeted and detached youth work in Hartlepool. 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.

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.

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Hartlepool Borough Council
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) The Scrutiny Forum's Final Report on targeted and detached youth work provision in Hartlepool considered by Cabinet on 10th May 2010.
- (ii) Decision Record of Cabinet held on 10th May 2010.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN**NAME OF FORUM:** Children's Services Scrutiny Forum**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Targeted & Detached Youth Work Provision in Hartlepool**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** April 2010

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(a)	That officers be commended on the provision of detached and targeted youth work in Hartlepool	- The recommendations of the scrutiny investigation are disseminated to the youth work team at the next opportunity	None	Beth Storey	Sept 2010
(b)	That the provision of a larger bus on a shared (time) basis with partner organisations/bodies be explored.	-Complete needs analysis with potential partners in relation to shared use.	None – will be delivered within current capacity.	Steve Sproston (SS)	Sept 2010
		-Complete feasibility study into the provision of larger bus and assess cost.	- Long term consideration of sustainability needs to be considered within feasibility study.	SS/Beth Storey (BS)	Dec 2010
		-Seek to address resource implications through additional funding and partnerships.	- Potential long term budget pressure in relation to sustainability.	SS/BS	March 2011
(c)	There is no ‘one size fits all’ method of providing services and as such consideration	-Re-assessment of myplace data. Assessment of generic/youth	None – Can be delivered in house.	BS	Sept 2010

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN**NAME OF FORUM:** Children's Services Scrutiny Forum**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Targeted & Detached Youth Work Provision in Hartlepool**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** April 2010

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	<p>needs to be given to how services can be provided for young people that simply wish to 'chill out' with friends in an environment where they are not moved on by other agencies.</p>	<p>club/drop in/mobile provision for young people aged 13-19 on a geographical basis including 3rd sector delivery.</p> <p>- Seek to address via prioritisation of areas with gaps in commissioning/partnership work.</p> <p>- Redeployment of detached/mobile provision at appropriate intervals.</p>	<p>- Commissioning largely dependant on external funding. Although commissioning through internal budget will be reviewed</p> <p>None</p>	<p>BS/Mark Smith</p> <p>Review 31st March 2011</p> <p>Fens – Feb 2011 Mill House – July 2010</p>
(d)	<p>That as a means of developing the working relationship and routes of communication between young people, the police and partner agencies the introduction of formal 'get togethers' to enable both sides to come to a better</p>	<p>- Deliver actions on Anti Social behaviour Unit Young Inspector report.</p> <p>- Review police involvement in Youth Service provision.</p> <p>- Explore the feasibility of further training to Police and Community</p>	<p>None can be delivered in house.</p> <p>None can be done in house</p> <p>None Staffing resource in house</p>	<p>Juliette Ward</p> <p>BS</p> <p>BS</p> <p>Sept 10</p> <p>Sept 10</p> <p>Sept 10</p>

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN**NAME OF FORUM:** Children's Services Scrutiny Forum**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Targeted & Detached Youth Work Provision in Hartlepool**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** April 2010

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	understand each other to be explored.	Support Officers (PCSO's) in working with young people.			
(e)	That in the changing economic climate, ways be explored to encourage partner organisations/ bodies and the wider community to support the provision and development of services that are sustainable beyond any possible budgetary cuts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Offer training opportunities through service programme to support the development of skills in the third sector (including management development programme). - Offer volunteers placement opportunities and review arrangements with Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA). -Offer support to voluntary groups in relation to quality assurance and professional support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staffing resource, minimal costs charged to cover cost. None - Staffing resource – in house. - Staffing resource 	BS Andrew Hebron/Sue Skelton BS	Sept 10 Sept 10 March 2011 June 2011

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN**NAME OF FORUM:** Children's Services Scrutiny Forum**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Targeted & Detached Youth Work Provision in Hartlepool**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** April 2010

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
		-Development of coordinating positive activities group.		BS/Daniel Cleary	
(f)	That ways of improving advertising of youth services be explored further, including the use of advertising space in & on council property or buildings.	-Appointment of weekend working coordinator to publicise weekend offer. - Review 13 to 19 advertising on Families Information Service website. -Review effective methods of publicising to young people and the wider community.	- Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) Budget – ends March 2011 None None	BS DC DC	April 2010 Sept 2010-04-20 Dec 2010

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

29 JUNE 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To give an overview of the role and functions of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's approach to Overview and Scrutiny has been informed by government guidance, best practice nationally and experience of what works locally to ensure that the Scrutiny Forum's operate in an optimum scrutiny structure that will enable the Forums to add value and improve services for the residents of Hartlepool.
- 2.2 The role of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is briefly discussed in the following section. Following this in Section 4, there is a more detailed description of the roles and functions of this Forum.

3. ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

- 3.1 The membership of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee reflects both the Council's political make-up and the five standing Scrutiny Forums (which are equally represented on the Committee). A total of sixteen Elected Members serve on the Committee, consisting of the Chair (appointed by Council), Vice-Chair and one other Member from each of the five standing Forums. In addition to this, three Resident Representatives are also co-opted onto the Committee, one from each Neighbourhood Consultative Forums.
- 3.2 This approach enables the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to draw on the experience of a variety of Members, represent a cross-section of political views and equally represent each of the five standing Forums. The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is responsible for the overall management of Overview and Scrutiny within the Authority. Other authorities' experience of

scrutiny appears to have benefited from the establishment of such a body. Given the increasing importance of the scrutiny role under the new arrangements and the likely increase in workload of the scrutiny function the role of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is invaluable. The main roles and functions of the committee are as follows:-

- (i) To work with the five Forums to decide an annual Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme, including the programme of any ad-hoc Forum that it appoints, to ensure that there is efficient use of the Forums and that the potential for duplication of effort is minimised;
- (ii) To lead the involvement of Overview and Scrutiny in the development of the budget and the plans and strategies that make up the policy framework and to delegate issues for consideration to the Forums;
- (iii) Where matters fall within the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Forum, to determine which of them will assume responsibility for any particular issue and to resolve any issues of dispute between Overview and Scrutiny Forums;
- (iv) To receive requests from Members, the Executive and/or the Full Council for items (including those referred via the Councillor Call for Action mechanism) to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Forums and to allocate them, if appropriate to one or more Overview and Scrutiny Forum;
- (v) To put in place and maintain a system to ensure reports from Overview and Scrutiny to the Executive are managed efficiently and do not exceed any limits set out in the Constitution (this includes making decisions about the priority of reports, if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of Executive business or jeopardises the efficient running of the Council business);
- (vi) To exercise the power of call-in in relation to Executive decisions made as set out in Section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000, or allocate them to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Forum for consideration; and
- (vii) Assessing, monitoring and advising on the role of the Council's central support services in supporting the Council's progress towards the Community Strategy's priority aims, including:-
 - General policies of the Council relating to the efficient use of resources (people, money, property, information technology); and
 - District Auditor performance reports, the District Auditor's Annual Audit Letter, Best Value Performance Indicators and health and safety issues.

4. FUNCTIONS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORUMS

4.1 The five standing Overview and Scrutiny Forums have three main functions and these are set out in the following paragraphs:-

(a) Policy Development and Review

Overview and Scrutiny Forums may:

- (i) Assist the Council and the Executive in the development of the budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- (ii) Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (iii) Consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (iv) Question members of the Executive and Chief Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- (v) Liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(b) Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Forums may:

- (i) Review and scrutinise the decisions of the Executive and Chief Officers both in relation to individual decisions and their overall strategic direction;
- (ii) Review and scrutinise the work of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (iii) Question members of the Executive and Chief Officers about their decisions, whether generally in comparison with the service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- (iv) Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area, requesting them to attend and address relevant scrutiny forums to speak about their activities and performance;
- (v) Investigate other issues of local concern, outside the control of the Council and other public bodies in the area, and make recommendations to the Council, the Executive and / or other organisations arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;

- (vi) Question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent); and
- (vii) Make recommendations to the executive and / or the council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

(c) Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them. This presently consists of a dedicated overview and scrutiny budget of 50k. Applications for funding must be made through Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

5. THE REMIT OF THIS FORUM

- 5.1 The strategic direction of the Scrutiny Forums will be to assess, monitor and advise on the Council's progress towards the 7 priority aims of the Community Strategy whilst the operational direction of the individual Scrutiny Forums will be governed by the remits outlined in the Constitution.

