

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



12 February 2013

at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

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

Co-opted Members: Sacha Paul Bedding and Michael Lee

Young People's Representatives: Ashleigh Bostock, Leonie Chappell, Helen Lamb and Sean Wray

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 15 January 2013.

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

No items

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

No items

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

No items

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Investigation into the JSNA topic of Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Group Exercise

7.1 What people say and what needs might be unmet:-

- (a) Covering report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Small group exercise to discuss Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Services in Hartlepool

Scrutiny Referral of the JSNA Topics of Autism and Learning Disabilities to the Learning Disability Partnership Board – Feedback from Member Visit to the LDPD - Covering Report

7.2 Feedback from referral to the Learning Disability Partnership Board - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

Six Monthly Monitoring Report

7.3 Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

8.1 Executive's Forward Plan – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting 12 March 2012, commencing at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

15 JANUARY 2013

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

Present:

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Brenda Loynes, Chris Simmons and Angie Wilcox.

Co-opted Member: Sacha Paul Bedding.

Young Peoples Representatives: Ashleigh Bostock

Officers: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Ian Merritt, Strategic Commissioner - Children's Services
John Robinson, Head of Localities and Family Support
David Hunt, Strategy and Performance Officer
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

54. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Atkinson, Co-opted Member Michael Lee and Young Peoples Representatives Leonie Chappell, Helen Lamb and Sean Wray.

55. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillor Wilcox declared a personal interest in Minute No. 59.

56. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2012

Confirmed.

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

No items.

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

No items.

59. Proposals for inclusion in the Council Plan 2013/14 (Child and Adult Services Departmental Management Team)

The Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services gave a presentation to the Forum outlining the key challenges for the Child and Adult Services Department for the 2013/14 budget process and the outcomes and actions contained in the Departmental Plan for 2013/14 that fell within the remit of the Scrutiny Forum.

The Assistant Director outlined the following outcomes from the departmental plan and highlighted the actions that affected the remit of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum and the comments of Members in relation to each are as follows: -

Outcome 3 – Hartlepool has increased employment and skills levels with a competitive workforce that meets the demands of employers and the economy

- Members raised concerns that Hartlepool was 10% below the England average for the numbers of pupils attaining 5 A*-C GCSEs (including English and Maths). The Forum commented that the problems caused by the grading of English GCES papers in the summer 2012 exams did not account fully for such a difference.
- Members also made comment that it appeared that the momentum in achieving national average attainment or above at primary schools in the town seemed not to continue at secondary schools. Their were concerns that secondary schools appeared not to have 'grasped the nettle' that primary schools had in terms of attainment against national averages. When it really needed to account for pupils, they weren't doing as well.
- The Assistant Director commented that the Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement was aware of these issues and a new Schools Improvement Officer had been brought in to assist in helping schools tackle this issue. Members welcomed this as they were concerned that it appeared that the authority was not having the same level of influence at secondary schools as it was with the primary sector. Members did feel that having a specific target in this area would be beneficial as this was not just an issue for Members but one that all the people of Hartlepool had an interest in seeing improvement.
- Members felt that Outcome 3 linked closely with Outcome 7, particularly in relation to the attainment of looked after children. It was

recommended that the Council offer more apprenticeships to care leavers to enable them to increase their employability and reach their full potential. Members also suggested that both areas should be monitored closely in the future under the new governance arrangements.

Outcome 6 – Fewer Hartlepool children experience the effects of poverty

- Members understood that there was currently consultation being undertaken by the government on child poverty and they considered that members should be involved in the preparation of an appropriate response.

Outcome 7 – To promote opportunities for all children and young people to reach their full potential by accessing good quality teaching and curriculum provision which fully meets their needs and enables them to participate in and enjoy their learning

- Members raised concerns about the numbers of secondary schools deemed satisfactory/requires improvement by OFSTED and the impact this may have on the numbers of pupils attaining 5 A*-C grades at GCSE (including English and Maths). Members were particularly concerned about the effects on looked after children and suggested that it should be considered moving the following indicators from monitor to targeted, with the national average being suggested as a suitable target.

INDICATORS:-

NI 99 Percentage of looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2

NI 100 Percentage of looked after children reaching level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2

NI 102a Percentage gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving at least level 4 in English and Maths at Key Stage 2

NI 101 Percentage of looked after children achieving 5 A*-C grades GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Mathematics).

- The Forum also raised concerns with the apprenticeships offered to 17 year old students. It appeared that there was a rush to get young people into apprenticeships that then only lasted 6 months. These young people then had to find another apprenticeship or return to college. Members were concerned as to whether these schemes were being monitored. The Assistant Director indicated that there was an aim to ensure that all 16/17 year old students had an appropriate education and/or training 'destination' but if that was breaking down regularly, then it may need monitoring. The Vice-Chair commented that she had raised concerns with some of the apprenticeships schemes with the Economic Development Team.

