

Children & Young People Select Committee

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

Officers: Shaun McLurg, Joanne Moore, Jayne Palmer (CESC); Graham Birtle, Fiona Shayler (LD); Jim Bell (R).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Andrew Sherris. Mr Cash, Mr Campbell, Mr Davies, Mr Lupton (Non Voting Co-opted Representatives).

CYP Declarations of Interest

23/09

None

CYP Draft Minutes - 15th July 2009

24/09

The minutes of the 15th July 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

CYP Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of Child 25/09 Placements and Residential Care

Joanne Moore, Resource Manager, Children and Families, was in attendance to provide Members with evidence for their review of Child Placements and Residential Care.

Joanne had submitted a baseline report regarding in-house and externally purchased residential placements and supported lodgings.

In Stockton on Tees the numbers of children looked after have risen steadily, at 31st March 2009, there were 236 children looked after by the authority. 33 children were placed outside of the borough in purchased residential agency placements, 12 were placed in SBC's residential homes and 9 were living in supported lodging placements. As at August 2009, 250 children were looked after by the authority.

Shaun McLurg stated that a bi-monthly report was submitted to Cabinet with current numbers of children looked after. It was stated that the current economy and the recent 'Baby P' case could be the reason for the increase in numbers of children looked after.

Members gave consideration to the increase in numbers and discussed ways in which the need could be met in-house rather than out-sourcing. It was requested that a viability report be produced looking at possible suitable locations for a further home, together with costs and information on capacity levels.

Members also wished to receive further information on purchased placements with details such as costs, notice periods etc.

A copy of the booklets for each of SBC's residential homes was available for Members consideration. It was suggested that if a small group of Members wished to visit any of the homes, this could be arranged through the Scrutiny Officer.

CONCLUDED that the information received be noted and that the information requested be submitted to the next meeting.

**CYP
26/09** **Work Programme**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 9th September 2009 at 4.30pm.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.

**CYP
27/09** **Chairman's Update**

There was no Chairman's update at this meeting.