The remit of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum is as follows:-

'To consider issues relating to specialist (intervention), targeted (prevention) and universal services for children and young people.'

- 5.2 There will be, however, from time to time, issues that could be considered by more than one Forum and it will be for the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to determine which Forum should examine a particular issue. It is also open to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to appoint ad hoc forums. For example, where an issue comes within the remit of two scrutiny forums, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee could decide to establish an ad hoc forum made up of four Members from each of those two Forums.

6. SCHEDULE OF FORUM DATES FOR 2010/11

- 6.1 Detailed below, for Members information, are the meeting dates scheduled for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum in 2010/11. Please note that all scheduled meetings will commence at 4.30pm, in the Civic Centre, with the capacity for additional meetings to be arranged where required to accommodate the needs of individual inquiries.

29 June 2010

6 September 2010

28 September 2010

19 October 2010

2 November 2010

18 January 2011

31 January 2011

22 March 2011

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No specific action is required as a result of this report; however Members may have questions about the role of the Forum.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- i) Hartlepool Borough Council Constitution.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

29 June 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: DETERMINING THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR
2010/11

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum with a range of information, extracted from various sources to assist in the consideration of suitable topics for inclusion into the Forum's Work Programme for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum needs to develop a Work Programme for the 2010/11 Municipal Year, together with a timeframe for each review, for consideration by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 23 July 2010. Detailed terms of reference should be developed at the start of each review.
- 2.2 As such the Director of Child and Adult Services; the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and the Corporate Plan have been the foundation sources for this report to enable the Forum to compile its Work Programme.
- 2.3 However, it should be appreciated that some of the areas detailed below are continually evolving and further details will emerge throughout the year.
- 2.4 In addition to establishing the Forum's Work Programme, the Forum may consider it appropriate to receive illustrations from service departments in relation to impending legislation and to respond on an ad hoc basis to emerging issues which would be considered appropriate for an investigation or review to be undertaken.

TOPIC	Director / Cabinet Member	Member(s)	Referrals	Member of the Public / Resident Representative / community Group	Young People
Business Transformation – Service Delivery Options (SDO's) Further information in relation to this possible Work Programme item to be circulated following the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee meeting on the 25 June 2010, at which consideration is to be given to the process for Scrutiny consideration of SDO's.		X			
Youth Involvement / participation in decision making processes To explore possible ways of further expanding the participation / involvement of young people in the development and delivery of Local Authority services in Hartlepool. For further details see Appendix A.				X	
Safeguarding of Children To explore / evaluate the provision of services to safeguard children in Hartlepool The young people's representatives on the Forum have suggested safeguarding as a topic with specific focus on social networking and how this can be implemented within the Council as a cost effective way to advertise / consult with young people safely. For further details see Appendix B.	X				X

Supporting Looked After Children / Young People To explore the provision of support services for Looked After Children / Young People in Hartlepool. For further details see Appendix C.	X				
Think Family – Early Intervention and Prevention To explore the provision of preventative and early intervention services including the provision of practical support for children and their families. For further details see Appendix D.		X			
Narrowing the Gap / Raising Standards To explore how educational attainment levels in schools can be raised For further details see Appendix E.		X			

- 2.5 In setting the Work Programme for 2010/11 consideration also needs to be given to the following Budget and Policy Framework documents which the Forum will need to consider throughout the year.

BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS	ESTIMATED TIMETABLE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FORUM
Budget 2011/12	November 2010/December 2010, January 2011
Departmental Plan 2011/12	January / February 2011

- 2.6 Having considered the above information together with individual Members' identified topics for inclusion into the Work Programme, the Forum may wish to discuss various aspects contained within the Corporate Plan 2010/11 to raise potential areas for consideration. They could range from areas already

identified as suitable for development through commitments or areas where the specific performance is below the targeted level. For this purpose, **Appendices F and G** detail the relevant Sections of the Corporate Plan for the Forum's consideration as outlined below:-

Appendix F – Council's Priority Contributions to Community Strategy Themes: 'Jobs and the Economy'; 'Lifelong Learning and Skills'; 'Health and Wellbeing'; 'Community Safety'; and 'Strengthening Communities'; and

Appendix G - Performance Indicator Table: 'Jobs and the Economy'; 'Lifelong Learning and Skills'; 'Health and Wellbeing'; 'Community Safety'; and 'Strengthening Communities'.

