

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**at 2.00 pm**

**in Committee Room B**

**MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:**

Councillors Brash, S Cook, Coward, Fleet, Griffin, London, Preece, Shaw, M Waller and Young

Co-opted Members:

Elizabeth Barraclough, David Relton and Jesse Smith

Resident Representatives: John Lynch, Ian Campbell and Joan Smith

Education Advisor: Rob Lowe

**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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006 (*attached*)

3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 (*attached*)

**4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

No items

**5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items

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

No items

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The Role of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- 7.2 Determining the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Work Programme for 2006/07 – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- 7.3 Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy – Comments – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

**8. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- i) **Date of next meeting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2006, commencing at 2.00pm in Committee Room B**

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

## **MINUTES**

7<sup>th</sup> March 2006

### **Present:**

Councillor: Arthur Preece (In the Chair)

Councillors: Cambridge, Coward, Fleet, Griffin, Hargreaves, London and Richardson. Co-opted member Rob Lowe and Resident Representatives Ian Campbell and Joan Smith  
John Lynch, Resident Representative was also in attendance to observe.

Officers: Paul Briggs, Children's Services Consultant  
Terry Maley, Children's Services Department  
John Robinson, Children's Fund Manager  
Jonathan Wistow, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

### **44. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absences were submitted on behalf of Councillors Shaw, Lauderdale and Wistow. Also from Co-opted Members Elizabeth Barraclough Rev Jesse Smith and David Relton

### **45. Declarations of interest by members**

None

### **46. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006 were confirmed.

### **47. Consideration of Departmental Inspection Outcomes**

The Scrutiny Support Officer advised the Forum that, at the request of the Chair, the results of Children's Services departmental inspections would be reported to the Forum and Officers would attend to answer questions.

## **48. Scrutiny of the Draft Children and Young Peoples Plan** (Scrutiny Support Officer)

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Members of the /Forum with an overview of their findings (thus far) in relation to the Second Draft of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

### **Issues considered by the Forum**

The Forum were reminded of the new duty of HBC under the Children's Act 2004 to prepare and publish a CYPP in co-operation with key partners and the Scrutiny Forum's statutory involvement in the process prior to the draft Final Plan being submitted to Council in April 2006..

The overall aim of the inquiry being for the Forum to comment on the draft CYPP as part of the Budget and policy Framework process. The terms of reference for the inquiry, agreed at the Forum meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005, were outlined in the report.

Members were reminded that although the responsibility for preparing and publishing the plan lies with the Local Authority, the CYPP is a joint plan, which was being developed in partnership. Consequently, the CYPP would reflect a range of agreements between those involved in the process.

The report outlined the methods of investigation and the interim findings/ Conclusions reached by the Forum at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006. Members had expressed their broad support for the development of the second draft of the CYPP. Given that it was the first year that the CYPP had been produced Members had been particularly pleased with the development of the plan in comparison with other authorities.

Members had requested further time to consider the draft CYPP at the above meeting and to have the opportunity to provide further comments which would be incorporated into the findings of the Forum.

Members were asked to note and approve, or amend where appropriate, the findings and action to date and make additional comments following the next item on the Agenda (7.2).

### **Decision**

The Forum agreed to consider the next item on the Agenda and give any further comments/recommendations agreed.

## 49. Scrutiny of the Second Draft of the Children and Young People's Plan *(Director of Children's Services)*

### Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the outcomes of consultation on the second draft of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and invite further comments from the Forum.

### Issues considered by the Forum

Members were reminded that the Forum had met on 7<sup>th</sup> February to consider the second draft of Hartlepool's Children and Young People's Plan, as part of the Budget and policy Framework. At that meeting Members had received a presentation by officers of the Children's Services Department and had raised a number of issues, as identified in the draft minutes of the meeting. It had been agreed that, following the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February, individual members of the Forum would consider the content of the draft in detail and would provide further comments at their meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Public consultation on the second draft of the Children and Young People's Plan had been scheduled to run until 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006 and it had been agreed that officers would report the outcomes of this consultation to members of the Forum at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Because of the short time available between the end of the consultation period and the publication of the report members had agreed that officers could make a presentation and table any further information at this meeting.

The Children's Services Consultant, Paul Briggs, and the Children's Fund Manager, John Robinson, jointly gave a presentation on further consultation and initiatives undertaken. The slides covered the following, and the Officers provided further oral information on each slide:

- The Mayfair Event held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006
- Vox Pop held at Middleton Grange Shopping Centre during lunchtime on 9<sup>th</sup> February. – a copy of the questionnaire used and findings was tabled at the meeting;
- Core Reference Group – met during lunchtime on 9<sup>th</sup> February at the Mayfair;
- Voluntary and Community Sector Reference Group – Met with John Robinson on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006;
- Staff Reference Group – met with Francesca Magog on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006;
- Other feedback received – 7 written responses received and comments would be addressed in Draft 3 where appropriate;
- Other developments since the last meeting, ie Officers now had full engagement with health agencies (PCT, Acute Trust, TNEY NHS Trust;

During discussion the following comments / questions arose:

- A Member asked if events such as the one at the Mayfair Centre could be held in other areas of the town and with organisations currently involving young people. JR indicated that this would happen and that working with organised groups would be helpful.
- Discussion took place on the Vox Pop, ie venue, time of day, type of questionnaire used, targeting of sections of the community, future compilation of questionnaires by young people, etc.
- JR advised of the mix of young people on the “Hartlepool Young Voices” group, their training and work being undertaken. JR advised that the group would be willing to link in with the Forum. JR accepted that the group did not represent the whole town but that they would develop further in the future.
- TFM Radio – broadcasts anticipated, school visits and a possible event for around 500 people – a venue is being sought.
- Voluntary Reference Group – JR advised how the group had been put together – it was hoped there would be regular meetings and this group would also develop further in the future.
- A Member asked if there was to be anything included in the Plan to help boys, who generally did not do as well as girls at school. Brief discussion took place.
- A Member mentioned the earlier raised issue of policing of the Plan and the process and asked how the recommendations of the Forum would be taken on board within the CYPP. JR indicated that in the Making a Positive Contribution section a number of the Forum's proposals should be included. PB indicated that all the comments of the Forum would be taken on board but in some cases issues raised would be in the planning for the future process. PB gave the example of spiritual guidance and advised what was happening in relation to SACRE. Members asked that a paper giving a response to each of the recommendations be provided at the third draft stage of the process.
- The Forum congratulated PB, JR and partners on the work undertaken and asked for feedback in the future.

### Decision

The Forum approved the findings outlined in draft final report and made a number of additional recommendations on the basis of the information provided at this meeting, which are outlined below:

- a) Members wished to congratulate the Children's Services Consultant and Children's Fund Manager on the consultation process and the progress that had been made in relation to this. In addition the Forum would welcome comments on how the consultation around the CYPP will develop in the future.
- b) Members felt that it was very important to help boys, who generally don't do as well as girls at school, to do better.

- c) Members requested that a paper should be produced outlining the response to each of the points in 8.1 and 8.3 of the Forum's Final Report, in terms of 'current' and 'future' action, and that this should be produced at the same time as the third draft of the CYPP.

## **50. Co-opting Young People onto the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum – (Scrutiny Support Officer)**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide a brief introduction to the notion of co-opting young people onto the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.

### **Issues considered by the Forum**

Members were reminded that, as part of its Involving Young People Final Report, the Forum had agreed that it would actively pursue the possibility of co-opting young people onto the Forum. The Forum had qualified its recommendation by stating that it wanted to consider the likely impact that this would have on the way in which the Forum works. For example, the Forum may not be able to discuss certain items with young people present and the format and times of meetings may have to change.

The Forum had proposed that whilst it supported the principal of co-opting young people onto the Forum it would undertake a further evidence gathering meeting to discuss the practicalities of this in more detail and receive evidence from bodies that have co-opted young people onto their membership – such as the Corporate Parent Forum.

Consequently, item 8.1 b) on the Agenda was to be a presentation about the Corporate Parent Forum and how they had co-opted young people onto its membership.

### **Decision**

Members agreed to consider the next item on the Agenda, comment or make recommendations on the presentation and agree the next steps.

## **59. Presentation – Co-opting Young People onto the Corporate Parent Forum – (Planning and Implementation Officer (Children and Families))**

To enable the Forum to be more informed about the process involved, the Children's Services Planning and Implementation Officer, Terry Maley, gave a presentation on his recollections of Co-opting Young People onto the Corporate Parent Forum. TM explained more about the work of the Corporate Parent Forum and its re-configuration as a result of young people

joining.

The timing of meetings sometimes had to be changed to out of school hours/days. On the issue of venue, young people had indicated they felt the Civic Centre was the relevant place for decision making and they would therefore prefer meeting be held there. The terms of reference had to be amended and issues of confidentiality had to be considered. Another importance issue was the need for a reduction in jargon and/or unnecessary formality.

Some other issues that needed consideration were:

- Press coverage – is there a need to train children and young people on dealing with the media?
- Is everyone up for it? There are no half measures!
- Children and young people must be treated as equal partners.
- Need to attempt to engage the hard to reach.

The Positives were:

- A chance for children and young people to directly influence the decisions made in relation to the services they receive.
- Children and young people tell it as it is! Be prepared to hear things that might make you uncomfortable.

Some discussion took place on TM's observation – "Are there any better experts in scrutinising the services provided to children and young people than those children and young people themselves?"

A Member reminded the Forum that children and young people joining the Forum would need support. She felt that someone should be tasked with considering how it would work in practice and offered her help to the Officer appointed. JR thanked the Member and agreed to liaise with her on this. He indicated that the Easter holidays would be a convenient time for liaison with the 'Hartlepool Young Voices'.

### **Decision**

That the action outlined in the final; paragraph above be undertaken and a further report be brought to the Forum to decide the next steps.