Outcome 10 – Give every child the best start in life

- The Assistant Director indicated that while government had cut the Early Intervention Grant that targeted those families most in need, Cabinet had agreed to the release of reserves from the current grant to ensure maintenance of spending levels in 2013/14. There would still be the need to reduce spending in 2014/15 as the grant was cut further. There was already an increase in the demand for child welfare services in Hartlepool with demand increasing year on year by 10% in each of the past two years.
- There were concerns expressed by Members that not all schools were using the new Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Members questioned the implementation process. Officers acknowledged that embedding CAF in universal services remained a challenge but there were successes, particularly in relation to allocating family workers. The Assistant Director indicated that the 'assessment' part of the process still seemed to be a slight hurdle and additional training was being provided. The authority would be moving to the implementation of the online system, eCAF, in the near future. The problems in Hartlepool were not, however, unique, and nearly every Ofsted inspection report published across the country referred to CAF not being embedded within authorities.

Outcome 11 – Children and Young People are Safe

- Members suggested that, in relation to young offenders, there should be a link between the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Offender Subgroup and Outcome 11 of the Council Plan, and that this should be considered in conjunction with the Director of Public Health.

Outcome 26 – Make a positive contribution – people are involved with the community and society.

- Reference was made to the new proposals announced by government in relation to the Probation Service and the services provided to offenders on release from prison. The Assistant Director indicated that the effect of these changes had not yet been assessed in relation to the services provided to young offenders by the authority.

The Chair thanked the Forum for its comments in relation to the Departmental Plan Outcomes discussed and sought the Forum's approval to the finalisation of the comments to be submitted to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee being delegated to him. Members agreed to this course of action.

Recommended

That the Chair approve the final wording of the comments in conjunction with the Scrutiny Support Officer to be submitted by the forum to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 18 January 2013.

60. Investigation into Closure of Youth Centres and Children's Centres (*Young People's Representatives*)

The Chair indicated that the Young People's Representatives had been scheduled to give an update on their investigation at this meeting. However, the information gathering process was still ongoing and the Young People's Representatives had arranged a further information gathering meeting at the Rossmere Youth Centre on 19 February at 4.00 p.m. to which all members of the Forum were invited. Confirmation of these arrangements would be sent to all Members shortly.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

61. Issues identified from the Forward Plan

No items.

62. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chair drew Members attention to the attendance by the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to the meeting of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 15 February, 2013. The Chair indicated that the Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee had requested that Members submit questions in advance of the meeting so they could be forwarded to the PCC. Any questions could be submitted to the Scrutiny Team.

The meeting concluded at 5.45 p.m.

CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

12 February 2013



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: INVESTIGATION INTO THE JSNA TOPIC OF 'EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING' – GROUP EXERCISE - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that officers from the Child and Adult Services Department, partner organisations, service users and parents/carers have been invited to attend this meeting to provide information in relation to the investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Emotional and Mental Wellbeing'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 31 July 2012, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry/Sources of Evidence were approved by the Forum for this scrutiny investigation.

2.2 Subsequently, officers from the Child and Adult Services Department, partner organisations, service users and parents/carers have been invited to attend this meeting to discuss emotional and mental wellbeing services.

2.3 It is suggested that the Forum split into small groups to explore how well emotional and mental wellbeing services are currently being delivered and any potential gaps in service.

The aims of the group exercise are to:-

- (a) Enable everyone to speak and put forward their opinions;
- (b) Pick up key themes / issues throughout the discussion and report them back at the end of the meeting; and
- (c) Prepare final notes following the meeting.

2.4 It is suggested that each group focus on the following key questions:-

- (1) *What makes a difference?*

(2) *What is not effective?*

(3) *Where are the gaps?*

2.5 During this evidence gathering session, Members should be mindful of the Marmot principle to 'Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life'

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the views of each group in relation to the questions outlined in section 2.4 of this report.

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 preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Mental and Behavioural Disorders – Scoping Report' Presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum on 31 July 2012.
- (ii) Minutes of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum held on 31 July 2012.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

12 February 2013



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY REFERRAL OF THE JSNA TOPICS OF AUTISM AND LEARNING DISABILITIES TO THE LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD – FEEDBACK FROM MEMBER VISIT TO THE LDPB - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To facilitate a discussion amongst Members in relation to the feedback from the referral to the Learning Disability Partnership Board of the JSNA topics of Autism and Learning Disabilities.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 31 July 2012, it was agreed that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment topics of Autism and Learning Disabilities would be referred to the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (LDPB) for consideration.

2.2 As a result, members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum were invited to attend a meeting of the LDPB, held at the Centre for Independent Living, on 11 January 2013. A summary of the responses received to the referral are contained in section 3 of this report.

3. LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD RESPONSES

3.1 **What health and social care services for learning disabilities and autism are working well?**

- More time set aside for appointment (certain GPs)
- Have relevant information on individuals
- Some GPs will talk to the person who is having the appointment (inc parents/carers)
- Good doctors and nurses, One life centre
- Work opportunities, hand prints, warren road
- Help from social care

- Happy with services that support me in my own home
- Good doctors and nurses in the one life centre
- Better access to GPs and health check improvements
- Learning partnership board
- Web pages
- Improved health checks by speakers
- The LDPB - speakers
- Improved access to GPs
- Health checks doing well
- Day services
 - Havelock
 - Meet new people
 - Make friends
 - Help is there if you need it
- Woodcutter e.g. social activities
- Sports club
- First aid courses
- Buddies
- Carers
- Personal Health Budgets
- Autism Accreditation
 - ASD within Catcote School
 - Newly appointed ASD advisor within Catcote
 - Due to appoint ASD teacher
 - Signed up to getting it right charter (MENCAP)
 - Acute liaison nurse
 - Hospital passport
- Direct payments
- ASD accredited providers
- Shine a light on LD, passionate about adult safeguarding

