

# Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 23rd April, 2014.

**Present:** Cllr Carol Clark (Chair); Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E and Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

**Officers:** S McLurg (CESC); J Trainer, P K Bell (LD).

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Apologies:** Cllr Elliot Kennedy and Cllr Tracey Stott.

## 1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

## 2 **Minutes for Signature - 19th February 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2014 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 3 **Draft Minutes - 26th March 2014**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2014.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

## 4 **Scrutiny Review of A Safer Place for Children**

**- To receive background information to inform the review.**

Members considered a copy of the "Local Safeguarding Children Board - A Safer Place for Children" document as part of the Scrutiny Review of A Safer Place for Children. Shaun McLurg (Head of Children and Young People's Services), was in attendance at the meeting to present the document and answer any questions on the document.

The document covered the following headings:-

- \* Legal background
- \* Unsupervised children
- \* Organised activities for children in public settings
- \* Evacuation procedures
- \* Adults in areas designated for children's use
- \* Use of staff toilets
- \* Consultation and surveys
- \* Avoiding situations where staff may be in a vulnerable position
- \* Dealing with unacceptable behaviour
- \* Family friendly
- \* Use of the internet
- \* The wider context of child safety

The main issues discussed were as follows:-

- \* The list of organisations that had been consulted on the document
- \* The recommended age for unaccompanied children
- \* The status of the document as a guidance tool

The Committee noted that a key issue was the permitted age of unaccompanied children in the policy guidelines and that the recommended age limit was at odds with the policy of Tees Active which was based on industry guidelines. In addition, there was some uncertainty with regards to who had been consulted on the document. The Committee agreed that the document should be re-circulated to all the agencies with feedback reported back to the next meeting of the Committee.

AGREED that:-

1. The information be noted.
2. The "A Safer Place for Children" document be re -circulated for comments.