

# Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 11th November, 2009.

**Present:** Cllr David Harrington (Chairman), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Andrew Sherris.

**Officers:** Shaun McLurg, Jayne Palmer, Jackie Ward (CYP); Graham Birtle, Fiona Shayler (LD); Jim Bell (R).

**Also in attendance:** Mr D Campbell (Non Voting Co-opted Representatives); Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Mrs McCoy, Cllr Mrs Womphrey, Cllr Mrs Walmsley, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Mrs Beaumont, Cllr Mrs Craggs, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Aidan Cockerill; Paul Riley (Outcomes UK).

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Mrs Fletcher, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Maureen Rigg, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Womphrey.

## 1 **Declarations of Interest**

None

## 2 **Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of Child Placements and Residential Care**

Members received a presentation from Paul Riley, Outcomes UK. Outcomes UK had been commissioned to undertake a piece of work on the possibilities of having a North East Collaborative Foster Care Services Project. The presentation focused on how Stockton would fit within the North East collaboration.

Members were provided with various statistics that highlighted how Stockton compared with its looked after children against other local authorities. On average approximately 20% of Stockton's looked after children were placed with external providers.

Members also looked at the age profiles of foster carers, over 50% were over the age of 50. Members felt that this could be a challenge in years to come as foster carers retire. Retaining foster carers was a priority by ensuring that they receive a good level of support from social workers and respite provision for those carers that require a break.

Discussion was held on the process for applying to become a foster carer, and whether the length of time for determination could be a deterrent.

Marketing and recruitment of new foster carers was a priority and it was felt that this could possibly be done jointly with other authorities. It was stated that the collective of Directors of Social Care had met to discuss such issues and that a position report had been produced. It was requested that Members be provided with an update of this report.

CONCLUDED that the presentation be noted.

## 3 **Work Programme**

The next meeting would be held on 18th November 2009.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.

## 4 **Chairman's Update**

None