3.2 What health and social care services for learning disabilities and autism are not working well?

- Some GPs not listening to people
- Discharge from hospitals – need to take a holistic approach
- No support for people with autism even though day service is accredited
- Lack of support from SALT team for people with autism
- Mental Health Services – getting into employment
- Lack of information and more advertising
- Accessing services
- LDPB meetings not always well attended
- No sign for NHS presence
- Greater advertising of LDPB – mail press releases, Hartbeat, webpages
- Lots of providers – no guide linking them all together
- Duplication
- Lack of knowledge – to signpost carers, family members for support
- Input/support to LDPB from NHS
- Lack of information
- Help with going to things e.g. Doctors

- Hospitals – not having to go to North Tees – no buses
- Buses
- Bullying
- Information that we understand
- ASD without LD no services - fall through the net
- Personal health budgets
- Not able to access services therefore cannot get better direct payment
- Better literature about what is available
- Short break access for autism

3.3 **What health and social care services for learning disabilities and autism would you like to see in the future?**

- More 1-2-1 work with individuals
- More specific services for people with autism
- More choices for sport and exercise
- Access to mainstream services (everyday services for everybody)
- Communication services (hearing)
- Should be a support group - not aware of any
- Better signposting
- Development of an information hub that can signpost carers/residents to all providers of support and promote choice
- Support group – development and promotion
- Acceptance by NHS providers that Learning Disability and Autism patients offered the same rights/privileges and access to services
- Information hub
- Support groups
- Buses – more, later
- More foot patrols/police cars – so we feel safer
- Social workers to be more involved
- More things like alarms in houses – telecare
- More information – easy to understand
- More work placements
- More things to do when you have not got support workers
- Information being available about all services for people with LD/Autism and for carers
- Protected funding for this client group
- Increased numbers of people who are accessing LD awareness training and making change
- Promote use of the Health Action Plans, hospital passport – Everyone's responsibility
- Develop strong links with Health Watch
- Annual health checks to continue
- Possible local enhanced service
- Continue with hospital bus
- More respite facilities locally
- Personal health budget for people with Aspergers Syndrome
- Facilities locally that are autism friendly i.e. GPs. Dental, opticians
- Increased access to range of housing

3.4 **Would you like to tell us anything else?**

- Would like people to listen to what I have to say
- A central hub for info and easy to understand by web and hard copies
- Information hub on web and in hard copy (easy read)

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

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

- (i) Note the content of this report; and
- (ii) Discuss the responses received from the Learning Disability Partnership Board to the referral of the JSNA topics of Autism and Learning Disabilities and determine what further action is required.

Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Referral to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Topics to the Learning Disability Partnership Board' Presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum on 31 July 2012.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM
12 February 2013



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SIX MONTHLY MONITORING OF AGREED CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

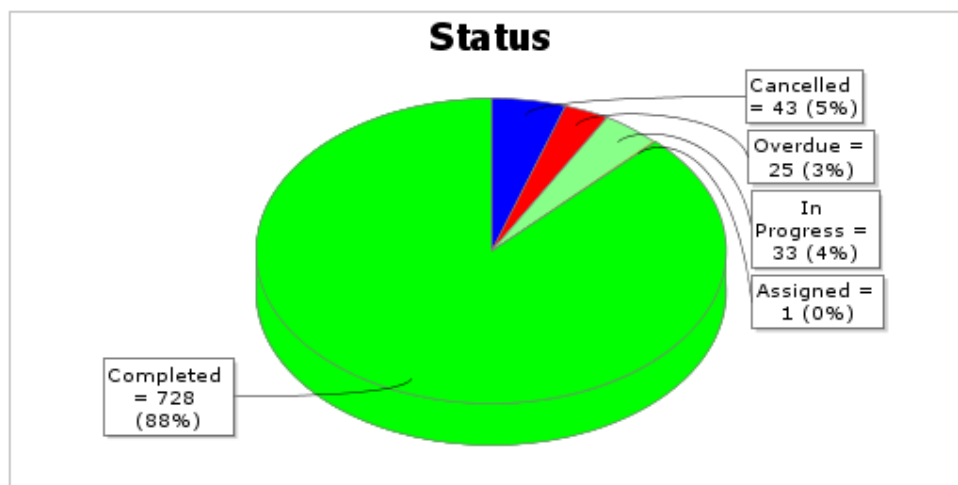
1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with the six monthly progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations of this Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

