

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Monday 8th January 2007

at 4.00 pm

in the Main Hall, Owton Manor Community Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Brash, S Cook, Fleet, Griffin, Laffey, London, Preece, Rogan, Shaw, M Waller and Young

Co-opted Members:

Elizabeth Barraclough, David Relton and Jesse Smith

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Evelyn Leck and Michael Ward

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 11th December 2006 (*attached*) and receive the minutes of the informal meeting held on 27th November 2006 (*attached*)

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

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

None

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

None

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

6.1 Budget and Policy Framework – Consultation Proposals 2007/08 – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

7.1 Provision of Sex and Health Education in Hartlepool – Scoping Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

i) **Date of Next Meeting Monday 22nd January 2007, commencing at 2.00 pm in the Main Hall, Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool.**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

11th December 2006

Present:

Councillors: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Jonathan Brash, Shaun Cook, Mary Fleet, Pauline Laffey,
Frances London and Arthur Preece.

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge and Evelyn Leck

Officers: Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Support Officer

Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

42. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sheila Griffin and Maureen Waller, co-opted member David Relton and resident representative Michael Ward.

43. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

44. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2006

Confirmed.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

48. Draft Final Report – Raising Boys' Achievements – Bridging the Gender Gap (*Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Forum*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted the Draft Final Report of this Forum following their on-going enquiry into Raising Boys' Achievement – Bridging the Gap.

During this inquiry the Forum:

- Examined the detailed evidence provided by Officers
- Undertaken a site visit to examine the good practice that exists at Sunderland City Council
- Undertaken site visits to several schools within Hartlepool to look at the work already being carried out.
- Considered evidence received from the National Education Breakthrough Programme and the Blended Learning Pilot Programme.
- Received evidence from a representative from the North East of England National Strategies for School Improvement; and
- Listened to the views of local residents, parents, children/young people, teachers, school governors and adults other than teachers working in schools.

Members discussed the conclusions and recommendations and suggested the following amendments:

- i) Members felt that a good way of retaining boys' interest in learning may be to incorporate sport and an element of competition. Although competition was not encouraged in all schools, Members were aware that rewards for improvement were as important as rewards for winning. The Scrutiny Support Officer highlighted that the issues of reward systems and involvement in sport were included as part of the Raising Boys Achievement Project. In this way the two issues were covered by recommendations contained within the report regarding increased involvement in the scheme by schools in Hartlepool.

- ii) Members emphasised the fact that every child was different and learned in a different way. They agreed that this was paramount in a child's achievement and should be acknowledged within the conclusions. The Scrutiny Support Officer confirmed that the issue was covered within the recommendations outlined within the report.

Decision

Members agreed the content of the submitted Draft Final Report subject to the above comments being incorporated, which would then be considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 5th January 2007 and Cabinet thereafter.

JANE SHAW

CHAIRMAN

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM INFORMAL MEETING

NOTES OF MEETING

27th November 2006

Present:

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jonathan Brash, Pauline Laffey, Frances London, Arthur Preece,
and David Young.

Co-opted Members:
David Relton

Resident Representatives:
John Cambridge and Michael Ward

Officers: Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Fleet and resident representative Evelyn Leck.

2. Draft Final Report – Raising Boys' Achievement – Bridging the Gender Gap (*Children's Services Scrutiny Forum*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented the draft final report from the Raising Boys' Achievement – Bridging the Gender Gap inquiry. Members felt that a major factor in the change in boys' achievement was the modification to the exam system to include the assessment of coursework, as this favoured girls who were generally more methodical and adept to the organisation involved with this type of assessment. However, it was understood that the exam only based system was being reintroduced in the next couple of years, so this might change again. Although Members acknowledged that performance across Hartlepool schools had improved a great deal, care needed to be taken not to become complacent.

The Scrutiny Support Officer confirmed that this final report would be submitted to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee then onto Cabinet. At Cabinet a decision

will be taken in terms of the recommendations which will then be submitted to Council. A progress report will be submitted to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee after six months clearly identifying who was responsible for the recommendations and the timescale involved.

It was noted that this report should be highlighted to Governing Bodies through the Governor Support Officers in Children's Services Department.

Decision

Members agreed the draft final report to be submitted to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum

JANE SHAW

CHAIR

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

8 January 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION PROPOSALS 2007/08

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to consider the Children's Services departmental pressures and priorities, grant terminations and proposed savings as part of the Budget and Policy framework consultation proposals for 2007/08.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 27 October 2006, consideration was given to the Executive's Initial Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals for 2007/08. At this meeting it was agreed that the initial consultation proposals would be considered on a departmental basis by the appropriate Scrutiny Forum. This occurred during November 2006.
- 2.2 The comments/observations of each Forum were fed back to the additional meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 17 November 2006 and were used to formulate the formal Scrutiny response to Cabinet on 4 December 2006. Details of the comments/observations made by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum are outlined in **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 The comments/observations made by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee were taken into consideration by Cabinet during the finalisation of its finalised Budget and Policy Framework Proposals for 2007/08 on 18 December 2006. The Executive's finalised proposals were considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 19 December 2006 and repeating the process previously implemented have again been referred to the appropriate scrutiny Forum for consideration on a departmental basis.

