

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

17 March 2015

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Centre for Excellence and Training, Brierton Lane, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Chris Simmons (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gerard Hall, John Lauderdale and Geoff Lilley

Co-opted member:
Michael Lee

Young people's representatives:
Holly Bratt, Shay Miah and Farrah Razzaq

Also in attendance:
Emily Atkinson, Millie McDermott, and Jorja Ridden, Junior Inspectors
Olivia Bennison and Rebecca Blair, Young Inspectors
Lois Joynt, Jake Hornsey and Annabelle Napper, Holocaust Memorial Group
Rebecca Wise, Senior Participation Worker, West View Project

Officers:
Gill Alexander, Director of Child and Adult Services
Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Children's Services
Rachel Smith, Strategic Commissioner
Mark Smith, Head of Integrated Youth Services
Jane Young, Business Unit Manager
Helen White, Participation Manager
Beth Storey, Youth Work Manager
Catherine Grimwood, Performance and Partnerships Manager
Ann Turner, Governor Services Manager
Tom Argument, School Improvement Advisor
Helen Hadfield, Participation Worker
Rebecca Hunter, Participation Youth Support Worker
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

88. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Brenda Loynes and Carl Richardson.

89. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Chris Simmons declared a personal interest in minute 94 and Councillor Gerard Hall declared a personal interest in minute 95. Co-opted member Michael Lee declared a personal interest in minute 103.

90. Six Month Updates on Young Inspectors Inspection Reports *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To present the inspection and consultation reports produced by the young inspectors over the past six months. The inspection reports and consultation reports were attached as Appendices 1 to 14 and provided an insight into services and organisations that have been scrutinised by young people and have been given feedback and recommendations for improvement.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided summaries of the Senior (13-19) Inspection Findings and the Junior (7-12) Inspector Findings. The Young Inspectors had created presentations and evaluation reports of their findings and these were attached to the report by way of appendix on the following services:

Manor College School Nurse
Looked After Children Nurse
Guisborough Sexual Health
Exmoor Grove Residential Unit
Hartlepool Art Gallery
Headland Future Youth Club
St Teresa's Primary School after club
St Teresa's Primary School lunchtime
Throston Primary School after school club
Throston Primary School lunchtime
Belle Vue Youth Club
Rossmere Park
Wharton Annexe Youth Club
Ward Jackson Park

The junior and young inspectors provided the Committee with presentations

from two of the inspections undertaken at Hartlepool Art Gallery and Exmoor Grove.

Due to the skills and recognition of the Inspectors' programme, key pieces of work had been requested by Health, Regeneration, the Hartlepool Safeguarding Children's Board and the Youth Offending Service.

The Chair thanked the Inspectors for undertaking this work and presenting their findings to the Committee as it was a refreshing outlook on the provision of services from the people who were affected by them. A discussion ensued on the feedback received from the organisations as a result of the inspections. The Participation Manager confirmed that a six month review of the outcomes of all inspections would be undertaken. Whilst it was recognised that there may be some barriers to implementing some of the recommendations from inspections undertaken, the Chair commented it would be useful to have feedback from the organisations on the implementation of the recommendations of the inspection.

In relation to Rossmere Park, a Member questioned what would the Inspectors think would be a key change to improve the Park. The Inspectors commented that a reduction in vandalism would make the Park a better place to visit. The Committee were informed that Groundworks North East were holding an open consultation event and were looking to improve the pond and play area within the Park. The Chair suggested that it would be beneficial to ensure the involvement of local Ward Councillors in any consultation and discussions on the improvement of the Park.

Decision

- (1) The Junior and Young Inspectors were thanked for all their hard work and commitment to undertaking these inspections and for providing the Committee with the presentations which were extremely informative.
- (2) The findings and recommendations of the Inspectors' reports undertaken by the Junior and Young Inspectors were noted.
- (3) That consideration be given to the provision of feedback from the organisations inspected on the implementation of the recommendations from the inspections.