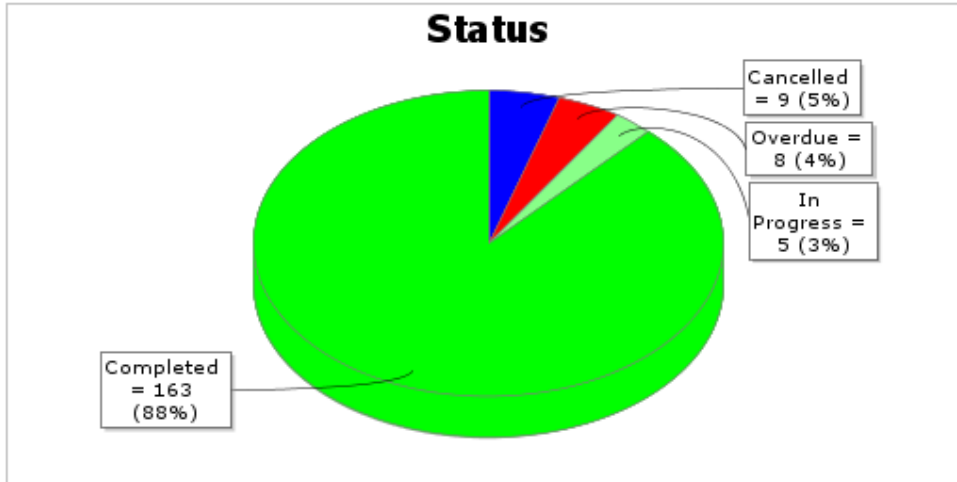
2.1 In accordance with the agreed procedure, this report provides for Members details of progress made against each of the investigations undertaken by the Forum. **Chart 1** below is the overall progress made by all scrutiny forums since 2005 and **Chart 2** (overleaf) provides a detailed explanation of progress made against each scrutiny recommendation agreed by this Forum since the last six monthly monitoring report presented in September 2012.

Chart1: Progress made by all Scrutiny Investigations Undertaken since 2005



Children's Services Scrutiny Forum - All

Generated on: 31 January 2013




Year 2007/08
Investigation Sustainability of Externally Funded Community Initiatives in Schools

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-CS/4c That pending the outcome(s) of the joint Steering Group (recommendation (a) refers) immediate consideration be given to providing assistance to those schemes that	SCR-CS/4c After business plans and financial forecasts have been prepared and agreed with schools it will be possible to identify sustainability issues and quantify the level of any subsidies that may be required from the LA in future years. Any bids will then be	Paula Hunt	31-Oct-2008	31-Oct-2011	31-Jan-2013 The Community facilities risk is now managed by St John Vianney's budget, there is no longer a corporate funding element for this now. The Brierton site is now a corporate issue as Dyke House moved away from the site on January 2012. 09-Mar-2011 Only one school based	100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
are likely to encounter future sustainability issue.	submitted as part of the Council's annual budget cycle.				community facility has immediate sustainability concerns. St John Vianney is currently operating as a deficit, which has been addressed in year. The deficit carried forward from 2009/10 will be offset from the contingency budget of £102,000 held within Children's Services Department. These facilities will become self funding from 2011/12 onwards, or will have to be subsidised by the individual schools budget.		




Year 2008/09
Investigation Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service




Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-CS/6d That the Foster Care Service Section on the Council's website be redesigned to make it a more accessible and comprehensive source of information.	SCR-CS/6d Consultation undertaken with foster carers about what would be required from a web page. Benchmark national best practice examples. Web pages to be updated and redesigned taking above into consideration and seeking advice and guidance on 'what works' from web designers. Work to be undertaken with departmental website representatives in conjunction with additional corporate advice to explore ways to promote a short cut link to fostering pages, and upload information packs and application forms.	Sally Robinson; Jacky Yeaman Vaas	01-Jun-2009	05-Sep-2011	28-Jan-2013 Microsite fully operational and applications received via this medium. Usage is monitored. Foster carers now have full access to the web based Practice Manual and have been provided with HBC e mail addresses to allow for quick and secure exchange of information. 11-Aug-2011 There is now a fostering and adoption microsite linked to the HBC website which provides general information regarding both services. We are also in the process of enabling the foster carers to access the Practice Guidance for social workers which would allow them to electronically access the policies and procedures		






Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
					relating to fostering. All foster carers are also members of Fostering Network and are able to access their website for information.		




Year 2011/12

Investigation The Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children / Young People

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-CS/14a 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 asset transfer list, new builds	SCR-CS/14a/i Cabinet to decide which option/s to pursue and officers to develop business case for further decision and implementation	Ian Merritt; Jane Young	31-Mar-2013	31-Mar-2013	01-Oct-2012 Cabinet decision to progress with development of childrens home. 05-Jul-2012 -- Report iis to be considered by Cabinet on the 9th July 2012.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14a 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 asset transfer list, new builds	SCR-CS/14a/ii Department to work collaboratively with Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department to explore all building options	Ian Merritt; Jane Young	31-Mar-2013	31-Mar-2013	01-Oct-2012 Building identified work progressing to refurbish the building. 05-Jul-2012 Property identified approval to be sought from Cabinet 9th July 2012.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14c That the Council ensures that all looked after young people are equipped with the skills required for	SCR-CS/14c/i Provide training for foster carers to support young people's transition to adulthood	Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	31-Mar-2013	10-Jan-2013 Training sessions were held in September & October with all foster carers.	 100% Completed	


Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
adulthood and independent living and extends care provision beyond the age of 18 for anyone not wishing to live independently at 18							
SCR-CS/14c 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	SCR-CS/14c/i v Implement Staying Put post 18 foster placements	Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	31-Mar-2013	10-Jan-2013 Policy in place several young people currently in staying put placements with more planned for the coming year.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14d 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	SCR-CS/14d/i i Ensure fostering information is provided to all employees who are at risk of redundancy	Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Oct-2012	01-Oct-2012 Fostering information is available with HR Department and will be included in any redundancy information. 12-Jul-2012 Foster care information been recently revised, information now ready to be circulated. Will be complete by 31st July 2012.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14e 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	SCR-CS/14e/i i Implementation of Fostering Recruitment Strategy	Wendy Rudd; Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	30-Sep-2012	01-Oct-2012 Recruitment strategy in place and being implemented. 12-Jul-2012 Strategy in place, implementation on track.	 100% Completed	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
adoption							
SCR-CS/14e 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	SCR-CS/14e/i Council ensures all opportunities for positive publicity in relation to fostering and adoption are maximised	Wendy Rudd; Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	30-Sep-2012	01-Oct-2012 All opportunities to use positive publicity are pursued. 12-Jul-2012 We continue to ensure all opportunities for positive publicity are maximised.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14g/ii That the Council improves links and communication with foster carers by:- ii) Keeping foster carers up to date with developments	SCR-CS/14g/i i/b Implementation of plan to provide foster carers with access to the HBC Practice Manual	Jane Young	30-Jun-2012	30-Jun-2012	01-Oct-2012 Pilot scheme has now been rolled out to all carers. 12-Jul-2012 Access to the Practice Manual has been piloted and following positive feedback from carers will be rolled out to all carers in the coming months.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14g/iv That the Council improves links and communication with foster carers by:- iv)using improved communication methods	SCR-CS/14g/i v Develop and implement a foster care 'buddy' scheme to enable carers to provide support to peers	Jane Young	30-Jun-2012	30-Jun-2012	10-Jan-2013 Foster carer were approached and some have volunteered and are being matched with carers to provide support. 01-Oct-2012 On track for implementation December 2012.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14j 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	SCR-CS/14j/ii Service Plans to be monitored through Corporate Parenting Forum	Jane Young	31-Aug-2012	31-Dec-2012	01-Oct-2012 A program of reporting to Corporate Parenting is in place. 12-Jul-2012 Regular reporting to Corporate Parenting Board is undertaken throughout the financial year.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14k That the Council develops and implements a scheme similar to the 'bring a	SCR-CS/14k/i Gather information from South Tyneside regarding their scheme and adapt to meet local requirements	Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	10-Jan-2013 Information collected and will be incorporated into staff briefings. 01-Oct-2012 Work ongoing.	 100% Completed	

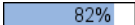
Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
gift' initiative, whereby partner organisations across all Council activities are asked to donate a gift in kind (for example, cinema tickets) for a looked after child							
SCR-CS/14l That the Council explores the development 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	SCR-CS/14l/ii Implementation of Cusp of Care intensive support service	Sally Robinson	30-Jun-2012	30-Jun-2012	08-Oct-2012 Edge of care team is now established and supporting identified families. 13-Jul-2012 Resource Service restructured to develop dedicated edge of care team to support young people on the edge of care. Recruitment of support foster carers in progress.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14m 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	SCR-CS/14m /i Produce a policy and practice guidance in partnership with young people in relation to best practice in review meetings	Maureen McEnaney; Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	15-Jan-2013 All children are consulted about where they want their meetings held and have the final decision. 01-Oct-2012 Work progressing.	 100% Completed	
SCR-CS/14m 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	SCR-CS/14m /ii Personal Education PLa to identify named individual in school who will fulfil role of mentor for each child/young person looked after	Maureen McEnaney; Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	15-Jan-2013 All peeps identify who the child's mentor is within school 01-Oct-2012 Work progressing.	 100% Completed	

Year 2011/12

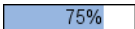
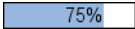

Investigation Young People's Access to Transport

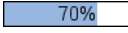
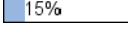
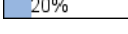

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-CS/15b Subject to recommendation 1, the Council explores options to improve young people's access to transport through the transport group, local transport companies and organisations across the town who work with young people	SCR-CS/15b The Integrated Transport Unit will be consulting with the Transport Champion Group and Local Operators Forums in order to explore further opportunities. In addition, the established Travel Club Facility will ensure continual monitoring of the position as well as considering a strategy to fill the gaps in the current market provision.	Paul Robson; Alastair Smith	30-Nov-2012	30-Nov-2012	18-Jan-2013 The ITU have consulted with the Transport Champions Group and prepared a report back to the Community Transport Funding Assessors on the successes and achievements of the Travel Club Facility.	 100% Completed	

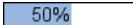
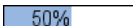
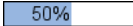
Year 2010/11
Investigation Think Family - Preventative and Early Intervention Services



Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-CS/10a/ii The Council works with partner organisations / agencies to: (ii) Ensure that all services are co-ordinated to avoid gaps in service provision and duplication of services;	SCR-CS/10a/i i/2 Ensure that all partners use effective assessment processes based on the Common Assessment Framework.	Paul Kelly; John Robinson	30-Sep-2011	31-Mar-2013	11-Jan-2013 Ecaf will go live in February 2013 with the Prevention Service Piloting the system in Hartlepool. Steering group currently developing a roll out of the system. Some major challenges exist but these are being tackled by partners. 03-Oct-2012 ECAF is due to be rolled out between January and June 2013 and the first staff are currently training for this. ECAF will substantially support the development of the CAF. The Family Information and Support Hub now has a CAF Senior Practitioner and Support Officer in place and is taking the lead in supporting the roll out of the process.	 82% In Progress	

Year 2011/12
Investigation The Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children / Young People

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-CS/14b 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 & home from Uni	SCR-CS/14b/i Continue to spot purchase supported lodgings provision delivered in the town	Ian Merritt; Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	31-Mar-2013	04-Jan-2013 A tender for a new provider of Supported Lodgings will be issued in the near future.	 In Progress	
					01-Oct-2012 Status remains unchanged, spot purchasers continue.		
SCR-CS/14b 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 & home from Uni	SCR-CS/14b/ii 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 accommodation	Ian Merritt; Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	31-Mar-2013	04-Jan-2013 Contract awarded to Tees Valley Housing Association, initial work on refurbishment has commenced. Provision expected to open in April 2013.	 In Progress	
					05-Oct-2012 As below- operational start date moved to April 2013		
SCR-CS/14c 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	SCR-CS/14c/i Develop provision of supported accommodation for young people which includes preparation for adulthood work	Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	31-Mar-2013	10-Jan-2013 Tendering process is complete, new provider refurbishing Blakelock, should open April 2013.	 In Progress	
					01-Oct-2012 Part way through tendering process for Blakelock Gardens, specification includes support for preparation to adulthood.		

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-CS/14c 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	SCR-CS/14c/i ii	Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	31-Mar-2013	10-Jan-2013 Reviews ongoing, further training planned for social workers around planning.	 In Progress	
					01-Oct-2012 A review of the quality of pathway plans is been undertaken to ensure planning for transition to adulthood is robust.		
SCR-CS/14d 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	SCR-CS/14d/i	Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Oct-2012	10-Jan-2013 Workload demands have delayed the implementation of this action.	 Overdue	
					01-Oct-2012 Meetings will be arranged within the next 2 months.		
SCR-CS/14d 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	SCR-CS/14d/i ii	Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Oct-2012	10-Jan-2013 Continuing to research the options, although currently this concept has not been successful with other Local Authorities nationally.	 Overdue	
					01-Oct-2012 Report to be completed within the next 2 months.		
SCR-CS/14i That the Council ensures that a clear set of criteria is in place so that placements are	SCR-CS/14i/ii	Jane Young	30-Sep-2012	30-Sep-2012	10-Jan-2013 Young people are supported on an individual basis and further work is been undertaken with independent reviewing officers and young people	 Overdue	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
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	facilitates a child's participation				to review the process. 01-Oct-2012 Young people continue to be supported and encouraged to attend meetings, an audit of attendance will be undertaken.		
SCR-CS/14j 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	SCR-CS/14j/i Briefing to be delivered to Shadow Health and Well Being Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Council Managers on Corporate Parent responsibility and all service areas to be asked to detail in their services plans how they fulfil these responsibilities	Jane Young	31-Aug-2012	31-Dec-2012	10-Jan-2013 Not completed due to work place commitments, meetings to be arranged within the next 2 months. 01-Oct-2012 Briefings will be undertaken before 31st December.	 50% Overdue	
SCR-CS/14k 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	SCR-CS/14k/i Briefing to be delivered to Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, Local Safeguarding Managers on corporate parent responsibility and all service areas to be asked what they can contribute	Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	10-Jan-2013 Not completed due to work place commitments, meetings to be arranged within the next 2 months. 01-Oct-2012 Meetings to be held before 31st December.	 50% Overdue	
SCR-CS/14k 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	SCR-CS/14k/i ii Report on proposed scheme for HBC to be presented to Portfolio Holder and Corporate Parent Forum for ratification	Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	10-Jan-2013 Deadline missed due to work commitments, scheduled to be completed by March 2013. 01-Oct-2012 Briefings have been delayed, a commitment to meet the deadline remains in place.	 50% Overdue	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-CS/14l 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	SCR-CS/14l/ii i	Development and implementation of Troubled Families Strategy Sally Robinson	30-Jun-2012	30-Jun-2012	14-Jan-2013 First cohort of families identified for initiative. Service delivery model determined and agreed by SHP and Cabinet. Posts remain in recruitment. Edge of care team now fully operational and being successful in supporting families to prevent children coming into care unnecessarily.	 75% Overdue	
					08-Oct-2012 Information sharing underway between relevant agencies and approaches planned to families to gain consent to participate in initiative. Commencing recruitment to additional posts to support strategy and intervention with families.		
SCR-CS/14m 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	SCR-CS/14m/iii	Children and young people to deliver their views presentation to designated teachers forum Maureen McEnaney; Jane Young	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	15-Jan-2013 The last designated teachers meeting due in October 12 was cancelled so presentation rescheduled to 28th feb 2013	 90% Overdue	
					01-Oct-2012 Meetings to be arranged before December.		

