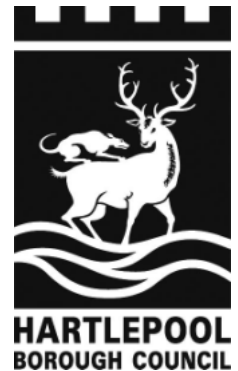


CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday, 28 September 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: Joan Steel

Young People's Representatives: Aarthi Suresh, Ashleigh Bostock, Lauren Carroll, Demi Coull, Shauna Hanley 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 6 September 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

5.1 Refurbishment of Exmoor Grove Children's Home:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Refurbishment of Exmoor Grove Children's Home – *Head of Commissioning and Children's Trust*

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

No items

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Investigation into 'Youth Involvement / Participation':-

7.1 Verbal Update on the progress of the investigation into Youth Involvement / Participation - *Young People's Representatives*

Investigation into 'Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services':-

7.2 Setting the Scene:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer; and*
- (b) Presentation – *Officers from the Child and Adult Services Department*

7.3 Progress updates on previous investigations - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting:- Thursday, 30 September 2010 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

6 September 2010

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

Present:

Councillor: Chris Simmons (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Peter Ingham, John Lauderdale, Sarah Maness, Paul Thompson and Ray Wells.

Co-opted Members:
David Relton

Resident Representatives:
Joan Steel

Young Peoples Representatives:
Ashleigh Bostock, Lauren Carroll, Shauna Hanley, Kira Lund, Chrissy Marshall-Bell and Aarthi Suresh.

Officers: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Specialist Services
John Robinson, Parent Commissioner
Ian Meritt, Head of Commissioning and Children's Trust
Zoe McKenna, Participation Youth Worker
Juliette Ward, Participation Youth Worker
Laura Stones, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

13. Apologies for Absence

None.

14. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillor Chris Simmons declared a personal interest in minute 19.

15. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2010

Confirmed.

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

None.

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

See minute 23.

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

None.

19. Scrutiny Investigation into Youth Involvement/Participation in the Development and Delivery of Council Services including the Safeguarding of Young People – Scoping Report (*Young People's representatives*)

A scoping report was submitted by the Young People's representatives for the Forum's investigation into Youth Involvement/Participation in the Development and Delivery of Council Services including the Safeguarding of Young People which included the following issues for consideration by the Forum:

Overall aim of the scrutiny investigation/enquiry

To explore ways of expanding the participation/involvement of young people in the development and delivery of Council services with particular focus on the safeguarding of young people during their involvement in the process.

Proposed terms of reference for the investigation/enquiry

The following Terms of Reference for the investigation were proposed:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of what methods are available in terms of social networking so young people can become involved in council services (at all levels) in a safe and cost effective way.
- (b) To examine the safeguarding arrangements around social networking covering all positive and negative aspects. The young people will examine examples of good practice and how we could build on these.

Potential areas of enquiry / sources of evidence

The young people would like the following people to be involved in their investigation:-

- (a) Young people from Town Wide Projects including BME, Deaf Youth Project, Hart Gables, LDD Young People;
- (b) Local Authority Officers responsible for safeguarding / IT (Mike Smith);
- (c) Mayor;
- (d) Portfolio Holder for Children's Services;
- (e) School Representatives;
- (f) Other Councils who have used social networking in the past;
- (g) Ward Councillors.

The young people suggest referring to the following documentary / internet sources, as highlighted below:-

- (a) Facebook (test face book page to be set up by young people)
- (b) Twitter
- (c) MySpace
- (d) MSN
- (e) St Hild's Cyber Survey
- (f) Relevant Websites and internet documents
- (g) Hartlepool Borough Council Safeguarding Document
- (h) NSPCC
- (i) Wheelscape (for skate park project)
- (j) Good practice guide from the Department for Children, Schools and Family in terms of using social networking to engage young people

Proposed timetable of the scrutiny investigation

6 September 2010 – 'Setting the Scene' - Young people to present Scoping Report to Scrutiny and explain methods on how they will do it.

19 October 2010 – Update on the investigation – explain what methods have

been investigated, safeguarding impacts and restrictions, people consulted.

2 November 2010 – progress update on the investigation.

18 January 2011 – Consideration of Draft Final Report.

25 February 2011 – Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee – (To be presented by the young people).

21 March 2011 – Consideration of Final Report by Cabinet – (To be presented by the young people).

In addition to the report, the young people's representatives gave a presentation to the Forum which provided detailed information on the role of the Young Inspectors, United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) and the School Council Forum.

During the presentation it was noted that social networking had been highlighted as a key issue within this investigation as they considered this an important topic and a very popular mechanism with young people to communicate and share information. Members were asked to note that one of the most popular and cost effective ways of social networking for young people was through www.facebook.com and a test page was displayed within the presentation. The test page had been created to demonstrate a secure environment on which young people could comment and raise issues and the topic chosen for this test was fashion.

The presentation concluded that the overall aim of this investigation was to enable social networking to be utilised as a safe and secure way to encourage and inform young people of Council services that may be useful to them and how they can become involved in the shaping of those services.

A discussion ensued during which the following issues were raised.

- (i) The Chair sought clarification on a previous investigation undertaken by the young people on the provision within the Mill House Leisure Centre and what recommendations the young people had reported. It was explained that an investigation had been undertaken at the Mill House Leisure Centre and included interviews with the manager, lifeguards and receptionists to ascertain what their jobs entailed and questioned how they would deal with certain situations. During the investigation it was noted that a fire exit was being partially blocked with litter bins and cleaning equipment and it was recommended that this area be cleared.
- (ii) A co-opted member questioned who voted for young people to be representatives on the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP). Members were informed that young people aged 13-19 years old across the town have the opportunity to vote for a representative through an election process. It was noted that during last year's election over 4,000 young people had voted.

Members were asked to note that nominations would be sought for representatives to participate in this Scrutiny Forum from the School Council Forum at their next meeting.

Members thanked the young people for their very clear and informative presentation and looked forward to receiving further information on this subject. The Chair indicated that a progress report on the investigation would be presented to a future meeting and informed the young people that should they require any further support to help achieve the objectives of the investigation to contact the Scrutiny Support Officer in the first instance.

Recommended

The proposed remit for the investigation, terms of reference and potential areas of enquiry/sources of evidence were agreed as detailed above.

20. Scrutiny Investigation into Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services – Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer)

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a scoping report for the Forum's investigation into Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services which included the following issues for consideration by the Forum:

Overall aim of the scrutiny investigation/enquiry

To explore the provision of preventative and early intervention services including the provision of practical support for children including children on the cusp of care; young people and their families.

Proposed terms of reference for the investigation/enquiry

The following Terms of Reference for the investigation were proposed:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of the Think Family approach in Hartlepool along with the role of each of the following services in contributing to this approach:-
 - (i) Universal services;
 - (ii) Targeted services; and
 - (iii) Specialist services
- (b) To examine how the Council and its partner organisations co-ordinate their Think Family approach in order to deliver services in an integrated way to avoid duplication and gaps in service provision;
- (c) To identify the impact that Think Family services have on children

including children on the cusp of care, children living in poverty, young people and their families;

- (d) To evaluate Hartlepool's Think Family approach to establish whether it is achieving its overall aim;
- (e) To gain an understanding of the impact of current and future budget pressures on the way in which Think Family services are provided in Hartlepool;
- (f) To explore how Think Family services could be provided in the future, giving due regard to:-
 - (i) Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the way in which the services are currently provided; and
 - (ii) If/how the services could be provided at a reduced financial cost (within the resources available in the current economic climate).