- 2.7 The Forum may also wish to apply a degree of emphasis on a particular source for example, would the Forum consider issues which are clearly raised as a concern by the public to carry more weight than those considered important by the service provider? In practice the Forum will need to apply a considered opinion from all sources against the individual subject area.
- 2.8 Once the Forum has identified Scrutiny topics, anticipated time frames need to be applied. It is suggested to the Forum that a standard template for applying time allocations should be treated with caution as when scoping a subject a number of complexities may arise, therefore the anticipated duration should be allocated to the subjects on an individual basis.
- 2.9 The Forum is also advised to be cautious in setting an overly ambitious Work Programme for which it may be unable to deliver.
- 2.10 In addition to the above, the Forum may also consider establishing some small Sub-Groups, known as Working Groups to look at sharp focused areas of supplementary aspects of the main topic being scrutinised.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum is requested to consider the wide range of information detailed within this report (and the possible implications of Scrutiny consideration of SDO's) to assist in the determination of its 2010/11 Work Programme, to be approved by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 23 July 2010. Members may want to choose a maximum of two items for the coming year, which will allow for flexibility in its work programme for emerging issues and referrals Council/Cabinet.

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 Hartlepool Borough Council
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Corporate Plan for 2010/11
- (ii) Community Strategy

Topic:

Youth involvement / participation in decision making processes

Aim

To explore possible ways of further expanding the participation / involvement of young people in the development and delivery of Local Authority services in Hartlepool

Background Information

There was concern raised by a community group that whilst there are a range of good participation practices with young people, they often work in silos and are not effectively joined up.

Participation projects work with young people aged 13-19 years. They also provide support to organisations wanting to involve young people in decision-making processes (multi-agency training for staff and young people). Youth Workers support young people across Hartlepool on decision making and involvement projects. This includes supporting:

- the establishment of young people's committee groups within organisations
- coordination of the Youth Opportunity Fund
- coordination of the Youth Capital Fund (Grant Givers)
- Hartlepool Youth Parliament
- intergenerational work
- consultations
- school council work
- international exchange work
- Young Inspectors Programme

Suggested areas to examine / explore could be:-

- (a) how youth participation is undertaken in Hartlepool;
- (b) the Departmental responsibilities / activities to involve young people in the development and delivery of Local Authority services in Hartlepool;
- (c) How effective activities to involve young people in the development and delivery of Local Authority services in Hartlepool are;
- (d) How participation / involvement of young people in the development and deliver of Local Authority services in Hartlepool could be improved; and
- (e) How the work of young people can be brought together across Hartlepool so that groups can work effectively together

What would be the desired area(s) of impact / benefit resulting from the investigation?

- (a) Improved ways of working between the Council, other organisations and young people resulting in a more efficient / effective service
- (b) Improved outcomes for children / young people
- (c) A joined up approach established in Hartlepool whereby all organisations / youth groups communicate with one another

Corporate Plan Actions / Performance Indicator's (PI's) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets to which the issue relates.

Theme: Strengthening Communities

Outcome: Make a positive contribution (Every Child Matters)

Action: Promote children and young people's participation in decision making.
Implementation of the participation strategy (CADSC002)

PI's:-

NI 110 - Young people's participation in positive activities

<p>Topic:</p> <p>Safeguarding of Children</p>
<p>Aim</p> <p>To explore / evaluate the provision of services to safeguard children in Hartlepool</p>
<p>Background Information</p> <p>The young people's representatives on the Forum have suggested safeguarding as a topic with specific focus on social networking and how this can be implemented within the Council to advertise / consult with young people safely.</p> <p>Suggested areas to examine / explore could be:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What is the agreed overall 'aim' for the provision of Safeguarding services; (b) To highlight what a 'positive outcome' looks like in terms of the provision of safeguarding services; (c) To gain an understanding of the peak in safeguarding figures in Hartlepool; (d) To explore how the service is currently provided; (e) To explore how effective the service provided is in achieving the overall 'aim'; (f) Should services continue to be provided in the existing way; (g) How services could be provided in the future to most effectively / efficiently achieve the overall 'aim' of the service; and (h) How social networking can be implemented safely
<p>What would be the desired area(s) of impact / benefit resulting from the investigation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Improved outcomes for children / young people (b) An evaluation of the existing services resulting in improved ways of working that are both efficient and effective (c) Identification of how social networking can be used as an effective and safe tool for communication

Corporate Plan Actions / Performance Indicator's (PIs) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets to which the issue relates.

