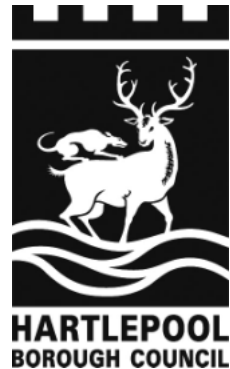


CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Tuesday 9 August 2011

**at 10.00 am or immediately following the Joint
Children's Services and Finance and Procurement Portfolio meeting
(whichever is the later)**

**in Committee Room C
Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

Councillor C Hill, Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

No items

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 2.1 School Term and Holiday Dates – School Year 2012/13 – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 2.2 Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 2.3 Autism Awareness Development – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 2.4 Children's Services Departmental Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Children's Homes – Regulation 33/34 Reports – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

- 4.1 Call-in of decision – Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to serve on School Governing Bodies (Specifically the decision taken in relation to Seaton Carew Nursery School) – *Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee*

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

9th August 2011



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES -
SCHOOL YEAR 2012/13

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the agreement of the Portfolio Holder to the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2012/13 for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool.

To seek the agreement of the Portfolio Holder in recommending those dates to the governing bodies of aided schools in Hartlepool.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

A report is attached detailing the current state of play nationally, regionally and locally on the pattern of the school year, and recommendations for the school year 2012/13 as set out in **Appendix 1**.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Children's Services issues.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key decision.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder's meeting on 12 July 2011.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Approval by the Portfolio Holder of Hartlepool term dates for school year 2012/13 as set out in **Appendix 1**.

Agreement to recommending these dates to governing bodies of aided schools in Hartlepool.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES:
SCHOOL YEAR 2012/13

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the agreement of the Portfolio Holder to the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2012/13 for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool.
- 1.2 To seek the agreement of the Portfolio Holder in recommending those dates to the governing bodies of aided schools in Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As the local authority (LA), the Council has the responsibility for setting the school term and holiday dates for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool. Aided school governing bodies are responsible for setting their own school holiday pattern within the agreed national framework of working days. Traditionally the LA and the governing bodies of all the Aided schools work together to ensure a consistent pattern across the town in respect of school term and holiday dates, though in the case of Roman Catholic schools in particular, some variation does occur in some years.
- 2.2 The pattern proposed for 2012/13 provides for an “envelope” of 195 days, of which, 190 are days on which pupils attend and the remaining five days are designated by the school as Professional Development (PD) days. Five PD days are provided for in the Conditions of Service and can be taken in combinations of part-day “twilight” sessions at the direction of individual schools.
- 2.3 Regional consultation has taken place. The local authorities in the North East region are committed to achieving broad consistency across the region when considering the school year pattern for 2012/13 and subsequent years.
- 2.4 The Local Government Association (LGA) is attempting to achieve an overall national consensus based on a number of principles:
 - To start the school year on a September date as near as possible to 1st September;
 - To equalise teaching and learning blocks (roughly 2x7 and 4x6 weeks);
 - To establish a two week spring break in early April irrespective of the incidence of the Easter bank holiday.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 In the autumn term 2011, North East LA representatives discussed the school year pattern for 2012/13 which had been recommended by the Local Government Association. The North East authorities agreed to all individual LAs consulting locally on a common preferred model as set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 Following that discussion, arrangements were made to consult all headteachers in Hartlepool and also the relevant associations/unions through the Director's termly meetings when the option was shared with those present and received their support although it was noted that Roman Catholic Schools differed slightly.
- 3.3 In response to the consultation, no comments were received in relation to the dates, although English Martyrs Roman Catholic School has reviewed their proposed dates to be in line with those recommended for consultation.
- 3.4 Once the local consultation had taken place, the general consensus from the LAs in the region was to adopt the model **Appendix 1**.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 It is proposed to recommend the term time dates as set out in **Appendix 1**.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to consider the following recommendations:
 - To approve the schedule of term and holiday dates for 2012/13 for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool as shown in **Appendix 1**.
 - To recommend the schedule of term and holiday dates for 2012/13 to the governing bodies of aided schools in Hartlepool.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer, Child and Adult Services
(telephone: 523766, email: ann.turner@hartlepool.gov.uk).

HARTLEPOOL CALENDAR 2012/2013

2012/2013

2012	July	August	September	October	November	December
Monday		6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Tuesday		7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Wednesday		1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Thursday		2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Friday		3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Saturday		4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Sunday		5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30

2013	January	February	March	April	May	June
Monday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Tuesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Wednesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Thursday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Friday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Saturday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Sunday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30

2013	July
Monday	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	4 11 18 25
Friday	5 12 19 26
Saturday	6 13 20 27
Sunday	7 14 21 28

195 DAY ENVELOPE

Bank Holiday
 Holiday

The number of term days shown is 195. Up to five of these days will be used as professional development days for teaching staff; pupils will not attend these days. Each school determines when these will take place and will inform parents.

CHILD AND ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT



CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

9 August 2011



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report summarises the process for inviting applications for representative governors and the criteria for their selection.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

It is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder to decide the appointment of Local Authority representative school governors following advice from the General Purposes Sub Committee.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder's meeting on 9 August 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Approval by the Portfolio Holder of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, in respect of the appointment of representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school governing bodies.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Applications are invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office is about to expire or have expired who are interested in serving or wish to continue serving as a Local Authority representative governor on school governing bodies.
- 2.2 The following criteria were agreed by the Borough Council for the recruitment of Local Education Authority representative governors in 2000. Local Authority governors should be able to show:
 - demonstrable interest in and commitment to education;
 - a desire to support the school concerned;
 - a commitment to attend regular meetings of the governing body (and committees as appropriate) and school functions generally;
 - good communication/interpersonal skills;
 - ability to work as part of a team;
 - a clearly expressed willingness to participate in the governor training programme.
- 2.3 A schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies was considered by members of the General Purposes Sub Committee at their meeting held on 4th July 2011.
(Appendix 1)

- 2.4 In relation to Seaton Carew Nursery School, members of the General Purposes Committee noted that Councillor Geoff Lilley has applied to continue as a LA governor as his current term of office had expired on 2 July 2011. Members recalled that two nominations had previously been received from Councillors Paul Thompson and Hilary Thompson for a position of LA Governor at Seaton Carew Nursery School. The Committee subsequently recommended Councillor Paul Thompson to be appointed to the vacant position. The Children's Services Portfolio Holder having considered the advice and the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, at the meeting on 22 February 2011 decided to appoint Councillor Hilary Thompson to the position. This decision was subsequently, subject to a Call-in on the grounds that the principles of decision making may not have been followed. A number of meetings of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee have been held to consider the call in with a final meeting at the time of writing of 25 July 2011. Once the Portfolio Holder is in receipt of their report, this decision will require reviewing and a decision made whether to reaffirm or modify the decision in light of this report.