Potential areas of enquiry / sources of evidence

The young people would like the following people to be involved in their investigation:-

- (a) Member of Parliament for Hartlepool;
- (b) Elected Mayor;
- (c) Portfolio Holder for Children's Services;
- (d) Director / officers of the Council's Child and Adult Services Department;
- (e) Ward Councillors;
- (f) Local residents;
- (g) Representatives of minority communities of interest or heritage;
- (h) Families First;
- (i) Family Intervention Project;
- (j) Children's Trust;
- (k) Family Pathfinder;
- (l) Family Nurse Partnership;
- (m) Children's Centres / Sure Start;

- (n) Job Centre Plus;
- (o) Police;
- (p) The Parenting Early Intervention Project;
- (q) Service users;
- (r) Connected Care;
- (s) Young Carers;
- (t) Hartlepool Carers';
- (u) Looked After Children's Group;
- (v) Health Services;
- (w) Community Consultation Group;
- (x) Probation Service;
- (y) School representatives; and
- (z) Other local authorities – Gateshead Council has been identified as best practice for their work on developing integrated working by an ongoing evaluation of the pathfinder programme commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Proposed timetable of the scrutiny investigation

6 September 2010 – Scoping Report

28 September 2010 – Setting the Scene:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of the Think Family approach in Hartlepool along with the role of each of the following services in contributing to this approach:-
 - (i) Universal services;
 - (ii) Targeted services; and
 - (iii) Specialist services.
- (b) Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services;*
- (c) Evidence from the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool, Iain Wright*
* Subject to availability

19 October 2010 – Evidence gathering:-

Small group exercises to examine how the Council and its partner organisations co-ordinate their Think Family approach in order to deliver services in an integrated way to avoid duplication and gaps in service provision*;

* Suggested format: - to invite a number of partner organisations along to the meeting, and for the Forum to divide into small groups with representatives from the partner organisations in each of the groups to discuss the above.

November 2010 (dates to be confirmed)

(a) distribution of a questionnaire / online consultation to people who access services through the Think Family programme to evaluate Hartlepool's Think Family approach to establish whether it is achieving its overall aim;

(To gather views to feed into the meeting of 31 January 2011).

(b) Site visit

18 January 2011 – Evidence gathering:-

Report / presentation from the Child and Adult Services Department on current and future budgetary restrictions

31 January 2011 – Evidence gathering:-

(a) Small group exercises to identify the impact that Think Family services have on children including children on the cusp of care, children living in poverty, young people and their families**;

** Suggested format: - to invite children, young people, families who have experience of the Think Family approach along to the meeting, and for the Forum to divide into small groups to discuss the above.

(b) Feedback from the questionnaire / online consultation to evaluate Hartlepool's Think Family approach

(c) Feedback from site visit

22 March 2011 – Consideration of Final Report

15 April 2011 – Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

9 May 2011 – Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet/Council (tentative date)

The Chair informed Members that there were a number of publications

highlighted within the report including Durham County Council's 'Think Family Review 2010', the Department for Children, Schools and Families 'Think Family Toolkit' and the Cabinet Office report – 'Think Family: Improving the Life Chances of Families at risk'. The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that electronic links to the above documentation would be forwarded to all Members of the Forum through email for ease of reference.

A discussion ensued on the inclusion of looked after children within the investigation. The Assistant Director commented that part of the aim of the Think Family programme was the intervention and prevention of young people entering the care system although looked after children would not be excluded from being part of this investigation. Members considered that a detailed examination of the system in place for looked after children would warrant a separate investigation in its own right and could be put forward for a suggestion for next year's work programme.

It was suggested that some parents who have accessed services through the Think Family and parenting programmes may be interested in participating in the investigation and Members felt this would be very worthwhile to the investigation. The Parent Commissioner would liaise with parents to arrange this and if any financial assistance was required in order to make it possible for parents to attend then the Parent Commissioner would bring a report, outlining the costs, back to the Forum for approval, which would then be forwarded onto the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for approval.

Members considered that the format of that meeting should be more of an informal social event to ensure that the parents felt at ease and comfortable. In addition, it was highlighted that as part of the investigation, all parents who have accessed services through the Think Family and parenting programmes would be given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire which should help establish if the programme is achieving its aim.

Members discussed the formality of holding the meetings within the Civic Suite and questioned whether the young people would prefer to meet in a less informal setting such as a community centre. The Chair and Parent Commissioner confirmed that the young people had been consulted on this issue previously and had indicated that they preferred to meet in the place where Council decision making takes place. The young people in attendance confirmed that they were happy to meet in this environment and although they could understand how such a setting could make some people uncomfortable, they were happy with the current arrangements. The Chair commented that there would be a change in the configuration of the seating arrangements for future meetings including more integration with Members and the young people to ensure that everyone felt equally part of the meeting.

In relation to the request for suggestions for a site visit, it was agreed that it would be more appropriate to wait until the setting the scene report had been considered as this would assist Members in deciding where they would wish to visit.

Recommended

- i) The proposed remit for the investigation, terms of reference and potential areas of enquiry/sources of evidence were agreed as detailed above.
- ii) That the Parent Commissioner liaise with a number of parents who had accessed services through the Think Family and parenting programmes with a view to their attendance at a future meeting of the Forum to outline their experiences, and a report be brought back to the Forum outlining the financial support which is required.
- iii) That the Scrutiny Support Officer email electronic links to Members of the Forum to the following documents: Durham County Council's 'Think Family Review 2010', the Department for Children, Schools and Families 'Think Family Toolkit' and the Cabinet Office report – 'Think Family: Improving the Life Chances of Families at risk'.
- iv) That an investigation into the provision for Looked After Children be added to the list of work programme suggestions for 2011/12.

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

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. The report included a chart which provided the overall progress made by all scrutiny forums since 2005 and Appendix A provided a detailed explanation of progress made against each recommendation agreed by this Forum.

It was noted that since the 2005/06 municipal year, 77% of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's recommendations had been completed with 17% assigned, 4% overdue and 2% cancelled.

A number of issues were discussed and it was suggested that brief reports be provided to Members with an update on the following investigations:

- a) Raising Boys Achievement – Bridging the Gender Gap
- b) The provision of Sex and Relationship Education in Hartlepool Schools

Members were requested to retain the plastic wallet folders provided to them enclosing the six monthly update report and were asked bring them to future meetings where progress reports were to be considered.

Recommended

- i) The progress against the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum agreed recommendations since the 2005/06 municipal year were noted.
- ii) Members were requested to retain Appendix A contained within the plastic wallet distributed for future reference.

23. Issues Identified from the Forward Plan

The Chair referred to two requests received from Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for the Forum to review the following items within the Forward Plan:

Surestart and Extended Services and Early Years Provision – The Committee considered that there may be scope for further savings within the Service Delivery Option for this service. The Chair suggested that an additional meeting be scheduled on Thursday 30 September to enable Members to have full consideration of this item.

Refurbishment at Exmoor Grove Children's Home – The Committee had expressed concerns at the apparent high level of expenditure of this refurbishment. It was suggested that this be included at the meeting of the Forum already arranged for Tuesday 28 September.

It was noted that both the above meetings would commence at 4.30pm with the young people being invited at 4.10pm. The Scrutiny Support Officer confirmed that a letter confirming the above arrangements would be forwarded to Members.

Recommended

That in view of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's request for the following items contained in the Forward Plan to be reviewed:

- i) An additional meeting of the Forum be scheduled on 30 September 2010 at 4.30pm to discuss the Service Delivery Option review of the Sure Start and Extended Services and Early Years Provision.
- ii) The Forum consider the expenditure which will be incurred through the refurbishment of Exmoor Grove Children's Home at its scheduled meeting on 28 September 2010.

24. Any Other Business – National Youth Reference Group

The Chair informed Members that the National Youth Reference Group had selected the investigation undertaken by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum, under the guidance of its previous Chair, into 'Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People' as an example of good practice. As a result of this, the investigation would be examined by a number of authorities within the country and this clearly demonstrated the value of the scrutiny process within Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 5.33 pm.

CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

28 September 2010



Report of: TEACHING AND LEARNING INCLUDING GENDER CONSULTANT

Subject: RAISING BOYS' ACHIEVEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a background to the work being done to raise the achievement of boys in Hartlepool schools and Colleges and to inform and update Scrutiny Forum members of developments, issues, challenges ahead and successes.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The headline data on attainment in Hartlepool

“Our students achieving 5 or more A*- C passes is now almost 8% above the national average and 50.3% of pupils have achieved the important measure of five or more A*- C passes including English and maths beating last year's record when Hartlepool was the most improved LA in the country in this particular indicator.” Hartbeat, Autumn 2010

2.2 At KS1

- The gap between boys and girls is becoming noticeably wider in Reading, Maths and Science since 2007. Girls are performing better than boys in all subjects at L2+ in KS1.

