

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

23 September 2025

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Melanie Morley (In the Chair)

Councillors: Moss Boddy, Bob Buchan, Martin Dunbar, Brenda Harrison,
and Sue Little

Also present: Councillor Michael Jorgeson

Co-opted members:

Joanne Wilson, RC Diocesan Representative

Also present: Alison Darby as substitute for Zoe Westley, Special Schools
Representative

Officers: John Macilwraith, Interim Director for Children's and Joint
Commissioning Services
Rebecca Stephenson, Assistant Director for Early Intervention,
Performance and Commissioning
Phil Gleaves, Operational Lead – Pre-Court
Jo Stubbs, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

12. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Phil Holbrook, Co-opted member Gillian Hood, School Heads Representatives Sue Sharpe and Zoe Westley and Parent Governor Representative Martin Pout.

13. Declarations of Interest

None

14. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2025

Minutes received

15. Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2025-26 (*Executive Director, Children's Services*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To seek approval to present the final Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2025-26 (the 'Plan') (**APPENDIX 1**) to Full Council on 2 October 2025 for adoption. Following adoption, the Plan will then be sent to the National Youth Justice Board.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Operational Lead – Pre Court presented the final draft of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2025-26 as appended to the report. The plan outlined the Strategic Objectives and Priorities for the service and identified key risks to future delivery. It would be submitted to Council for final adoption on 2nd October 2025 before being sent to the National Youth Justice Board.

Members referred to the sudden death of the previous Youth Justice Service Manager earlier in the year. The Operational Lead acknowledged his contribution, noting that tributes had been paid to him at the previous Children's Services Committee meeting and at the Strategic Board meeting. A letter of commendation had also been sent to his family on behalf of the Committee.

Decision

That the final plan be approved for submission to Council for final adoption.

16. New Build Kingsley Primary (*Executive Director, Children's Services*)

Type of decision

Key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the development of a new building on the Kingsley Primary School site for children with complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This new provision will provide accommodation for fifty children with SEND, who currently occupy the main school site

and provide additional capacity for approximately 16- 24 children with complex SEND.

Issue(s) for consideration

The number of pupils at Kingsley Primary School requiring SEND Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) places has grown considerably over the last 2 years. Previously 2 additional classrooms had been erected on the playing field to provide space for mainstream pupils however these must be removed by July 2026. It was proposed therefore that a new building linked to the main school site be erected to house those pupils with more complex SEN needs. This would be funded through the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation grant from the Department for Education of which £1.457m is currently unallocated. Details of the proposed supplier who had constructed similar builds at other Hartlepool schools were detailed in the closed minutes.

The Head of Kingsley Primary School detailed the benefits this new building would bring to the Kingsley cohort, highlighting the large numbers of pupils with SEN and EHCPs on roll at the school.

Members were happy to approve this extension which would prevent Hartlepool children from being moved out of borough. They also noted that no additional Council funding would be needed.

Decision

- I. That the allocation of funding from the HNCPA grant and Basic Need grant be approved to fund a new SEND provision at Kingsley Primary School to accommodate 50 children with SEND from September 2026
- II. That the awarding of the contract to the successful contractor be approved.

17. Update on the disaggregation of the Children's Multi-Agency Hub from Stockton-On-Tees, Update Report *(Assistant Director, Children's and Joint Commissioning)*

Type of decision

To note

Purpose of report

To present an update to following the decision of Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Council to disaggregate the joint Childrens Hub (CHUB) and for each authority having their own separate CHUB.

Issue(s) for consideration

On July 1st 2025 members were informed of the intent to disaggregate the joint Children's HUB and run separate CHUBs. Details were provided of actions that had been taken since then including the formation of project boards, consideration of future structures and a revised timeline due for final completion in April 2026. Hartlepool staff in the CHUB had been kept fully informed of any developments however it was noted that structure information for the Stockton CHUB would not be available until October 2025.

Decision

- I. That the update report be noted
- II. That the positive relationship between Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees, the success of the shared CHUB, the Ofsted inspections grading in 2024 of outstanding and the national reform expectations and requirements for Hartlepool be noted

18. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chair ruled that the following items of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

19. Future training

The Chair referred to the member training which had taken place immediately prior to this meeting. More training would be scheduled in the coming month specifically in relation to the new children's bill and safeguarding reforms. This would be considered mandatory training which all members of the Committee would be expected to attend.

20. The Interim Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Members were advised that this was the Interim Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services final meeting. The Chair thanked him for his help as she navigated her role as Chair of the Committee and presented him with gifts on behalf of the Committee. Members echoed these comments. The Interim Director thanked the Chair and members

for their comments and praised the Councillors and Council staff for their efforts and ambition to go further for Hartlepool's children.

The meeting concluded at 5.35pm

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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