- 2.4 As such attached as **Appendices B to D** are the Children's Services grant terminations, departmental pressures and priorities, and proposed savings as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2007/08. Cabinet has not proposed any changes to the departmental grant terminations, pressures or priorities referred for Scrutiny in October. In terms of the initial savings Cabinet is now proposing to only implement the 3% items previously identified. For Members information the full list of potential savings identified by Cabinet are detailed at **Appendix D** and the items this Forum previously requested Cabinet to reconsider are identified by shading.
- 2.5 To assist Members of this Scrutiny Forum in the consideration of the Children's Services departmental proposals, arrangements have been made for the Director of Children's Services to be in attendance and an invitation to this meeting has also been extended to the relevant Portfolio Holder (attendance subject to availability).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-
- (a) considers the Children's Services departmental pressures and priorities, grant terminations and proposed savings as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2007/08; and
 - (b) formulates any comments and observations to be presented by the Chair of this Scrutiny Forum to the additional meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 19 January 2007 to enable a formal response to be presented to the Cabinet on 5 February 2007.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 087
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Appendix A

Children's Services Department – Comments/Observations

- (a) Whilst Members were supportive of the budget pressures, priorities and savings identified up to the level of 3%, it was felt that the savings identified at 4% and 5% would have a seriously detrimental effect on the services provided by the Children's Services Department;
- (b) In looking at the savings identified at 4% and 5% particular concern was expressed regarding proposed savings outlined under the Attendance Team, School Improvement Team and School Improvements headings. Members were concerned that the proposed savings could jeopardise the significant improvements made through each of these teams and it was suggested that savings should not be made in these areas. It was also suggested that this should not result in the need for additional savings from another area of the Departments budget and that additional resources should be identified; and
- (c) In addition to the comments above Members also highlighted the need for close monitoring of any over/underspend on the Budget and Policy Framework proposals.

SCHEDULE OF BUDGET PRESSURES 2007/2008

Budget Heading	Description of Budget Pressure	Risk Impact of Not Funding Pressure	Value Budget Pressure <u>2007/2008</u> <u>£'000</u>	Value of additional Budget Pressure in 2008/2009 (only complete this column if value shown in 2007/2008 column is part year pressure) <u>£'000</u>
Advisory Team	14-19 leadership, management and co-ordination – Full time Partnership Manager / Co-ordinator with associated administrative and support costs	Red Education and Inspection Bill places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to lead 14-19 reform and development in local partnerships, supported by the LSC. This is a new legal responsibility and existing resources are insufficient to meet this statutory duty. Risk of not meeting this pressure is RED with immediate, significant service disruption	60	£0
Children with Disabilities and SEN	Increasing numbers of children with autistic spectrum disorders (Doubled in last 3 years) requiring more extensive support packages. 2 identified costing £100K in 2007/08 (£50k revenue and £50k DSG subject to Schools Forum).	Red Failure to meet statutory duties in relation to children with disabilities. (Still awaiting PCT continuing healthcare eligibility criteria.) High impact and almost certain.	50	£0

SCHEDULE OF BUDGET PRESSURES 2007/2008

Budget Heading	Description of Budget Pressure	Risk Impact of Not Funding Pressure	Value Budget Pressure <u>2007/2008</u> <u>£'000</u>	Value of additional Budget Pressure in 2008/2009 (only complete this column if value shown in 2007/2008 column is part year pressure) <u>£'000</u>
----------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Integrated Children's System	Revenue costs of new capital equipment	Red Unable to meet statutory requirements and DfES timetable re information sharing. Extreme impact and almost certain	50	£0
Children and Families	Need for additional post to enable quality audits of childcare reviews to be undertaken.	Red Failure to meet statutory duties in the Children Act 2004 and working together guidance. High impact and almost certain.	40	£0
		Total Budget Pressures	200	

SCHEDULE OF RED BUDGET PRIORITIES 2007/2008
TOP LEVEL PRIORITIES

Budget Heading	Description of Budget Priorities	Risk Impact of Not Funding Priorities	Priorities Value Budget Priorities <u>2007/2008</u> <u>£'000</u>	Value of additional Budget Priorities in 2008/2009 <u>£'000</u>
Children and Families	Ensuring effective operation of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and its associated sub committees by the provision of dedicated training and development officer support to meet National Minimum Standards.	Inability to develop the safeguarding children agenda and failure to discharge statutory responsibilities (it is possible that partner contributions might be received towards this cost). RED – High impact and almost certain. Censure for failing in statutory duties.	40	
		Total of Top Priorities	40	