Corporate Plan outcome:

Theme: Community Safety

Outcome: Stay Safe (Every Child Matters)

Action: Develop the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board to achieve the wider safeguarding agenda, reflecting local priorities via implementing local action plan (CADCS002)

Topic:

Supporting Looked After Children / Young People

Aim

To explore the provision of support services for Looked After Children / Young People in Hartlepool

Background Information

The Children Looked After Strategy, which sets out the vision of Hartlepool's Children's Trust to improve the outcomes for children looked after by the Local Authority, is currently out to consultation. The Strategy outlines the current services in place for children in care, the vision for what the Children's Trust is aspiring to achieve and identifies what work needs to be undertaken to realise this vision. The final draft of the strategy will be produced by the end of July 2010 at which time a detailed action plan for implementation will be developed.

Both individuals and organisations contribute to the success of corporate parenting at different levels and in different areas. The central principle of corporate parenting is that the Local Authority should parent and seek the same outcomes for children and young people in their care in the same way they would parent their own children.

Suggested areas to examine / explore could be:-

(a) To gain an understanding of:-

- i) The profile of children looked after by Hartlepool Borough Council (inc. age range covered);
- ii) Departmental responsibilities in supporting Looked after Children / Young People;
- iii) The role of each Elected Member as a Corporate Parent; and
- iv) The aspirations of Looked After Children / Young People in Hartlepool

(b) To explore how the Local Authority supports 'Looked after Children / Young People' across all aspects of their lives (clearly defining what is a statutory requirement and what the Council does over and above these requirements in terms of the provision of support);

(c) To explore how effective the provision of support is;

(d) To explore if support should continue to be provided in the existing way;

(e) To explore how support could be provided in the future to most effectively / efficiently to meet the needs of looked after young people; and

(f) To explore how the aspirations of Looked After Children / Young People can be raised.

What would be the desired area(s) of impact / benefit resulting from the investigation?

- (a) Improved outcomes for children / young people
- (b) Identification of the most effective / efficient ways of working
- (c) Strengthening relationships between partner organisations

Corporate Plan Actions / Performance Indicator's (PI's) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets to which the issue relates.

Theme: Community Safety

Outcome: Stay Safe (Every Child Matters)

Action: Effectively implement the recommendations from Care Matters to improve outcomes for looked after children (Multi Agency Looked After Partnership implementing this) (CADCS001)

Topic:

'Think Family' – Preventative and Early Intervention Services

Aim

To explore the provision of preventative and early intervention services including the provision of practical support for children and their families.

Background Information

In November 2009, the Government announced the 'Think Family' programme for which Hartlepool is a pathfinder Authority (Young Carers). The programme in its entirety aims to ensure that everyone who works with a family and the people in the family can provide the right support at the right time. A Think Family Strategy is currently in development.

Hartlepool delivers integrated preventative services to children and young people through the 'Team Around the School' services which bring together key organisations / professionals to plan and implement support packages for children and young people with identified needs.

Suggested areas to examine / explore could be:-

- (a) To explore the provision of preventative and early intervention services with specific focus on the 'Team Around the School' and the role of universal services in prevention.
- (b) To explore how effective the services provided are in achieving the overall 'aim';
- (c) To explore whether services should continue to be provided in the existing way;
- (d) To explore how services could be provided in the future to most effectively / efficiently meet the needs of young people / looked after young people and their families; and
- (e) To identify how these services help children / young people living in poverty

What would be the desired area(s) of impact / benefit resulting from the investigation?

- (a) Improved outcomes for children / young people
- (b) A joined up approach / integrated services / improved multi-agency working
- (c) More effective / efficient ways of working
- (d) Ensure that child poverty is central to the delivery of services

Corporate Plan Actions / Performance Indicator's (PI's) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets to which the issue relates.

