

Children and Young People Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 31 July 2012

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

EIT Review of School Effectiveness

The Committee considered the Action Plan for the EIT review of School Effectiveness outlining how the recommendations will be implemented at their meeting on 25 July. The Committee's recommendations were:

- 1) To align and integrate teams to ensure efficient and effective service delivery and support for schools
- 2) To review business models for commissioning and buy back services in the context of Campus Stockton Prospectus
- 3) Put in place a modernised 'whole system' school improvement model, rooted in collaboration with Stockton schools and key partners and stakeholders

The recommendations will achieve an annual saving of £200,000 and a one off saving of £0.5m.

Scrutiny Review – Quality of Childcare

The Committee also considered the draft scope for the review of Quality of Childcare at the July meeting.

The main issues and overall aim of this review are as follows:

- To continue to improve the quality of childcare and therefore outcomes for children.
- To identify and plug gaps in provision in order to meet need.
- To prepare for the duty to provide places for disadvantaged 2 year olds by 2013.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- Sufficiency of childcare – how can the Council meet gaps in provision?
- Quality of childcare – how can the Council improve quality of provision?
- How should the Council's quality improvement programme be used in order to raise standards?
- Evaluation of current support arrangements – are they sufficiently provider focused?
- Do we ensure that parents have access to information to make informed choices?

In addition consultation with providers and parents will be undertaken as well as site visits to nurseries.

The Committee received background information at the meeting which included:

- Chronology of Early Years & Childcare
- Summary of statutory requirements under the Childcare Act 2006
- Government consultation on proposed changes to free Early Education and Childcare Sufficiency

- Stockton on Tees “A Journey to Outstanding” quality improvement programme
- Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Final Report 2011
- Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011 – 14 Executive Summary
- Childcare Sufficiency Annual Update March 2012

The review is scheduled to report to Cabinet next February.