

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday 31st July 2012

at 4.30pm

in the Council Chamber

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Fleet, Griffin, A Lilley, Loynes, Simmons and Wilcox.

Co-opted Members: Sacha Paul Bedding and Michael Lee

Young People's Representatives: Hannah Bew , Leonie Chappell, Helen Lamb, Sean Wray

School Council Representatives: Two vacancies

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2012

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

4.1 Portfolio Holder's Response to the investigation into 'The Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children' – *Joint Report of the Director of Child and Adult Services and the Portfolio Holder for Children's and Community Services.*

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 Children's Services Scrutiny Forum – Work Programme for 2012/13 – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS INVESTIGATION

7.3 Mental and Behavioural Disorders Scrutiny Investigation – Scoping Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer (To Follow)*

7.4 Referral of JSNA items to the Learning Disability Partnership Board – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

8.1 The Executive's Forward Plan - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

i) **Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 4 September 2012, commencing at 4.30p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

6 March 2012

The meeting commenced at 4.30 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Christopher Akers-Belcher (Chair)

Councillors: Paul Thompson, Ray Wells and Angie Wilcox

Co-opted Members: Michael Lee

Also present: Councillor Brenda Loynes
Hannah Bew, Ashleigh Bostock, and Robyn Reid, Young Peoples Representatives
Juliette Ward, Participation Worker

Officers: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services)
Caroline O'Neill, Assistant Director (Performance and Achievement)
Laura Stones, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Vicky Bosley, Democratic Services Officer

96. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin and Peter Ingham.

97. Declarations of interest by Members

None

98. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2012

Confirmed

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

None

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

None

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

None

102. Draft Final Report - 'Young People's Access to Transport' (Young Peoples Representatives)

The Young Peoples Representatives delivered a report on the Scrutiny Investigation into Young People's Access to Transport. The investigation was focused on available evening transport, which was accessible to young people and all positive and negative aspects of transport times and costs. The process included a questionnaire, developed by survey monkey and the findings of this survey were detailed in the report and included statements from young people.

The conclusion was that young people had been affected by the public transport service cuts. A number of risks and issues had been highlighted as part of the survey. The Young People's representatives requested that bus companies consider reinstating the night time service or investigate other options for young people across Hartlepool. The recommendations made by the Young People's Representatives were that the options be explored in Children's Services Scrutiny Forum, through the transport group, local transport companies and any organisations across the town, who work with young people.

The Chair thanked the Young People's Representatives for the thorough report and confirmed the report would be referred to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for consideration/approval, and then to Cabinet for consideration..

The Chair indicated that the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum is examining 'low cost travel to young people through concessionary fares scheme' and recommended that the Young People's Representatives attend the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum when this information is considered and present their report. The Young People's Representatives confirmed they would be happy to do this.

The Forum also recommended that an update report be brought back to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum detailing all the work that has been carried out in all areas.

Recommended

- (i) That the feedback from the survey was noted
- (ii) That the final report was approved by the Forum
- (iii) That the Young People's Representatives be invited to a future meeting of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum to present the findings of their investigation.
- (iv) That an update report be brought back to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum detailing all the work that has been carried out in all areas

103. Draft Final Report into the Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children / Young People

(Children's Services Scrutiny Forum)

The Chair referred Members to the draft final report following the Forum's investigation into the provision of support and services to looked after children / young people.

The report included terms of reference, methods of investigation, key findings, departmental responsibilities and services provided for looked after children and young people, roles of elected members as a corporate parent. How the council could reduce the numbers of looked after children / young people and how the Council and partner organisations support looked after children / young people across all aspects of their lives and the view of looked after children / young people in relation to the services and support they receive were detailed in the report. The impact of current and future budget pressures on the way in which services for looked after children / young people are provided in Hartlepool and ways of how support and services could be provided in the future to most effectively / efficiently meet the needs of looked after children / young people and promote improved outcomes were included within the report.

The Forum had taken evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Forum's key recommendations to Cabinet were as outlined below:-

Residential Care

- (a) That the Council explores the viability of buying or building, and running, one or more 3 to 4 bedroom children's home(s) in Hartlepool, whether that be through the utilisation of existing buildings, buildings on the asset transfer list or new builds;

- (b) That the Council extends joint working and liaises with a range of housing providers in order to provide a breadth of accommodation for young people including supported accommodation, floating support, single person accommodation and accommodation whilst home from University;

Foster Care and Adoption

- (c) That the Council ensures that all looked after young people are equipped with the skills required for adulthood and independent living and extends care provision beyond the age of 18 for anyone not wishing to live independently at 18 and this may include supported accommodation, which should be available to a young person up until the young person feels ready to live independently;
- (d) That the Council, as part of the redeployment process, highlights to staff the option of becoming foster carers and explores the option of offering a 'career foster care' scheme to the staff at risk of redundancy, with the necessary skills;
- (e) That the Council aims to recruit more adopters and foster carers for children and young people with complex needs, giving thorough support and contact throughout the placement and post adoption;
- (f) That the Council keeps sibling groups together, where ever possible, and additional support is offered to foster carers to accommodate sibling groups;
- (g) That the Council improves links and communication with foster carers by:-
 - (i) providing additional support where required;
 - (ii) keeping foster carers up to date with developments;
 - (iii) publicising the 24 hour support service; and
 - (iv) using improved communication methods
- (h) That the Council considers, during the recruitment process, whether foster carers are better suited to long or short term placements, taking into account whether foster carers are willing to take their fostered child or young person with them on their family holiday;
- (i) That the Council ensures that a clear set of criteria is in place so that placements are appropriate to meet the needs of the child or young person including involving the child or young person in the

planning processes for all placements;

