

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in Civic Centre, Committee Room No. 1, on
Thursday, 21st July, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.**

Membership

Cllrs Bell, Bonallie, MacKnight, T. Martin, Morrissey, Oliver, D. Richardson, Scanlan,
D. Smith, Stewart and Williams

Co-opted Members

Ms. J. Bell, Mr. H. Brown, Mrs. D. Butler, Ms. S. Duncan, Mrs. R. Elliott, Mr. M. Frank,
Mrs. M. Harrop, Ms. H. Harper, Mrs. C. Hutchinson and Mr. K. Morris

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E. WAUGH
Head of Law & Governance

Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

12th July, 2011

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 8th September, 2011 at 5:30 pm to be held in the Civic Centre, Committee Room No.1

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 9th JUNE, 2011 at 5:30pm

Present:-

Councillor Morrissey in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Bonallie, MacKnight, Oliver, D. Richardson, Scanlan, D. Snith and Williams together with Ms. R. Elliott and Ms. C. Hutchinson

Also in Attendance:-

Cllr Tate - Chairman of Management Scrutiny Committee

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Stewart and on behalf of Mr. K. Morris

Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 7th April, 2011

Councillor Oliver referred to page 4 of the minutes and asked if further information on staff sickness levels had been provided. Mr. Cummings advised that he would check with Mr. Foster and share the information with Members directly.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 7th April, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) asking Members to determine the Annual Work Programme for the Committee during the 2011-12 municipal year, including the main theme for a detailed policy review.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report advising that the Scrutiny Committee were responsible for setting its own work programme within its remit to

consider issues relating to children and young people, and learning for all ages. He also advised that the Scrutiny Committee was aligned to the most relevant priorities within the Sunderland Strategy and that for this Committee that would be the Learning City priority. The draft work programme for the year was an appendix to the report and would be populated with items agreed by Members and amended during the year as required.

With regards to the policy review topic for the year, Mr. Cummings advised that the following topics had been selected as a shortlist following discussions that had been held between Members, Officers and Partners at the Annual Scrutiny Conference on 19 May, 2011:-

- Teenage Pregnancy;
- Corporate Parent;
- Early Intervention;
- Educational Performance; and
- New Relationships with Schools.

Discussions ensued between Members and Officers around the benefits of each of the short listed topics and it was suggested that Early Intervention could be the main policy review topic with Task and Finish Groups for Teenage Pregnancy and Corporate Parent feeding in to the main review topic.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The draft annual Work Programme 2011/12 be received and agreed; and
- (ii) Early Intervention be agreed as the main policy review topic with Task and Finish Groups for Teenage Pregnancy and Corporate Parent being set up to feed into it.

Offending by Children and Young People Living in Children's Homes

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which had been prepared following a request made by Members of this Committee to provide more detailed information on the offending of young people in children's homes.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Boustead, Head of Safeguarding, presented the report to the Committee advising that a lot of work had been carried out over the last few years to reduce the number of young people committing offences or being involved in criminal activity whilst being resident in children's homes. Last year had seen a considerable improvement in performance measured against figures regarding young people in the wider population. This year's figures look not to be as successful and the service needed to investigate the reasons behind this to see if other strategies needed to be employed to continue improving performance.

In response to a query from Councillor Williams regarding paragraph 2.3 of the report and the young people who were arrested for damaging the fabric of the home, Ms. Boustead advised that she was aware one of the cases had been due to a new television being damaged but that she did not have further detail on the others. She commented that she would gather the further information and report back to Members directly.

With regards to covering the costs for the slashed tyres rather than being arrested, Ms. Boustead advised that it was something that could be looked at but it was dependant of whether the member of staff involved wished to complain to the police. Councillor Williams went on to comment that in a normal family setting they would face other consequences such as loss of privacy, technology or pocket money rather than being arrested.

Councillor MacKnight commented that as a magistrate she noticed that there were not as many young people coming through the courts system from children's homes as there had been in the past and that they had to learn to deal with consequences to their actions. Following a query from Councillor MacKnight, Ms. Boustead advised that if fined by the court the staff in the homes were not allowed to take away their basic pocket money allowance and how much the young people got was dependant on their age and increased every year.

Councillor Richardson referred to the case study set out in Appendix 1 of the report and asked if once the young person turned 18 and was claiming job seekers, if unemployed, could they not ask them to pay fines and was advised that technically, the children's homes can not have young people as residents once they turned 18. Exceptions were sometimes made to allow young people to carry on living in the home beyond their 18th birthday for a short period of time until they could live comfortably independently. With regards to paying fines, once the young person was working or claiming benefits then they could be asked by the courts to pay the fines from their income.