Further, at the meeting of General Purposes Committee on the 4 July 2011, members again considered the vacancies for LA Governors at the nursery and suggested that in view of the applications received, all 3 applications should be given consideration with Councillor Paul Thompson, as a current Seaton Ward Councillor, recommended for one of the vacancies and a decision made in respect of the remaining post between nominations from Councillors Geoff Lilley and Hilary Thompson.

These decisions will be subject to the Portfolio's Holder's response to the call in of her original decision in February 2011.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services considers the advice and recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies, as outlined above and with regard to any review of her original decision under call in procedures.
- 3.2 A schedule outlining recommendations of the General Purposes Sub Committee is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4. CONTACT OFFICER

Ann Turner
Governor Support Officer
Telephone (01420) 523766
ann.turner@hartlepool.gov.uk



**VACANCIES FOR
LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES
ON GOVERNING BODIES**

JULY 2011

Contact Officer: Ann Turner
01429 523766
E-mail: ann.turner@hartlepool.gov.uk

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Barnard Grove Primary School			
Councillor R. W. Cook	1 vacancy	Councillor J. Robinson Form awaited	Councillor Jean Robinson
Mr M. Kay			
Brougham Primary School			
Mrs S. Marshall	1 vacancy	Councillor S. Thomas	Councillor S Thomas
Catcote School			
Mr J. Bryant	1 vacancy	No nomination	No recommendation
Clavering Primary School			
Councillor R. W. Cook	1 vacancy	Councillor J. Robinson Form awaited	Councillor J Robinson
Mrs I. Green			
Eldon Grove Primary School			
Mrs J. Butterworth	1 vacancy	No nomination	No recommendation
Mrs P. Vaughan			
Grange Primary School			
Councillor M. James	2 vacancies	Councillor A. Wilcox Councillor S Akers- Belcher	Councillor A Wilcox
			Councillor S Akers- Belcher
Kingsley Primary School			
Mrs J. Brough	1 vacancy	No nomination	No recommendation
Mr J. Vale			

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Rift House Primary School			
Councillor S Tempest	2 vacancies	Councillor M. James	Councillor M James
Rossmere Primary School			
Councillor P. Law ton	1 vacancy	No nomination	No recommendation
Mrs M. Smith			
Seaton Carew Nursery School			
Councillor G. Lilley		Councillor G. Lilley	Councillor Paul Thompson
	Councillor G. Lilley		
	Term of office expired 2 nd July 2011		
St Helen's Primary School			
Mr J. Ibbotson	1 vacancy	Councillor W. Payne	Councillor R W Payne
Councillor R. Atkinson			
Miss C. Lamb			
St Joseph's RC Primary School			
	1 vacancy	No nomination	No recommendation
St Teresa's RC Primary School			
Mr S. Cook resignation	1 vacancy	Councillor P Law ton	Councillor P Law ton
Wef 31 st August 2011			
Ward Jackson CE Voluntary Aided Primary School			
	1 vacancy	Councillor J. Brash	Councillor J Brash

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

9 August 2011



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: AUTISM AWARENESS DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of a proposal to develop and deliver Autism Awareness training across key workforce sectors in line with the recommendations outlined in the Department of Health (DH) strategy "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: The Strategy for Adults with Autism in England" (March 2010).

The strategy sets a clear framework for all mainstream services across the public sector to work together for adults with autism and the proposed workforce model aims to extend the recommendations of the strategy to incorporate the children's workforce.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed workforce model has been developed across Child and Adult Services to support a multi agency approach, the model creating parity and equity of training to staff in Child and Adult Services and taking into account other key statutory sector requirements, with the option to include private and voluntary sector providers.

The model will be adapted to meet the specific demands of key service areas and will help those providers to develop services that support and meet the locally identified needs of people with autism, their families and carers.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder is responsible for matters relating to children and young people. The proposed development of Autism Awareness training

will be delivered to staff within the children's workforce across Hartlepool and Teesside.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non Key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, on 9 August 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the attached proposal for the development of Autism Awareness training across the children's workforce in Hartlepool.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: AUTISM AWARENESS DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of a proposal to develop and deliver Autism Awareness training across key workforce sectors in line with the recommendations outlined in the Department of Health (DH) strategy "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: The Strategy for Adults with Autism in England" (March 2010).

The strategy sets a clear framework for all mainstream services across the public sector to work together for adults with autism and the proposed workforce model aims to extend the recommendations of the strategy to incorporate the children's workforce.

2. BACKGROUND

The proposed workforce model has been developed across Child and Adult Services to support a multi agency approach, the model creates parity and equity of training to staff in Child and Adult Services and takes into account other key statutory sector requirements, with the option to include private and voluntary sector providers.

The model will be adapted to meet the specific demands of key service areas and will help those providers to develop services that support and meet the locally identified needs of people with autism, their families and carers.

3. PROGRESS in HARTLEPOOL

Workforce needs analysis across Child & Adult Services has identified approximately 500 people who will require Foundation (Level 1) and approximately 200 people for Intermediate (Level 2) training. Level 3 training will be required on completion of level 2 training for key staff undertaking assessment or care management, or where intense interaction is required.

A proposed model is attached (**Appendix 1**) which identifies the level of training required linked to the intensity, complexity and role of the workforce.

4. SKILLS FRAMEWORK

It is proposed the model will meet the requirements of best practice guidance and nationally recognised qualifications where appropriate.