Partnerships

- (j) That the Council and partner agencies outline in their service plans what they can and will do for looked after children and young people and continues to develop a multi agency approach;
- (k) That the Council develops and implements a scheme similar to the 'bring a gift' initiative, whereby partner organisations across all Council activities are asked to donate a gift in kind (for example, cinema tickets) for a looked after child or young person;
- (l) That the Council explores the development of innovative ways of providing early intervention services to hard to reach children and young people to avoid children and young people becoming looked after; and
- (m) That the Council ensures that any meetings in relation to the personal circumstances of a looked after child or young person are held out of school hours to maintain confidentiality and ensures that all schools provide a designated person to act as a mentor to the looked after child and young person.

Recommended

That the final report was approved by the Forum.

104. Issues identified from Froward Plan

None

105. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman 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.

106. AOB – Youth Justice Plan

The draft Youth Justice Plan, which is a Budget and Policy Framework document, was due for consideration by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum this Municipal Year. However, due to the Forum meeting of the 27 March 2012 being rescheduled to 6 March 2012, the draft plan was not ready

for consideration at this meeting. Therefore, in agreement with the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, the plan would be considered at the Scrutiny Co-ordinating meeting of 13 April 2012, and all Members would be invited, rather than convene an additional meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to look at this item. A Member questioned if the Members invited would be voting Members. The Chair confirmed this would be checked.

Recommended

Noted

107. AOB – Looked After Young People to Investigate the Role of Councillors

As a result of the investigation into the provision of support and services to looked after children / young people, a request to investigate the wider role of Councillors was made. The Chair confirmed that all Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum were invited. It had been arranged for 14 March 2012, 4.00pm and was to be held in the Civic Centre.

Recommended

Noted

108. AOB – Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement

The Chair announced that Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement was due to start a new role and expressed appreciation for the support provided to the Forum and the Council. The Chair wished the Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement good luck for the future on behalf of the Forum.

Recommended

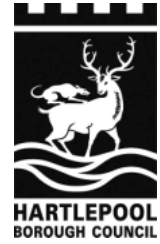
Noted

The meeting concluded at: 4.50 pm

CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 July 2012



Report of: Joint Report of Director of Child and Adult Services and the Portfolio Holder for Children's and Community Services.

Subject: PORTFOLIO HOLDERS RESPONSE - THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children, which was reported to Cabinet on 19 March 2012.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The investigation into the Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children conducted by this Forum falls under the remit of the Child and Adult Services Department and is, under the Executive Delegation Scheme, within the service area covered by the Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder.

2.2 On 19 March 2012, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum into the Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children. This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holder following the Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to this Forum's recommendations.

2.3 Following on from this report, progress towards completion of the actions contained within the Action Plan will be monitored through Covalent; the Council's Performance Management System; with standardised six monthly monitoring reports to be presented to the Forum.

3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DECISION

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Report, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet are provided in the Action Plan attached at **Appendix A**.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan, appended to this report (**Appendix A**) and seek clarification on its content where felt appropriate.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Final Report 'Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children' considered by Cabinet on 19 March 2012.
- (ii) Decision Record of Cabinet held on 19 March 2012.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children/ Young People

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 19 March 2012

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(a)	That the Council explores the viability of buying or building, and running, one or more 3 to 4 bedroom children's home(s) in Hartlepool, whether that be through the utilisation of existing buildings, buildings on the asset transfer list or new builds;	<p>Report outlining proposal with option appraisal to be presented to Cabinet on 19/03/12.</p> <p>Cabinet to decide which option/s to pursue and officers to develop business case for further decision and implementation</p> <p>Department to work collaboratively with Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department to explore all building options</p>	To be worked up in Business Case development	Jane Young/lan Merritt	Provision to be in place by March 2013
(b)	That the Council extends joint working and liaises with a range of housing providers in order to provide a breadth of accommodation for young people including supported accommodation, floating support, single person accommodation and accommodation whilst home	<p>Report outlining proposal to develop Blakelock Gardens for the provision of supported accommodation for care leavers and homeless 16/17 year olds to be presented to Cabinet on 19/03/12.</p> <p>Continue to spot purchase supported lodgings provision delivered in the town.</p>	Within existing budgets	Jane Young/lan Merritt/Nigel Johnson	<p>Increased provision to become available from September 2012</p> <p>Revised date March 2013</p>

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children/ Young People

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 19 March 2012

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	<p>from University;</p> <p>Work collaboratively with Housing Hartlepool, Housing Services Team and other housing providers to increase provision for young people including delivery of floating support, Foyer Service and single person supported accommodation.</p> <p>Implement Staying Put post 18 foster placements.</p>			
(c)	<p>That the Council ensures that all looked after young people are equipped with the skills required for adulthood and independent living and extends care provision beyond the age of 18 for anyone not wishing to live independently at 18 and this may include supported accommodation, which should be available to a young person up until the</p>	<p>Develop provision of supported accommodation for young people which includes preparation for adulthood work.</p> <p>Provide training for foster carers to support young people's transition to adulthood</p> <p>Ensure individual transition to adulthood plans are integrated into Pathway Plans.</p> <p>Implement Staying Put post 18</p>	<p>Within existing budget</p> <p>Jane Young and Business Unit</p>	<p>To be in place by September 2012</p> <p>Revised date March 2013</p>