3. REQUESTED REVISIONS TO ACTION DUE DATES

3.1 The Forum is requested agree to a revision of the completion dates for the actions detailed in **Table 1** for the reasons outlined.

Table 1 Requested Due Date Revisions

Recommendation	Action	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note
SCR-CS/14d 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	SCR-CS/14d/i Provide briefing sessions for all managers around the opportunities to foster	31-Jul-2012	31-Oct-2012	NEW DATE CHANGE REQUEST to 31.03.2013 Workload demands have delayed the implementation of this action.
SCR-CS/14d 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	SCR-CS/14d/iii Career foster care will be explored and report presented to portfolio holder meeting	31-Jul-2012	31-Oct-2012	NEW DATE CHANGE REQUEST to 30.06.2013 Continuing to research the options, although currently this concept has not been successful with other Local Authorities nationally.
SCR-CS/14i 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	SCR-CS/14i/ii 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	30-Sep-2012	30-Sep-2012	NEW DATE CHANGE REQUEST to 31.03.2013 Young people are supported on an individual basis and further work is being undertaken with independent reviewing officers and young people to review the process.
SCR-CS/14j 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	SCR-CS/14j/i Briefing to be delivered to Shadow Health and Well Being Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Council Managers on Corporate Parent responsibility and all service areas to be asked to detail in their services plans how they fulfil these responsibilities	31-Aug-2012	31-Dec-2012	NEW DATE CHANGE REQUEST to 31.03.2013 Not completed due to work place commitments, meetings to be arranged within the next 2 months
SCR-CS/14k That	SCR- Briefing to be delivered	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	NEW DATE CHANGE

Recommendation	Action	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note
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	CS/14k/i to Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, Local Safeguarding Managers on corporate parent responsibility and all service areas to be asked what they can contribute			REQUEST to 31.03.2013 Not completed due to work place commitments, meetings to be arranged within the next 2 months.
SCR-CS/14k 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	SCR-CS/14k/iii Report on proposed scheme for HBC to be presented to Portfolio Holder and Corporate Parent Forum for ratification	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	NEW DATE CHANGE REQUEST to 31.03.2013 Deadline missed due to work commitments, scheduled to be completed by March 2013.
SCR-CS/14l 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	SCR-CS/14l/iii Development and implementation of Troubled Families Strategy	30-Jun-2012	30-Jun-2012	NEW DATE CHANGE REQUEST to 31.03.2013 First cohort of families identified for initiative. Service delivery model determined and agreed by SHP and Cabinet. Posts remain in recruitment. Edge of care team now fully operational and being successful in supporting families to prevent children coming into care unnecessarily.
SCR-CS/14m 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	SCR-CS/14m/ii Children and young people to deliver their views presentation to designated teachers forum	31-Jul-2012	31-Dec-2012	NEW DATE CHANGE REQUEST to 31.03.2013 The last designated teachers meeting due in October 12 was cancelled so presentation rescheduled to 28th feb 2013

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That Members:-

- (a) Note progress against the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations, since the 2005/06 Municipal Year, and explore further where appropriate;
- (b) Agree the proposed date changes to the actions included in paragraph 3.1.

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

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

12 February 2013



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 (February – May 2013) relating to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum are shown below for Members consideration:-

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 February 2013.

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.

Cabinet will be informed about the implications of the Programme as they are announced in more detail and also how the Education Funding Agency will deal with the three school applications accepted into the Programme.

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: CAS129/12 COLLABORATION IN CHILD AND ADULT SERVICES

Key decision – tests (i) and (ii) apply

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 been 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

A decision to implement collaborative working is expected to be made by Cabinet in March/April 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

The Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be consulted as options are developed. In respect of Scrutiny, this has been built into the work programme for the forthcoming year to enable sufficient consideration to be given.

Briefing sessions have taken place for elected members and a second series of road shows for staff within Child & Adult Services were completed in early November.

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. A number of possible models for collaboration have been developed and are currently being evaluated and costed to inform the final business case.

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

Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523001. E-mail Dave.stubbs@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Jill Harrison, Sally Robinson or Dave Stubbs as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: CAS136/12 UPDATED CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**Key Test Decision ii applies****Nature of the decision**

The Child Poverty Act (March 2010) set out a number of local duties:

- Make arrangements to cooperate to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local areas;
- Prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment;
- Prepare a local child poverty strategy based on the needs assessment and in consultation with children, parents and organisations representing children and parents.

The previous Child Poverty Strategy was approved by Cabinet in May 2011. Changes in government policy, particularly relating to Welfare Reform, needs to be included in further planning and therefore it was felt that it was timely to review the strategy and action plan.

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Timing of the decision

April 2013

Ward(s) affected

All

Who will be consulted and how?

The Strategic Partners Group has been consulted and officers are consulting with the four theme partnerships. A scrutiny poverty investigation is being carried out which will include a review of child poverty.

There are a number of groups meeting to discuss elements of Welfare Reform. These groups will also be used to consult on the strategy and action plan.

