

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 9th March, 2011.

Present: Cllr David Harrington (Chairman-items 1-2, 5-8), Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Andrew Sherris

Officers: Ms J.Humphreys, T.Beckwith, T.Frank, P.Seller (CESC); P.Diggins (DNS); N.Hart, Ms J.Trainer (LD); Ms B.Brown (R).

Also in attendance: Mr D Campbell, Mr G Davies, Mr R G Lupton (Co-opted Non Voting Representatives).

Apologies: submitted on behalf of Cllr Cherrett.

CYP 66/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

CYP 67/10 Draft Minutes - 26th January 2011

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

CYP 68/10 Youth Service Review - Action Plan and Service Reconfiguration Proposals

Cllr Eddy in the Chair.

Members were requested to consider the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Youth Service Review would be implemented and target dates for completion; the report and decisions having been considered by Cabinet initially on the 16th December 2010, with final decisions made on the 17th February 2011.

These recommendations were now subject to the procedure for monitoring the implementation of agreed recommendations.

Reference was made to the implications of closure of the Thornaby Youth Cafe and for the subsequent needs of young people in that area to be met. It was noted that with regard to the future involvement of young people on this Committee, elections to the Shadow Youth Board would be held in April and thereafter this Committee, post elections, would be in a position to consider options for their involvement including the possible hosting of an event aimed at young people and consideration of co-option arrangements.

The Chair thanked the Committee and officers for their hard work undertaken during this review.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The Action Plan be approved.
2. A letter be sent on behalf of this Committee to the Principal of Thornaby Academy welcoming their plans to develop youth provision within the locality for

residents.

CYP 69/10 Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS): Connexions, Targeted Youth Support & Preventions - Action Plan

Cllr Eddy in the Chair.

Members were requested to consider the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the review of Integrated Youth Support Service; Connexions; and Targeted Youth Support and Preventions would be implemented and target dates for completion, the report and decisions having been made by Cabinet on the 17th February 2011.

With regard to future transitional arrangements for Careers Advice and Guidance, reference was made to the anticipated changes outlined within the Education Bill and it was noted that whilst the full details of these were awaited, initial dialogue had been held with Head Teachers of Secondary Schools and would continue once the full implications were known.

The Chair thanked the Committee and officers for their hard work undertaken during this review.

CONCLUDED that the Action Plan be approved.

CYP 70/10 Scope - EIT Task and Finish Review of the Early Intervention Grant

Members were provided with the draft scope for the Officer Led Task & Finish Review of the impact of the introduction of the Early Intervention Grant. This followed the Government's announcement in December 2010 of the creation of a new Early Intervention Grant (EIG) to replace 23 existing ring-fenced grants which were available to support services for children, young people and families.

The key features of the new EIG grant were:

- The removal of the ring-fencing and greater local flexibility. The Government had made it clear that the most effective use of this money was for local authorities to determine. Subject to local decision making, the EIG could support a full range of services for children, young people and families and the guidance made it clear that local authorities could use the new funding in support of a wide range of services for children, young people and families. It was anticipated that this would include:

- Sure Start Children's Centres
- free early education (nursery) places for disadvantaged two-year-olds
- short breaks for disabled children
- targeted support for vulnerable young people
- targeted mental health in schools
- targeted support for families with multiple problems.

The guidance also made it clear that local authorities would have a stronger role in commissioning services and should only be providing services themselves as a last resort.

The 2011/12 EIG for Stockton was £9.3million, and it was noted that this was £3.1million less than the grants which it replaced – a reduction in annual funding of 25%

The Committee was advised that the new EIG provided both an opportunity and a necessity to re-think the provision of support to children young people and families in the Borough. The opportunities brought about by the greater local freedom and the challenges arising from the 25% funding cut have led to the creation of this EIG review to ensure a comprehensive, co-ordinated and urgent response to the new funding arrangements.

The proposed review had been established with 3 work-streams as follows:

- Early Years
- Integrated Youth Services
- Other EIG related services and back office support

Details of the services covered by the review were provided, along with the total annual cost of these services and number of staff employed.

It was noted that given the make up of this Committee may change following the local elections, that the scope of the review be presented again to the first meeting of this Committee post elections.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The draft scope of the review be approved and be re-presented to the first meeting of this Committee in the next Municipal Year.

2.A consultation process to seek views about the current Early Years Intervention Grant (EIG) service commence and report to the first meeting of this Select Committee in the new Municipal Year.

3.A report be submitted to the first meeting of this Select Committee in the new Municipal Year in relation to the completed elements of the EIG review in relation to:-

- i)integrated youth provision;
- ii)other EIG related services.

CYP 71/10 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

CONCLUDED that consideration of this item be deferred until the Committee's next meeting.

CYP 72/10 Work Programme

It was noted that, in addition to the Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations, a report would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee on the 30th March 2011 regarding a review of the Committee's work over the last four year period and that the Corporate Director of Children & Young People and the Head of Children & Young People Operations be invited

to attend.

**CYP
73/10**

Chair's Update

The Chair thanked the Vice Chairman, fellow members of the Committee, and officers for their support given to him during his recent period of incapacity. Particular appreciation was expressed to the Vice Chair and the Committee as a whole for the hard work undertaken to ensure the completion of the Youth Service Review.