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children/ Young People

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 19 March 2012

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE	
	young person feels ready to live independently;	foster placements.			
(d)	That the Council, as part of the redeployment process, highlights to staff the option of becoming foster carers and explores the option of offering a 'career foster care' scheme to the staff at risk of redundancy, with the necessary skills;	Provide briefing sessions for all managers around the opportunities to foster Ensure fostering information is provided to all employees who are at risk of redundancy Career foster care will be explored and report presented to portfolio holder meeting	Within existing budgets	Jane Young and Business Unit	By July 2012 Revised date October 2012 In place
(e)	That the Council aims to recruit more adopters and foster carers for children and young people with complex needs, giving thorough support and contact throughout the placement and post adoption;	Implementation of Fostering recruitment Strategy. Council ensures all opportunities for positive publicity in relation to fostering and adoption are maximised. Ensure all children and young	Within existing budgets	Jane Young Wendy Rudd	In place and review September 2012

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

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NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children/ Young People

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 19 March 2012

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE	
	<p>people looked after have a thorough assessment of their placement support needs and plan in place to meet these needs.</p> <p>Implementation of a Placement Support service.</p>				
(f)	<p>That the Council keeps sibling groups together, where ever possible, and additional support is offered to foster carers to accommodate sibling groups;</p>	<p>Continue with the implementation of fostering payments scheme which includes the Specialist Placement Scheme for carers taking three siblings or more with bespoke support packages for both the children and carers</p>	<p>Within existing budget</p>	<p>Jane Young</p>	<p>Review September 2012</p>
(g)	<p>That the Council improves links and communication with foster carers by:-</p> <p>(i) providing additional support where required;</p> <p>(ii) keeping foster carers</p>	<p>Monthly foster care support groups to be held</p> <p>Continue support for Hartlepool Foster Care Association and work in collaboration with Committee to provide regular information to all foster carers</p>	<p>Within existing budget</p>	<p>Jane Young</p>	<p>To be in place by June 2012</p>

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children/ Young People

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 19 March 2012

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	up to date with developments; (iii) publicising the 24 hour support service; and (iv) using improved communication methods	Implementation of plan to provide foster carers with access to the HBC Practice Manual Quarterly newsletter produced for foster carers Develop and implement a foster care 'buddy' scheme to enable carers to provide support to peers			
(h)	That the Council considers, during the recruitment process, whether foster carers are better suited to long or short term placements, taking into account whether foster carers are willing to take their fostered child or young person with them on their family holiday;	Review preparation and assessment of foster carers to ensure that these issues are robustly explored at the earliest stage Information to be presented to Panel to inform approval decision making process Carers taking children on holiday to be monitored through foster carers supervision and review process	Within existing budget	Jane Young	June 2012

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

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NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children/ Young People

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 19 March 2012

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(i)	That the Council ensures that a clear set of criteria is in place so that placements are appropriate to meet the needs of the child or young person including involving the child or young person in the planning processes for all placements;	<p>Placement agreement meetings to be held prior to the placement of any child unless in emergency situation and in these circumstances within 72 hours.</p> <p>Children and young people should be supported to attend placement planning meetings and the meeting chaired in a manner that facilitates a child's participation.</p>	Within existing budget	Jane Young	Review September 2012
(j)	That the Council and partner agencies outline in their service plans what they can and will do for looked after children and young people and continues to develop a multi agency approach;	<p>Briefing to be delivered to shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Council managers on corporate parent responsibility and all service areas to be asked to detail in their service plans how they fulfil these responsibilities</p> <p>Service plans to be monitored through Corporate Parent Forum</p>	Within existing budget	Jane Young	August 2012 Revised date December 2012

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

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NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children/ Young People

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 19 March 2012

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(k)	That the Council develops and implements a scheme similar to the 'bring a gift' initiative, whereby partner organisations across all Council activities are asked to donate a gift in kind (for example, cinema tickets) for a looked after child or young person;	<p>Briefing to be delivered to shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Council managers on corporate parent responsibility and all service areas to be asked consider what they can contribute</p> <p>Gather information from South Tyneside regarding their scheme and adapt to meet local requirements</p> <p>Report on proposed scheme for HBC to be presented to portfolio holder and corporate parent forum for ratification</p>	Within existing budget	Jane Young	<p>In place by July 2012</p> <p>Revised date December 2012</p>
(l)	That the Council explores the development of innovative ways of providing early intervention services to hard to reach children and young people to avoid children and	<p>Implementation of the Early Intervention Strategy</p> <p>Implementation of Cusp of Care intensive support service</p> <p>Development and implementation</p>	Within existing budget	Sally Robinson	From June 2012

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children/ Young People

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 19 March 2012

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	young people becoming looked after; and of Troubled Families Strategy			
(m)	That the Council ensures that any meetings in relation to the personal circumstances of a looked after child or young person are held out of school hours to maintain confidentiality and ensures that all schools provide a designated person to act as a mentor to the looked after child and young person.	Produce a policy and practice guidance in partnership with young people in relation to best practice in review meetings Personal Education Plan to identify named individual in school who will fulfil role of mentor for each child/young person looked after Children and young people to deliver their views presentation to designated teachers forum	Within existing budget Jane Young/Maureen Mc Enaney	In place by July 2012 Revised date December 2012

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 July 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

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

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 Council's approach to Overview and Scrutiny has been informed by government guidance, best practice nationally and experience of what works locally to ensure that the Scrutiny Forum's operate in an optimum scrutiny structure that will enable the Forums to add value and improve services for the residents of Hartlepool.

