

## Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 30th June, 2010.

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

**Officers:** Peter Seller, Terry Frank, Paul Surtees (CESC); Paul Diggins (DNS); Fiona McKie, Judith Trainer (LD); David New (R).

**Also in attendance:** Mr G Davies (Non Voting Co-opted Representative). Cllr Robert Gibson. Gillian Corr (Ingleby Barwick Resident). Paul McGee (Know How North East). Allison Agius (Catalyst).

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Cllr Frankland and Cllr Sherris.

### **CYP      Declarations of Interest**

**14/10**

Cllr Gibson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 5 Youth Service Review further to being a Member of the Newtown Resource Centre Board.

### **CYP      Draft Minutes of 19th May 2010**

**15/10**

The minutes of the 19th May 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

### **CYP      Action Plan - Child Placements**

**16/10**

Members were provided with the action plan for Child Placements. Sean McLurg had been unable to attend the meeting to discuss the matter in further detail. Members requested that Sean McLurg be invited to a meeting in September.

CONCLUDED that the Action Plan be noted and that Sean McLurg be invited to a meeting in September.

### **CYP      Youth Service Review**

**17/10**

Members were provided with a presentation by Allison Agius, Catalyst. The Committee were advised that Catalyst was a strategic body representing the voluntary and community sector. Allison had begun to seek some initial views from the sector on Youth Services to present to the Committee meeting. Initial feedback from the sector revealed that:

- The voluntary and community sector already provided a lot of youth services to a very high standard
- The sector were well placed to attract funding from external sources
- The sector often provided youth services to an earlier age group
- There was scope for community assets to be transferred to the sector
- Commissioning opportunities were not always being communicated effectively to the sector
- There were concerns about the My Place project: that it would result in cuts in the youth service elsewhere; it was not what young people wanted; the location was a concern; travel was an issue; and some young people were very

territorial and might not travel to the venue

In addition, to the initial comments from the sector, Allison also added that the disparity in pay and conditions between Council employees and the voluntary and community sector presented a significant barrier to commissioning.

Catalyst were holding a conference on 22nd September where all of their members would be invited and if possible this matter would be included for discussion on the day. It was also stated that some information could be put in Catalyst's newsletter in order for further comments from the sector to be fed into the review. However, there was not sufficient time to consult with the sector at large and the e-bulletin and conference would only reach a small number of organisations through Catalyst's membership.

Paul McGee, Know How North East, was in attendance as a member of the public and was invited by the Chair to give his views on youth services. He felt that a stronger relationship needed to be achieved between the Council and the community/voluntary sector especially in the current economic climate.

Peter Seller highlighted the key points of the financial information that had been provided. Discussion was held on the analysis and the following was highlighted:

- There was significant variation in footfall costs between clubs
- There were significant premises costs associated with particular centres which increased average footfall costs significantly
- There was heavy reliance upon sessional staff
- Targeted activities were demonstrating significantly better value for money in terms of unit costs and outcomes

Members discussed the Youth Bus and the high running costs. It was stated that the Council had previously had 3 buses but two of the buses had been provided to Know How North East, therefore the Council was now only running one bus.

Members had held site visits to each of the Youth Centres and provided a brief presentation on each of those visits to other Members of the Committee. In general, the visits revealed that there was a wide variation in terms of attendance, the quality of the facilities and the offer. Members had visited Sunderland and had received information on their youth service which was provided through the voluntary and community sector.

A visit was also made to one of the Sunderland XL Youth Villages. It was reported that it was a well organised event and the DVD would be shown at Members next meeting.

CONCLUDED that the information presented be noted.

**CYP**      **Work Programme**  
**18/10**

The next meeting to be held on 14th July 2010 would need to begin at the earlier time of 4pm due to full council being held that evening.

It was suggested that the 22nd September meeting be changed and that an alternative date be considered.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.

**CYP  
19/10**

**Chair's Update**

The Chair stated that an update on My Place would need to be provided at the next meeting.

CONCLUDED that the Chair's update be noted.