ARTHUR PREECE

CHAIRMAN



# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

## **MINUTES**

31<sup>st</sup> March 2006

### **Present:**

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet and Frances London

Co-opted Members: F D S Relton, Rev Jesse Smith, Liz Barraclough and Rob Lowe

Resident Representatives Ian Campbell and Joan Smith

Officers: Ian Merritt, Senior Education Officer  
Danielle Swainston, Early Years Manager  
Jonathan Wistow, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Joan Wilkins, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

### **60. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absences were received from Councillors John Coward, Sheila Griffin, Arthur Preece, Carl Richardson and Gerald Wistow.

### **61. Declarations of interest by members**

None

### **62. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

As the meeting was inquorate confirmation of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

## **48. Draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy** *(Director of Children's Services)*

### **Purpose of Report**

To report on the outcomes of the consultation on the first draft and seek approval to undertake a second public consultation exercise on a second draft of the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy

### **Issues considered by the Forum**

In the absence of a Quorum it was agreed by the Members present that the Forum would listen to the presentation by the Senior Education Officer (SEO) and Early Years Manager (EYM) and would comment on the report so that these comments could go forward into the consultation process. In addition, it was agreed that the Scrutiny Support Officer would prepare a brief report highlighting the comments made at the meeting.

The SEO and EYM submitted a report on the draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy.

Members were informed that a report had been submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services in October 2005, setting out a draft strategy for Children's Centres and Extended Schools. A public consultation exercise had been approved by the Portfolio Holder which ran from 11<sup>th</sup> November to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

With a second draft public consultation planned from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April, and the final draft strategy due to be approved by Cabinet in June 2006, the SEO and EYM gave a presentation on the outcomes of the consultation process so far. The presentation covered the following themes:-

- Consultation responses
- Clarification on key issues
- Every Child Matters
- Why developing children's centres and extended schools services is important
- The rationale behind the children's centres and Extended schools Cluster Strategy
- Resources
- Changes from first draft following consultation

Members were informed that 1200 copies of the strategy were distributed, within which three options were given for the way forward.

- Option 1 – Area and cluster based delivery of services with cluster management
- Option 2 – Extended Schools and Children's Centres managed and

developed independently

- Option 3 – Area and cluster based delivery of services with area management.

Of these options option 1 was the most popular with 44 respondents in favour of it. Option 2 received no votes, Option 3 got 6 while 27 respondents had no preference but highlighted a number of issues, detailed by the officers. The reasons behind the strategy and available long term funding resources were outlined.

The following issues were then raised by members:-

1. Was the consultation statistically valid given the low number of responses?

Members considered it unsafe to draw conclusions on a response rate of less than 5% as it may be comprised of lobbying groups and not be an accurate reflection. The EYM explained that the low number of responses was only based on those people who had taken the time to write down their responses and did not take into account those people who had met with officers and given their views verbally. Details of those who had responded verbally were, however, available should Members wish to examine them. The SEO further qualified the low response by indicating that most people had no issue with the overall strategy but were concerned about what difference the actual operation would make to them.

2. Why had more children and young people not been consulted?

The report on the consultation revealed that 70 children and young people had met with officers to discuss what services should be delivered by Children's Centres and Extended Schools and what form this delivery should take. The Chair felt these numbers were too low given the importance of the strategy to the target audience. The SEO accepted this criticism but highlighted the fact that 1200 children and young people had been questioned prior to the first consultation and would continue to be consulted through the development of the strategy. Members requested that details of this consultation be included in the second draft.

Members also asked if it would be possible to erect a stall at the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre during the school holidays to ascertain the opinions of as many children and young people as possible. It was felt (again felt?) that the fact that a large number of children could be expected to be in the Shopping Centre during the holidays was in itself a worry as they should have other ways to entertain themselves. The SEO acknowledged this concern, and indicated that this would be highlighted by the strategy.

3. Why were alcohol and drugs being twinned (Did they use the term twinned? Seems a bit odd) together in the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Vision?

Members thought there should be stronger condemnation of drug use, as well

as clarification that there was no such thing as drug misuse given the illegality of drug taking. Moderation in alcohol was also to be encouraged. The SEO accepted these comments while explaining that the Vision was a national document.

#### 4. How had the five consultation outcomes been chosen?

Members were informed that a number of children had been consulted on possible outcomes as part of the Children's Act 2004 and Every Child Matters. The five outcomes chosen were as follows:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well Being

Members criticised these outcomes as being rather sterile and concentrating too much on the physical with nothing on emotional or spiritual issues. It was felt that these outcomes would produce particularly dull children and there was concern that children had been consulted on these issues rather than child rearing experts.

Members also queried the role of children with physical or mental difficulties in this Vision. There were very few meaningful targets for learning difficulties and huge issues in terms of organisation and support. The EYM concurred with this, indicating that they wanted all services to be accessible to all children. Members further queried help given to parents of children with special needs. The SEO explained that one of the aims of the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy was to be to support parents throughout the lives of their children.

#### 5. Was the illustrative use of a cathedral and a bazaar appropriate?

The opinion of Members was that the use of a cathedral and a bazaar to illustrate the transition needed to get to the new strategy was effective in principle but not in practice. It could suggest subliminally that religion was an impediment and commerciality was an advantage. The SEO acknowledged these concerns but explained that these had been nominal examples only and could be substituted with a whole range of institutions. There had been no intention to cause upset.