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 membership of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee reflects both the Council's political make-up and the five standing Scrutiny Forums (which are equally represented on the Committee). A total of sixteen Elected Members serve on the Committee, consisting of the Chair (appointed by Council), Vice-Chair and one other Member from each of the five standing Forums.

3.2 This approach enables the Scrutiny 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 five standing Forums. The Scrutiny 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 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is invaluable. The main roles and functions of the committee are as follows:-

- (i) To work with the five 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 (including those referred via the Councillor Call for Action mechanism) 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; and
- (vii) Assessing, monitoring and advising on the role of the Council's central support services in supporting the Council's progress towards the Community Strategy's priority aims, including:-
 - General policies of the Council relating to the efficient use of resources (people, money, property, information technology); and
 - District Auditor performance reports, the District Auditor's Annual Audit Letter, Performance Indicators and health and safety issues.
- (iv) To undertake the functions of the Councils Crime and Disorder Committee – holding the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to account (as required by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009).

4. FUNCTIONS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORUMS

4.1 The five 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; and
- (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); and
- (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. This presently consists of a dedicated overview and scrutiny budget of 50k. Applications for funding must be made through Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

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 and youth justice.'

- 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 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to determine which Forum should examine a particular issue. It is also open to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to appoint ad hoc forums. For example, where an issue comes within the remit of two scrutiny forums, the Scrutiny 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 2012/13

- 6.1 Detailed below, for Members information, are the meeting dates scheduled for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum in 2012/13. Please note that all scheduled meetings will commence at 4.30pm, in the Civic Centre, with the capacity for additional meetings to be arranged where required to accommodate the needs of individual inquiries.

Tuesday 9 October 2012
 Tuesday 13 November 2012
 Tuesday 11 December 2012
 Tuesday 15 January 2013
 Tuesday 12 February 2013
 Tuesday 12 March 2013
 Tuesday 16 April 2013

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.

Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
Email: elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- i) Hartlepool Borough Council Constitution.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 July 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM'S
WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's work programme for 2012/13.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 15 June 2012 (to which all Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum were invited), Members were asked to consider potential topics for inclusion in the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's work programme for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, at their meeting of 15 June 2012, delegated responsibility to the Chairs of the Scrutiny Forums to finalise Work Programmes for their respective Forums, identifying specific elements of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and budget / collaboration programme. It was agreed that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum would focus on the following items for the 2012/13 Municipal Year:-

JSNA Work Programme Item

- i) Mental and Behavioural Disorders
- ii) Learning Disabilities*
- iii) Autism*

* To be referred to the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board with a report back to CSSF.

Budget and Policy Framework Items

- i) Corporate and Departmental Plans 2013/14
- ii) Budget Consultation
- iii) Youth Justice Plan

Budget / Collaboration Item for 2013/14

- i) Closure of youth centres and children's centres (referred to the young people to investigate)
- ii) Review Care Matters and CAMHS budgets and remove funding based on previous years underspend (to be considered as part of the Forum investigation into Mental and Behavioural Disorders (JSNA topic))
- iii) Staff reduction and increased income (increased income element to be tied into consideration of the Brierton Masterplan)

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum is requested to note the work programme as outlined in paragraph 2.2.

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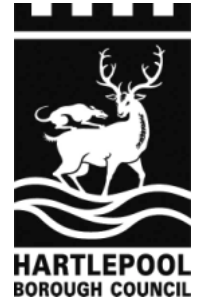
BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Minutes of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of 15 June 2012.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM**

31 July 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS – SCOPING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To make proposals to Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum for their forthcoming investigation into Mental and Behavioural Disorders.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 At the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 15 June 2012 (to which all Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum were invited), Members were asked to:-

- i) Consider potential topics for inclusion in the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's work programme for the 2012/13 Municipal Year; and
- ii) Adopt the Marmot principles as the overarching framework against which the provision of Council services and potential options for service changes be measured and assessed.

2.2 Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, at their meeting of 15 June 2012:-

- i) Delegated responsibility to the Chairs of the Scrutiny Forums to finalise Work Programmes for their respective Forums, identifying specific elements of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and budget / collaboration programme; and

- ii) Approved the adoption of the Marmot principles as overarching framework and identified one Forum to act as a lead in relation to each principle. The principle allocated to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum was 'Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life'.

The priority objectives and policy recommendations in relation to this principle being:-

Priority Objectives:-

- (a) Reduce inequalities in the early development of physical and emotional health, and cognitive, linguistic, and social skills.
- (b) Ensure high quality maternity services, parenting programmes, childcare and early year's education to meet need across the social gradient.
- (c) Build the resilience and well-being of young children across the social gradient.

