

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 16th July, 2014.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark(Chairman), Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Tracey Stott.

Officers: Darren Coulton, Shaun McLurg, Jane Wright(CESC), Judith Trainer and Kirsty Wannop(LDS).

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

2 Minutes for Signature - 23rd April 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2014 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3 Scrutiny Review of A Safer Place for Children

Taking into account all the evidence presented, the Committee concluded that the existing policy should remain in place. Whilst acknowledging the issues raised by Tees Active, the Committee felt that the age threshold for unaccompanied children of 10 years was appropriate and sent a clear expectation to parents around the age at which children should be accompanied in a public building. In reaching this conclusion, the Committee were mindful of the risks which were present in Leisure Centres demonstrated by the recent court case regarding the taking of indecent photographs of children in a Stockton Leisure Centre. The Committee felt that reducing the age threshold for unaccompanied children to 8 years may place children at further risk.

AGREED that the existing A Safer Place for Children policy guidelines be endorsed by the Select Committee and the final report be submitted to Cabinet on 4 September.

4 Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements

The Committee received background information and a presentation on the Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements. The main information included:-

- School organisation plan was a document that helped to plan the school places needed using data and trends information to inform capital proposals and investments.
- The school admission arrangements that were in place as in line with the School Admissions Code 2012.
- Consultation on changes to the admissions process had to be a minimum of 8 weeks between 1 November and 1st March therefore any changes would not come into place until the following year.
- Information on September 2015 Admissions policy for Community and

Voluntary-Controlled Schools.

- If parental preference could not be accommodated children would become eligible for school transport

Members suggested that when considering planning applications it would be helpful if more information on the impact on the schools in the area was included.

Whilst it was proposed to undertake a borough wide review beginning 2015/16 and concluding 2016/17, the Committee agreed that there were priorities for possible consideration and implementation in 2014 for impact on September 2016 admissions:

- Pressing demand for primary places in Stockton – North and Central primary planning areas
- Rationalise primary zones in Ingleby Barwick
- Review secondary zones in the planning areas of Ingleby Barwick, Eaglescliffe and Yarm

AGREED the information be noted.

5 Work Programme

The Committee considered its work programme.