L3+ gap between boys and girls in Local Authority

- Reading – gap narrowing
- In 2007 girls performed 12.4% better than boys and in 2010 girls performed only 2.6% better than boys
- Writing – gap narrowing
- In 2007 girls performed 11.2% better than boys and in 2010 girls performed only 2.9% better than boys
- Speaking & Listening – gap narrowing

- In 2007 girls performed 6% better than boys and in 2010 girls performed 0.5% better than boys
- Maths – gap widening but boys out-performing girls
- In 2007 girls performed 1.6% better than boys however by 2010 boys were performing 8.8% better than girls
- Science – gap widening but boys out-performing girls
- In 2007 girls performed 0.3% better than boys but by in 2010 boys performed 4.6% better than girls
- The gap between boys and girls is becoming narrower in reading, writing and speaking and listening, although girls are still out-performing boys. In 2007 girls were narrowly out-performing boys in Maths and Science; however in 2010 boys are performing better than girls by 8.8% in maths and 4.6% in science.

2.3 And at KS2

Level 4+ English & Maths Combined Gap between Boys and Girls (Teacher Assessments in 2010)

- The gender gap for L4+ combined E&M has widened between 2007 and 2010. Girls have performed better than boys year-on-year, with the gap increasing from 6% in 2007 to 8% in 2010. In 2009 the gap narrowed slightly with girls only performing 4% better than boys.

Two levels progress in English Gap between Boys and Girls (based on TAs)

- In 2007 1.3% less boys achieved 2 levels progress in English than girls. In 2010 this gap has risen to 4% less boys.
- In 2007 2.7% more boys achieved 2 levels progress in Maths. However this had fallen to 1.3% less boys than girls in 2010.
- Overall the gender gap has widened in terms of progress in English and Maths over the last four years.

2.4 For KS3 (Teacher Assessments from 2009)

L5+ and L6+ Gap between Boys and Girls

- English Level 5+ - In 2007 12.2% more girls achieved L5+ than boys. This rose to 18.8% more in 2010.
- Maths L5+ - In 2007 2.1% more boys achieved L5+ than girls. In 2008 there was no difference in the gender achievement. By 2010 the gender difference was 6.6% more girls achieving L5+.

- English L6+ - Girls have out-performed boys between 2007 and 2010. In 2007 the difference was 6.7% by 2010 it had risen to 20.5%.
- Maths L6+ - In 2007 boys achieved 4.2% more L6+ than girls. By 2010 this has changed to girls achieving 3.7% more L6+ than boys. Therefore the gap has widened considerably over the last 4 years.
- In both English and Maths the gender difference has increased over four years, with girls now out-performing boys in both subjects.

2.5 **The original Scrutiny Forum recommendations with responses and new recommendations (in bold)for consideration by this group**

That the Authority focuses its future strategies in relation to the raising of boys' achievement levels on boys' literacy and writing. Identify boys' underachievement as a key priority in both Primary and Secondary Operational Plans. Completed.

This now needs to continue as a focus across all key stages and in particular focusing on English and Literacy as this still remains the area that boys find hardest to perform well in.

That the Authority focuses its future strategies in relation to the raising of boys' achievement levels on boys' literacy and writing.
Implement specific actions as part of the primary and secondary national strategies programme which target intervention and support in underachieving pupils including boys.
Completed and action reviewed from September 2007.

This needs to continue as one of the SIT's teaching and learning priorities as part of the post Strategy support to schools.

That in addition to the Authority's Children's Services Departmental Action Plans, the creation of a policy that includes a clear timetable and future aims and objectives, in relation to the raising of boys' achievement levels in Hartlepool be further explored. Develop and agree an overarching strategy for raising boys' achievement
An overarching strategy has been explored and is now felt not to be the most effective way forward. Instead planning for bridging the gender gap will be better tackled through targeted support and challenge in schools.

Targeted support and challenge to schools is likely to be more effective as the SIT capacity is may well be reduced in future and therefore focussing on boys' (and girls') underachievement for support and challenge work in school may be the best way forward.

That in addition to the Authority's Children's Services Departmental Action Plans, the creation of a policy, that includes a clear timetable and future aims and objectives, in relation to the raising of boys' achievement levels in Hartlepool be further explored.

Agree with schools and other stakeholders including milestones for implementation.

See above

That a review be undertaken to ensure that an appropriate staffing structure is in place for the effective 'rolling out' of the Blended Learning Project across all Hartlepool schools.

Continue to develop the blended learning pilot for reading.

The original cross phase Assessing Pupils Progress (APP) literacy group with Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) support is established and ongoing, being scaled up to include other schools. Numeracy group building on the work.

That a review be undertaken to ensure that an appropriate staffing structure is in place for the effective 'rolling out' of the Blended Learning Project across all Hartlepool schools.

Brief Secondary and Primary Heads through Director's briefings and Primary / Secondary Strategy updates.

The role of Blended learning has been developed through the use of the Learning platform and now that the new Learning Platform, Fronter, will now allow all schools Primary and Secondary to use it to network and share good practice, including assessment, and powerfully support teaching and learning for raising attainment

That a formal process be developed for the sharing of information and best practice to assist in the raising of boys' achievement levels across all schools in Hartlepool.

Further develop the collection and analysis of data by LA.

Achieved. Analysis of data across the five phases is currently being undertaken for report on boys underachievement, for use with school improvement partners.

Use of a wide range of data by schools, including RAISE online, is still needed for schools to understand where the gender gaps are and SIPs should use the data to help governors raise questions about their provision for boys and girls.

That a formal process be developed for the sharing of information and best practice to assist in the raising of boys' achievement levels across all schools in Hartlepool.

Ensure underachievement by gender is a focus.

Data shared with schools. Grant108 funding allocated to secondary schools focusing on raising boys achievement. Planning with secondary schools for action research networks & links with work initiated by primary National School College Leadership learning network.

Further work needs to be done to ensure that the work done through networks, action research and conference attendance is disseminated so that the widest possible range of education professionals both access these (probably through the learning platform) and contribute to them so that the 'what works' message is widely understood and acted upon

That a formal process be developed for the sharing of information and best practice to assist in the raising of boys' achievement levels across all schools in Hartlepool.

Train schools in the use of RAISE online for tracking and interpreting data.

That a formal process be developed for the sharing of information and best practice to assist in the raising of boys' achievement levels across all schools in Hartlepool.

Create opportunities to share good practice locally, regionally and nationally. Where good practice has been found this has been adopted or shared through an on-going process with schools and other agencies.

More needs to be done for the sharing of good practice and where schools can visit to see for themselves how boys' needs are being catered for in a range of ways.

That the feasibility of establishing a Regional Network with Local Authorities to share best practice to relation to addressing the boys' underachievement issue be explored.

Use links with Gary Wilson, Doncaster gender co-ordinator and practitioners in Sunderland to explore possibilities and share good practice.

Completed. Gary Wilson conference well attended. Formal contact with other LAs to be established Sept. 07.

Links with other LAs made through Primary and Secondary National Strategy networks.

That ways of encouraging greater parental involvement in the education of boys' within schools across Hartlepool be explored.

Introduce a town-wide campaign to encourage parental support for pupils.

Links with Family Literacy Co-ordinator established and joint work underway.

Original deadline March 2008.

The role of parents in supporting their children and particularly boys has been made in a number of schools and it is probably too early to say how effective or successful these approaches have been. Further projects or initiatives may be possible in the future dependent on funding.

That ways of encouraging greater parental involvement in the education of boys' within schools across Hartlepool be explored.

Develop work with schools to involve parents in their children's education and progress with particular reference to vulnerable groups.
 Stronger links with Adult learning. Family learning Coordinator implemented courses aimed at vulnerable groups. More parents from vulnerable groups have been involved in Family Learning and some have achieved accreditation. Original deadline March 2008.

See above

That the Authority explores with the National Breakthrough Programme the possibility of adopting a 'cluster' funding approach, to assist in the reduction of costs associated with participation in the programme.
 Seek additional resources to support participation and discuss financial contributions from schools with Head teachers.
 Explored and proven to be too expensive to be purchased as an additional resource by schools.

The Breakthrough programme could be explored in the future if funding in school allows.

That Elected Member involvement in the Primary School Enquiry Groups together with the creation of Secondary School Enquiry Groups be further explored.
 Work with enquiry groups to create opportunities for elected members to participate in their work.
 Achieved. Primary groups still in place but the new cycle of enquiry groups not yet begun. Conference with presentation of findings held in Nov 2007. Secondary groups being explored. Members to be invited to secondary groups when in place.