In the development of the model, the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) for Autism have been used to develop the course content. QCF is the new way of recognising vocational achievement through the award of credit for units and qualifications and replaces NVQ.

In consideration of the approaches to both Children and Adults the draft NICE guidelines for children and young people, and proposed guidelines for adults have been considered in developing the model.

The Department of Health has agreed to work with the National Autism Society, Skills for Care and Skills for Health which will produce guidance for employers, managers and staff within the health; social care and education workforce. There are no proposed timescales proposed for completion of this work.

5. RESOURCES

Initial funding has been identified from the existing Workforce Grant of £45,000. The funding will support the following:-

- Learning Nexus (E-Learning package) Being developed to include recent QCA Standards with Durham County Council;
- Contribution to the Performance & Achievement Division for the of the Educational Psychology Service to provide Level 2 (intermediate) training;
- Procurement of Level 3 advanced training (Helen Gordon Associates).

It is proposed the model will be adopted across Tees, with the option to use HBC resources to deliver level 1 & 2 training.

Condition Management and, Information Advice and Guidance (the other key areas identified within the Autism Strategy) will be developed and considered further with Tees Commissioners and will be progressed through the Tees Integrated Commissioning Group and Autism Service Delivery Group (ASDG).

6. RISK AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to meet the requirements within the Autism Act 2009.

As with other training programmes where knowledge of the subject is raised it can lead to increased demand on services and greater awareness of unmet need.

There remains a gap in the delivery of a diagnostic service across Tees, and this has been flagged within respective Tees PCT commissioning meetings. Currently diagnostic timescales fall far short of those proposed in the draft NICE guidelines for children and further awareness raising is likely to put further additional pressure on already stretched resources.

This graduated response to workforce development in relation to autism will:

- Support early identification and early intervention;
- Improve the quality of provision for children and adults with autism leading to improved outcomes;
- Improve value for money e.g. Teaching Assistants in schools able to offer more targeted support.

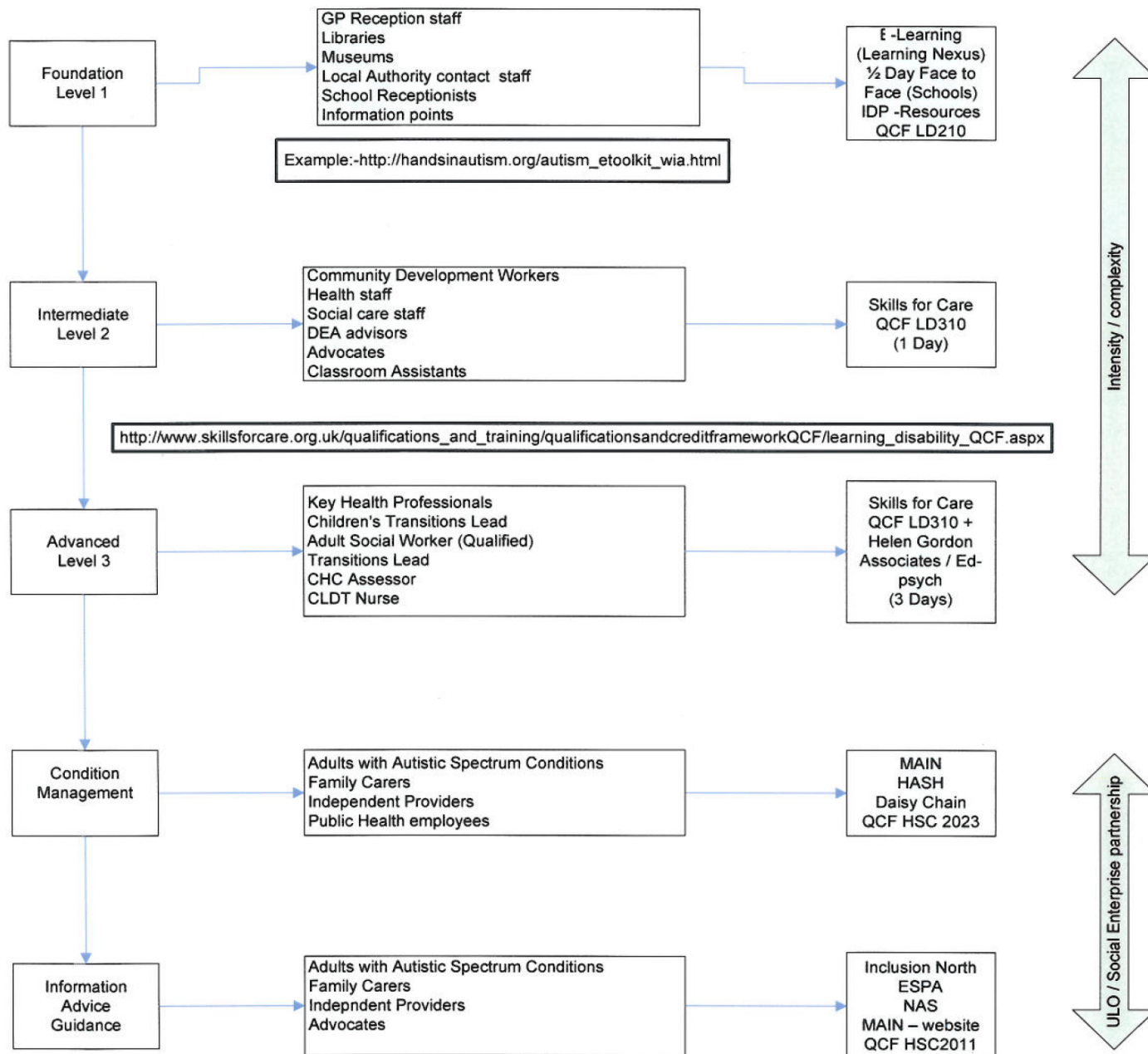
7. RECOMMENDATION

The Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the proposal for the development of Autism Awareness training across the children and young people's workforce in Hartlepool.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Ian Merritt
Strategic Commissioner – Children's Services
Tel: 01429 523774
e-mail: ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk

Tees Integrated Commissioning Group
Autism Action plan
Sub Regional Workforce Proposal
DRAFT v1



