

Children and Young People Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 5 August 2014

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

Scrutiny Review of Employment and Education

The review sought to establish how education and business can work together to ensure that learning provision matches local industry need. The final report was presented to the last Executive Scrutiny Committee and the Committee's recommendations were approved by Cabinet on 24 April 2014.

An action plan was submitted to the Select Committee on 19 June 2014.

Scrutiny Review of a Safer Place for Children

The Committee received an initial presentation on the Policy Guidelines for A Safer Place for Children which explained the background to developing the policy and some of the issues which had arisen resulting in the Committee being asked to review the policy.

A further meeting was held on 11 June to receive feedback on the policy guidelines from relevant organisations and member agencies. The Committee also received evidence from Tees Active, the Head of Culture and Leisure and Catalyst. The Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care gave her personal views on the policy guidelines to the Committee on 19 June.

At their last meeting on 16 July, taking into account all the evidence presented, the Committee concluded that the existing policy should remain in place. Whilst acknowledging 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.

School Organisation and Admission Arrangements

The Committee have also received a scope and project plan for its next review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements. The overall aim of the review is to ensure that the process and criteria for identifying priorities for 2014/15 has been transparent and robust and then to be involved in ensuring that the public consultation December 2014 – March 2015 is carried out appropriately and that the outcomes and report to Cabinet on recommendations in March 2015 have been subject to Scrutiny, prior to lodging with Secretary of State in April 2015.

On 16 July, the Committee received an introductory presentation from officers setting the context for the review. The next meeting will focus on key priorities and proposals for consultation.

Overview Meeting

The Committee's annual overview meeting was held on 19 June in conjunction with the Q4 performance report.