Not yet able to offer members the opportunity to see the work of enquiry groups. Some of the initial groups have changed and no longer operate to the boys achievement remit.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

Contact Officer:- – Ruth Chalkley Teaching and Learning inc. Gender Consultant
 Education – Performance and Achievement
 Hartlepool Borough Council
 Tel: 01429 284245
 Email: ruth.chalkley@hartlepool.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

28 September 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
REFERRAL - REFURBISHMENT OF EXMOOR
GROVE CHILDREN'S HOME: COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with the opportunity to respond to the referral from the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the refurbishment of Exmoor Grove Children's Home.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 3 September 2010 the refurbishment of Exmoor Grove Children's Home came to the Committee's attention during consideration of the Forward Plan.
- 2.2 At this meeting Members expressed concern that the capital expenditure for the refurbishment of Exmoor Grove Children's Home currently estimated to be in excess of £100,000 was excessive and further information on this was requested.
- 2.3 In view of the current financial constraints of the Council, it was suggested by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee that this matter be reviewed and Members agreed to refer it to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum for investigation.
- 2.4 Officers from Department will be in attendance at today's meeting to provide further information to Members on the refurbishment of Exmoor Grove Children's Home including the issues referred to in 2.2 of this report.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-

- (a) consider the views of the officers in attendance at today's meeting, seeking clarification on any relevant issues where felt appropriate.

- (b) formulates comments to be presented by the Chair of this Scrutiny Forum to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 15 October 2010 to enable a response to be presented to a future Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting.

Contact Officer:- Laura Stones – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 087
Email: laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Forward Plan – September 2010 – December 2010

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

28th September 2010



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
REFERRAL - REFURBISHMENT OF EXMOOR
GROVE CHILDREN'S HOME

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information in respect of the referral from the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the Refurbishment of Exmoor Grove Children's Home.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 There have been concerns expressed for some time about the fabric of the accommodation within Exmoor Grove which has had no substantial refurbishment since the property was built in the 1970's. This has been highlighted in Regulation 33 of the Children's Home Regulations 2001 reports, which were subsequently presented to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services; recent Ofsted inspections have also raised concerns over the condition of the building. Issues have also been identified by the Council's Health, Safety & Wellbeing Manager.
- 2.2 The potential cost of the refurbishment identified within the Forward Plan was an early estimate based upon discussion with the Building Consultancy Team. A later detailed estimate (**Appendix A**) indicates the total cost as £99,485.78 inclusive of VAT and Professional Fees. As the VAT can be reclaimed the net cost would be £84,668.75.
- 2.2 It should be noted that approximately £34,000 of work relates to Health and Safety issues which includes the relocation of radiators from the ground level to ceiling level in order to avoid injury to young people as well as damage to the heating system.
- 2.4 The remaining works will ensure that the building complies with the National Minimum Standards for Children Homes, under section 23(10) of the Care Standards Act 2000. This will resolve the concerns raised during recent Ofsted inspections.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

Contact Officer:- Ian Merritt – Strategic Commissioner - Children
Child and Adult Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523774
Email: ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk

EXMOOR GROVE (807/04F) - ESTIMATE29/06/2010**A Building works**

1 Take up existing floor finishes	274 m2	3.00	822.00
2 Remove skirtings (wet areas)	39 m	5.00	195.00
3 Latex levelling screed	274 m2	6.00	1,644.00
4 Altro safety flooring	61 m2	40.00	2,440.00
5 Vinyl skirting (wet areas)	39 m	15.00	585.00
6 Cushion vinyl flooring	12 m2	30.00	360.00
7 Carpet/carpet tiles	201 m2	26.00	5,226.00
8 Floor strips	46 m	6.00	276.00
9 Altro 'Whiterock' including all formed angles, seams etc.	110 m2	52.00	5,720.00
10 Remove existing skirtings and make good plaster	74 m	5.00	370.00
11 Redecorate walls; emulsion	590 m2	6.00	3,540.00
12 Redecorate ceilings; emulsion	309 m2	6.75	2,085.75
13 Redecorate skirtings; gloss	271 m	5.00	1,355.00
14 Redecorate doors; gloss	155 m2	12.00	1,860.00
15 Redecorate door frames; gloss	195 m	8.00	1,560.00
16 Redecorate window cills; gloss	19 m	8.00	152.00
17 Redecorate windows - NOT REQUIRED	0	0.00	0.00
18 White ceramic wall tiles	24 m2	55.00	1,320.00
19 Remove existing wall tiles	say	50.00	50.00
20 Remove bathroom suite and make good	1 No.	100.00	100.00
21 Remove hoist and associated equipment	2 No.	100.00	200.00
22 New bathroom suite; PROVISIONAL SUM	Prov. Sum	1,500.00	1,500.00
23 Worktop 2900 x 600 mm including bearers	1 No.	116.00	116.00
24 Worktop 2000 x 600 mm including bearers	1 No.	80.00	80.00
25 Remove internal partition wall 3200 x 2500; build up structural nibs; extend plaster	1 No	550.00	550.00
	Sub-total c/fwd		32,106.75

			Sub-total b/fwd	32,106.75
	26 Soundproofing strips to existing internal door frames	10 m	8.00	80.00
x	27 Remove cupboards and make good	6 No.	50.00	300.00
x	28 Remove wash hand basin and associated plumbing; cap off services	6 No.	75.00	450.00
	29 Blind for 900 x 1000 window	2 No.	80.00	160.00
	30 Replace glazing to single external door; laminated double glazed units; taking out existing and preparing	4 No	360.00	1,440.00
B	<u>Electrical works</u>			
x	1 Electrical installation; lighting upgrade; including MC mark-up and builders work	Item		3,300.00
				<u>37,836.75</u>
		<u>ADD</u> Preliminaries @ 15%		5,675.51
		<u>ADD</u> Contingencies @ 5%		1,891.84
		SUB-TOTAL <u>Excluding</u> Fees & VAT		<u>45,404.10</u>
C	1 Mechanical installation	22,000.00 plus 10% MC mark-up		24,200.00
	2 Builders work Mechanical	allow 7%		1,694.00
	3 Preliminaries Mechanical	allow 10%		2,420.00
	4 Contingencies Mechanical	allow 5 %		1,210.00
		TOTAL <u>Excluding</u> Fees & VAT		<u><u>74,928.10</u></u>
	Exclusions :			
	1 Asbestos removal			
	2 IT installations			
	3 Telephone installations			
	4 Moving furniture			
	5 Decanting staff/residents			
	6 Professional fees @ 13%			9,740.65
	7 VAT @ 17.5%			14,817.03
		GRAND TOTAL		<u><u>99,485.78</u></u>

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

28 September 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: THINK FAMILY – PREVENTATIVE AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES – SETTING THE SCENE PRESENTATION: COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an introduction to the 'Setting the Scene' Presentation, which will be delivered at today's meeting by officers from the Child and Adults Department as part of this Forum's investigation into 'Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Officers from the Child and Adults Department, will be in attendance at today's meeting to deliver a presentation, as part of this Forum's investigation into 'Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services' in relation to the following issues:-

- (a) Where are we now;
- (b) How did we get here;
- (c) Think Family Services for the whole family;
- (d) Partnership approaches (what's available);
- (e) Team Around the Children's Centre;
- (f) Team Around the Primary School;
- (g) Team Around the Secondary School;
- (h) A graduated response;
- (i) Resources; and
- (j) Summary.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the presentation, seeking clarification on any relevant issues from the officers in attendance where felt appropriate.

Contact Officer:- Laura Stones – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 087
Email: laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Scrutiny Investigation into 'Think Family – Preventative and Early Intervention Services' - Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 06.09.10



Think Family, Prevention and Early
Intervention

Think Family, Prevention and Early Intervention

- **Introduction**
- **Presentation to set the scene and Hartlepool context**
- **Questions or comments after each section**
- **More detail will be provided throughout the investigation**

Child & Adult Services



Think Family, Prevention and Early Intervention

- **Labour Government initiative**
- **Developed since 2001**
- **Commitment to Prevention still clear**
- **Resources and funding remain unclear**
- **Fundamentally leads all services to think beyond their own client group and think about all family members**
- **There is real national interest in the Hartlepool model**

Child & Adult Services



1998

**Crime and Disorder Act
Identification under 10s**

2002

Children's Fund

Child & Adult Services



2003

- **Pilot Project**
- **Children's Fund**
- **Youth Offending Service**
- **Housing**
- **Education**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Families First**
- **80% reduction in complaints**

Child & Adult Services



2003

- **Children's Fund to allocate 25% funding to Youth Offending Service Prevention**
- **Establish Youth Inclusion and support panels**
- **Family Support Panel**