Theme: Jobs and the Economy

Outcome: Fewer children in Hartlepool experience the effects of poverty

Action: Enhance working between local services to ensure child poverty is central to organisational planning and commissioning of services (CADJE005)

Theme: Strengthening Communities

Outcome: Make a Positive Contribution (Every Child Matters)

Action: Develop and implement a partner wide Think Family Strategy (CADSC006)

Theme: Strengthening Communities

Outcome: Make a Positive Contribution (Every Child Matters)

Action: Develop preventative and early intervention services and support to avoid the need for more intensive intervention from statutory services (CADSC007)

PI's:-

CSD 116 - Proportion of children in poverty

<p>Topic:</p> <p>Narrowing the Gap / Raising Standards</p>
<p>Aim</p> <p>To explore how educational attainment levels in schools can be raised</p>
<p>Background Information</p> <p>Suggested areas to examine / explore could be:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To gain an understanding of local attainment levels compared to national levels; (b) To explore the factors which contribute to poor attainment; and (c) To explore how attainment levels can be raised in the most effective and efficient way
<p>What would be the desired area(s) of impact / benefit resulting from the investigation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Improved outcomes for children / young people (b) More effective / efficient ways of working (c) Identification of good practice examples
<p>Corporate Plan Actions / Performance Indicator's (PI's) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets to which the issue relates.</p> <p>Theme: Jobs and the Economy Outcome: Achieve economic wellbeing for all children and young people ensuring that they are prepared for working life (Every Child Matters) Action: Reduce the level of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) by implementing NEET Strategy (CADJE001)</p> <p>PI's:-</p> <p>NI 79 - Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19</p> <p>NI 80 - Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19</p>

NI 81 - Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19

NI 82 - Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19

NI 91 - Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training

NI 117 - 6 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)

NI 72 – Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy

NI 73 - Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2

NI 75 - Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths

NI 78 - Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths

Children's Services - Corporate Plan 2010/11

This Forum's remit covers Actions under the following Community Strategy Themes / Council Priority areas:

- Jobs and the Economy;
- Lifelong Learning and Skills;
- Health and Wellbeing;
- Community Safety; and
- Strengthening Communities

The information provided in the appendix includes the relevant Community Strategy Themes, which are divided into the Corporate Plan Objectives that have some relevance to this Forum. Under each Corporate Plan Objective there are a number of Actions.

Theme: Jobs and Economy			
Outcome: Achieve economic wellbeing for all children and young people ensuring that they are prepared for working life (Every Child Matters)			
Code	Action	Date to be Completed	Responsible Officer
CADJE001	Reduce the level of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) by implementing NEET Strategy.	31 Mar 2011	Mark Smith
CADJE002	Implement the Hartlepool 14-19 Strategy	31 Mar 2013	Tom Argument
CADJE003	Implement the Apprenticeship Skills and Children and Learners Act 2009 (ASCL)	31 Mar 2011	Tom Argument

Theme: Jobs and Economy			
Outcome: Fewer children in Hartlepool experience the effects of poverty			
Code	Action	Date to be Completed	Responsible Officer
CADJE004	Implement the Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan	31 Mar 2011	Sue Johnson
CADJE005	Enhance working between local services to ensure child poverty is central to organisational planning and commissioning of services	31 Mar 2011	Sue Johnson
CADJE006	Establish a multi-agency Child Poverty Working Group in line with the requirements of the Child Poverty Bill 2010.	30 Sep 2010	Sue Johnson
CADJE007	Complete a needs assessment of child poverty with local partners, as required by the Child Poverty Bill.	31 Oct 2010	Sue Johnson
CADJE008	Identify and train Child Poverty Champions across all theme partnerships.	31 Aug 2010	Sue Johnson

Theme: Lifelong Learning and Skills			
Outcome: Enjoy and Achieve (Every Child Matters)			
Code	Action	Date to be Completed	Responsible Officer
CADLL001	Analyse Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) data and challenge schools with anomalies	30 Sep 2010	Lynne Pawley
CADLL002	Analyse Key Stage 2 data in English and mathematics	31 Mar 2011	Lynne Pawley
CADLL003	Analyse Key Stage 4 data	31 Mar 2011	Caroline O'Neill
CADLL004	Plan and support decant of Dyke House School to Brierton site in preparation for remodel under Building Schools for the Future (BSF).	31 Jul 2010	Caroline O'Neill
CADLL008	Complete Space to Learning build	31 Jul 2010	Caroline O'Neill