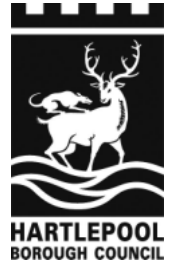
Statutory Guidance Dec 2010

Autism awareness training for all staff
Must provide specialist autism training for key staff, such as GPs
Cannot refuse a community care assessment for adults with autism
Must appoint an autism lead in their area
Develop a clear pathway to diagnosis and assessment for adults with autism
Commission services based on adequate population data.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

9 August 2011



Report of: Director of Child & Adult Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL
PLAN QUARTER 4 PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards achieving Departmental Plan actions, performance indicators (PIs) and risks for the period to 31st March 2011.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report summarises progress over the final quarter of 2010/11 on the actions and performance indicators within the Children's Services priorities of the Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan 2010/11. It also covers the current position of associated risks.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder is responsible for children's and young people's issues.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting 9 August 2011.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is requested to note the progress made in completing the actions and achieving the performance indicators for Children's Services during the fourth and final quarter of 2010/11 and to approve the change of due date for one action.

Report of: Director of Child & Adult Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL
PLAN QUARTER 4 PROGRESS REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards achieving Children's Services Departmental Plan actions and performance indicators (PIs) for the period to 31st March 2011.






2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children's Services Departmental Plan 2010/11 was formally approved by the Cabinet on 10th May 2010.
- 2.2 The plan was produced in line with the corporate planning process and demonstrates the links to the Corporate Plan and to the themes of the Local Strategic Partnership. The activities from the Corporate Plan which are included in the departmental plan are those for which children's services have direct responsibility.
- 2.3 This report provides a summary on progress towards meeting the milestones associated with the actions and PIs within the current plan. Depending on the area of activity being measured, PIs are reported at different times during the year e.g. some PIs reflect the financial year whereas others reflect the academic year. A large number of PIs are reported annually and data are only collected once (e.g. school examination results) so quarterly reporting is unable to demonstrate progress towards a target. Examination results reported in the 2010/11 report relate to the 2010 examinations.

3. PERFORMANCE TO DATE – QUARTER 4

- 3.1 This section looks in detail at how the department has performed in relation to the key actions, performance indicators (PIs) and risks which were included in the Children's Services priorities within the Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan. Progress is reported by a traffic light system.

- 3.2 The departmental plan identifies 47 Children's Services actions, two of which were acquired from the Regeneration and Planning Department following the transfer of the Youth Offending Service to Child and Adult Services. Progress against these 47 actions at quarter 4 is given in the table below.




Status	Description	Number	%
	Action Completed	44	93.6
	Action on Track	1	2.1
	Action Progress Acceptable	0	0.0
	Action Intervention Required	1	2.1
	Action Not Completed	0	0.0
	No longer reported	1	2.1
	Total	47	100

- 3.3 Forty four actions (93.6%) have been completed and one action (2.1%) is on track to complete by the deadline date. One action relating to Healthy Schools is no longer reported due to the withdrawal of government funding and the final action (2.1%) shown in the table below, requires intervention.

Ref	Action Description	Due Date	Comments
CADLL005	Initiate ICT Managed Service at St. Hild's School	30 June 2010	<p>Northgate Education carried out the passive infrastructure works at St. Hild's School in February 2011. The active infrastructure works were carried out during the Easter break.</p> <p>The transfer of the St. Hild's ICT technician post and the take up of Early Services were postponed until 1st June 2011 due to the roll out of the programme.</p>

- 3.4 The due date for the above action was not agreed through the BSF project plan and presented an impossible timeframe. It is requested that the Portfolio Holder approve a revised due date of 3 January 2012 for this action.

- 3.5 The plan identifies 64 Children's Services performance indicators, the majority of which are part of the national indicator set. Progress against these PIs at quarter 4 is shown below:

Status	Description	Number	%
	PI Target Achieved	21	32.8
	PI Progress acceptable	4	6.3
	PI Target not achieved	16	25.0
	Not a available	22	34.4
	No Selection	1	1.6
	Total	64	100

- 3.6 There are currently twenty five PIs (39.1%) that have achieved the 2010/11 target or made acceptable progress. Data are not available for twenty two indicators (34.4%) and this is due to the Key Stage 2 tests boycott (10 PIs), the removal of the Tellus Survey (3 PIs) and the decommissioning of the national data hub and withdrawal of government grants (9 PIs).
- 3.7 One social care indicator (1.6%) has not been RAG rated due to the complexities of the indicator. However, performance would be considered to be good as achievement above the national median is considered to be safer practice. Sixteen indicators (25.0%) have not achieved their target and details of these are shown in the below table:

Indicator	PI Title	Commentary
NI 67	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	The Safeguarding Unit aim to hold timely conferences, however, where it has not been possible to arrange a meeting with the relevant parties or key information has not been received, conferences have been delayed. This is to ensure the quality of the conference which is of greater importance.
NI 112	The change in the rate of under 18 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17, as compared with the 1998 rate.	Provisional data for 2009 show s Hartlepool's under 18 conception rate as 57.3 which equates to a -24.3% reduction from the 1998 baseline rate. The Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board is planning the Action Plan for 2011/12.
NI 53a	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 weeks from birth – Percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks	Implementation of the breastfeeding strategy is ongoing with a focus on achieving baby friendly accreditation.

NI 58	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	The measurement of this indicator is dependent on a percentage of the scores for all children looked after, the local authority are working closely with CAMHS to ensure children receive appropriate support and all children who had been identified within the Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) as needing service had already been identified by their social worker and carers and were receiving services.
NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	The requirement to complete initial assessments within 7 working days comes from the Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families. Prior to the 2010 election amendments were made to the National Indicator Set setting a revised timescale of 10 working days, however this was not subsequently implemented post the election of the new Government leading to confusion over the actual required timescale. The service has continued to aim to complete all initial assessments within 7 working days but balances this requirement with the responsibility to complete good quality assessments and ensure that children are seen and spoken to and their wishes and views are given full consideration. There is improving performance in this indicator.
NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	During this year, assessments that have been outstanding for some time have been concluded and signed off; this has impacted upon the performance in this indicator but ensures that there are no historical outstanding incomplete assessments that will affect future performance. There is a need in assessment practice to ensure that high quality assessments are completed that accurately and comprehensively identifies the needs of a child and his/her family. The recent unannounced inspection of safeguarding identified the quality of assessments as a strength of the service. There continues to be a focus on ensuring the completion of timely and high quality assessments, the Munro review of safeguarding recommends the removal of timescales associated with assessments as these have the potential to have a detrimental impact upon quality. Service continues to strive to improve timeliness of core assessments whilst maintaining high quality practice.