Child & Adult Services



Family Support Panel

Children's Fund

Families First

Youth Offending Service

Social Services

Housing

Community Safety

Child Adolescent Mental Health Service

Police

Youth Services

Connexions

Health

Education

Barnardo's

Child & Adult Services



2004

Funding from

- New Deal for Communities
- Youth Offending Service
- Children's Fund
- Co-ordinator two workers

2005

- Appointment of Key Worker
- Hartlepool Intervention Panel

Child & Adult Services



2006

Youth Justice Board (YJB) Prevention Funding Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP)

- Dyke House**
- Owton Manor**

2007

**Youth Inclusion Programme - North of Town
Prevention Awareness Course Delivered in Schools
Family Intervention Project - (Anti-Social Behaviour)**

Child & Adult Services



2008

- **Pilot YJB Prevention Project**
- **Funding Restraints Lifted**
- **Town Wide Youth Inclusion Programme**
- **Prevention Strategy**
- **FIP's Poverty?**

Child & Adult Services



2009

Team Around the School
Prevention workers based in schools

Youth Crime Action Plan

- Triage**
- Staysafe**
- FIP (Youth Crime)**

Straightline delivered by prevention workers

Child & Adult Services



2009

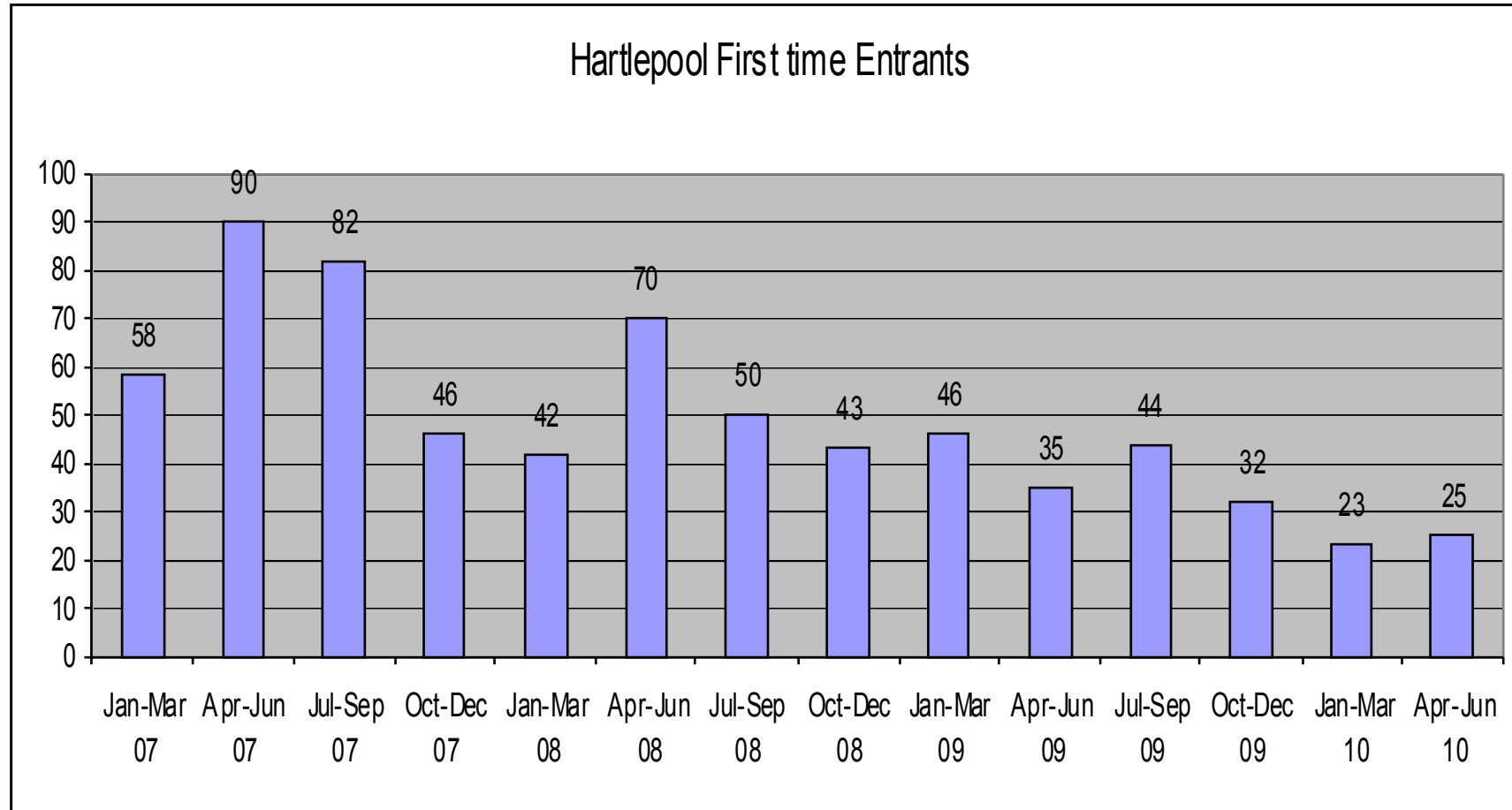
Youth Crime Prevention Inspection (HMI Constabulary)

“Hartlepool’s Prevention approach was in our collective opinion the best structured we have seen in our fieldwork. This structure is supported by excellent professional relationships between all agencies, a genuine common ethos was detected. All should be congratulated on this achievement”

Child & Adult Services



FTE (First Time Entrants)



Child & Adult Services



Prevention and Think Family

Where are we now ?

- **A range of services developed using grants and a wide range of funding opportunities**
- **Strong partnerships and unified thinking**
- **Clear lines of management to Assistant Director**
- **Providing services to many families across the services**
- **Clear links with statutory social care services**

Child & Adult Services



Think Family Services for the whole family Partnership approaches (what's available)

- **Voluntary Sector are key providers of services**
- **During the scrutiny investigation we shall look at the services delivered by a number of partners:**
 - **Parenting courses**
 - **Parenting Support**
 - **Children's Activities**
 - **Diversionary activities**
 - **Children with Additional Needs**
 - **Young Carers Pathfinder**
 - **Children on the cusp of care**

Child & Adult Services



Team Around the Children's Centres

Eight main Children's Centres with linked delivery sites

- **Hindpool Close**
- **St John Vianney**
- **Chatham House**
- **Throston** (Phase 3 centre does not need to deliver full core offer)
- **Lynnfield**
- **Stranton**
- **Rift House with Kingsley**
- **Rossmere**

These are based across four localities which replicate the school clusters

Child & Adult Services



Team Around the Children's Centres

Teams are based in each locality and consist of:

Integration Support Manager

Community Involvement Worker

Family Support Worker

Early Years Consultant

Admin and Caretaker

Midwives

Health Visitors

Speech and Language Therapists

Outreach workers (commissioned through Barnardos)

(Daycare settings are also linked to each centre)

Child & Adult Services



Early Intervention

- Referral pathway in place for early intervention
- Referrals received from a range of partners including health and self referrals
- Multi agency panel meets monthly to allocate the referrals to workers
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF) used as the assessment tool
- Aim to refer as early as antenatal period if appropriate

Child & Adult Services



Key Priorities

- To ensure health staff are referring as they are first point of contact with a family
- To offer bespoke packages of care so that families are equipped to parent appropriately therefore reducing referrals to social care
- To offer bespoke package of care in order that families feel able to access children's centre activities

Child & Adult Services



Team Around the Primary School (TAPS)

Family Intervention Project (FIP)

ONE TEAM

Child & Adult Services



Team Around the Primary School / Family Intervention Programme

Multi agency team consisting of:

Social Workers

Dad's Worker

Police Officer

Housing Workers

Connexions Worker

Youth Workers

**Anti Social Behaviour FIP
Workers**

Mental Health Worker

Parenting Befriend Worker

Domestic Abuse Worker

Youth Offending Worker

**Anti Social Behaviour
Officer**

Child & Adult Services



Team Around the Primary School

- **Early Intervention Project aimed at children aged between 5-11 years**
- **Enable children to achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes**
- **Prevent children 'slipping through the net'**
- **Ensure families access the relevant support at the earliest opportunity**

Child & Adult Services



Team Around the Primary School

- The team is split in to three localities to link with primary schools behaviour, education and social difficulties cluster groups

NORTH – CENTRAL – SOUTH

- Each team consists of a social worker and a number of interventions worker
- Each team member has 2/3 allocated school
- Social worker and allocated worker meet with schools on a half term basis to discuss/identify referrals

Child & Adult Services



Team Around the Primary School (TAPS)