91. Holocaust Memorial Project – Evaluation and Future Plans *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the work carried out in relation to Holocaust Memorial activities for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2015 themed 'Keep the Memory Alive' and subsequent evaluation.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the activities undertaken by the young people recruited by Hartlepool Youth Support Service as part of a programme of activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2014 which was themed around journeys. The young people's representatives of the Holocaust Memorial Group provided the Committee with a presentation which showed how the young people had taken part in a programme to educate themselves further about the Holocaust including a residential visit to the National Holocaust Centre and Auschwitz Birkenau in Poland. Upon their return, the young people created a booklet for Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 along with a video with a local resident about his father's role in the liberation of Bergen Belson and a short film about genocide. The booklet and videos were launched on 27 January 2015 at the Civic Event organised by the young people to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 with invited guest speakers.

An evaluation of the event and project was undertaken which highlighted that overall it included a good balance between emotional impact and education. The young people had expressed a desire to stay involved and recruit further young people to the group and activities would be dependent on being able to access funding and the ongoing support of Youth Support staff.

The Committee were informed that the Project undertaken by the young people had been recognised nationally and nominated for national awards.

The Chair thanked the Holocaust Memorial Group for organising the event on 27 January which had proven to be extremely inspirational, memorable and very moving. The Director of Child and Adult Services commented that she had attended many Holocaust Memorial Day events over the years and had found this event to be the most moving and inspirational event she had ever attended, particularly for the way it was lead by the young people.

It was hoped that this event could become an annual event to ensure the commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day continued through the generations. A Member suggested that the event could become a similar event to Workers' Memorial Day which was held on 27 April every year. In addition, it was suggested that as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations, a young people's representative could be invited to lay a wreath at both Hartlepool memorial sites to commemorate those who died through the Holocaust.

One of the representatives from the Holocaust Memorial Group commented that it would be interesting to look at Stalin and the effects of him being in power. The Chair commented that it would be interesting to look into Stalin further and throw some light on his time in power but reiterated the importance of keeping the memory alive and preventing anything like this happening again.

Decision

- (1) The Committee acknowledged the importance of maintaining the wider community young people's cultural awareness through this project and support the development of the project in relation to next year.
- (2) That Officers explore the feasibility of formalising an annual Holocaust Memorial Day event along with the practicality of a young person's representative laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday to commemorate all those who lost their lives through the Holocaust.
- (3) The young people were thanked for their hard work and commitment to undertaking the Holocaust Memorial Day project including the production of literature and organising the commemoration event on 27 January 2015.

92. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2015

Received.

93. Council Plan 2015/16 – Child and Adult Services Department *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To provide the opportunity for the Children's Services Committee to consider the proposals for inclusion in the 2015/16 Council Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee for the Child and Adult Services Department which was attached at Appendix A.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the review of the Outcome Framework which was to be implemented from April 2015. As in previous years, detailed proposals were considered by each Committee throughout

January and February in respect of their areas of responsibility and a further report would be submitted to the Committee on 23 March detailing the comments/observations made by those Committees along with a full draft of the 2015/16 Council Plan.

The Director of Child and Adult Services presented the report which included the key challenges that the Council faced over the next year and beyond, set out the proposals from the Departments and how these will be addressed. The outcomes that fall under the remit of the Children's Services Committee from the Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan were outlined in the report.

The Chair commented that in view of the ongoing changing organisational structures within the Council, it would be useful to include the job title of the assignee rather than the assignee's name.

Decision

- (1) That the proposed outcome templates attached at Appendix A were approved for inclusion within the 2015/16 Council Plan.
- (2) That consideration be given to the inclusion of the assignee's job titles rather than the assignee's names.