#### 6. How would the strategy be funded?

The SEO explained that the Government had given £1 million funding nationally but there was no information on what share Hartlepool would receive. This funding would be put into a Local Area Agreement, not to be divided appropriately. Members expressed concern at the small amount of funding but the EYM explained that the strategy was very much based on utilising existing provisions.

Members believed the major expenditure would be on salaries for the various groups involved. Concern was expressed that the bulk of the funding should not be used to pay the wages of highly paid staff. It was pointed out that if the numbers of middle management staff were cut funding shortfalls could be addressed.

7. What kind of people did they want as Integrated Support Managers?

The SEO said they were looking for people with a background in youth work, social work or teaching. They also needed to have experience in influencing community groups.

Members praised the strategy for its plans of greater involvement for children and young people. There had been concern in the past about the lack of facilities for children in non-deprived areas, such as villages, and the general shortfall in community facilities. Inclusion was felt to be the key as concentration on deprived or badly behaved children would give out the wrong message to ordinary hard-working families. Members also felt it was good to see use being made of existing resources.

The Chair thanked the SEO and EYM for their presentation and for answering members' questions. Members were asked to contact the officers if they had any further questions

**Decision**

In the absence of a quorum the Scrutiny Support Officer was to prepare a short summary of the comments made today to be tabled at the next meeting of the Forum. In the meantime the Officers present would take on board the comments of the Forum to be fed into second consultation on the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy.

JANE SHAW

CHAIRMAN

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

12th JUNE 2006



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

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

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## 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 approach to Overview and Scrutiny has been developed and refined for the new Constitutional arrangements. It is informed by the Council's experience of Scrutiny over the last five years, guidance from Central Government and the experience of other authorities.

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 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is made up of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the four standing Forums and a further two Members from each Forum. This approach enables the 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 four standing Forums. The 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 co-ordinating committee is invaluable. The main roles and functions of the committee are as follows:-

- i) To work with the four 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 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.

#### **4. FUNCTIONS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORUMS**

4.1 The four 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;
- (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)
- (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

## 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 Co-ordinating Committee to determine which forum should examine a particular issue. It is also open to the Co-ordinating Committee to appoint ad hoc forums. For example, where an issue comes within the remit of two scrutiny forums, the 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 2006/07

- 6.1 Detailed below, for Members information, are the scheduled dates for meetings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum in 2006/07. Please note that all scheduled meetings will commence at 2.00pm, in Committee Room B, with the capacity for additional meetings to be arranged where required to accommodate the needs of individual inquiries.

Monday, 17 July, 2006  
Monday, 21 August, 2006  
Monday, 2 October, 2006  
Monday, 6 November, 2006  
Monday, 11 December, 2006  
Monday, 22 January, 2007  
Monday, 26 February, 2007  
Monday, 2 April, 2007

## 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.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- i) Hartlepool Borough Council Constitution.

**Contact Officer:-** Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Support Officer  
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# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

12th June 2006



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** DETERMINING THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2006/07

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## 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 2006/07 Municipal Year.

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum needs to develop a Work Programme for the 2006/07 Municipal Year, together with a timeframe for each review, for consideration by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 30 June 2006. Detailed terms of reference should be developed at the start of each review.
- 2.2 As such the Director of Children's Services; Cabinet Member for Children's Services; Local Public Service Agreement (PSA5); Corporate Performance Plan (BVPP); and the Viewpoint Surveys 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, Elected Mayor and Cabinet Member	Member(s)	Carried Forward from 2005/06 Work Programme	Viewpoint Survey January 2005 to February 2006
Boys Achievement – Closing the Gap  (Overall aims: Examination of achievement levels, including national and regional practices, with a view to identifying ways of improving performance levels)	X			
The Provision of Transportation for Young People  (Overall aims: Examination of transport provision for young people with a view to identifying ways of offering an improved service)	X			
Youth Service  (Issue: Viewpoint member's knowledge of the Youth Service and what were perceived to be important services)				X
Children's Services  (Issue: Development of services for local communities on school sites)				X

2.5 In setting the Work Programme for 2006/7 consideration also needs to be given to Budget and Policy Framework documents which the Forum will need to consider throughout the year and the following 6 Monthly Progress Review reports.

<b>6 MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORTS ON COMPLETED REVIEWS</b>	<b>To be considered by the Forum</b>
Involving Young People	21 August 2006

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 Performance Plan 2006/07 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 A and B** detail the relevant Sections of the Corporate Performance Plan for the Forum's consideration as outlined below:-

**Appendix A** – Council's Priority Contributions to Community Strategy Themes: 'Lifelong Learning and Skills' and 'Strengthening Communities';

**Appendix B** - Performance Indicator Table: Lifelong Learning and Skills, and Strengthening Communities

**Appendix C** – Local Public Service Agreement Targets and Results of relevance to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.