TAPS offers a three tier support process:

- **TIER 1** - general advice and support to schools, including guidance around the common assessment framework process
- **TIER 2** - brief intervention
- **TIER 3** - holistic family support package

Child & Adult Services



Family Intervention Programme (FIP)

- **Anti Social Behaviour FIP**
- **Child Poverty FIP**
- **Youth Crime FIP**
- **Belle Vue FIP**

Child & Adult Services



Family A

- **Single parent of two primary aged children**
- **Mother victim of sexual assault**
- **Mother unable to leave home resulting in non school attendance**
- **Transport and support offered**
- **Referral made to counselling – increased alcohol**
- **Links made with Police re investigation**
- **Self esteem work**

Child & Adult Services



Family B

- **Single parent of two children**
- **Mother suffers from debilitating illness resulting in depression and low motivation**
- **Challenging behaviour displayed by youngest child**
- **Referral made to adult social care**
- **Benefit advice and support**
- **Children's Fund referral**
- **Family therapist**
- **Befriender**

Child & Adult Services



Family C

- Eight children, older children's behaviour = FIP referral due to truancy and anti social behaviour
- Poor home conditions, presentation of children, poor supervision and mother's r/ship with schedule one offender (father to one of the children) who was subject to NSPCC Life plan
- Children now subject to protection plan
- Disclosure of physical abuse
- Older children now accessing education provision
- Male family friend now subject to Sexual Offences Prevention Order, children with current partner subject to protection plan

Child & Adult Services



Family D

- Young boy showing challenging behaviour at home and school
- Sister 15 years old pregnant with twins
- Mother struggling financially – no family in the area
- Benefit advice sought
- Sister referred to Children's Centre and package of support implemented around her education as on target for Grade A's
- 1:1 around boy's emotions and feelings and preparation work for the arrival of twins
- Emotional support to mother

Child & Adult Services



Team Around the Secondary School (TASS)

Child & Adult Services



Targeted Youth Support

- The Team Around the Secondary school strategy was born out of the national Targeted Youth Support reforms
- ‘Young people at risk of poor outcomes should receive an integrated package of support which meets their needs.’ (Youth Matters / Youth Matters Next Steps)

Child & Adult Services



Targeted Youth Support

- Early identification of at risk young people
- Early support delivered in universal settings
- CAF used to assess young people's needs
- Lead professional role in place and used
- Accessible and attractive local services
- Support with key transition points

Child & Adult Services



Making it Happen

- Support services identified schools as pivotal to the whole process
- Schools in Hartlepool potentially at risk of reaching a plateau re GCSE attainment
- Schools exploring how to respond to sir Alan Steers report re behaviour, attendance and support
- Hartlepool has a wealth of projects, programmes and initiatives whose expertise and activities needed to be joined up and fully harnessed

Child & Adult Services



Joining Up Agendas

Behaviour and Attendance Partnership

- **Improvements in behaviour.**
- **Reduction in persistent low-level disruption in the classroom.**
- **Reduction in persistent absentees.**
- **Reduction in the number of permanent exclusions.**
- **Better educational attainment and personal development for pupils whose behaviour and attendance is challenging.**

Public Service Agreement 14 Group

- **More participation in Positive Activities.**
- **Reduce use of drugs/alcohol.**
- **Reduce under 18 conception rate.**
- **Reduce 1st time entrants into Criminal Justice System**
- **Reduce 16-18 Not in Employment Education and Training.**



Child & Adult Services



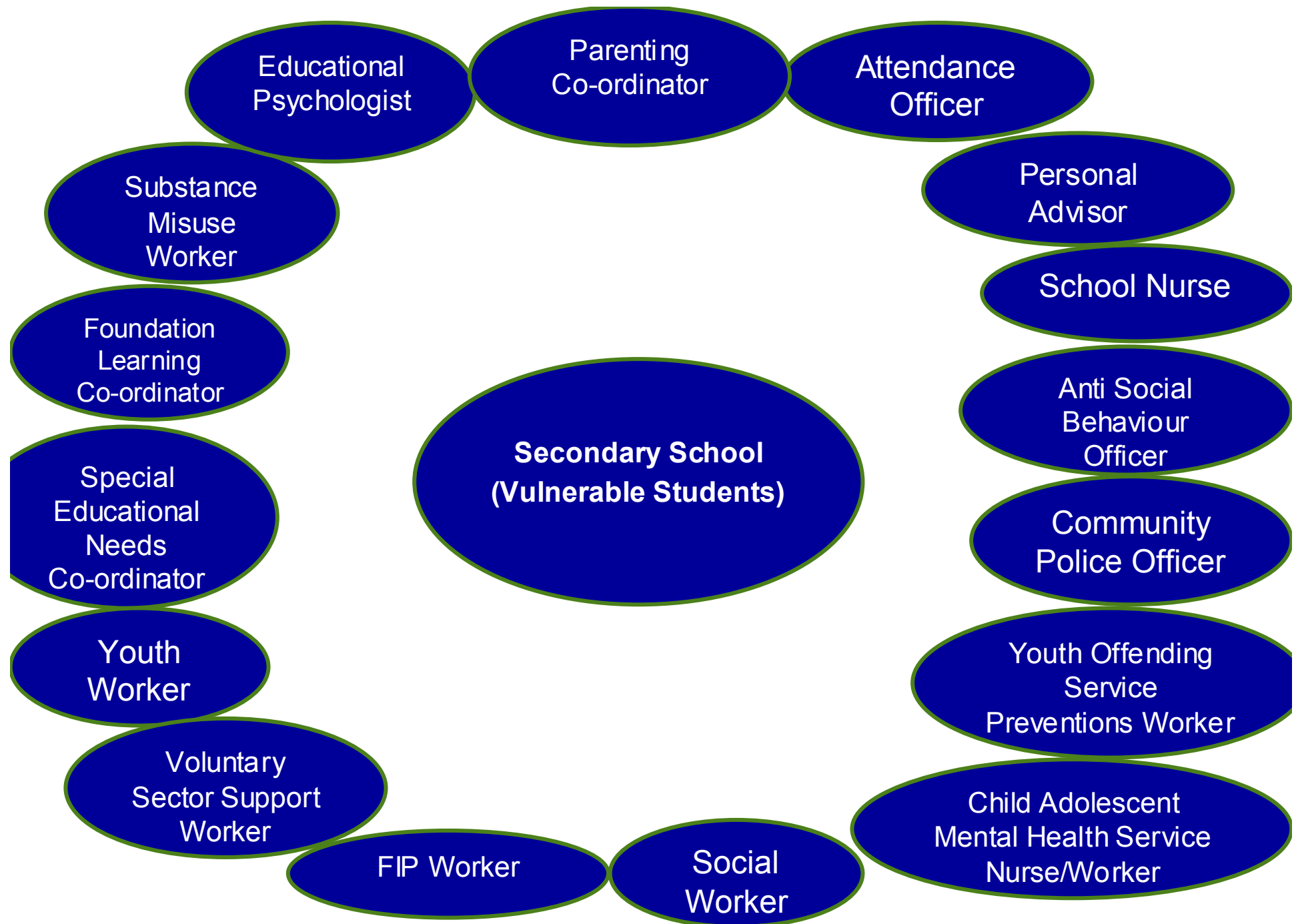
Town wide 'buy in'

Youth Support Services and the Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Partnership strongly believe that:

The development of integrated, (virtual) multi-agency teams around each of the local secondary schools provide the best model for securing improved outcomes for vulnerable young people (of secondary school age) and supporting them on the path to success.

Child & Adult Services





The Benefits

- Earlier identification
- Simplified referral process
- Rationalises and co-ordinates which services need to be involved and when.
- Increased opportunity for professional development across/ between agencies.
- Provides a coherent structure for the organisation of local youth support services and any future projects.

Child & Adult Services



So what?

‘The High Tunstall Team Around the Secondary School has been a success in the early identification of the needs for young people. The rolling out of TASS has proved that a coordinated approach between the schools and services can address and issues young people face before the problem exacerbates.

With specific reference to this case it may have prevented a drug related death due to solvent misuse being identified in the early stages of use and interventions being carried out to address the use.’