94. 2015/16 Schools' Capital Works Programme *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference CAS 035/15.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the 2015/16 Schools' Capital Works Programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 in order to progress the design and detailed costing exercise in time for the projects to be carried out during the summer holiday period. **This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) para 3.**

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the Department for Education (DfE) capital funding allocations. Further detail was provided on the School

Condition allocation; the Devolved Formula Capital; and the Dedicated Schools Grant. It was noted that liaison with representatives from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the Church of England Diocese of Durham and Newcastle had taken place and a consistent approach to the development of capital schemes had been agreed. Whilst it was recognised that the funding stream for Children's Centre capital allocation no longer existed, surveys had been undertaken at Children's Centres and it had been established that the Chatham Road Centre required an electrical scheme which would be funded utilising the Schools' Capital Allocation. In addition, it was noted that the dedicated Access funding allocation had been withdrawn, however a potential scheme at Throston School had been identified. Discussions were ongoing with the School to determine the exact nature of the scheme required and a provision sum had therefore been allocated to this scheme.

The Committee were asked to approve works totalling £1,021,010 which slightly exceeded the funding available, however, all schemes had a contingency figure built into the costs and Officers were confident that the programme was affordable.

Decision

- (1) The schedule of 2015/16 capital works as summarised in Appendix 1 was approved. **This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) para 3.** Subject to the Local Authority agreeing to contributions from schools towards individual schemes in line with the shared funding principles established by the Schools' Forum.
- (2) That the Director of Child and Adult Services be given dispensation and discretion to authorise works where a significant emergency/health and safety risk was exposed.

95. **Great North Futures: Transforming Education and Skills Outcomes Across Tees** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To consider a collaborative programme across Tees Local Authorities focused on transforming education and skills outcomes tackling the long tail

of underperformance which mainly affects our poorest children and young people.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided detailed information on the education and skills challenges facing the North East and the establishment of an Alliance by the Association of North East Councils which was recently named Great North Futures. Given the level of specific challenges facing the Tees Valley, consideration had been given to establishing a collaboration transformation programme Tees-wide. In addition, the four Tees Valley Authorities (Redcar and Cleveland, Hartlepool, Stockton and Middlesbrough) were proposing to pool a shared resource to establish a Tees-wide education and skills transformation programme with Hartlepool proposed to undertake the role of host Local Authority. It was proposed that the collaboration would cut across the following four themes initially:

Great Leadership: A Tees-Approach;
Great Schools: Getting Every School and College to Good and Outstanding;
Great Workforce: Tees Valley Teachers and Leaders;
Great Futures: Employability Pathways.

The Director of Child and Adult Services indicated that to progress the programme, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool Borough Councils had identified £200,000 each to cover a two year period, which combined with the investment from the Regional Sector Led improvement budget would provide a pooled resource of £865,000.

It was noted that a shared approach to manage any potential liabilities associated with a host authority role will be managed through a standard Memorandum of Understanding for shared services that had been developed across the Tees to promote collaboration in other areas.

The Chair commented that Hartlepool has become somewhat of a pathfinder for educational improvement with strong school improvement led by the Director of Child and Adult Services, the outcome of which was Hartlepool's results were improving year on year.

In response to a comment from a Member, the co-opted member who was also Head of English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College confirmed that since becoming an academy, the School was working even more closely with the Local Authority and there was a noticeable sense of optimism about the future of education in Hartlepool. The Chair added that further work was being undertaken to tailor the end point where education and employment converge. The Director of Child and Adult Services confirmed that work was also being undertaken with the Colleges within the Town adding that Hartlepool was becoming the fastest improving Authority in the region for Key Stage 2 and 4.

Decision

- (1) The proposal to establish a Tees Wide approach to transforming education and skills outcomes with Hartlepool acting as host authority was endorsed.
- (2) The approach to the management of risk and financial management through a memorandum of understanding was noted.
- (3) The approach to the governance of the programme was noted.
- (4) The work being co-ordinated through ANEC to establish a broad based alliance, North East Futures, was noted as this will advocate for additional investment into transforming education and skills across the North East.

96. Review of Management of the Home Hospital Service Unit and Amendments to the Instrument of Government Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit/Reconstitution of the Governing Bodies of Fens, Throston and Brougham Primary Schools *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The Chair requested that due to the similarities within the reports, both these reports were considered together.

To seek approval for the present Local Authority Home Hospital Service Unit to become a Satellite Unit of the Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit and managed by the Management Committee of the Pupil Referral Unit, in accordance with guidance issued by the Department of Education Alternative Provision; Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, January 2013.