- 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 to assist in the determination of its 2006/07 Work Programme, to be approved by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 30 June 2006. 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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### BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Corporate Performance Plan for 2006/07
- (ii) Community Strategy
- (iii) Viewpoint Survey – January 2005 to February 2006

**Lifelong Learning and Skills**

<b>Community Strategy / Council Priority</b>	Help all individuals, groups and organisations realise their full potential, ensure the highest quality opportunities in education and lifelong learning, and raise standards of attainment.
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**Key achievements in 2005/06**

- To be inserted

Lifelong Learning and Skills					
Corporate Plan Objective: Enjoy and Achieve – Raise achievement and standards of attainment for children and young people in the early years, primary and secondary phases of education					
Ref:	Action	Milestone	Responsible Officer	Associated Pls	Links to Other Plans
LL1	Challenge and support schools to improve performance at Key Stage 1 faster than national rate	Apr 06 and ongoing	John Collings	LPI ED 2, 3 BVPI 40, 41, 194 a + 194b LAA 7.1, 7.2, 7.12 + 7.13	LAA Outcome 7
LL2	Challenge and support schools to improve performance at Key Stage 3 faster than national rate in English, Science and ICT. Targets agreed with DfES are achieved.	Apr 06 and ongoing	John Collings	BVPI 181a-d LAA 7.16 – 7.19	LAA Outcome 7
LL3	Work with schools to increase the percentage of 16 year olds achieving grades A* - G and A* - C in English and Mathematics faster than the national rate	Apr 06 and ongoing	John Collings	BV 38 + BV 39 LAA 7.11 + 7.20 – 7.22	LAA Outcome 7

**7.2**  
**APPENDIX A**

LL4	Work with schools and other agencies to increase the performance of looked after children. LAC make better than expected progress.	Apr 06 and ongoing	John Collings	BV 50 + BV 161 LAA 7.14 + 7.15	LAA Outcome 7
<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Pupils excluded from schools are successfully reintegrated into mainstream settings					
<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Associated Pls</b>	<b>Links to Other Plans</b>
LL5	Work with schools and other agencies to increase the percentage of excluded pupils reintegrated into mainstream settings.	Apr 06 and ongoing	John Collings	LPI ChS2 + ChS3	
<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Number of young people engaged in education and training, including higher education, is improved					
<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Associated Pls</b>	<b>Links to Other Plans</b>
LL6	Work with schools, colleges, training providers and other agencies to achieve NEET targets agreed with GO-NE and Connexions	Dec 06	Sue Johnson	BV 221 a + b	
<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Raise aspirations and awareness of enterprise and employment options among young people					
<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Associated Pls</b>	<b>Links to Other Plans</b>
LL7	Work with schools, colleges and businesses to raise aspirations and awareness of the options open to young people	Nov 06	Antony Steinberg	LAA 5.2 – 5.4	LAA Outcome 5

Strengthening Communities					
Corporate Plan Objective:					
To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services. Increase opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation, especially hard to reach groups and young people and enable people and communities to make a positive contribution. Enhance partnership and consultative structures and community involvement					
Ref:	Action	Milestone	Responsible Officer	Associated Pls	Links to Other Plans
SC1	Work with Hartlepool Participation Network to ensure that children and young people are central to the development of a participation strategy that sets standards and includes involvement in democratic processes	Apr 06 and ongoing	Sue Johnson	LAA 31.1 - 31.3 LAA 32.1 – 32.7	LAA Outcomes 31 + 32
Corporate Plan Objective:					
Encourage diversity and freedom from discrimination and harassment and ensure people from minority communities and other hard to reach group are engaged and enabled to participate					
Ref:	Action	Milestone	Responsible Officer	Associated Pls	Links to Other Plans
SC11	Children's Services Race Equality Group will develop strategies to ensure that children and young people from black and minority ethnic communities, travellers, asylum seekers and refugee communities have opportunities to gain full access to services and that the needs of all children growing up in an increasingly diverse society are met.	Mar 07	John Collings	LAA 35.1 LAA 35.2 LAA 35.3 LAA 35.4 LAA 35.5 LAA 35.6	LAA Outcome 35



**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - APPENDIX B**

Every council is required by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to collect and publish a range of Best Value performance indicators. In addition to these Government indicators, services in Hartlepool Borough Council have also set 'Local indicators' These statutory and non-statutory Best value indicators are set out in the pages that follow.

***The tables provide detailed performance presented against the overall performance of the council and each of the Community Strategy themes and aims. Two of the Community Strategy themes have some relevance to this Forum, and are listed below.***

