

## **Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee**

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 27th November, 2013.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell(Chairman), Cllr Eileen Johnson(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ray McCall, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Mick Womphrey.

**Officers:** Dianne McConnell(CESC), Kerry Coe(St John the Baptist Primary School), Carol O'Brien(Mill Lane Primary School), Susan Dawson(Norton Primary School), Judith Trainer, Jenna McDonald, Kirsty Wannop(LDS)

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Derrick Brown

**Apologies:** Cllr Nigel Cooke.

### **1 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

### **2 Committee Briefing**

Members prepared their approach to the meeting.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Derrick Brown declared a personal interest as he was a Governor of Thornaby CE Primary School.

Cllr Carol Clark declared a personal interest as she was a Governor of Oak Tree Academy and Grangefield Secondary School.

Cllr Gillian Corr declared a personal interest as she was a Governor of Myton Park Primary School

Cllr Ray McCall declared a personal interest as he was a Governor of High Clarence Primary School and Ash Trees School.

Cllr Andrew Sherris declared a personal interest as he was a Governor of Levendale and Yarm Primary Schools.

### **4 Minutes for Signature - 18th September 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2013 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **5 Draft Minutes - 16th October 2013**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2013.

AGREED the minutes be approved.

### **6 Scrutiny Review of Child Poverty**

The Committee was presented with information from Chief Adviser of Education Improvement Service along with Head Teachers from Norton Primary School, Mill Lane Primary School and St John the Baptist Primary School. The information provided was in regard to approaches to Pupil Premium, School Meal Debt the role of Common Assessment Framework(CAF) and more general issues in relation to child poverty.

The main discussion regarding pupil premium included:-

- Norton Primary School had a catchment area that was mixed and 50% were entitled to pupil premium. Many of the 50% who were not entitled were just over the threshold for entitlement. All staff in the school were aware of the children who received pupil premium.
- The money was used in Norton Primary on a Welfare Assistant in nursery that links in with parents, additional teaching assistants, 2 learning mentors and a teaching assistant specialising in Speech & Language mainly in foundation years. Speech and Language therapy was also bought in for pupils who needed it not just those on pupil premium.
- Although pupil premium could not be used for school meals it could be used for uniform and/or P.E kit as sometimes parents contacted school to report an absence due to the lack of a decent standard of uniform or, it not being clean and dry.

The main discussion regarding school meal debt included:-

- Mill Lane had a catchment area within one of the most deprived wards.
- Mill Lane had taken over the school meal collection of money from the Local Authority.
- There were many families who didn't qualify for free school meals but were struggling to pay for the school meals due to low income and rising temporary work.
- To help families and stop them getting into debt the school did not let the debt get over £21. They would offer children the option to go home for lunch or bring a packed lunch until the debt was paid off.
- The school was also referring parents to food banks in the most discreet way possible as not to highlight that they may be in need of help.
- If there was any food left from lunch this would be discreetly offered to families who it was felt needed it.

The main discussion regarding CAF included:-

- St John the Baptist had 65% of pupils entitled to free school meals. They had the highest number of children with special needs in their school and a high number of looked after children. This required liaison with many services.
- Within the school there was a food hub providing food to those that needed it.
- The CAF was used to get parents engaged with the school so they could work with them as well as other services to help families as a whole. It was difficult to get parents to open up to what they would need.
- There was a well attended breakfast club of 75-100 people each day including both pupils and parents sponsored by Greggs.
- The school tried to work with the whole family to help their pupils.

Members raised the following points/questions:

- What happened to those children entitled to a free school meal during school holidays as the need would still be there?
- Members felt it would be beneficial for all children of Primary school age to

receive a free breakfast and lunch

- The United Kingdom was one of the biggest economies in the world yet there was still people living in poverty and children going hungry.

Members thanked the Head Teachers for their hard work although it was noted that they were dealing with the symptom not the problem.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**7 Monitoring of Previous Recommendations - EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation**

Members considered the progress of previously agreed recommendations for the EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation.

AGREED that the Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed

**8 Work Programme**

Members noted the Committee's work programme.