

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 19th December, 2007.

Present: Cllr David Harrington (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Andrew Sherris.

Officers: G Birtle, F Shayler (LD); J Hegarty, S Willson (CESC).

Also in attendance: Steve Turner (JSU). Mr R G Lupton (Non Voting co-opted Representative).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Broughton, Frankland, Lewis; Mr G Davies.

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cains declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a Temporary Governor of the new Community Primary School in Roseworth.

Councillor Sherris declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor.

Councillor Coleman declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor.

Mr R G Lupton declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor and a Teacher at Northfield School.

2 Draft Minutes - 14th November 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November, 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

3 Review of School Organisation Plan

Members were provided with a report on the School Organisation Plan 2007-2012. The School Organisation Plan provided information about the schools maintained by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. It set out the number of places available in schools in each part of the borough, the number of pupils in them, and forecasts for pupil numbers for the next five years. It described changes that had been made over the past year, and it suggested where other changes may be necessary in the future. The Plan also included the Council's policies on school organisation, and new procedures introduced by government for making changes such as opening, closing or enlarging schools.

John Hegarty, Planning and Policy Development Officer, Children and Young People and Steve Turner, Joint Strategy Unit (JSU), were in attendance to provide information to Members.

Figures were shown indicating the total capacity of both primary and secondary schools in January 2006 and 2007. Pupil numbers were based on projections for 2008 to 2012 as supplied by the JSU.

Primary School pupil numbers had been in decline for several years, but an increase in births during the last three years points to a likely increase in primary numbers by 2010. The decline in primary school pupil numbers over the past seven years was beginning to affect secondary schools. During the first 5 years of this Plan, pupil numbers in Secondary Schools were forecast to fall below 11,000. The lowest point would be in 2016 at 10,409, in the long term the figures were expected to return to around 11,000.

Information was also provided on Post 16 places and further statistics for Primary and Secondary

Schools broken down into areas such as Billingham including The Clarendes, Wolviston and Wynyard; Stockton North; Stockton Central; Eaglescliffe, Long Newton, Yarm and Kirklevington; Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick. Information was then also provided on individual Schools indicating pupils on rolls as at the census in January 2007, indicating any surplus or overcrowding at each school.

Detail on action taken since the publication and during the life of the plan was provided.

CONCLUDED that the information provided be noted.

4 Annual Performance Assessment

Members were provided with a copy of a letter summarising the findings of the 2007 annual performance assessment for Children and Young People in Stockton on Tees Borough Council. The judgements in the letter were taken from information provided from the review of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) where it was available, the evidence and briefings provided by Ofsted, other inspectorates and relevant bodies. A children's services grade was provided according to performance for the purpose of section 138 of the Education Inspections Act 2006.

Members wished to thank the Corporate Director, her Senior Management Team and Simon Willson, who was in attendance to provide details on the assessment, for their hard work and commitment.

Members would refer to this document for any future issues that may be appropriate to be included within their Work Programme.

CONCLUDED that the information provided be noted.

5 Work Programme

Members discussed their future work programme for the review of the School Organisation Plan.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.