Policy Recommendations

- (a) Increase the proportion of overall expenditure allocated to the early years and ensure expenditure on early years development is focused progressively across the social gradient.
- (b) Support families to achieve progressive improvements in early child development, including:
 - Giving priority to pre- and post-natal interventions that reduce adverse outcomes of pregnancy and infancy.
 - Providing paid parental leave in the first year of life with a minimum income for healthy living.
 - Providing routine support to families through parenting programmes, children's centres and key workers, delivered to meet social need via outreach to families.
 - Developing programmes for the transition to school.
- (c) Provide good quality early years education and childcare proportionately across the gradient. This provision should be:
 - Combined with outreach to increase the take-up by children from disadvantaged families
 - Provided on the basis of evaluated models and to meet quality standards.

- 2.3 Scrutiny Chairs met on the 2 July 2012 to consider their Work Programmes and in relation to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum, it was agreed that the Forum would in 2012/13 focus on the following JSNA topic:-

Mental and Behavioural Disorders - Some people with mental health problems may need to access services and those services need to be inclusive and person centred.

- 2.4 Given the identification of the Marmot principles as the overarching framework against which Scrutiny would measure the provision of Council services, Members are asked to be mindful of the principles in undertaking their work this year.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY

- 3.1 To strategically evaluate and contribute towards the development of the 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders' topic within Hartlepool's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, whilst reflecting (where possible / appropriate) on the Marmot principle to 'Give every child the best start in life.'

4. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the investigation/review are proposed:-

i) To gain an understanding in relation to the following:-

- (a) What are the key issues?
- (b) Who is at risk and why?
- (c) What is the level of need?
- (d) What services are currently provided?
- (e) What is the projected level of need / service use?
- (f) What evidence is there for effective intervention?
- (g) What do people say?
- (h) What needs might be unmet?
- (i) What additional needs assessment is required?
- (j) What are the recommendations for commissioning?

ii) To formulate a view in relation to:-

- (a) the needs of Hartlepool residents; and
- (b) the current level and quality of service provision to meet those needs.

iii) To make recommendations to inform the development and delivery of the health & wellbeing and commissioning strategies.

5. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY / SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

- 5.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny review.
- 5.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-
- (a) Member of Parliament for Hartlepool;
 - (b) Elected Mayor;
 - (c) Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Children's and Community Services and Adult and Public Health Services;
 - (d) Director and / or Appropriate Officers of Child and Adult Services Department;
 - (e) Young people and their families;
 - (f) Schools, Educational Welfare Officers, Educational Psychologists and Health Visitors;
 - (g) Service providers (e.g. representatives from PCT/CCG, CAHMS, TEWV and GP representatives)
 - (h) Representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector;
 - (i) Local residents;
 - (j) Representatives of minority communities of interest or heritage;
 - (k) Ward Councillors; and
 - (l) Neighbourhood Forums.
- 5.3 The Forum may also wish to refer to a variety of documentary / internet sources, key suggestions are as highlighted below:-
- (a) Hartlepool JSNA – Available online at <http://www.teesjsna.org.uk/hartlepool/>
 - (b) The Marmot Review – Available online at <http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

- 6.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. Based upon the research undertaken, paragraph 5.2 includes suggestions as to potential groups which the Forum may wish involve throughout the inquiry (where it is felt appropriate and time allows).

7. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE DEDICATED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUDGET

- 7.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report, to the need to request funding from the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid Members in their enquiry. At this stage no additional funding has been identified as being necessary to support Members in their investigation. Members, however, may wish to seek additional funding over the course of the investigation and the pro forma attached at **Appendix A** outlines the criteria on which a request to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be judged.

8. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 8.1 Detailed below is the proposed timetable for the review to be undertaken, which may be changed at any stage:-

31 July 2012 – Formal meeting of the Forum:-

- (i) To receive the Scoping Report; and
- (ii) To consider involvement of the Neighbourhood Forums in the scrutiny process.

4 September 2012 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive the following:-

- (i) A 'Setting the Scene' presentation on the key issues; the level of need; and who is at risk and why; and
- (ii) Evidence from the MP / Mayor / Portfolio Holder.

3 October 2012 and / or 23 January 2013 – Neighbourhood Forums meet to contribute to the scrutiny process.

9 October 2012 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive evidence on the following areas:-

- (i) The services that are currently provided; and
- (ii) The projected level of need / service use.

11 December 2012 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive evidence on how effective is the current intervention.

12 February 2013 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive evidence on:-

- (i) What needs might be unmet and any additional needs assessment that maybe required; and
- (ii) Response from the Neighbourhood Forums and any other relevant stakeholders.

12 March 2013 – Formal meeting of the Forum to:-

- (i) Formulate a view in relation to:-
 - (a) the needs of Hartlepool residents; and
 - (b) the current level and quality of service provision to meet those needs.
- (ii) To make recommendations to inform the development and delivery of the health & wellbeing and commissioning strategies.

16 April 2013 – Consideration of Draft Final Report by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.

26 April 2013 – Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

13 May 2013 – Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet (tentative date).

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 Members are recommended to agree the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's remit of the Scrutiny investigation as outlined in paragraph 4.1.

Contact Officer: - Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled 'Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012/13' presented at the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee meeting of 15 June 2012; and
- (ii) Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 15 June 2012.

