

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 6th January, 2010.

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 and Cllr Alan Lewis.

Officers: Ms J.Palmer (CESC); N.Hart, P.Mennear (LD); J.Bell (R).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: None

CYP 72/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

CYP 73/09 Draft Minutes - 2nd December, 3rd December and 9th December 2009

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 2nd, 3rd and 9th December 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

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CYP 74/09 Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of Child Placements and Residential Care

Consideration was given to the draft final report of this Committee's Review of Child Placements and Residential Care, prior to its further consideration by the Executive Scrutiny Committee in February, and ultimate consideration by Cabinet in March 2010.

Members were advised that a summary of any agreed recommendations made at this meeting would be circulated to members prior to the end of the week and members would be invited to submit any comments on these, and any minor textual, grammar or other changes necessary to the report that had not been identified during this meeting, to officers by Tuesday 12th January 2010.

The Committee were of the view that the title of the review itself should be more reflective of the work undertaken and should in fact be titled 'Review of Child Placements'. Further minor amendments were also suggested to the accompanying graphics to the cover page.

Members referred to paragraph 3.4 of the report and requested further clarification from officers of the evidence of their being a national context of promoting a mixed economy, and a move increasingly towards local authorities working in partnership with external providers. It was also suggested that the second sentence of this paragraph would read better if referring to 'no suitable in-house resources being available'.

Reference was also made to the need for amendments to the definition of kinship care included within paragraphs 4.18-4.24 of the report, as well as use of the term 'stranger' in paragraph 4.25. It was noted that the Corporate Director

of Children, Education & Social Care shared these concerns and intended to raise these, and the inclusion of further financial information within the report, at the tripartite meeting to discuss the review recommendations on the 7th January 2010.

With regard to the five draft recommendations circulated, it was suggested that they be agreed with minor amendments to reflect the need for further financial appraisal; and that additional recommendations be added to reflect the need for the Corporate Director to be supported in her continuing work within the region with the Tees Valley Directors' Group to increase the availability of sub regional provision for 'hard to place' children/young people with complex needs; and to strengthen post adoption arrangements and support for foster parents so as to curb adoption arrangements breaking down, and to raise awareness amongst partners of adoption issues and the Council's role.

CONCLUDED that the comments on the draft final report be noted and members be invited to comment on the further amendments proposed prior to the next meeting.

CYP
75/09

Chair's Update

Further to the meeting of this Committee held on 3rd December 2009, the Chairman summarised the latest Work Programme issues and provided an update for members of discussions held at a meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee which discussed the possibility of this Committee having further input into the review of the Youth Service provision.

It was further noted that following the recent overview meeting, it was intended that a report on the monitoring of bullying be also considered at the February meeting, and that the scheduled meeting during half term be re-arranged for Wednesday 24th February 2010 commencing at 5.30pm.

CONCLUDED that the Chair's update be noted.