To seek approval to the reconstitution of the Governing Bodies and the Instruments of Government of Fens, Throston and Brougham Primary Schools in accordance with the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended by the School Governance (Constitution and Federation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the duty and powers placed on local

authorities to provide suitable full-time education to those who would not otherwise receive it. Regulations require local authorities to establish a Management Committee to run pupil referral units and make provision of the constitution of the Committee. At present, the Hartlepool Home Hospital Unit was not part of any management committee and at its meeting on 10 February 2015, members of the PRU's management committee formally agreed to the Home Hospital Service becoming a satellite unit of the PRU with effect from 1 April 2015 including a revision to the Instrument of Government to reflect this change as detailed in the report. Attached at Appendix 1 was the revised Instrument of Government.

The second report provided the background to the implementation of the new legislation relating to school governance arrangements. Revised constitutions for the following schools had been received following approval by their respective Governing Bodies and the Instrument of Government for each school was attached by way of Appendix:

Fens Primary School;
Brougham Primary School; and
Throston Primary School.

Decision

- (1) The inclusion of the Home Hospital Service Unit as a Satellite Unit of The Pupil Referral Unit to be managed by the Management Committee of the Pupil Referral Unit was approved.
- (2) The revised Instrument of Government in accordance with The Pupil Referral Units (Miscellaneous amendments) England Regulations 2012 was approved under the Instrument of Governance for the Pupil Referral Unit.
- (3) The reconstitution of the Governing Bodies of Fens, Brougham and Throston Primary Schools under the School Governance (Constitution and Federation) (England) (Amendment) Regulation and the revised Instruments of Government in accordance with details set out in the attached Appendices 1-3.

97. Regional Joint Commissioning Arrangements – Residential Schools and Residential Children's Homes *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the proposals regarding joint commissioning arrangements across the Tees Valley and North East Local Authorities in relation to placements in Residential Children's Homes and Residential Schools.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided detail on the previous collaboration arrangements for residential schools and residential children's homes. In relation to residential schools, Newcastle had been identified as the Lead Authority for leading the joint commissioning exercise on behalf of the regional local authorities. It was anticipated that the procurement process would begin in September 2015.

For residential children's homes, a number of meetings had been held with the Tees Valley Commissioning Group to identify the most effective and efficient procurement options available to the Group. A report was considered by the Tees Valley DCS Group in January 2015 outlining the rationale and intentions of the joint commissioning venture and it was anticipated that provider engagement events would be scheduled in March 2015.

One of the key drivers for the joint commissioning ventures was to ensure quality of provision and value for money and the spend across 2013/14 for residential schools and residential children's homes was detailed in the report.

Both proposed commissioning activities had identified that a Framework Contract was the most appropriate and viable procurement option for each of the commissioning exercises.

The Committee was informed that participating in partnership arrangements had resulted in costs being managed on a regional/sub regional basis and offered greater efficiencies and leverages better value for money.

Decision

- (1) The proposal to participate in joint commissioning arrangements as part of the North East region for the commissioning of Residential School placements was approved.
- (2) The proposal to participate in joint commissioning arrangements as part of the Tees Valley Consortium for the commissioning of placements in Children's Residential Homes was approved.

98. Children and Young People's Democracy (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To propose a new framework for children and young people's engagement in the local democratic process that will enhance their involvement and voice and ensure that children and young people work more closely with key strategic decision-makers to find joint solutions to shared concerns and problems.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was noted that Hartlepool had a proud heritage of involving children and young people in key decision making that lead to meaningful change through a number of successful participation groups, further details of which were included within the report. A new framework was proposed for children and young people's democracy to be developed within existing funding arrangements through building upon the current activities and the partnership work already underway with the Children's Services Committee, Children's Strategic Partnership and the Corporate Parent Forum. The proposals would include:

- The election of a Hartlepool Youth Council;
- The development of four themed task and finish groups; and
- The facilitation of a quarterly participation conference with Committee Chairs plus their supporting Directors and Assistant Directors.

