

# Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010.

**Present:** Cllr David Harrington (Chairman), Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Aiden Cockerill (vice Cllr Sherris), Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman.

**Officers:** G.Carson,T.Frank, S.McLurg, P.Seller, P Surtees (CESC); P.Diggins (DNS); N.Hart, J.Trainer (LD).

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Ann McCoy (Cabinet Member for Children & Young People); G.Davies (Governing Body representative), B.Lupton (Teaching Unions representative).

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cherrett, Frankland and Sherris.

## 1 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Cains declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations re Bullying Review' as a result of her membership of the Healthy Lives, Healthy Weight Partnership'..

CONCLUDED that the Declaration of Interest be noted.

## 2 Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations-EIT Review of Child Placements

Members received the initial progress update regarding the implementation of recommendations arising from the recent EIT Review of Child Placements.

The Head of Children & Young People-Operational advised that work was now underway regards implementation of all of the recommendations, although there had been some initial slippage on the timescale due to the complex multi faceted proposals agreed involving many partner organisations. This was particularly evident in the case of Recommendation 4 regarding increasing the availability of sub-regional provision for 'hard to place' children/young people with complex needs however, all of the necessary partners were now involved and significant progress was now expected to be made. Members made reference to the quality of service provided currently by the small number of Care Homes within the Borough which could demonstrate a significant improvement and enhancement in children's lives and their families relationships as a result of their placements within these homes.

It was noted that Recommendation 1 'Director of CESC working regionally with RIEP and other Director colleagues' was now not able to proceed as fully envisaged following changes to the funding regime of RIEP making the scheme impossible to implement.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted and assessments of progress be endorsed.

## 3 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within

the Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations in respect of both the reviews undertaken of bullying and obesity.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted and the assessments of progress be endorsed.

#### **4 Youth Services Review**

The Committee received a progress update in relation to the following issues:-

- Sunderland Youth Service and XL Youth Villages,
- Use of Community Centres for Youth Activities,
- HR Issues,
- Use of School Premises/Extended Schools,
- Asset Review,
- Analysis from Youth Club Survey,
- Myplace.

The background and structure of Youth Provision in Sunderland was summarised for members. It was noted from both discussions with officers there and from observing the activities of the Youth Villages, that they had a well run service commissioned from the voluntary and community sector, and offered a range of targeted activities similar to Stockton, which, in the case of the Villages, had the support of the local press but were only offered for limited time periods and excluded the peak August holiday period.

With regard to Stockton's own youth activities, members noted the experiences of young people recorded on DVD from their time spent recently at both the Clarences and John Whitehead Park in partnership with organisations such as the Fire Brigade. Stockton's approach sought to place emphasis on a legacy of provision in areas once main programmes had ceased as it was considered important to continue to provide facilities in the longer term so as to avoid evidence of anti-social behaviour in areas increasing once resources had been removed. Details were provided of the current cost of the provision of services from Elmwood, Grangefield and Robert Atkinson Youth & Community Centres.

Members were advised that work on the Asset Review was on-going and was being led by the Corporate Director of Development & Neighbourhood Services. A summary of HR issues to be taken into future consideration as part of the review was noted and the Chair of the Committee was to meet with staff next week as part of this process.

The Head of Children & Young People-Strategy advised that a comprehensive strategy and action plan was in place for the Use of School Premises/Extended Schools programme and that all schools within the Borough were part of this agreement, although this did not mean that all made their facilities available as a range of services were provided amongst a cluster of schools and it was up to each school to determine whether they should open. It was agreed that details of the identities of all schools that did currently open be provided to members.

It was hoped that a response to the Council's request for further clarification of the funding issues associated with the Myplace initiative would be received prior to this Committee's next meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

It was noted from analysis of the Youth Club Survey Results report and from the experiences of members from their own visits, that Stockton's Youth Club provided a comprehensive range of activities and that the quality of the provision was more dependent upon the skills of the staff providing them and activities on offer, rather than on the physical make up of the premises themselves.

CONCLUDED that the updates received regarding the Youth Service Review be noted.

## **5 Work Programme**

Members were provided with an updated Work Programme.

As reported earlier in the meeting, the Chairman was to meet with staff from the Youth Service next week and any member able to attend was invited to the Catalyst Event which was to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010; to which the winners of the Youth Club survey would be invited to attend to receive their prizes.

With regard to later meetings scheduled for this Committee to finalise agreement of its report and recommendations, it was necessary to re-arrange the meeting scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November and hold it now on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. The Chairman also expressed the wish to arrange an all member consultation event prior to this date to discuss the draft recommendations.

CONCLUDED that the revised Work Programme be noted.

## **6 Chairman's Update**

It was noted that a further Ofsted inspection was due to be held in the forthcoming weeks, this time in respect of the Safeguarding Children Service. The Corporate Director of Children, Education & Social Care had indicated Ofsted's wish to meet with the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010, and that the Inspectors were also likely to invite members of this Committee to attend.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.