<b>⇒ Jobs and the Economy</b>	<b>⇒ Environment and Housing</b>
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BVPIs are set by the government and information for these must be included in the plan. Some of the BVPIs are have additional uses these include:-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)</b> The means by which the Audit Commission assesses the Council's overall performance</li>   <li>• <b>Performance Assessment Framework (PAF)</b> Indicators set by the government for Social Services service areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Service Agreement (PSA)</b> Agreement between local and central government to improve performance across a range of indicators based upon national and local priority</li>   <li>• <b>Quality of Life (QoL)</b> These indicators cover the issues that effect how people feel about life in the local area.</li> </ul>
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<b>Lifelong Learning and Skills</b>					
<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Enjoy and Achieve – Raise achievement and standards of attainment for children and young people in the early years, primary and secondary phases of education.					
	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Outturn 2005/06</b>	<b>Target 2006/07</b>	<b>LAA Target 2008/09</b>
LL1	LPI ED 2	Percentage of 3 year olds who participate in accessing a good quality free early year place	100%	98%	n/a
LL1	LPI ED 3	The number of childcare places per 1000 population	232	240	n/a
LL1	BVPI 40	Percentage of pupil achieving Level 4 or above in KS2 Math tests	78%	86%	86%
LL1	BVPI 41	Percentage of pupil achieving Level 4 or above in KS2 English tests	79%	80%	81%
LL1	BVPI 194a	Proportion of children level 5 or above, KS2 in English	29%	25%	n/a
LL1	BVPI 194b	Proportion of children level 5 or above, KS2 in Maths	32%	37%	n/a
LL1	LAA 7.1	Early Years– improve children’s communication, social and emotional development so that by 2008, children reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage	36.1%	40%	50%
LL1	LAA 7.2	Early Years– increase the percentage of 3 and 4 year olds who attend an early years and childcare place to 96%	93.4%	96%	96%
LL1	LAA 7.12	Early Years - improve children's communication, social and emotional development so the gap between NRS and Hartlepool is reduced for a good level of development at the end of the foundation stage	Gap = 12.6%	Gap = 10%	Gap = 8%
LL1	LAA 7.13	Early Years - reduce the gap between NRS and Hartlepool for participation rates of 3 year olds in good quality, free early years education to 3% by 2007 and 0% by 2012	6%	3%	2%

<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Enjoy and Achieve – Raise achievement and standards of attainment for children and young people in the early years, primary and secondary phases of education.					
	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Outturn 2005/06</b>	<b>Target 2006/07</b>	<b>LAA Target 2008/09</b>
LL2	BVPI 181a	Percentage of pupil achieving Level 5 or above in KS3 results - English	70.91%	73%	80%
LL2	BVPI 181b	Percentage of pupil achieving Level 5 or above in KS3 results - Maths	74.24%	76%	82%
LL2	BVPI 181c	Percentage of pupil achieving Level 5 or above in KS3 results - Science	67.86%	76%	77%
LL2	BVPI 181d	Percentage of pupil achieving Level 5 or above in KS3 results - ICT Assessment	61.40%	73%	75%
LL2	LAA 7.16	Key Stage 3 - Reduce the gap between children from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 5 or above in English	10.6%	10%	6%
LL2	LAA 7.17	Key Stage 3 - Reduce the gap between children from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 5 or above in Mathematics	8.6%	8%	5%
LL2	LAA 7.18	Key Stage 3 - Reduce the gap between children from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 5 or above in Science	9.5%	9%	5%
LL2	LAA 7.19	Key Stage 3 - Reduce the gap between children from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 5 or above in ICT	n/a	n/a	n/a
LL3	BVPI 38	Percentage of pupil achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs	51.7%	55%	55%
LL3	BVPI 39	Percentage of pupil achieving 5 or more A*-G GCSEs	85.8%	91%	93%
LL3	LAA 7.11	Key Stage 4: Increase the percentage of young people aged 16 achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C (including English and Maths)	35.8%	tbc	tbc
LL3	LAA 7.20	Key Stage 4 - Reduce the gap between young people from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving 5+ A*-C	10.4%	10%	6%

<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Enjoy and Achieve – Raise achievement and standards of attainment for children and young people in the early years, primary and secondary phases of education.					
	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Outturn 2005/06</b>	<b>Target 2006/07</b>	<b>LAA Target 2008/09</b>
LL3	LAA 7.21	Key Stage 4 - Reduce the gap between young people from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving 5+ A*-G (including English and Maths)	tbc	tbc	tbc
LL3	LAA 7.22	Key Stage 4 - Reduce the gap between young people from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving 5+ A*-C (including English and Maths)	tbc	tbc	tbc
LL4	BVPI 50	Educational qualifications of Looked After Children			n/a
LL4	BVPI 161	Employment, education and training for care leavers			n/a
LL4	LAA 7.14	Key Stage 2 - reduce the gap between children from NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 4 or above in English	6%	5%	3%
LL4	LAA 7.15	Key Stage 2 - reduce the gap between children from NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 4 or above in Maths	5.2%	5%	3%
<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Pupils excluded from schools are successfully reintegrated into mainstream settings					
	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Outturn 2005/06</b>	<b>Target 2006/07</b>	<b>LAA Target 2008/09</b>
LL5	LPI ChS2	The percentage of permanently excluded pupils offered full time alternative educational provision of 21 hours or more	80% Apr-Jul 100% Sep-Mar	100%	n/a
LL5	LPI ChS3	Number of pupils permanently excluded during the year from all schools maintained by the children's services authority per 1,000 pupils at all maintained schools	1.4	1.9	n/a