NI 61	Percentage of looked after children placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in that placement on adoption	From a very small cohort, 1 family of siblings had significant additional needs. Therefore, identifying a suitable adoptive placement was more difficult.
NI 81	Percentage gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 between those claiming free school meals and those that are not	It is disappointing that we have failed to achieve the attainment gap at level 3, however overall results have risen for the town. New evidence from the Benefits Section, shows that not all young people who are eligible for free school meal (FSM) are taking them up. This is further demonstrated by the number of young people who take up the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) at post 16, this is not reflected by the number of young people who take up FSM at age 15, and would indicate that those young people from families with a lower household income are continuing to improve, and this is being shown in the overall outcomes for Hartlepool.
NI 101	Percentage of looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English & mathematics)	<p>Each cohort is identified and tracked to monitor attendance, exclusions and progress. Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are in place for all pupils with short and long term targets. These are monitored each term in school.</p> <p>Out of hours learning is promoted for LAC pupils to accelerate the progress they are able to make in school. One to one tuition has been offered to all Y11 LAC, this has been taken up by 3 students. A residential weekend has been offered to secondary pupils to build self esteem and encourage ongoing engagement in learning.</p>
NI 102b	Percentage gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE (and equivalent) including GCSE English and mathematics at Key Stage 4	<p>The Local Authority is working with the schools to encourage them to target this group of learners to improve outcomes and narrow the gap. We are also working with the benefits section within the Council to ensure that pupils take up their entitlement to Free School Meals as we are aware that approximately 40 learners did not take up their entitlement and are therefore, not included in the FSM group for these calculations.</p> <p>The overall percentage of pupils achieving expected outcomes at GCSE has improved and this will include those pupils who were eligible but did not claim Free School Meals.</p>

		<p>As standards rise for those that are not on FSM so they rise for FSM learners, however, this does not in itself narrow the gap. The progress of this vulnerable group of learners is a major focus for individual school's Ofsted inspections and schools will be judged accordingly.</p>
NI 105	<p>Percentage gap between pupils identified as Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their peers achieving 5 A*-C grades or equivalent including English & maths at Key Stage 4</p>	<p>An Inclusion Development Programme has been rolled out to all schools over the last 4 years to support quality first teaching for all students including those with specific SEN.</p> <p>School Improvement Consultants were deployed with a specific focus on narrowing the gap, which included narrowing the gap between all groups of vulnerable pupils and their peers. However many of these have been made redundant and therefore most of this work no longer takes place.</p> <p>The SEN Team has a specific focus on improving the quality of statements so that targets focus on academic outcomes and progress is identifiable.</p> <p>The SEN Team has also worked with schools to update the guidance for identifying pupils with SEN. The recently published green paper on SEN will have implications for this as the government has proposed the removal of the school action and school action plus categories.</p> <p>The widening of the gap may, in part, be a direct result of the considerable improvement of all pupils in Hartlepool at KS4.</p>
NI 110	<p>Young people's participation in positive activities</p>	<p>This indicator was previously collected from the Tellus Survey which is no longer in operation nationally. Local data suggests that the number of young people participating in activities delivered/commissioned by the local authority is 55.6%</p>
CSD P035	<p>Children who became the subject of a Child Protection plan, or who were registered per 10,000 population under 18</p>	<p>From 2010 there has been a significant increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan which peaked in 2011. This may be due in part to the impact of the death of Baby Peter on child protection services. The last six months have seen a reduction in the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan, however, ensuring the safety and well being of children is the highest</p>

		priority and child protection services continue to respond to a number of issues locally which impact upon the well being of children, most notably, neglect, domestic abuse and substance misuse. The Local Safeguarding Children Board has these issues as its priority outcomes and leads the strategic work to tackle the root cause of these issues.
LAA SC P004a	Access to the Youth Opportunity/Capital Funds – number of applications	98 applications for funding have been received this year; of these 40 have been successful. The nature of the fund has changed in that groups apply less often but for larger sums of money. The fund will be fully utilised.
exLAA SC P004b	Access to the Youth Opportunities/Capital Funds – number of approved applications	49 applications were successful this financial year. 2279 young people benefitted from these grants.
LAA SC P004c	Access to Youth Opportunities/Capital Funds – number of young people involved in application process	228 young people were involved in the application process, benefitting 2279 young people in Hartlepool.

4. RISK MONITORING

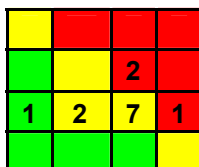
- 4.1 It is the policy of Hartlepool Council to take an active and pragmatic approach to the management of risks that could prevent the achievement of corporate and departmental objectives. Risks are not necessarily related to each specific activity but reflect an area of work. Risks are assessed on a quarterly basis using a green/amber/red matrix depending on the likelihood that they might happen and the impact, were they to do so.
- 4.2 The Child and Adult Services Department has recently completed a review of the departmental risk register which has resulted in the number of Children's Services risks reducing to thirteen. Of these, three are identified as red and are shown in the following table.

Risk	Action to reduce risk/comment
Service issues as a result of insufficient budget allocation or changes in national funding/grants	2011/12 cuts will add to risk, even though balanced as carefully as possible. Pressures are recognised corporately, and spending is being prioritised.
Increased demand on services due to demographic pressures and current economic climate	Economic position is expected to add to demand for care, etc, and reduce ability to pay for services. Trends relating to demands on services are regularly analysed and services are reconfigured to try to best meet identified needs and pressures.