8.2 Appendix F

Theme: Lifelong Learning and Skills			
Outcome: Transform teaching and learning opportunities, supported by £100m+ investment from Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programme			
Code	Action	Date to be Completed	Responsible Officer
CADLL006	Initiate construction work at Dyke House School to implement the agreed remodelling needed to assist in the transformation of teaching and learning	30 Sep 2010	Peter McIntosh
CADLL014	Procure initial Primary Capital Programme Projects, with a capital value of £8.4M	31 Jul 2010	Caroline O'Neill
CADLL015	Implement the procurement process and commence construction of Primary Capital Programme at Jesmond Road and Rossmere schools	31 Dec 2010	Caroline O'Neill

Theme: Health and Wellbeing			
Outcome: Be Healthy			
Code	Action	Date to be Completed	Responsible Officer
CADHW016	Work with partners to reduce health inequalities e.g. by promoting breastfeeding, reducing smoking in pregnancy, tackling obesity	31 Mar 2011	Sally Robinson; Louise Wallace
CADHW017	Work with partner agencies, young people, schools and families to reduce under 18 conception rate by 55% from 1998 baseline and improve sexual health	31 Mar 2011	Sheila O'Connor; Louise Wallace
CADHW018	Work with partner agencies, young people, schools and families to tackle substance misuse (including alcohol)	31 Mar 2011	Sheila O'Connor; Sandra Saint

8.2 Appendix F

Theme: Community Safety			
Outcome: Stay Safe (Every Child Matters)			
Code	Action	Date to be Completed	Responsible Officer
CADCS001	Effectively implement the recommendations from Care Matters to improve outcomes for looked after children (Multi Agency Looked After Partnership implementing this)	31 Mar 2011	Jim Murdoch
CADCS002	Develop the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board to achieve the wider safeguarding agenda, reflecting local priorities via implementing local action plan	31 Mar 2011	Maureen McEnaney
CADCS003	Draft Looked After Strategy	31 Mar 2011	Sally Robinson

Theme: Strengthening Communities			
Outcome: Make a positive contribution (Every Child Matters)			
Code	Action	Date to be Completed	Responsible Officer
CADSC001	Support parents and carers to fulfil their responsibilities to their children effectively by implementing the child poverty strategy.	31 Mar 2011	John Robinson
CADSC002	Promote children and young people's participation in decision making. Implementation of the participation strategy	31 Mar 2011	John Robinson
CADSC003	Promote emotional well-being in children and young people – via actions outlined in Children and Young People plan. Implementation of Targeted Mental Health in Schools Strategy and responding to the individual needs of children.	31 Mar 2011	Jacqui Braithwaite
CADSC004	Work with partner agencies to reduce youth offending via the implementation of Youth Crime Action Plan (linked to Safer Communities workstream)	31 Mar 2011	Danny Dunleavy
CADSC005	Improve the level of young people's participation in positive activities via implementing the relevant action plan integration and targeted plan.	31 Mar 2011	Mark Smith
CADSC006	Develop and implement a partner wide Think Family Strategy	31 Mar 2011	John Robinson
CADSC007	Develop preventative and early intervention services and support to avoid the need for more intensive intervention from statutory services.	31 Mar 2011	John Robinson

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Every council is required by the Department for Communities and Local Government to collect and publish a range of National performance indicators (NIs). In addition to these Government indicators, services in Hartlepool Borough Council have also set 'Local indicators,' these statutory and non-statutory indicators are set out in the pages that follow.

Five of the Community Strategy themes have some relevance to this Forum, and are listed below:-

⇒ Jobs and the Economy	⇒ Lifelong Learning and Skills
⇒ Health and Wellbeing	⇒ Community Safety
⇒ Strengthening Communities	

NI's are set by the government and information for these are included in the Corporate Plan. Some of the NI's have additional uses these include:-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) The means of assessing the Council's performance and how well it works together with other public bodies to meet the needs of Hartlepool residents. Replaced the Comprehensive Performance Assessment in April 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Agreement (PSA) Agreement between local and central government to improve performance across a range of indicators based upon national and local priority
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Theme: **Jobs and the Economy**Outcome: **Achieve economic wellbeing for all children and young people ensuring that they are prepared for working life (Every Child Matters)**

