

# Children and Young People Select Committee

## Quality and Sufficiency of Childcare Scrutiny Review

### Outline Scope

<b>Scrutiny Chair (Project Director):</b> Councillor Barbara Inman	<b>Contact details:</b> 01642 582644
<b>Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager):</b> Judy Trainer	<b>Contact details:</b> 01642 528158
<b>Departmental Link Officer:</b> Lynda Brown	<b>Contact details:</b> 01642 527041
<b>Finance Link Officer:</b> David New	<b>Contact details:</b> 01642 526981
<b>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</b>  Council Plan Objective – Children and Young People - No Child Left Behind	
<b>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To continue to improve the quality of childcare and therefore outcomes for children.</li><li>• To identify and plug gaps in provision in order to meet need.</li><li>• To prepare for the duty to provide places for disadvantaged 2 year olds by 2013.</li></ul>	
<b>The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sufficiency of childcare – how can the Council meet gaps in provision?</li><li>• Quality of childcare – how can the Council improve quality of provision?</li><li>• How should the Council's quality improvement programme be used in order to raise standards?</li><li>• Evaluation of current support arrangements – are they sufficiently provider focused?</li><li>• Do we ensure that parents have access to information to make informed choices?</li></ul>	
<b>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</b>  External providers – Nurseries, childminders and schools.	
<b>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</b>  <b>7 months:</b> <b>25 July</b> – Approval of scope and project plan by Select Committee <b>July – November</b> – Evidence gathering <b>19 December</b> – Formulate draft recommendations <b>16 January</b> – Approval of Final Report <b>29 January</b> – Consideration of report by Executive Scrutiny <b>7 February</b> – Cabinet approval	

**What information do we need?**

**Existing information (e.g. background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):**

Summary of statutory requirements under the Childcare Act 2006 (including chronology from 1994 and local context)  
Government consultation proposals  
Stockton on Tees “A Journey to Outstanding” quality improvement programme  
Analysis of childcare places and gap analysis  
Analysis of Ofsted ratings and reports and benchmarking  
Finance/ budgetary information

**New information:**

Consultation with providers and parents.

**Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)**

Jane Wright,  
Planning and Partnerships Manager  
Diane McConnell, Chief Adviser  
Providers: Nurseries, childminders, schools  
Parents  
Parents of children with complex/ additional needs  
David New, Senior Finance Manager, CESC

**What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?**

Sufficiency of childcare  
Quality of Childcare  
Customer perspective  
User perspective  
Issues in respect of additional/ complex needs  
Financial implications of extension to 2 year old offer

**How will this information be gathered? (e.g. Financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)**

Desk top research  
Presentations to Select Committee  
Site visits to nurseries – private and schools based  
Focus groups / attendance at Select Committee

**How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?**

Scrutiny reviews will be promoted generally via posters and Stockton News.  
Nurseries – site visits and attendance at Select Committee  
Childminders – Discussion at Network Meeting/ attendance at Select Committee  
Parents –Attendance at Select Committee  
Schools- Focus group of Head Teachers/ attendance at Select Committee

**How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?**

The Committee will need to be satisfied that the Council is meeting and will continue to meet its duties under equality legislations to promote equality for disabled children and ensure that settings are aware of their responsibilities.

Local Authorities are also required to have a good understanding of current and future demand

and how to match them. This includes affordability, location, opening times, the particular needs of black and ethnic groups and children with a disability or special educational needs.

**How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment?**

The review will contribute to the following health and wellbeing priorities:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Will meet the Child Poverty agenda
- Have more training and employment opportunities

**Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:**

The review will be seeking to improve the quality of childcare in the Borough and ensure there are sufficient places for 2 year olds.

## Quality of Childcare

## Project Plan

<b>Chair</b> Councillor Barbara Inman	<b>Scrutiny Officer</b> Judy Trainer
<b>Departmental Link Officers</b> Lynda Brown (Jane Wright (sufficiency); Diane McConnell (quality))	<b>Finance Link Officer</b> David New

KEY TASK	DETAILS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>Scoping of Review</b>	Information gathering	May 2012	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	<b>23 May 2012</b>	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Agree Project Plan</b>	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	<b>25 July 2012</b>	Select Committee
<b>Publicity of Review</b>	To be determined		Chair, Link Officer, Press Officer Scrutiny Officer
<b>Obtaining Evidence</b>	Consultation with providers and parents	July to September 2012	
	Site Visits	July to September 2012	Select Committee

	Presentation of background information Approval of consultation arrangements  Quality Issues  Sufficiency Issues  Round table discussions with providers and parents	<b>25 July 2012</b>  <b>5 September 2012</b>  <b>10 October 2012</b>  <b>21 November 2012</b>	
<b>Members decide recommendations and findings</b>	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	<b>December 2012 (TBA)</b>	Select Committee
<b>Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders</b>	Circulation of Report	December 2012	Scrutiny Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss finding of review and draft recommendations	<b>TBA</b>	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Final Agreement of Report</b>	Approval of final report by Committee	<b>16 January 2013</b>	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Corporate Director
<b>Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee</b>	Consideration of report	<b>29 January 2013</b>	Executive Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report to Cabinet/Approving Body</b>	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	<b>7 February 2013</b>	Cabinet/ Approving Body