One of the young people's representatives reiterated that Hartlepool had a good reputation and was seen as one of the best Local Authorities for empowering young people to effect change. The Chair welcomed the further involvement of young people in the democratic process, especially the opportunity for the Policy Committee Chairs to meet with young people on a regular basis to align ideas and benefit from each other's experiences. The co-opted member welcomed the new, more structured approach adding that consideration be given to the inclusion of Catcote Academy and the three further education colleges within the Town.

A Member referred to previous occasions when Cabinet meetings had been held within schools as part of Local Democracy Week.

Decision

- (1) The proposed framework for the children and young people's democracy in Hartlepool was agreed along with the provision of support for the recruitment and retention of children and young people by agreeing to meet, discuss and listen to children and young people's ideas and concerns about what affects them and their community through the opportunities that this framework will provide.
- (2) That the report be referred to Finance and Policy Committee for ratification of the proposed framework to embed the new arrangements across the Council's democratic structure.

99. Development of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

(Director of Child and Adult Services)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To brief the Committee on the progress made towards developing a North Tees Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in the Cleveland Police force area. The Assistant Director, Children's Services informed the Committee that the Hub would now be known as the Multi-Agency Children's Hub. The project was working towards implementation by 1 April 2016 with the Strategic Management Board due to meet in March to agree the role and function of the MACH which marks the first stage of implementation as complete. Further details of the work to be undertaken over the forthcoming months to develop the Hub were detailed in the report. It was noted that the benefits of the multi-agency nature of the Hub were that partner agencies who were seeking to refer a child for an early help or social care service would have the opportunity to seek and receive advice and guidance from Officers within their own profession.

The Chair congratulated Officers for developing this Hub in such a short period of time since the receipt of the funding to do it.

Decision

That the contents of the report were noted and the work of Officers in developing the North of Tees Multi-Agency Children's Hub was endorsed.

100. Fostering Service Interim Report – 1 October 2014 – 31 December 2014 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide information relating to the activity of the Fostering Service for the third quarter of 2014/15. The Fostering Service is a regulated service and as such there is a requirement to provide the executive side of the Council with performance information on a quarterly basis.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the inspection regime for the provision of foster care for children looked after. Further detail was provided on the staffing of the Fostering Team along with the recruitment and retention of foster carers as at 31 December 2014. It was noted that the fostering team had joined with the four neighbouring local authorities within the Tees Valley to form Tees Valley Fostering, a recruitment and marketing initiative which shared resources and strategies to enable increased recruitment activities to take place across the sub region. Details of the recruitment activity undertaken in the third quarter of 2014 were provided in the report.

Further information on the training and post approval support along with Family Placement activity and Family Finding Good Practice was included within the report.

In conclusion it was noted that the number of children becoming looked after in the last three months had decreased, however recruitment was continuing with the aim to offer placement choice to placing social workers. There were further preparation training sessions planned for February 2014 with four couples intending to attend.

The Chair commented that he was pleased to note that there was a downward trend in the number of children looked after and that the ongoing education and training being undertaken was having a positive impact.

Decision

The report in relation to the work of the Fostering Service in the third quarter of 2014/15 was noted.

101. OFSTED Inspection of Exmoor Grove Children's Home *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To present the outcome of the recent inspection of Exmoor Grove Children's Home by Ofsted, attached at Appendix 1.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the duty to inspect children's homes twice per year including full and interim inspections. The following four categories contribute to the final overall grade judgement for children's homes:

- Outcomes for children and young people;
- Quality of care;
- Keeping children and young people safe; and
- Leadership and management.

Details of the outcomes for the four categories were included in the report and it was highlighted that the outcomes for children and young people and the quality of care had achieved an 'outstanding' judgement with the overall effectiveness of the home being judged to be good. There were no statutory requirements arising from this inspection and from one of the recommendations in relation to the review of staff performance, steps had been taken to ensure all staff received an annual appraisal.