(Asim Abbas – Young Peoples Substance Misuse Co-ordinator)

Child & Adult Services



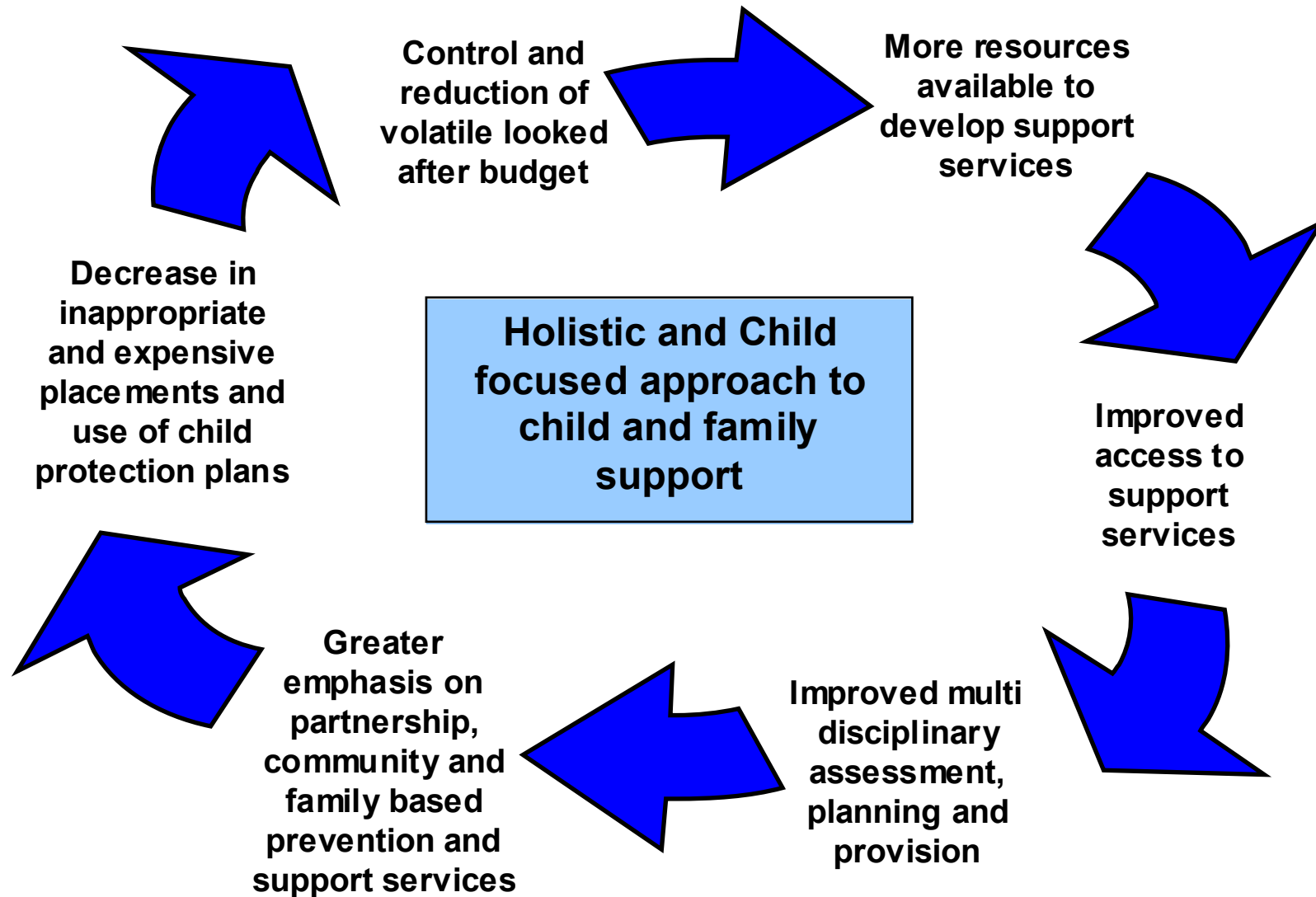
Think Family and Early Intervention 2010

+

- A new prevention strategy
- A graduated response
- Team Around
- Tailored Packages of Care
- The role for Universal Services
- Services designed with families
- Transformation of services
- The Virtuous Cycle

Child & Adult Services





CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

28 September 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: PROGRESS UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS
INVESTIGATIONS – COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with a progress update on the investigation into 'The Provision of Sex and Relationship (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools' undertaken in 2006 / 07 and the investigation into 'Raising Boy's Achievements – Bridging the Gender Gap' undertaken in 2006 /07, as requested by the Forum at their previous meeting held on 6 September 2010.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum on 6 September 2010 during consideration of the 'Six Monthly Monitoring Report', Members requested a progress update on the investigation into 'The Provision of Sex and Relationship (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools' undertaken in 2006 / 07 and the investigation into 'Raising Boy's Achievements – Bridging the Gender Gap' undertaken in 2006 /07.
- 2.2 Attached as **Appendix A** to this report is the progress update on the investigation into 'The Provision of Sex and Relationship (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools'.
- 2.3 The progress update for the investigation into 'Raising Boy's Achievements – Bridging the Gender Gap' will be circulated at this meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the reports, seeking clarification on any relevant issues where felt appropriate.

Contact Officer:- Laura Stones – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 087
Email: laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations - Scrutiny Support Officer – 6 September 2010
- (b) Minutes from the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum held on 6 September 2010

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

28 September 2010



Report of: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COORDINATOR
(PSHEE/CITIZENSHIP) LOCAL PROGRAMME
COORDINATOR – HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Subject: SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update as requested and outline the impact to date in relation to the Forum's recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 An update report has been requested by the Forum to demonstrate impact to date as a result of Recommendations and a completed Action Plan following the Scrutiny Forum investigation in June 2007.

2.2 PRIMARY SCHOOL SRE

'Lucinda and Godfrey' resource continues to be used by all primary schools. Support provided as/when requested.

2.3 SECONDARY SCHOOL SRE

There is now a systematic and consistent approach to the provision of SRE. On-going consultation with/involvement of young people in the development of Hartlepool's programme called 'Bumpy Rides' (named by the young people).

This programme/resource provides a spiral curriculum of 40 session (minimum) input starting in Year 7; it merges together the SRE and Drug Education curricula in a comprehensive way and also includes issues such as personal finance, difference and diversity, body image, sexual orientation/homophobic bullying and domestic violence. It addresses risk taking and resilience building through the development of positive emotional health and personal well-being.

2.4 SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Primary resource has been adapted and is effectively used in Springwell. A bespoke resource for young people with learning disabilities has been developed in partnership with Catcote.

A copy of the primary resource is also being adapted for use where/when appropriate.

2.5 CPD

Approximately 200 members of the workforce have currently received training relevant to the delivery of the Bumpy Rides sessions.

2.6 EXTERNAL AGENCIES

A selection of external agencies have attended training (including school nurses) and made a commitment to co-facilitate some of the sessions. This will be centrally coordinated and booked.

Some examples of feedback:

"I think this is an excellent resource" – HYPED worker

"I feel informed" – FIP worker

"This will be a superb asset to the young people" - 3rd Sector worker

"I feel more confident about the role I can play"

2.7 PARENTS/CARERS

The delivery of Speakeasy SRE programmes for parents is now embedded in Children's Centres.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

Contact Officer: - Sandra Saint
School Improvement Coordinator (PSHEe/Citizenship)
Local Programme Coordinator – Healthy Schools
Performance and Achievement Team
Hartlepool Borough Council
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Email: sandra.saint@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Scrutiny Enquiry Action Plan – 11/06/2007
- (ii) Scrutiny Database – Action Progress Report

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

28 September 2010



Report of: TEACHING AND LEARNING INCLUDING GENDER CONSULTANT

Subject: RAISING BOYS' ACHIEVEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a background to the work being done to raise the achievement of boys in Hartlepool schools and Colleges and to inform and update Scrutiny Forum members of developments, issues, challenges ahead and successes.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The headline data on attainment in Hartlepool

“Our students achieving 5 or more A*- C passes is now almost 8% above the national average and 50.3% of pupils have achieved the important measure of five or more A*- C passes including English and maths beating last year's record when Hartlepool was the most improved LA in the country in this particular indicator.” Hartbeat, Autumn 2010

2.2 **At KS1**

- The gap between boys and girls is becoming noticeably wider in Reading, Maths and Science since 2007. Girls are performing better than boys in all subjects at L2+ in KS1.