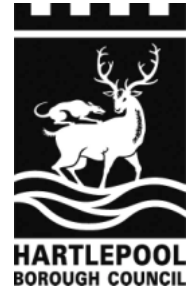
APPENDIX A

**PRO-FORMA TO REQUEST FUNDING TO SUPPORT
CURRENT SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

<p>Title of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM</p>
<p>Title of the current scrutiny investigation for which funding is requested: Mental and Behavioural Disorders</p>
<p>To clearly identify the purpose for which additional support is required:</p>
<p>To outline indicative costs to be incurred as a result of the additional support:</p>
<p>To outline any associated timescale implications:</p>
<p>To outline the 'added value' that may be achieved by utilising the additional support as part of the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:</p>
<p>To outline any requirements / processes to be adhered to in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules / Standing Orders:</p>
<p>To outline the possible disadvantages of not utilising the additional support during the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:</p>
<p>To outline any possible alternative means of additional support outside of this proposal:</p>

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM**

31 July 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: REFERRAL OF JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOPICS TO THE LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum with the opportunity to discuss the referral to the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (LDPB) of the JSNA topic areas of 'Learning Disabilities' and 'Autism'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 15 June 2012 (to which all Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum were invited), Members were asked to consider potential topics for inclusion in the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's work programme for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

2.2 At this meeting the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee delegated responsibility to the Chairs of the Scrutiny Forums to finalise Work Programmes for their respective Forums, identifying specific elements of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and budget / collaboration programme.

2.3 During consideration of the topic areas contained within the JSNA, the Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum identified 'Learning Disabilities' and 'Autism' as appropriate topics for referral by the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board for consideration. A report detailing the conclusions of these considerations by the LDPB to be brought back to a future meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.

2.4 The detailed definitions of Learning Disabilities and Autism, as contained within the JSNA are as follows:-

Learning Disabilities - Ensure that those children and young people with disabilities who are not known to the appropriate services and require support, receive information and the support they need; increase the

proportion of people with learning disabilities in settled accommodation; increase access to services and initiatives for physical health improvement for people with learning disabilities.

Autism - A neurological disorder that has an effect on normal brain function, affecting the development of a person's communication and social interaction skills. Ensuring that the necessary support is in place for people with autism to access health and social care services and to live independently.

2.5 It is suggested that the topics are considered under with the following Terms of Reference:-

- i) To gain an understanding in relation to the following:-
 - a) What are the key issues?
 - b) What commissioning priorities are recommended?
 - c) Who is at risk and why?
 - d) What is the level of need in the population?
 - e) What services are currently provided?
 - f) What is the projected level of need?
 - g) What needs might be unmet?
 - h) What evidence is there of effective intervention?
 - i) What do people say?
 - j) What additional needs assessments are required?
- ii) To formulate a view in relation to:-
 - a) the needs of Hartlepool residents ; and
 - b) the current level of quality and service provision to meet those needs.
- iii) To report recommendations and conclusions to a future meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum, to assist in the development and delivery of the health & wellbeing and commissioning strategies.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to agree the remit of the referrals of the JSNA topics of 'Learning Disabilities' and 'Autism' to the Learning Disability Partnership Board, as outlined in paragraph 2.5 above.

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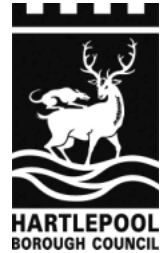
BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- i) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled 'Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012/13' presented at the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee meeting of 15 June 2012; and
- (ii) Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 15 June 2012.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 July 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to consider whether any item within the Executive's Forward Plan should be considered by this Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 One of the main duties of Scrutiny is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Executive's Forward Plan) and to decide whether value can be added to the decision by the Scrutiny process in advance of the decision being made.
- 2.2 This would not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 As you are aware, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny, as it thinks fit, and if appropriate can exercise or delegate to individual Scrutiny Forums. Consequently, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee monitors the Executive's Forward Plan and delegates decisions to individual Forums where it feels appropriate.
- 2.4 In addition to this, the key decisions contained within the Executive's Forward Plan (August 2012 – November 2012) relating to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum are shown below for Members consideration:-

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan is part of the Budget and Policy Framework of the Council and therefore requires approval from a full Council meeting.

The national Youth Justice Performance Improvement Framework includes a range of elements that work together to improve practice and performance. As part of the framework and as a statutory responsibility under the Crime and

Disorder Act 1998, all Youth Offending Services are required to prepare a Youth Justice Strategic Plan and submit this to the Youth Justice Board.

The timetable for approving the plan is set out below:

- On 19 March 2012, Cabinet received a report outlining the statutory framework, requirements of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan and the local issues for consideration which will contribute to the development of the draft plan.
- First draft of Strategic Plan was produced in April 2012 for consideration by and consultation with stakeholders including Youth Offending Management Board, children, young people and their families, key partner agencies and staff within the service.
- The draft plan and issues report were considered by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 13 April 2012.
- Cabinet received and ratified the final draft of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan on 21 May 2012.
- The Plan will be presented to Council on 21st June 2012 where a final decision was made.

B. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: CAS106/11 – PRIORITY SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAMME

The Council has an opportunity to make an application for funding from the Government's recently announced Priority Schools Building Programme initiative. Whilst an expression of interest has been registered the Council will need to decide, in conjunction with key stakeholders and particularly school governing bodies, whether to progress an application if invited to.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

Potential for several depending upon the schools involved should any submission be progressed.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in September 2012.

Who will be consulted and how?

Schools Governing Bodies and Dioceses (as appropriate).
Elected Members

Information to be considered by the decision makers

On 19 July 2011, Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Education) set out how the Government proposes to ensure that education funding is better targeted

in the future. One key announcement was that a new school rebuilding programme will be launched, targeted at those schools in the worst condition.