<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Number of young people engaged in education and training , including higher education, is improved					
	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Outturn 2005/06</b>	<b>Target 2006/07</b>	<b>LAA Target 2008/09</b>
LL6	BVPI 221a	Participation in and outcomes from Youth Work: recorded outcomes	50.38%	55%	n/a
LL6	BVPI 221b	Participation in and outcomes from Youth Work: accredited outcomes	5.55%	10%	n/a
<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Raise aspirations and awareness of enterprise and employment options among young people					
	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Outturn 2005/06</b>	<b>Target 2006/07</b>	<b>LAA Target 2008/09</b>
LL7	LAA 5.2	Hartlepool enterprise activities are available to all key stage 4 pupils in Hartlepool Secondary school (percentage of young people receive support and are provided with 5 days of enterprise education at key stage 4)	n/a	95%	100%
LL7	LAA 5.3	All key stage 4 pupils undertake work related learning and useful work experience	n/a	98%	100%
LL7	LAA 5.4	Careers education & guidance is provided to all young people aged 13-19	n/a	99%	100%

**In 5-10 years time: -**

Through the development of SureStart integrated early years provision we will see an increase in the proportion of children reaching national standards in numeracy and literacy at the age of 7 (end of KS1).

## 7.2 APPENDIX B

The levels of educational attainment reached by Hartlepool's young people, as measured at ages 11, 14 and 16, will continue to rise. The national average will be exceeded and/or the gap between Hartlepool and the national average significantly narrowed.

The numbers of adults participating in learning will continue to rise. This will lead to enhanced economic and social regeneration.

There will be more adults who are achieving a qualification at level 1 and level 2 and, in particular, there will be an increase in the number of adults who have a qualification in literacy and/or numeracy.

The proportion of males accessing learning will increase, leading to better employment prospects.

Through working with schools and SureStart, the number of families participating in Family Learning programmes will continue to rise, which will lead to further improvements in the skills of both parents and children.

- **Increase the percentage of 3 to 4 year olds who attend an early years and childcare place to 96% and hold this figure past 2008/09**
- **Increase to 4000 the number of learners participating in Adult Education Programmes**
- **Number of individuals trained to deliver activities within clubs and community be at 175 by 2012**
- Improving training and employment prospects for carers (Target 7 of PSA)

<b>Strengthening Communities</b>					
<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b>					
To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services. Increase opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation, especially hard to reach groups and young people and enable people and communities to make a positive contribution. Enhance partnership and consultative structures and community involvement					
	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Outturn 2005/06</b>	<b>Target 2006/07</b>	<b>LAA Target 2008/09</b>
SC1	LAA 31.1	Maintain the level of involvement in the Community Network	50 groups & 70 people (2002)	75 groups & 105 people	75 groups & 105 people
SC1	LAA 31.2	Percentage of adults who feel they can affect decisions that affect own area (Hartlepool)	26% (2004)	tbc	tbc
SC1	LAA 31.3	Percentage of adults who feel they can affect decisions that affect own area (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	27% (2004)	tbc	tbc
SC1	LAA 32.1	Percentage of people who have been helped by others (unpaid and not relatives) over the past year(Hartlepool)	n/a	to be set after 2006 survey	to be set after 2006 survey
SC1	LAA 32.2	Percentage of people who have been helped by others (unpaid and not relatives) one a month over the past year (Hartlepool)	n/a	to be set after 2006 survey	to be set after 2006 survey
SC1	LAA 32.3	Percentage of people who have been helped by others (unpaid and not relatives) over the past year (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	n/a	to be set after 2006 survey	to be set after 2006 survey
SC1	LAA 32.4	Percentage of people who have been helped by others (unpaid and not relatives) one a month over the past year (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	n/a	to be set after 2006 survey	to be set after 2006 survey
SC1	LAA 32.5	Increase the proportion of people undertaking voluntary work/community activity (Hartlepool)	9% (2002)	9.2%	9.6%
SC1	LAA 32.6	Increase the proportion of people undertaking voluntary work/community activity (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	9% (2002)	9.2%	9.6%

	Ref	Definition	Outturn 2005/06	Target 2006/07	LAA Target 2008/09
SC1	LAA 32.7	Increase the number of looked after children participating in their reviews	67.4%	80%	97.5%
<b>Corporate Plan Objective:</b> Encourage diversity and freedom from discrimination and harassment and ensure people from minority communities and other hard to reach group are engaged and enabled to participate					
	Ref	Definition	Outturn 2005/06	Target 2006/07	LAA Target 2008/09
SC11	LAA 35.1	Percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (Hartlepool)	n/a	to be set after 2006 survey	to be set after 2006 survey
SC11	LAA 35.2	Percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	n/a	to be set after 2006 survey	to be set after 2006 survey
SC11	LAA 35.3	Reducing the proportion of people feeling no involvement in the community (Hartlepool)	37% (2002)	36%	35.6%
SC11	LAA 35.4	Reducing the proportion of people feeling no involvement in the community (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	37% (2002)	36%	35.6%
SC11	LAA 35.5	Proportionate Assessment: percentage of older service users receiving an assessment that are from minority ethnic groups, compared to the percentage of older people in the local population that are from such groups	0.63% (2004/05)	1%	1%
SC11	LAA 35.6	Proportionate service provision: percentage of older service users receiving services following an assessment that are from a minority ethnic group, compared to the percentage of users assessed that are from such groups	0.33% (2004/05)	1%	1%



**In 5-10 years time: -**

The Community Strategy will have become embedded in the management processes of partner organisations through further co-ordination and implementation.