L3+ gap between boys and girls in Local Authority

- Reading – gap narrowing
- In 2007 girls performed 12.4% better than boys and in 2010 girls performed only 2.6% better than boys
- Writing – gap narrowing
- In 2007 girls performed 11.2% better than boys and in 2010 girls performed only 2.9% better than boys
- Speaking & Listening – gap narrowing

- In 2007 girls performed 6% better than boys and in 2010 girls performed 0.5% better than boys
- Maths – gap widening but boys out-performing girls
- In 2007 girls performed 1.6% better than boys however by 2010 boys were performing 8.8% better than girls
- Science – gap widening but boys out-performing girls
- In 2007 girls performed 0.3% better than boys but by in 2010 boys performed 4.6% better than girls
- The gap between boys and girls is becoming narrower in reading, writing and speaking and listening, although girls are still out-performing boys. In 2007 girls were narrowly out-performing boys in Maths and Science; however in 2010 boys are performing better than girls by 8.8% in maths and 4.6% in science.

2.3 And at KS2

Level 4+ English & Maths Combined Gap between Boys and Girls (Teacher Assessments in 2010)

- The gender gap for L4+ combined E&M has widened between 2007 and 2010. Girls have performed better than boys year-on-year, with the gap increasing from 6% in 2007 to 8% in 2010. In 2009 the gap narrowed slightly with girls only performing 4% better than boys.

Two levels progress in English Gap between Boys and Girls (based on TAs)

- In 2007 1.3% less boys achieved 2 levels progress in English than girls. In 2010 this gap has risen to 4% less boys.
- In 2007 2.7% more boys achieved 2 levels progress in Maths. However this had fallen to 1.3% less boys than girls in 2010.
- Overall the gender gap has widened in terms of progress in English and Maths over the last four years.

2.4 For KS3 (Teacher Assessments from 2009)

L5+ and L6+ Gap between Boys and Girls

- English Level 5+ - In 2007 12.2% more girls achieved L5+ than boys. This rose to 18.8% more in 2010.
- Maths L5+ - In 2007 2.1% more boys achieved L5+ than girls. In 2008 there was no difference in the gender achievement. By 2010 the gender difference was 6.6% more girls achieving L5+.

- English L6+ - Girls have out-performed boys between 2007 and 2010. In 2007 the difference was 6.7% by 2010 it had risen to 20.5%.
- Maths L6+ - In 2007 boys achieved 4.2% more L6+ than girls. By 2010 this has changed to girls achieving 3.7% more L6+ than boys. Therefore the gap has widened considerably over the last 4 years.
- In both English and Maths the gender difference has increased over four years, with girls now out-performing boys in both subjects.

2.5 **The original Scrutiny Forum recommendations with responses and new recommendations (in bold)for consideration by this group**

That the Authority focuses its future strategies in relation to the raising of boys' achievement levels on boys' literacy and writing. Identify boys' underachievement as a key priority in both Primary and Secondary Operational Plans. Completed.

This now needs to continue as a focus across all key stages and in particular focusing on English and Literacy as this still remains the area that boys find hardest to perform well in.

That the Authority focuses its future strategies in relation to the raising of boys' achievement levels on boys' literacy and writing.
Implement specific actions as part of the primary and secondary national strategies programme which target intervention and support in underachieving pupils including boys.
Completed and action reviewed from September 2007.

This needs to continue as one of the SIT's teaching and learning priorities as part of the post Strategy support to schools.

That in addition to the Authority's Children's Services Departmental Action Plans, the creation of a policy that includes a clear timetable and future aims and objectives, in relation to the raising of boys' achievement levels in Hartlepool be further explored. Develop and agree an overarching strategy for raising boys' achievement
An overarching strategy has been explored and is now felt not to be the most effective way forward. Instead planning for bridging the gender gap will be better tackled through targeted support and challenge in schools.

Targeted support and challenge to schools is likely to be more effective as the SIT capacity is may well be reduced in future and therefore focussing on boys' (and girls') underachievement for support and challenge work in school may be the best way forward.

That in addition to the Authority's Children's Services Departmental Action Plans, the creation of a policy, that includes a clear timetable and future aims and objectives, in relation to the raising of boys' achievement levels in Hartlepool be further explored.

Agree with schools and other stakeholders including milestones for implementation.

See above

That a review be undertaken to ensure that an appropriate staffing structure is in place for the effective 'rolling out' of the Blended Learning Project across all Hartlepool schools.

Continue to develop the blended learning pilot for reading.

The original cross phase Assessing Pupils Progress (APP) literacy group with Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) support is established and ongoing, being scaled up to include other schools. Numeracy group building on the work.

That a review be undertaken to ensure that an appropriate staffing structure is in place for the effective 'rolling out' of the Blended Learning Project across all Hartlepool schools.

Brief Secondary and Primary Heads through Director's briefings and Primary / Secondary Strategy updates.

The role of Blended learning has been developed through the use of the Learning platform and now that the new Learning Platform, Fronter, will now allow all schools Primary and Secondary to use it to network and share good practice, including assessment, and powerfully support teaching and learning for raising attainment

That a formal process be developed for the sharing of information and best practice to assist in the raising of boys' achievement levels across all schools in Hartlepool.

Further develop the collection and analysis of data by LA.

Achieved. Analysis of data across the five phases is currently being undertaken for report on boys underachievement, for use with school improvement partners.

Use of a wide range of data by schools, including RAISE online, is still needed for schools to understand where the gender gaps are and SIPs should use the data to help governors raise questions about their provision for boys and girls.

That a formal process be developed for the sharing of information and best practice to assist in the raising of boys' achievement levels across all schools in Hartlepool.

Ensure underachievement by gender is a focus.

Data shared with schools. Grant108 funding allocated to secondary schools focusing on raising boys achievement. Planning with secondary schools for action research networks & links with work initiated by primary National School College Leadership learning network.

Further work needs to be done to ensure that the work done through networks, action research and conference attendance is disseminated so that the widest possible range of education professionals both access these (probably through the learning platform) and contribute to them so that the 'what works' message is widely understood and acted upon

That a formal process be developed for the sharing of information and best practice to assist in the raising of boys' achievement levels across all schools in Hartlepool.

Train schools in the use of RAISE online for tracking and interpreting data.

That a formal process be developed for the sharing of information and best practice to assist in the raising of boys' achievement levels across all schools in Hartlepool.

Create opportunities to share good practice locally, regionally and nationally. Where good practice has been found this has been adopted or shared through an on-going process with schools and other agencies.

More needs to be done for the sharing of good practice and where schools can visit to see for themselves how boys' needs are being catered for in a range of ways.

That the feasibility of establishing a Regional Network with Local Authorities to share best practice to relation to addressing the boys' underachievement issue be explored.

Use links with Gary Wilson, Doncaster gender co-ordinator and practitioners in Sunderland to explore possibilities and share good practice.

Completed. Gary Wilson conference well attended. Formal contact with other LAs to be established Sept. 07.

Links with other LAs made through Primary and Secondary National Strategy networks.

That ways of encouraging greater parental involvement in the education of boys' within schools across Hartlepool be explored.

Introduce a town-wide campaign to encourage parental support for pupils.

Links with Family Literacy Co-ordinator established and joint work underway.

Original deadline March 2008.

The role of parents in supporting their children and particularly boys has been made in a number of schools and it is probably too early to say how effective or successful these approaches have been. Further projects or initiatives may be possible in the future dependent on funding.

That ways of encouraging greater parental involvement in the education of boys' within schools across Hartlepool be explored.

Develop work with schools to involve parents in their children's education and progress with particular reference to vulnerable groups.
 Stronger links with Adult learning. Family learning Coordinator implemented courses aimed at vulnerable groups. More parents from vulnerable groups have been involved in Family Learning and some have achieved accreditation. Original deadline March 2008.

See above

That the Authority explores with the National Breakthrough Programme the possibility of adopting a 'cluster' funding approach, to assist in the reduction of costs associated with participation in the programme.
 Seek additional resources to support participation and discuss financial contributions from schools with Head teachers.
 Explored and proven to be too expensive to be purchased as an additional resource by schools.

The Breakthrough programme could be explored in the future if funding in school allows.

That Elected Member involvement in the Primary School Enquiry Groups together with the creation of Secondary School Enquiry Groups be further explored.
 Work with enquiry groups to create opportunities for elected members to participate in their work.
 Achieved. Primary groups still in place but the new cycle of enquiry groups not yet begun. Conference with presentation of findings held in Nov 2007. Secondary groups being explored. Members to be invited to secondary groups when in place.

Not yet able to offer members the opportunity to see the work of enquiry groups. Some of the initial groups have changed and no longer operate to the boys achievement remit.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

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