This will be a privately financed programme intended to address those schools in the worst condition. It is anticipated that the programme will cover the equivalent of building or rebuilding approximately 100 secondary schools. Whilst the full scale of the programme is still to be finalised, it is likely to include a mix of primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges and alternative provision, and therefore could cover between 100-300 schools in total. It is expected that 20% of the total programme will be delivered each year, with the first schools scheduled to open in the academic year of 2014-15. Those schools included in the initial group for procurement are expected to commence procurement during the second quarter of 2012.

In order to be considered for the programme an expression of interest has been registered with Partnerships for Schools in line with the required procedure.

An application for Manor College of Technology, Barnard Grove Primary, West View Primary and Holy Trinity Church of England Primary, Seaton in conjunction with the Diocese to be considered as part of the programme, was submitted by 14 October 2011 in line with the procedures and deadlines. Cabinet noted progress at its meeting with 24th October 2011.

The decision on whether to progress an application, and for which schools, will be made by Cabinet in January 2012 depending on feedback from Partnership for Schools in December 2011.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development, Child and Adult Services, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 284103. E-Mail: peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk and Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211. E-Mail: Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development, Child and Adult Services, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 284103. E-Mail: peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk and Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211. E-Mail: Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk

**DECISION REFERENCE: CAS127/12 HARTLEPOOL SCHOOL
ADMISSION ARRANGMENTS FOR 2014/15**

Nature of the decision

To give permission to go out to consult on Admission Arrangements for Hartlepool Schools 2014/15.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Portfolio Holder for Children's and Community Services.

Timing of the decision

The decision is required by September 2012 to allow the consultation to take place over the Autumn 2012.

Ward(s) affected

All Wards

Who will be consulted and how?

All HBC schools will be consulted via their governing body meetings, neighbouring local authorities, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle will receive copies of the proposed arrangements via e-mail and the public consultation documents will be on HBC website.

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

Statutory requirement to consult on and publish Admission Arrangements.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to Sue Beevers, Admissions, School Place Planning and Support Services Manager, Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone (01429) 523672, e-mail sue.beevers@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Sue Beevers as above or the Admissions Team on 01429 523765

**DECISION REFERENCE: CAS129/12 COLLABORATION IN CHILD AND
ADULT SERVICES**

The Council is currently investigating options for collaboration in the provision and commissioning of services of Child and Adult Services. The potential for collaboration has considered by Cabinet as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and agreement has been given for the development of business cases and options in respect of this area of service (and in respect of Corporate Services). The development of options and business cases in respect of Child and Adult Services was identified as being the first area for consideration.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet and Council

Ward(s) affected

The options and business cases are currently being developed and it is not possible at this stage to identify any effect, although the premise for the development of the options is to minimise the effect on front line services whilst maximising opportunities to enhance capacity and deliver savings.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made between August and November 2012 dependant upon work programming.

Who will be consulted and how?

As part of the development of options and business cases it will be necessary to ensure that Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Scrutiny are consulted. It is anticipated that in respect of Scrutiny, this will be managed as part of the work programme for the forthcoming year to enable sufficient consideration to be given.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

At this stage it is anticipated that the decision makers will consider the options available in respect of collaboration, the benefits, potential risks and mitigation of those risks and the savings which are attributable to this. The development of the business cases, which is currently ongoing, will enable this element to be expanded as the options become clearer.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to:

Jill Harrison, Assistant Director (Adult Social Care), Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523911. E-mail jill.harrison@hartlepool.gov.uk

Sally Robinson, Assistant Director (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services), Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523732. E-mail sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Nicola Bailey, Acting Chief Executive, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523001. E-mail Nicola.bailey@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Jill Harrison, Sally Robinson or Nicola Bailey as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: CAS131/12 – Schools' Capital Works Programme 2012/13 (phase 3)

Nature of the decision

To approve the Schools Capital Works Programme for 2012/13.

Who will make the decision?

Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in October 2012.

Ward(s) affected

All

Who will be consulted and how?

The Schools' Capital Sub-Group will be consulted before Portfolio meets to make a decision.

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

Children's Services Portfolio Holder will be informed of the proposed 2012/13 Schools' Capital Programme which will include priority condition items, and recommendations for fire safety, special educational needs and development schemes.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development, Children's Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523733, e-mail peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Peter McIntosh as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: CAS132/12 DENOMINATIONAL TRANSPORT – SAVINGS OPTIONS

Nature of the decision

To inform Cabinet further of options around savings proposals with regard to the removal of free transport to secondary denominational schools

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Timing of the decision

August 2012

Ward(s) affected

All wards

Who will be consulted and how?

Cabinet

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

Financial analysis on options put forward for savings, consultation summaries and progress made in other local authorities in the region.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to: Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning & Development, Child & Adult Services Dept, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, telephone number 01429 284103, e-mail peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Peter McIntosh who can be contacted at the above address.

**DECISION REFERENCE: RN89 / 11 FORMER BRIERTON SCHOOL SITE
Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies**

Nature of the decisions

To consider a range of potential development and operational proposals for the site subsequent to Dyke House School vacating the site in December 2011. There will be a number of decisions to be made over the forthcoming months.

Who will make the decision?

The decisions will be made by Portfolio Holder, Cabinet and Council as appropriate to the subject matter of each decision.