Failure to plan future needs and be able to respond to market pressures.	Significant pressures on both social care and Special Educational Needs increases in demand, resulting in significant budget pressures.
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- 4.3 The diagram below shows the distribution of risks according to their risk rating. Details of the rating system are in **appendix A**.

Diagram 1 – Children's Services Departmental Risk Register Heat Map



See Appendix A for key to diagram above

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to note the progress made towards completing actions and performance indicator targets during the fourth quarter of 2010/11. The Portfolio Holder is also requested to note actions taken in relation to areas of delivery which are seen to be high risk at present.
- 5.2 The Portfolio Holder is request to approve the change of due date for action CAD LL005 as highlighted in Section 8.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

Kay Forgie, Performance & Information Manager (Children)
 Child & Adult Services Department
 Hartlepool Borough Council
 01429 284119
kay.forgie@hartlepool.gov.uk

2.4 APPENDIX A

HARTLEPOOL BC RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX AND VALUE GUIDES

		IMPACT			
LIKELIHOOD		1	2	3	4
		Low	Medium	High	Extreme
Almost certain	4	AMBER 0	RED 0	RED 0	RED 0
Likely	3	GREEN 0	AMBER 0	RED 2	RED 0
Possible	2	GREEN 1	AMBER 2	AMBER 7	RED 1
Unlikely	1	GREEN 0	GREEN 0	GREEN 0	AMBER 0

Use the following suggested value guides to help rate the level of the **controlled risk**.

IMPACT

Extreme	Total service disruption / very significant financial impact / Government intervention / sustained adverse national media coverage / multiple fatalities.
High	Significant service disruption/ significant financial impact / significant adverse Government, Audit Commission etc report / adverse national media coverage / fatalities or serious disabling injuries.
Medium	Service disruption / noticeable financial impact / service user complaints or adverse local media coverage / major injuries
Low	Minor service disruption / low level financial loss / isolated complaints / minor injuries

LIKELIHOOD

Expectation of occurrence *within the next 12 months* -

- **Almost certain**
- **Likely**
- **Possible**
- **Unlikely**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

9 August 2011



Report of: Director of Child & Adult Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S HOMES - REGULATION 33/34
REPORTS

SUMMARY

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Regulation 33 report of visit to Children's Home for Exmoor Grove.

2 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Report covers the month of February, March and April 2011 for Exmoor Grove.

3 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Regulations governing the conduct of Children's Homes require that members receive regular reports on the conduct of Children's Homes.

4 TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key decision

5 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Children's Services Portfolio – 9 August 2011

6 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Portfolio Member to receive and note the report

Report of: Director of Child & Adult Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S HOMES: REGULATION 33/34
REPORTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Regulation 33 report of visit to Children's Home for Exmoor Grove covering the months of February, March and April 2011, which is attached as **Appendix 1; *This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (para 1) and Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual (para 2) .***

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Reporting on the conduct of Children's Homes is a statutory function and comes under the Children's Homes Regulations 2001, which took effect on 1 April 2002.
- 2.2 These regulations provide minimum standards for the oversight of the function and running of Children's Homes by the Registered Provider, and a schedule of issues to be monitored regularly.
- 2.3 The present format was set up under the original regulation but is basically the same under the new regulations. A review of the standards and reporting format is taking place to ensure that the requirements of the new regulations are complied with.
- 2.4 Reports will continue to be provided on a monthly basis.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Portfolio member to receive and note the report.

CONTACT OFFICER: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services)

References:

Children's Homes, National Minimum Standards - Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (Department of Health)

Children's Services Portfolio

9 August 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Subject: CALL-IN OF DECISION – APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SPECIFICALLY THE DECISION TAKEN IN RELATION TO SEATON CAREW NURSERY SCHOOL)

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the outcome of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee meetings held on the 7 April 2011 and the 25 July 2011, at which consideration was given to the Call-In of the following decision taken by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on 22 February 2011:-

Minute No. 27 – Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies

“The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services approved the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representatives governors to serve on school Governing Bodies with the exception of the recommendation for **Seaton Carew Nursery School** and approved that **Councillor Hilary Thompson** be appointed to the **Governing Body** of that nursery school.”

- 1.2 To refer the decision taken of the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on 22 February 2011 (minute No. 27 - as outlined in section 2.1 above) back to Children's Services Portfolio Holder for further consideration.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report outlines the key concerns of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in relation to the 'call-in' of the decision taken by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on the 22 February 2011 in relation to the appointment of local authority representatives to serve on school governing

bodies (specifically the decision taken in relation to Seaton Carew Nursery School).

3. RELEVANCE TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

3.1 As per the Authority's Call-In procedure Children's Services Portfolio Holder is required to consider the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's comments and respond to them. In considering comments, the Children's Services Portfolio Holder has two options in terms of a way forward:-

- (i) Reaffirm the original decision, or
- (ii) Modify the original decision.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

4.1 Non key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

5.1 The decision making route is as follows:

- Children's Services Portfolio Holder on 22 February 2011;
- Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 7 April 2011 and 22 February 2011; and
- Children's Services Portfolio Holder on 9 August 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

6.1 To note the views expressed by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in response to the 'call-in' of the decision taken on the 22 February 2011; and

6.2 To reaffirm or amend the decision taken by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on the 22 February 2011 (minute no. 27 refers), setting out the reasons for doing so in response to the issues raised by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

Report of: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Subject: CALL-IN OF DECISION – APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SPECIFICALLY THE DECISION TAKEN IN RELATION TO SEATON CAREW NURSERY SCHOOL)

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the Children's Services Portfolio Holder's decision making meeting on the 22 February 2011, a report was considered in relation to the appointment of local authority representatives to serve on school governing bodies. Following consideration of the report / information provided the Children's Services Portfolio Holder made the following decisions:-

Minute No. 27 – Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies

"The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services approved the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representatives governors to serve on school Governing Bodies with the exception of the recommendation for Seaton Carew Nursery School and approved that Councillor Hilary Thompson be appointed to the Governing Body of that nursery school."

