

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

3 May 2011

The meeting commenced at 12.00 noon in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Caroline O'Neill, Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement
Mark Smith, Head of Integrated Youth Support Services
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

41. Provision for Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) – Director of Child and Adult Services

Type of Decision

Key – test ii applies

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the outcomes of the publication of Statutory Notices:-

To discontinue the additionally resourced support base at Golden Flatts Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years to 11 years (Key Stage 2) with moderate learning difficulties

To discontinue the additionally resourced support base at Owton Manor Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years to 11 years (Key Stage 2) with moderate learning difficulties

Issues for Consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement reported that the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on 26 October 2010 considered a report outlining proposals for change in the provision for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. The Portfolio Holder agreed that these proposals should go out to consultation and a report on the outcome of that consultation was presented on 22 February 2011 when the publication of the statutory notices was agreed.

The Assistant Director reported that no representations had been received when the report had been prepared and none had subsequently

been received. Consultation meetings at both schools had not brought any representations or objections and it therefore had to be assumed that there were none. Children with moderate learning difficulties were being included in mainstream education.

In light of the lack of any objections, the Portfolio Holder agreed that the additionally resourced provision should be ceased from 1 September 2011.

Decision

1. That the outcomes of the statutory notice period relating to the proposals to discontinue the additionally resourced provision for pupils with moderate learning difficulties at Golden Flatts and Owton Manor Primary Schools be noted;
2. That the additionally resourced facility at Golden Flatts Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years – 11 years with moderate learning difficulties be discontinued with effect from 1st September 2011;
3. That the additionally resourced facility at Owton Manor Primary School for pupils in the age range 7 years – 11 years with moderate learning difficulties be discontinued with effect from 1st September 2011.

42. Progress Report Relating to the Development of an Integrated Youth Support Service - *Director of Child and Adult Services*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards the development of an Integrated Youth Support Service and improvements made to the co-ordination and joining up of activities historically associated with the Local Authority's Youth Service and Connexions Service.

Issues for Consideration

The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services reported that the Youth Support Service was provided to ensure that all local young people had the chance to enjoy happy health and safe teenage years to prepare them well for adult life and enable them to reach their full potential. The report set out the background to the establishment of the Integrated Youth Support Services and the key indicators to which the service operated.

The integrated service had now been in place for just over a year and the Head of Integrated Youth Support Services focussed on the excellent progress made in that time. With regards to broader performance measures the service had continued to support notable improvements in terms of population outcomes for young people:

- The numbers of young people locally who participate regularly in positive activities, with an emphasis on personal and social development, had reduced slightly in comparison to the previous year from 23.8% of the 13-19 cohort to 19.9% in 2010/2011. However, the numbers of young people supported to achieve a recognized accredited outcome via their participation had increased from 6% in 2009/2010 to 20.2% in 2010/2011 which was evident of the increased emphasis placed upon the acknowledgement of young people's development through their engagement with a strong local Youth Work curriculum.
- The service had been able to sustain the reduction locally in the numbers of young people who were not in education, employment or training from 7.4% in 2009/2010 to 6.6% in 2010/2011. This was in comparison to a national average of 6.0% and a regional average of 7.9% for 2010/2011.
- Due to the cessation of the 'Tell Us' survey nationally, which was the principle tool for determining local levels of young people's substance misuse, it was difficult to determine whether the numbers of young people misusing substances had reduced in comparison to previous years. Whilst the numbers of referrals to the local young people's substance misuse service has risen during 2010/2011 this could be attributed to an increased integration of the service into local prevention and early intervention systems such as the Team Around the Secondary School process. Performance relating to substance misuse was monitored intensely by the National Treatment Agency and Hartlepool has access to this data and would consequently be able to establish local targets and evaluation methods. The annual needs assessment completed by the Substance Misuse Commissioning Group and agreed by the Portfolio holder in March 2011 set out clearly the direction of travel for local plans relating to the prevention of substance misuse.
- It was estimated that the number of teenage pregnancies had seen a further reduction. However, these figures had yet to be validated nationally.
- The service had contributed to the reduction in the numbers of local young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time from 158 in 2009/2010 to 95 in 2010/2011.

The Portfolio Holder wished to record her congratulations to all the staff involved in the service for the excellent achievements over the past year. The Portfolio Holder particularly referred to the reduction in the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time and also the reduction locally in the numbers of young people who were not in education, employment or training. There was concern that this number

may rise over the next couple of years due to the withdrawal of the Education Maintenance Allowance. The Portfolio Holder also noted that communication methods with young people were highlighted in the report. Officers indicated that young people had a preference for electronic and mobile media and in the future communication methods will have to adapt. The Portfolio Holder considered that it was essential that communications with young people needed to adapt to fit in with their preferences as the service users.

Decision

That the progress made in relation to development of an Integrated Youth Support Service and the key challenges and development opportunities that lie ahead for local Youth Support arrangements be noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.50 p.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 9 MAY 2011