The public's access to information will be improved through ICT and other means.

The local population's satisfaction with their area will have increased.

There will be increased voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion.

There will be a cohesive community with the capacity to be effectively involved in local decision making.

Young people will be actively engaged in local decision making facilitated by a vibrant and inclusive Youth Forum.

## APPENDIX C

**EXTRACT OF LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT 2:  
PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT ALLOCATION WHICH FALL UNDER  
THE REMIT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

<b>Tgt</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>%age</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Org.</b>
5	Reduce the incidents of domestic violence in Hartlepool	Number of repeat referrals to the police for incidences of domestic violence.	50	£57,483	CSD
				£19,161	Women's Aid
		Number of perpetrators attending a perpetrator programme not re-offending within 6 months of completing the programme.	50	£49,818	CSD
				£26,825	Women's Aid

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**12<sup>th</sup> June 2006**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer**Subject:** CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS STRATEGY - COMMENTS**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with a record of the comments made in relation to the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum received a presentation on the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy. In the absence of a quorum it was agreed by the Members present that the Forum would listen to the presentation by the Senior Education Officer and Early Years Manager and would comment on the report so that these comments could go forward into the consultation process at this stage. In addition, it was agreed that the Scrutiny Support Officer would prepare a brief report highlighting the comments made at the meeting. The comments are included below:

- a) Generally Members felt that during the consultation period officers had been more successful in gaining qualitative feedback than quantitative. It was felt that focussing on quantitative research more in the future would be beneficial.**

In response it was argued that Hartlepool had been far more proactive in undertaking a full public consultation than most local authorities. It was generally recognised amongst those who had been consulted that Extended Schools and Children's Centres *had* to happen and there was, therefore, a degree of ambivalence in the responses. In addition, the Viewpoint Survey was used earlier in the process, which supported the qualitative findings i.e. that the public broadly supports the Council's strategy in principle. Furthermore, 1,200 copies of the strategy had been circulated for consultation.

- b) Members were generally very positive about how the strategic aims of the Strategy were attempting to integrate schools into the community and communities into schools.**

Members praised the Strategy for its plans to generate greater involvement of children and young people. Members also felt that it would meet some concerns about the lack of facilities for children (and communities) in non-deprived areas. The additional use of existing resources was also complemented by Members.

- c) Members indicated they were a little uncomfortable with the emphasis placed on the Every Child Matters outcomes. In particular, it was felt that these outcomes are sterile and focus too much on physical rather than emotional and spiritual development.**

Under the Children's Act 2004 the Children's Services Department needs to deliver on each of the Every Child Matters outcomes. The Forum discussed the implications of the Children's Act and the shift to the new Children's Services Department in August 2005, and was broadly supportive of these developments at this time.

- d) A Member felt that the 'avoidance of drug and alcohol misuse' objective in the 'Children's Centres and Extended Schools Vision' should be separated because it was felt that there should be stronger condemnation of drug misuse.**

The comments were noted, whilst it was indicated that the Vision was a national document.

- e) A Member highlighted the issue of the isolation of learning disabled young people from communities and how best to support them, in particular in relation to extended schools.**

It was highlighted that 'access to all' is a key strand of this strategy. A generic inclusive approach is being developed, which focuses on removing barriers to all groups rather than distinguishing between, and focusing on, specific groups. In addition, one of the aims of Children's Centres and Extended Schools is to offer support to all parents throughout the lives of their children.

- f) A Member indicated that they hoped the Council would not take everything from Sure Start onboard. In particular it was felt that Sure Start had been top-heavy in terms of management and that more money could be spent on service provision. Whilst it was also felt that they did not always work well with outside bodies and had alienated parts of the community.**

It was accepted that Sure Start was quite staff intensive and that it was possible that a shortfall resulting from a drop in funding could be covered through a reduction in staffing. The key here is to shift to commissioning

services. The Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) should be utilised more as part of this. In addition restructuring each of the programmes will also be key.

- g) Members questioned whether the decreasing funding for the Council, in relation to these services, and the focus on increased CVS involvement, who themselves are undergoing reductions in funding, was problematic?**

Through the introduction of Children's Trusts, Local Area Agreements, and Single Pot these schemes will be funded differently. In addition, the strategy seeks to utilise existing service provision.

- h) A Member commented that the funding allocation is not appropriate. It bears no resemblance to what the Authority is trying to achieve through the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy.**

In response, it was accepted that the strategy represents a challenging agenda and that the local authority was working within the realities of available funding streams. Again it was reiterated that shifting to a commissioning/enabling role and making the most of existing resources were key here.

- i) What kind of people would be able to fulfil the role of Integrated Support Managers?**

People with a background in youth work, social work or teaching who also have experience in working with and influencing community groups.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the report.

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