The Business Unit Manager informed the Committee that Exmoor Grove had been subject to an interim visit last week and had been informed that they were continuing to make positive progress. It was noted that Exmoor Grove had been judged to be good for the last four years, which demonstrated consistent performance in a key area of care for children. In this Inspection, the unit demonstrated improvement and achieved two sub judgements of outstanding. This was testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment of a staff team who ensured the needs and aspirations of

the young people was at the heart of everything they did. Their role can be very challenging and, at the same time, rewarding; the management and the staff give 100% commitment and thoroughly deserve this positive report.

The Chair wished to pass on his congratulations to the team at Exmoor Grove, particularly the Manager of the Home, on behalf of the Committee.

Decision

- (1) The outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Exmoor Grove Children's Home was noted.
- (2) That the a letter of congratulations from the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, be forwarded to the Team, in particular the Manager, at Exmoor Grove Children's Home on such a positive inspection result.

102. Safeguarding Children in Hartlepool *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To present the third quarter activity report on the workload of children's social work teams in providing services to children in need in Hartlepool including those in need of protection and children looked after.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was noted in the report that from 1 October 2014 to 31 December 2014, there were 1384 contacts made to the First Contact Support Hub from either members of the public or other professionals. From that number, 291 contacts progressed to a referral to the Safeguarding, Assessment and Support Unit for a Child in Need Assessment or a Child Protection Enquiry. The First Contact Support Hub has robust mechanisms in place to respond to all contacts with the Department with the majority of contacts resulting in either a signposting to targeted or universal services or advice and guidance being provided. It was highlighted that the re-referral rate for the third quarter was extremely good and currently was at 8.5%.

The Assistant Director, Children's Services highlighted that there were 153 children subject to a child protection plan within Hartlepool with 81.6% of cases involving neglect.

Further information on the strategies used to deal with instances where

there was reasonable cause to suspect that a child was suffering or was likely to suffer significant harm was included within the report.

The report highlighted that at 31 December 2014, there were 182 children looked after by Hartlepool Borough Council and the majority, 70% were placed with local authority foster carers. An outline of the challenges faced in relation to staff movement and the filling of vacancies was included in the report, noting that the average social worker caseload was 25 children.

The Chair was grateful for the inclusion of a wider definition of neglect as this particular category was the prominent reason for children being subject to child protection orders and covered a wide range of reasons.

Decision

The contents of the report in relation to activity within children's social care was noted.

103. Priority School Building Programme – Phase 2 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the outcome of the expressions of interest made for Phase 2 of the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP).

Issue(s) for consideration

The report highlighted that five Hartlepool schools had submitted expressions of interest in bidding for funding from the Priority Schools Building Programme. On 9 February 2015, the Education Funding Agency informed the Council that two out of the five expressions of interest had been successful, these being:

- High Tunstall College of Science; and
- English Martyrs RC School and Sixth Form College.

The Priority Schools Building Programme will run from 2015 to 2021 and work on successful schools will be scheduled across the whole lifetime of the programme.

The Chair commented that he was really pleased to see two Hartlepool

schools benefitting from the funding available through the Priority Schools Building Programme.

Decision

The contents of the report was noted with further updates being submitted as the PSBP Phase 2 progressed.

104. The Role of the Pupil Referral Unit (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the work of the Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided a comprehensive background on the commissioning of alternative education, the constitution, role, responsibility and operation of the Management Committee and the guidance provided for Local Authorities and Schools. It was noted that in Hartlepool, the operation of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was co-ordinated by the Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Partnership which comprised all secondary schools, including Catcote and the PRU as well as Local Authority representation. The report outlined the key changes to the guidance for PRUs, as well as Local Authority representation. The current position in relation to the operation of the PRU was included in the report.

The Committee were invited to a tour of the facilities provided within the PRU upon the completion of the meeting.

Decision

The report was noted along with the provision of services for pupils in Key Stage 3, which was designed to reintegrate pupils back into mainstream education and provide support for Key Stage 4 pupils to assist them in transferring successfully to post 16 education and training.

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. Any Other Business – End of Municipal Year

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting of the current municipal year and passed on his thanks to the Committee and invited guests for their continued attendance and valuable contribution over the previous municipal year.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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