Code	Indicator	2009/10	Annual 2010/11
		Value	
NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19		72.9%
NI 80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	43.3%	44.2%
NI 81	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	25.7%	23.3%
NI 82	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	59.3%	59.6%
NI 91	Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training		82%
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)		7.6%

Theme: **Jobs and Economy**Outcome: **Fewer children in Hartlepool experience the effects of poverty**

Code	Indicator	2009/10	Annual 2010/11
		Value	
CSD 116	Proportion of children in poverty	-4.8%	-4.8%
CSD 116b	Proportion of children in poverty - Narrowing the gap target	-4.8%	-4.3%

Theme: **Lifelong Learning and Skills**

8.2 Appendix G

Outcome: Enjoy and Achieve (Every Child Matters)			
Code	Indicator	2009/10	Annual 2010/11
		Value	
NI 72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	48.4%	45.9%
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	75.7%	82.0%
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	48.5%	51.7%
NI 78	Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths	1	0

Theme: Health and Wellbeing			
Outcome: Be Healthy			
Code	Indicator	2009/10	Annual 2010/11
		Value	
CSD P012	Number of schools achieving the new Healthy Schools Status (Performance with reward) (LAA HC21)	36	37
NI 53a	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth - Percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks	21.4%	26.2%
NI 55(iv)	Obesity in primary school age children in Reception: Line 4 % of children recorded who are obese	10.8%	14.5%
NI 56(ix)	Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6: Line 9 % of children recorded who are obese	22.8%	27.5%
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate - % change since 1998 (BVPI 197)	-12.9%	-45%

Theme: Community Safety			
Outcome: Stay Safe (Every Child Matters)			
Code	Indicator	2009/10	Annual 2010/11
		Value	
CSD P035	Children who became the subject of a CP plan, or were registered per 10,000 population under 18		30

8.2 Appendix G

NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral		80.0%
NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves (BVPI 49)		12.0%

Theme: Strengthening Communities			
Outcome: Make a positive contribution (Every Child Matters)			
Code	Indicator	2009/10	Annual 2010/11
		Value	
LAA SC P004a	Access to the Youth Opportunity/Capital Funds - number of applications		250
LAA SC P004b	Access to the Youth Opportunity/Capital Funds - number of approved applications		150
LAA SC P004c	Access to the Youth Opportunity/Capital Funds - number of Young People involved in application process		300
LAA SC P005	Improve the participation of young people with learning disabilities in their Section 140 assessments	100	98
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	56.0%	75.9%

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

29 June 2010



Report of: Assistant Chief Executive

Subject: APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Member nominations to the following Outside Body from the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum and confirm the Scrutiny Forum's representative on the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee as submitted to Council on 24 June 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with the authority delegated by the Cabinet, the Deputy Mayor considered the issue of appointments to outside bodies. Several of these outside body appointments were referred to other meetings for appointment, and of these, two were referred to this Scrutiny Forum for consideration.
- 2.2 The outside bodies referred for Member appointment are the Schools Admissions Forum and the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.
- 2.3 In addition, a vacancy on the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee exists for a Member of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum. This vacancy was reported to Council on 24 June 2010 and the Forum will be updated as to the appointment made.

3. APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

- 3.1 School Admissions Forum – 5 members

The Schools Admissions Forum considers existing and proposed admission arrangements and how they serve the interests of local children and parents; aim to reach local agreement on any new or controversial issues; consider the comprehensiveness and accessibility of the Children's Services Authority's admissions literature and information for parents; consider and approve local co-ordinated arrangements; promote more modern and parent-friendly admissions processes.

The Forum are requested to consider the nominations received to date which are:

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher, Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Sarah Maness and Chris Simmons.

3.2 Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

When the Mayor and Deputy Mayor considered the nominations made to Outside Bodies appointed by the Executive there was only one nomination to the two councillor positions on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, that being Councillor Sheila Griffin. The Mayor indicated that the second position should be referred to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum for consideration of a nomination. The term of office for the appointment would be four years and the position does require a councillor nomination.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Forum considers the above five nominations for the School Admissions Forum from within its membership for submission to the Executive for approval.
- (ii) That the Forum makes a nomination to the second councillor position on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education prior to submission to the Executive for approval.