PROPOSED SAVING AT 3%, 4% AND 5%**CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Budget Heading	Description of Efficiency/Saving	Risk Assessment of implementing efficiency/saving	Impact of efficiency/saving on staffing levels	Value of efficiency/saving £'000	Description of One off cost of achieving efficiency/saving	One off cost of achieving efficiency/saving £'000
Transport	E	Risk is GREEN – little service disruption and savings likely to be made within the next year. Efficiency due to ongoing review of bus routes, taxi services and school escort recruitment.		140		None
Education Psychology Service	E	Reduction of staffing arising from restructuring of the Education Psychology Service. Risk is GREEN – little service disruption, low impact and likely to occur in the next 12 months as the staffing element is currently vacant.	Reduction of approximately 0.5 wte member of staff.	12	None	None
Student Support Team	E/S	Removal of student grant function/posts arising from DFES centralisation of grants and awards. Risk is GREEN – minor service disruption, low impact and likely to occur within the next 12 months. Possible redundancy costs because posts are part of substantive structure.	-2	40		Redundancy
Adoption and special guardianship orders	E	Reduction in payments to independent agencies because half the number of eligible independent agency foster carers obtain a Special Guardianship Order. Risk is GREEN/AMBER low impact and likely to occur within 12 months dependent upon some negotiations with the Independent Agencies.		90	None	None
Pupil & Student Support Manager	E	Non-recruitment to the vacant manager post. Restructuring required and supervision of staff delivering school meals, transport, school swimming, allocation of places at Carlton. Risk is AMBER – Some service disruption possible over the next 12 months.		30		None
Adoption and special guardianship orders	E	Reduction in payments to independent agencies because all the eligible independent agency foster carers obtain a Special Guardianship Order. Risk is AMBER/RED - high impact and likely to occur within 12 months as all placements will need to be reviewed and consents obtained by all parties.		90	None	None
Reduction in external placements	S	Savings on external placement budget but risk is RED – extreme and almost certain to occur in the		81	None	None
TOTAL 3%				483		

Reduction in external placements	S	Further savings on external placement budget but risk is RED – extreme and almost certain to occur in the next 12 months due to unexpected and unprecedented new demand. Position will clarify later in this financial year when it is clearer as to which young people will be fully or part funded in 2007/08.	No staffing implication but potential non-cashable efficiency saving re: social worker and Independent Reviewing Officer time/activity	119	None	None
Attendance Team	E	Reduction in the number of attendance officers by 1. Risk is RED – significant service disruption. Almost certain to occur in the next 12 months. Direct impact on services to children and families. Risk of increasing unauthorised absences from schools, failing to meet agreed targets which could then lead to external intervention from DFES.	-1	42		Redundancy
TOTAL 4%				644		
Budget Heading	Description of Efficiency/Saving	Risk Assessment of implementing efficiency/saving	Impact of efficiency/saving on staffing levels	Value of efficiency/saving £'000	Description of One off cost of achieving efficiency/saving	One off cost of achieving efficiency/saving £'000
School Improvement Team	S	Earlier than planned reduction in advisory team from 3 to 2 because of introduction of School Improvement Partners. Risk is RED , high and likely to occur in the next year. Direct impact on services to schools - removal of LA co-ordination of Excellence in Cities and strategic leadership of the secondary school and social inclusion strategies. Redundancy Implications.	-1	75		Redundancy
School Improvement	S	Withdrawal of a third of the LAs match-funding for DFES grants to support school improvement through national literacy, numeracy, science, ICT etc. Risk is RED , significant service disruption within the next 12 months. Because this is match-funding, real service loss is £172k. Impact on children's achievement.	-2.5	86		Redundancy
TOTAL 5%				805		

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

8 January 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO THE PROVISION OF SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL SCHOOLS – SCOPING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum for the undertaking of their forthcoming investigation into the provision of sexual health education for young people in Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum at its meeting on the 12 June 2006 selected two issues to form its 2006/2007 Work Programme. The Forum's 2006/7 Work Programme was approved by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 30 June 2006 and the intention of this report is to scope the forums second investigation into 'Sexual Health Education for Young People in Hartlepool'.
- 2.2 Members of the Forum on the 12 June 2006 highlighted the importance of sex education in schools and approved a basic overall aim for this investigation. Members are asked today to 'scope' the investigation, formalising the overall aim, terms of reference and timetable for the investigation. Suggestions for each of these and other areas of the investigation are outlined from section onwards.
- 2.3 It was acknowledged that whilst this inquiry could cross-over into the work of the Adult, Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum the focusing of its aim on young people would keep it within the remit of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum. It is also highlighted that the issue of sexual health is not a new one for scrutiny in Hartlepool and that an investigation into the specific area of teenage pregnancies in Hartlepool was undertaken a number of years ago. It will be useful to update Members of this Forum on the findings of this investigation for consideration as part of its wider investigation of 'Sexual Health Education for Young People in Hartlepool'.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 To review current practice in the provision of sexual health education to young people in Hartlepool and suggest possible improvements.

4. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

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

- (a) To gain an understanding of the sexual health issues effecting young people nationally and regionally;
- (b) To gain an understanding of the national and regional position relating to the provision of sexual health education for young people, with particular reference to:-
 - (i) National policy relating to the provision of sexual health education for young people; and
 - (ii) The work being undertaken nationally and regionally to provide sexual health education for young people and determine its effectiveness.
- (c) To gain an understanding of, and examine, the local position relating to the provision of sexual health education for young people, with particular reference to:-
 - (i) The sexual health issues effecting young people in Hartlepool;
 - (ii) The history of sexual health education in Hartlepool;
 - (iii) The strategies/practices being implemented in Hartlepool schools for the provision of sexual health education; and
 - (iv) Effectiveness of strategies/policies being implemented in Hartlepool; and
 - (v) Sources of advice outside schools and how outside bodies/agencies assist in the provision of sexual health education in Hartlepool.
- (d) To consider examples of best practice in other Local Authorities;
- (e) To compare strategies/practices implements in other Local Authorities, and strategies/models identified nationally, with those being implemented in Hartlepool with a view to identifying possible areas of improvement; and

- (f) To seek the views of local residents, parents, children/young people and those working in schools on this issue.

5. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY / SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

5.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny referral.

5.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-

- (a) Portfolio Holder for Children's Services;
- (b) Officers from the Children's Services Department;
- (c) Representatives from United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP);
- (d) Representatives from national and regional bodies. *(Possibly the regional Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator, Regional Healthy Schools Co-ordinator, National Children's Bureau and/or the Sex Education Forum);*
- (e) A small Working Group of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to visit a Hartlepool school to discuss and possibly observe sex and relationship education first hand with teachers and pupils;
- (f) Representatives from other Local Authorities with examples of good practice. *(Possibly Sunderland – similar practices to those in Hartlepool, South Tyneside – A different secondary model to that in Hartlepool, Gateshead – Different practices to those in Hartlepool);*
- (g) Representatives from outside groups/bodies. *(Possibly B76, Sure Start, Youth Service, Barnardos, the School Nursing Service and/or Teesside Positive Action (TPA);*
- (h) Local residents and Resident Representatives; and
- (i) Ward Councillors.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and paragraph 5.2, details who the Forum could involve. However, thought will need to be given to the structure in the way that the Forum wishes to encourage those views.

7. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

7.1 Detailed below is the proposed timetable for the investigation:-

8 January 2007 – ‘Scoping’ - To formalise the process for the Forum's investigation and receive evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

22 January 2007 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A ‘Setting the Scene’ report from the Scrutiny Support Officer;
- (ii) Evidence from the Children's Services Department's Healthy Schools Co-ordinator on the issues detailed in term of reference (c);
- (iii) Evidence from a national or regional body on the issues detailed in terms of reference (a) and (b); and
- (iv) Evidence from the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) on the work it is undertaking regarding sex education.

w/c 5 February 2007 – Possible additional meeting – Should it be required.

w/c 12 February 2007 – Site Visit by Working Group - To a Hartlepool school to discuss and possibly observe sex and relationship education first hand with teachers and pupils. (The Head Teacher of Manor College has indicated that he would be willing to do this).

w/c 19 February 2007 – Site Visit - To another Local Authority's to observe best practice.

26 February 2007 – Formal meeting to consider:-

- (j) Feedback from the site visit to another Local Authority and Working Group visit;
- (ii) Evidence from outside agencies/bodies;
- (iii) Evidence from local residents, parents, children/young people and those working in schools on this issue; and
- (iv) On the evidence provided, if/how the sex and relationship education offered in Hartlepool could be improved.

w/c 19 March 2007 – Informal meeting to consider the content of the Draft Final Report.

2 April 2007 – Consideration of Draft Final Report.

20 April 2007 – Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

30 April 2007 – Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet.

11 June 2007 – 'Closing the Loop' report back from Cabinet to the Forum.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 Members are recommended to:-

- (i) Agree the Children's Services Scrutiny Forums proposed Terms of Reference, together with the suggested timetable, for the undertaking of investigation as outlined in paragraphs 4 and 7 within this report; and
- (ii) Select a small number of Members to form a Working Group as suggested in paragraph 5.2 (e).

Contact Officer: - Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executives Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: - 01429 523339
Email:- joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used at this point for the formulation of this report.