Ward(s) affected

Manor House, Foggy Furze and Fens and Rossmere specifically.

Timing of the decision

There will be a range of decisions required ranging from the future operation and management of the Sports Centre to subsequent decisions in connection with the overall site from August 2012.

Who will be consulted and how?

A number of stakeholders will need to be consulted depending on the particular aspect of the proposals and decisions required:-

Local residents

Ward Members

Sport England

Council Working Group

Cabinet

Council

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Dyke House School departed the site on 23rd December and the management of the site has reverted back to the Council. Initially this was to take place in Spring 2012, however the refurbishment of the existing Dyke House School was completed early via the BSF Contract.

Initially the Council has considered the future management operation and funding of the Brierton Sports Centre which has been transferred back to the Council from Dyke House School. This is linked to the future use and development of the site for which options are being formulated for consultation and subsequent agreement.

Cabinet and Council, through the budget process, have given approval to the early demolition of surplus buildings on the site.

Options are being considered for the use and occupation of existing buildings and potential demolition of any that may become surplus.

The future determination of the whole site will be considered including those areas to be retained for sport and those where a master plan for future use / development will be required. The playing pitch strategy results are now being addressed and the options are being considered in two phases in the lower site (where Catcote Futures may be able to be accommodated) and upper site which is more dependent on the playing pitch strategy. The final decision on the future of the site will follow.

Discussions have taken place at Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and at the Childrens Services Scrutiny Forum. In addition Ward Councillors were invited to input their vision / comments at a meeting on 6th February 2012.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523211. E Mail graham.frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk, or John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services), Child and Adults Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523417. E Mail: john.mennear@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Graham Frankland or John Mennear, as above.

- 2.5 A summary of all key decisions is attached as **APPENDIX A** to this report.
- 2.6 Copies of the Executive's Forward Plan will be available at the meeting and are also available on request from the Scrutiny Team prior to the meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (a) considers the Executive's Forward Plan; and
- (b) decides whether there are any items where value can be added to the decision by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum in advance of the decision being made.

CONTACT OFFICER:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
Email: elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) The Forward Plan – (August 2012 – November 2012)

APPENDIX A

TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS

Decisions are shown on the timetable at the earliest date at which they may be expected to be made.

1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN AUGUST 2012

CE 44/11 (page 6)	Workforce Arrangements	Cabinet
CAS 129/12 (page 15)	Collaboration in Child and Adult Services	Cabinet / Council
CAS 132/12 (page 18)	Denominational Transport – Savings Options	Cabinet
RN 13/09 (page 23)	Disposal of Surplus Assets	Cabinet
RN 74/11 (page 28)	Former Leathers Chemical Site	Cabinet
RN 89/11 (page 30)	Former Brierton School Site	Cabinet / Council
RN 98/11 (page 34)	Acquisition of Assets	Cabinet / Portfolio Holder / Council
RN 99/11 (page 36)	Community Infrastructure Levy	Cabinet
RN 10/12 (page 42)	Acquisition of the Longscar Building, Seaton Carew	Portfolio Holder
RN 11/12 (page 44)	Public Lighting Strategy	Portfolio Holder
RN 12/12 (page 46)	Coastal Communities Fund Application	Portfolio Holder
RN 14/12 (page 48)	Furniture Solutions Project	Cabinet
RN 15/12 (page 50)	Brenda Road Bridge	Portfolio Holder
RN 18/12 (page 56)	Leasing of Land to a Wind Turbine Developer for the Erection of Wind Turbines on Land at Brenda Road	Cabinet
RN 23/12 (page 64)	HCA Cluster of Empty Homes Funding Outcome	Cabinet

2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN SEPTEMBER 2012

CE 46/11 (page 8)	Review of Community Involvement & Engagement (Including LSP Review): Update on decisions taken 'in principle'	Cabinet / Council
CAS 106/11 (page 12)	Priority Schools Building Programme	Cabinet
CAS 127/12 (page 14)	Hartlepool School Admission Arrangements for 2014/15	Portfolio Holder
RN 68/11 (page 25)	Community Cohesion Framework	Portfolio Holder
RN 90/11 (page 32)	Mill House Site Development and Victoria Park	Cabinet / Council
RN 3/12 (page 38)	Review of Community Safety CCTV Provision	Cabinet
RN 5/12 (page 40)	Seaton Carew Development Sites – Results of Joint Working Arrangement with Preferred Developer	Cabinet
RN 16/12 (page 52)	Sub Regional Tenancy Strategy	Cabinet
RN 17/12 (page 54)	High Street Innovation Fund	Portfolio Holder
RN 20/12 (page 58)	Selective Licensing	Cabinet
RN 21/12 (page 60)	Longhill and Sandgate Business Improvement District	Council / Cabinet
RN 24/12 (page 66)	Additional Highway Maintenance Works 2012-13	Portfolio Holder

3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN OCTOBER 2012

CAS 131/12 (page 17)	Schools' Capital Works Programme 2012/13 (phase 3)	Portfolio Holder
RN 70/11 (page 27)	Innovation Fund	Cabinet
RN 22/12 (page 62)	Choice Based Lettings Policy review 2012	Cabinet

1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN NOVEMBER 2012

RN 25/12 (page 68)	Gambling Act – Statement of Licensing Principles	Council
RN 26/12 (page 69)	Review of Waste Management Services	Cabinet