- 1.2 To assist the Children's Services Portfolio Holder, copies of the relevant reports and an extract of the relevant minute are attached at **Appendix A and B**, respectively.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee gave initial consideration to a 'call-in' notice in relation to the decision of the Children's Services Portfolio Holder (as outlined in Section 1.1 above) taken on 22 February 2011 at its meeting on the 11 March 2011. Following consideration of the signatories view / opinion, that the decision specifically relating to the Seaton Nursery School appointment had been taken in contravention of the principles of decision making (as outlined in Article 13 of the Constitution), the Committee accepted the call-in on the basis of the reasons identified in the Call-In Notice. The reasons being:-

iv) Respect for Human Rights and Equality;

The decision taken disregards the right of an elected member to represent their constituents.

vi) A Presumption in Favour of Openness;

The Portfolio Holder indicates that the reason for her decision was that Cllr Hilary Thompson had managed to foster a relationship with the nursery by attending meetings of the Governing Body as an Observer.

If this is the case it is not readily obvious from the minutes of the Governing Body for the Spring, Summer and Autumn Term meetings of 2010 which do not state that an observer was present.

The perception given is that the Portfolio Holder had either:

- Pre-determined the decision taken; or
- That the decision was politically motivated.

1.4 A further meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee was convened on the 7 April 2011 to fully consider the 'call-in', with a further meeting convened on the 25 July 2011 to receive clarification in relation to a number of issues. The Children's Services Portfolio Holder was in attendance at the meeting on the 7 April 2011 but was unable to attend the subsequent meeting on the 25 July 2011.

1.5 The outcomes of discussions at both meetings are outlined in Section 2 of this report.

2. KEY ISSUES / CONCERNS

2.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meetings on the 7 April 2011, and 25 July 2011, discussed in detail the decision and expressed the following views:-

Views Expressed at the 7 April 2011 (Minute extract attached at **Appendix C**)

- i) The Portfolio Holder was of the view that the decision taken was the correct decision and highlighted that there had been a misunderstanding regarding Councillor Hilary Thompson's attendance at Seaton Nursery Governing Body meetings. Councillor Thompson had visited the nursery on several occasions. However, had not attended the Governing Body meetings. The Children's Services Portfolio Holder confirmed that the reason for appointing Councillor Hilary Thompson to this position had been her involvement with the nursery and specialist interest and experience in early year's education.
- ii) Members expressed their disappointment that:
 - The recommendation of the General Purposes Committee in relation to this appointment had been disregarded;

- The decision to overturn decision of the General Purposes Committee was against previous practice; and
 - The decision taken disregarded the right of a Seaton Ward Member to represent his constituents and that the minutes of the Portfolio (provided at Appendix B) meeting did not reflect the reasons for the decision as outlined by the Portfolio Holder at the meeting on the 7 April 2011.
- iii) Members were of the view that further information was needed before a decision could be taken in terms of:
- The purpose of Councillor Hilary Thompson's visits to the nursery, including dates of visits; and
 - Whether the Seaton Ward Councillors were given the same opportunity to visit the nursery.

2.1 Following the meeting on the 7 April, the following information requested (as detailed in (iii) above) was obtained from the Head Teacher and considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 25 July 2011.

- i) The School had been without a Local Authority (LA) Governor for the whole of the academic year.
- ii) At the end of a Governors meeting early in the autumn term 2010, Cllr Geoff Lilley mentioned to the Head Teacher that he knew of a Councillor who may be interested in filling the vacancy of LA Governor at the Nursery. The Head Teacher suggested that the Councillor should contact her with a view to visiting the Nursery.
- iii) Councillor Hilary Thompson telephoned and visited the School on 27.09.2010 at 1.40.
- iv) Still without an LA Governor in January, on behalf of the Governors the Head Teacher wrote to Martyn Aikin 06.01.2011.
- v) Martyn Aikin telephoned me and explained the process, which explained the reason for the delay in appointing an LA Governor.
- vi) This information about the process was shared at the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 09.02.2011.
- vii) To date the school still has a vacancy for an LA Governor.

2.2 Views Expressed at the 25 July 2011

- i) The Committee welcomed the additional information provided by the Head Teacher. On the basis of this information Member unanimously agreed that the decision had contravened the principles of decision making in

relation to 'A Presumption in Favour of Openness'. The grounds for this being that:-

- The decision taken to appoint Councillor H Thompson had been influenced by her visits to the nursery / interest shown by her through attendance at governor meetings. It had, however, been ascertained during the course of the Call-In that Councillor H Thompson had attended any governor meeting and had in fact been invited to visit the nursery. In terms of fairness, Members felt strongly that the same opportunity to visit the nursery had not been extended to all Seaton Ward Councillors; and
- The decision to overturn the decision of the General Purposes Committee was against previous practice (at no other time had the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee not been adhered to in relation to the appointment of School Governors).

ii) Members were also:

- Saddened that by moving outside normal practice in the allocation of positions in accordance with the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee it had been necessary to deny the school its full compliment of governors for a considerable period of time. Members hoped that this would not occur again; and
- Of the view that, should the intention be in the future to disregard the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, consideration would need to be given to the value of the Committee's involvement in be the process for the appointment of School Governors.

2.3 On this basis, and in accordance with the agreed process for the conduct of Call-in's through Scrutiny, the decision relating specifically to the Seaton Nursery School appointment is referred back to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder for consideration. It is then at the discretion of the Children's Services Portfolio Holder to decide if she wishes to amend or reaffirm her decision in relation to this appointment.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the decision taken by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder specifically relating to the Seaton Nursery School appointment contravened the principles of decision making (as outlined in Section 2.2 above).

3.2 That the Children's Services Portfolio be asked to reconsider her decision.

Contact Officer:- Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Hartlepool Borough Council's Constitution;
- (ii) Call-In of Decision: Call-In of Decision: Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – Briefing Note – Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (11 March 2011, 7 April 2011 and 25 July 2011) – Report and minutes;
- (iii) Agenda and Minutes – Children's Services Portfolio Holder (22 February 2011); and
- (iv) Call-in Notice.

