

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 27th May, 2009.

Present: Cllr David Harrington (Chairman), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Alan Lewis, Mr Frank (Diocesan Representative), Mr G Davies (Non voting co-opted representatives).

Officers: Jane Humphreys, Shaun McLurg, Jayne Palmer (CESC); Graham Birtle, Fiona Shayler, Judith Trainer (LD); Jim Bell (R).

Also in attendance: Elizabeth Shassere, Claire Spence (PCT).

Apologies: were received on behalf of Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Mr Campbell (Non voting co-opted representative), Mr Cash (Parent Governor Representative).

1 **Declarations of Interest**

None

2 **Draft Minutes - 11th February, 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

3 **EIT Review - Child Placement and Residential Care**

Members were provided with the scope and project plan for the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Review of Child Placement and Residential Care.

Jane Humphreys, Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care, Shaun McLurg, Head of Children's Operations and Jayne Palmer, Service Manager were in attendance to provide Members with background information on the service.

It was stated that there were currently approximately 250 children being looked after by the Authority. The Fostering and Adoption Service was provided by one team, however, other authorities used different models.

Members discussed the different types of residential care available. It was stated that all the care units used by the authority were inspected by Ofsted and had all been rated as either 'good' or 'outstanding'. Children with complex needs may need a specialised residential placement which can often mean being placed out of the area. There was also one child currently placed in a welfare bed.

Members discussed the use of independent fostering placements and the associated costs. Members were informed that the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) programme were undertaking a piece of work on the use of independent fostering placements.

Officers stated that work needed to be undertaken with regard to how the market was managed and how services were commissioned. It was stated that the best solutions were often found locally and it was felt that there was not always a direct relation between cost and quality.

Discussion was held on the list of referrals to which there had been an increase, this was possibly due to the publicity regarding 'Baby P' and the credit crunch could put further pressures onto families.

Members discussed placements of children with grandparents or other extended family members and the help that was available to them. Members also wished to receive further information on the numbers of Social Workers currently in post.

CONCLUDED that the information received be noted and the scope and project plan be approved.

4 Review of Obesity - Action Plan

Members discussed the Action Plan for the Review of Obesity. Elizabeth Shassere and Claire Spence were in attendance to provide Members with a verbal update.

Members were pleased with the progress against there recommendations and looked forward to receiving further regular updates against the action plan. Members thought that the presentation and comprehensiveness of the action plan was excellent.

Members thanked Elizabeth Shassere for her assistance during this review and congratulated her on her new post.

CONCLUDED that the Action Plan be noted.

5 Chair's Update

Members were requested to table questions for witnesses prior to each meeting where possible.

CONCLUDED that the update be noted.

6 Work Programme

Members were informed that the next meeting would be held on 3rd June 2009 to discuss the Review of Youth Services/Youth Provision which was a 'reporting in' review.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.