

Children and Young People Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 23 October 2012

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

Scrutiny Review – Quality of Childcare

The Committee met on 10 October and were presented with information regarding the sufficiency of childcare. This included an update on previous methods of assessing sufficiency and the September 2012 “Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on the Delivery of Free Early Education for Three and Four Year olds and Securing Sufficient Childcare”. The statutory guidance outlined the outcomes different measures are seeking to achieve, what is required by legislation, and what LA’s should do to fulfil their statutory responsibilities.

Members also received a briefing paper on the review of free early education to two year olds, and the Committee discussed the implementation of this in Stockton. The policy extends the entitlement of 15 hours per week free childcare to all disadvantaged two year olds, and an estimated 1400 places will be required in Stockton by 2014.

Sites visits to two independent nurseries, two school nurseries, and a childminder took place in September. Members observed the high quality childcare that is provided in these different settings.

The review is scheduled to report to Cabinet in February 2012.