

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 26th October, 2011.

Present: Cllr Miss Barbara Inman (Chairman), Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Ross Patterson.

Officers: Beccy Brown (C); Michelle Jones, Fiona McKie, Judith Trainer (LD).

Also in attendance: Mr D Campbell (Non Voting Co-opted Representative)

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Ray McCall and Cllr Tracey Scott.

1 **Declarations of Interest**

None

2 **Minutes for Signing - 29th June and 7th September 2011**

The minutes of the meetings held on 29th June and 7th September, 2011 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 **Draft Minutes - 5th October 2011**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 5th October, 2011.

Members requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr George Davies who had been a long standing non voting Member of the Committee and had recently retired.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

4 **Task and Finish EIT Review of the Impact of the Introduction of the Early Intervention Grant**

Members were provided with a copy of the report that was due to go to Cabinet on 3rd November 2011 that recommended a new approach to Early Years operations which would deliver a more targeted, partnership based service with a commitment to early intervention and support. The new approach would also deliver annual cost savings of approximately £2m.

The Select Committee supported the recommendations for redesigning Early Years Services in the borough, following discussion around the key issues set out below:

- the extent to which the Council had to abide by the DfE guidelines regarding the number of children centres by population;
- the process of setting "reasonable" charges;
- a recognition that targeted families in affluent areas would not be able to access "closed" sessions in other areas. However, it was noted that there may be some flexibility where capacity existed;
- any partner organisation would need to be subject to robust checks as part of the procurement process;
- there should be a distinction between staff working in the Home Visiting Team (who will transfer into the Children and Young People Operational Service) and social workers.

Members requested a further breakdown of the footfall of registered users at the family centres within the borough. Beccy Brown would email this information to Members of the Committee.

AGREED that the recommendations for redesigning the early years service be supported.

5 Work Programme

Members would be considering School Effectiveness at their next meeting on 23rd November, 2011.

Members were requested to consider topics for future scrutiny reviews as these would be discussed at the Scrutiny Liaison Forum in December.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.