**VACANCIES FOR
LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES
ON GOVERNING BODIES**

January 2011

**Contact Officer: Ann Turner
Telephone : 01429 523766**

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Barnard Grove Primary School Mr Michael Kay Councillor Rob Cook	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	No recommendation
Catcote School	Three Vacancies	Mr J. Bryant	Mr. J Bryant
Eldon Grove Primary School Mrs Jacqui Butterworth Mrs Patricia Vaughan	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	No recommendation
Grange Primary School Councillor R. Flintoff	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	No recommendation
Greatham C. E. Primary School Mrs P. Brotherton	One Vacancy	Councillor Geoff Lilley	Councillor Geoff Lilley
Rift House Primary School Mrs Sylvia Tempest	Two Vacancies	No interest expressed	No recommendation

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENTS
Rossmere Primary School Mrs M. Smith	One Vacancy	Councillor Patricia Law ton Miss Nicola Marie Leighton	Councillor Patricia Law ton
Seaton Carew Nursery School Councillor Geoff Lilley	One Vacancy	Councillor Hilary Thompson Councillor Paul Malcolm Andrew Thompson	Councillor Paul M A Thompson
St Helen's Primary School Miss C. Lamb Councillor Reubin Atkinson Mr J. Ibbotson	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	No recommendation
Throston Primary School Mrs S. Allison Mr Kevin Shears	One Vacancy	Mrs Wendy Cooper	Mrs Cooper encouraged to apply for current Parent Governor vacancy at the school
West Park Primary School Mrs S. Kirby Mrs Margaret Boddy	One Vacancy	Councillor Ray Wells	Councillor Ray Wells

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

22 February 2011

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Robbie Payne (Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Alan Dobby, Assistant Director, Resources and Support Services
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Ian Merritt, Strategic Commissioner – Children's Services
Penny Thompson, Childcare Market Officer
Emma Marley, Special Educational Needs Manager
John Robinson, Parent Commissioner
Jill Coser, Parenting Co-ordinator
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

27. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies *(Governor Support Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies.

Issues for Consideration

The report summarised the process for inviting applications for representative governors and the criteria for their selection. A schedule of those schools with vacancies and those recommended for appointment by the General Purposes Committee. A number of appointments had been recommended for Catcote School, Greatham C of E Primary School, Rossmere Primary School and

West Park Primary School.

The Portfolio Holder commented that she spoken with the two Councillors who were interested in the vacancy at Seaton Carew and had decided not to go with the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee as the other Councillor had taken an interest in the school and had attended meetings of the Governing Body as an observer.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services approved the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representatives governors to serve on school Governing Bodies with the exception of the recommendation for Seaton Carew Nursery School and approved that Councillor Hilary Thompson be appointed to the Governing Body of that nursery school.

The meeting concluded at 10.57 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 25 February 2011

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

7 April 2011

MINUTE EXTRACT

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: James (In the Chair)

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, A Marshall, Preece, Richardson, Shaw, Simmons and Wells

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii) Councillor Fleet was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Griffin

Also Present:

Councillor Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder
Andy Powell, Housing Hartlepool

Officers: Caroline O'Neill, Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services
John Mennear, Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Gemma Day, Principal Regeneration Officer
Karen Kelly, Housing Strategy Officer
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

260. Call-in of Decision: Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies (specifically the decision taken in relation to Seaton Nursery) Briefing Note/Verbal Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services *(Scrutiny Manager)*

The Scrutiny Manager provided Members with the relevant information relating to the Call-In of the Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies (specifically the decision taken in relation to Seaton Carew Nursery School) by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on 22 February 2011, in accordance with the Authority's

Call-In procedure.

The decision taken was that “The Portfolio Holder approved the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representatives governors to serve on school governing bodies with the exception of the recommendation for Seaton Carew Nursery School and approved that Councillor Hilary Thompson be appointed to the Governing Body of that nursery school”

An extract of the relevant minute together with the report considered by the Portfolio Holder was submitted. Following the submission of an appropriate call-in notice (submitted as an appendix to the report) the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, at its meeting on 11 March 2011, considered and accepted the notice.

Details of the next steps in the process were provided, as set out in the report.

The Committee were asked to consider whether the decision was taken in accordance with the principles of decision making (as outlined in section 13 of the Constitution).

Officers who had been involved in the preparation of the report and the Children's Services Portfolio Holder were in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions in relation to the decision.

In response to a request for clarification regarding the Portfolio Holder's reasons for the decision, the Portfolio Holder was of the view that the decision taken was the correct decision and highlighted that there had been a misunderstanding regarding Councillor Hilary Thompson's attendance at Seaton Nursery Governing Body meetings. Councillor Thompson had visited the nursery on several occasions. However, had not attended the Governing Body meetings. The Children's Services Portfolio Holder confirmed that the reason for appointing Councillor Hilary Thompson to this position was due to her involvement with the nursery and specialist interest and experience in early year's education.

A Member referred to the background to Councillor Paul Thompson's application and queried why it was considered Councillor Paul Thompson would not be interested in this position. The Governor Support Officer provided details of the expressions of interest process together with the follow up action taken as a result of the decision of General Purposes Committee.

The Chair went on to provide details of the decision making process of the General Purposes Committee in relation to this issue.

Members expressed their disappointment that the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in relation to this appointment had been disregarded, that the decision to overturn decisions of the General Purposes

Committee was against previous practice, that the decision taken disregarded the right of a Seaton Carew Elected Member to represent his constituents and that the minutes of the Portfolio meeting did not reflect the reasons for the decision as outlined by the Portfolio Holder today.

A number of questions were raised regarding the purpose of Councillor Hilary Thompson's visits to the nursery, including dates of visits and whether the Seaton Ward Councillors were given the same opportunity to visit the nursery to which the Assistant Director agreed to explore with the Head Teacher and provide clarification in this regard.

In relation to the reasons for the call-in and the Committee's perception that the Portfolio Holder had either pre-determined the decision taken or that the decision was politically motivated, the Children's Services Portfolio did not support this view and expressed extreme concerns in relation to such suggestions.

Following further discussion, the Committee requested that the item be deferred pending receipt of information from the Head Teacher regarding the issues raised, as set out above.

Recommended

That the call-in be further considered at a future meeting of this Committee upon receipt of clarification from Seaton Nursery in relation to the queries raised, as set out above.