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

The updated child poverty strategy and action plan will be considered by cabinet in February 2013 for approval.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to Danielle Swainston, Head of Access and Strategic Planning, Civic Centre, tel: 01429 523671, e-mail danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be sought from Danielle Swainston, Head of Access and Strategic Planning, tel 01429 523671, e-mail danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: CAS139/12 PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH MODERATE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES**Key Test Decision (ii) applies****Nature of the decision**

To consider the publication of statutory notices to discontinue the additionally resourced facility at Grange Primary School for pupils with moderate learning difficulties in the age range 7 – 11 years.

Who will make the decision?

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

Ward(s) affected

All

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in March 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

All those substantially affected will be invited to comment via meetings and relevant documents, including consultation booklets and covering letters. The following will be consulted:

- Parents/carers, Governors and staff of Grange Primary School;
- Headteachers of all Hartlepool schools;
- Chairs of Governing Bodies of all Hartlepool schools;
- Directors of Children's Services in neighbouring local authorities;
- The Diocesan Directors;
- The Chief Executive of Hartlepool PCT, the Chief Executive of Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Health Trust, the Clinical Director Paediatrics and Child Health and the Director of Clinical Services.(Check this list is correct)

Information to be considered by the decision-makers*

A report will be presented showing the options available and the views of the stakeholders.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to Zoe Westley, Head of Social & Education Inclusion, Education Development Centre, Golden Flatts, Seaton Lane, TS25 1HN. Telephone 01429 287349, e-mail zoe.westley@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Zoe Westley who can be contacted as above.

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

All Wards of the town are affected.

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 October 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 demolition of surplus buildings on the site which will be progressed from October 2012.

Options are being considered for the use and occupation of existing buildings and potential demolition of any that may become surplus. A report has been submitted to Cabinet for consideration and this will now be considered by Council as part of the 2013 / 14 budget process.

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 will take up temporary occupation under a licence) and upper site which is more dependent on the playing pitch strategy.

Discussions have taken place at Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and at the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum. In addition Ward Councillors were invited to input their vision / comments.

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 below:-

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 FEBRUARY 2013

CE 54/12 (page 11)	Local Welfare Support / Social Fund Localisation	Cabinet/Council
CE55/12 (page 13)	Senior Officer Structure	Cabinet
CAS106/11 (page 15)	Priority Schools Building Programme	Cabinet
CAS137/12 (page 21)	Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Cabinet/Council
RN13/09 (page 32)	Disposal of Surplus Assets	Cabinet / Portfolio Holder

RN74/11 (page 34)	Former Leathers Chemical Site	Cabinet
RN89/11 (page 35)	Former Brierton School Site	Cabinet / Council / Portfolio Holder
RN90/11 (page 37)	Mill House Site Development and Victoria Park	Cabinet / Council
RN98/11 (page 39)	Acquisition of Assets	Cabinet / Portfolio Holder / Council
RN99/11 (page 41)	Community Infrastructure Levy	Cabinet
RN5/12 (page 43)	Seaton Carew Development Sites – Results of Joint Working Arrangement with preferred developer	Cabinet
RN20/12 (page 51)	Selective Licensing	Cabinet
RN22/12 (page 53)	Choice Based Lettings Policy Review 2012	Cabinet
RN 27/12 (page 55)	Coastal Communities Fund Round 2 Application	Portfolio Holder
RN31/12 (page 57)	City Deal	Cabinet / Council
RN33/12 (page 59)	High Street Innovation Fund	Portfolio Holder
RN34/12 (page 61)	Adoption of the Review of the Long Term Coastal Management Strategy Covering the Frontage from Crimdon to Newburn Bridge	Cabinet / Council
RN35/12 (page 63)	European Commission ‘Youth Guarantee Scheme’	Cabinet
RN39/12 (page 65)	Town Wall Coastal Works: Construction of Set-back Flood Defence Wall and Associated Works	Cabinet
RN40/12 (page 67)	Review of Concessionary Fare Payments to Bus Operators for 2013-2014	Cabinet
RN04/13 (page 73)	The Council’s Report on the Home Energy Conservation Act	Cabinet

2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN MARCH 2013

CAS138/12 (page 22)	Establishment of Health and Wellbeing Board	Cabinet
CAS139/12 (page 23)	Provision for Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties	Portfolio Holder
CAS002/13 (page 25)	Adult Substance Misuse Treatment Plans 2013/14	Cabinet
RN10/12 (page 45)	Acquisition of the Longscar Building, Seaton Carew	Cabinet
RN11/12 (page 47)	Public Lighting Strategy	Portfolio Holder
RN18/12 (page 59)	Leasing of Land to a Wind Turbine Developer for the Erection of Wind Turbines on Land at Brenda Road	Cabinet
RN03/13 (page 71)	Additional Local Highways Maintenance Funding 2013/14	Portfolio Holder

3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN APRIL 2013

CAS129/12 (page 17)	Collaboration in Child and Adult Services	Cabinet/Council
CAS136/12 (page 19)	Updated Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan	Cabinet
RN02/13 (page 69)	Hartlepool Housing Strategy End of Year (2012-2013) Report and Action Plan Refresh	Cabinet

4. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN MAY 2013

CE46/11 (page 8)	Review of Community Involvement & Engagement (including LSP Review): Update on Decisions Taken ‘in Principle’	Cabinet
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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.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) The Forward Plan – (February – May 2013)