Councillor Oliver highlighted the figures set out in the table at paragraph 2.1 of the report and asked how these compared with regional and national figures as he was keen to see if this was a particular problem within Sunderland or if it was similar to the national scene. Ms. Boustead informed Members that the comparative data was not available for this year as yet. Last year's figures had compared very well with regional and national performances and she was aware that this year the results would be slightly lower but advised that it did depend upon the cohort of young people that were resident in the children's homes at any one time. Further information would be available for the Committee as part of the performance reporting later in the year.

Councillor Oliver went on to ask if there were more cases in one home than any of the others and if there was did they know the reason why and was informed that there was one home with a number of quite troubled young people resident at the moment which had been causing difficulties. Following an incident with one young person they had made the decision not to send them back to the home to attempt to break the clique that had been made in an attempt to alleviate the problems.

In response to a query from Councillor Oliver as to whether it was coincidental that one home had ended up with a number of troubled young people, Ms. Boustead advised that they did try and match the young people they put together in the homes but obviously this was not an exact science and staff found it a constant balancing act. As a point of information Ms. Boustead advised that they liked to have less than seven young people resident in a home at any one time and that they were currently moving towards reducing this to six.

Councillor Williams asked how much evidence there was of foster carers involving Northumbria Police and was advised that they were involved very rarely as it was a completely different calibre of young person that was in a foster family. If a young person was resident in a children's home they would have already been through the foster care process as it was very rare for a young person to be placed directly into a children's home. The bulk of young people resident in children's homes were unable to live in a family setting anymore as it had shown not to work for them so the children's homes were made to feel as homely as possible but it was not the same as a normal family setting.

In response to a question from Councillor Smith regarding the number of young people and children's homes, Ms. Boustead advised that there were six children's homes in Sunderland, three homes with 7 young people resident in each and 3 homes with six. On occasion a young person's needs may not fit with the homes in Sunderland and they may need to be placed in a children's home outside of the city for a limited time, unless it was felt that they had settled particularly well in that area and it would be detrimental to move them.

Having thanked the Officer for her report and attendance at the meeting, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the information contained within the report be received and noted.

Commissioning of Youth Work Contracts

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which was in response to a request from the Committee for detailed performance information on each of the Commissioned Youth Work Contracts, following a report that was presented to the Committee in March, 2011.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Sandra Mitchell, Head of Performance Improvement and Policy presented the report advising that there were 24 contracts issued to cover each ward, except where two wards were combined, and one city wide contract for the black and minority ethnic (BME) community and that the contracts were to ensure that a minimum of three universal youth work sessions were delivered per ward using a wide range of different methods.

She informed Members that section 3 of the report set out those wards where the contracts were performing below target and the agreed actions that were in place to

address the issues, whilst the appendix to the report set out the targets for all twenty five contracts and the actual achieved number in 2010-11 for each of the performance indicators.

Ms. Mitchell informed the Committee that all of the contracts were two year contracts in the first instance with the expectation to extend them when it was agreed appropriate to do so.

In response to a question regarding cross pollination of young people between activities from Councillor Morrissey, Ms. Mitchell advised that the young person's postcode was recorded when they attended an activity so they could see if there was any crossover of young people and ensure they were only counted once. The targets were set in relation to the number of young people who lived in the area who they recommended should be made contact with and the actual figures had far exceeded these.

Councillor MacKnight advised that she had visited some of the youth villages around her ward and had seen that there was some young people who followed the activities and attended more than one event. She informed the Committee that she had found the visit interesting and informative and recommended any new Councillors to undertake similar visits in their areas.

Councillor Bonallie commented that the youth villages were an excellent concept and a tribute to Andy Neal who had worked so hard to achieve the success that they have become.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Mitchell for her attendance at the Committee and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the information in the report be received and noted.

Safe and Sustainable Consultation : Children's Heart Services

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with detail of the ongoing consultation about the reconfiguration of children's heart services in England.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Cummings, presented the report advising that the NHS were currently consulting on proposals for reconfiguration of children's congenital heart services in England and followed the national 'Safe and Sustainable Review' which proposed four options to reduce the number of hospitals providing children's heart surgery from eleven to six or seven. The review also proposed that many non surgical services were provided closer to where patients live.

The four proposed options for the number and location of hospitals that provide children's heart surgical services in the future, were:-

- A Seven surgical centres at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, Glenfield Hospital, Leicester, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and 2 centres in London;
- B Seven surgical centres at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Southampton General Hospital and 2 centres in London;
- C Six surgical centres at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and 2 centres in London; or
- D Six surgical centres at Leeds General Infirmary, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and 2 centres in London;

Members were advised that the consultation ended on 1st July, 2011 and the final decision was expected to be made in November, 2011.

Following discussions around the four proposals and the impacts each would have for Sunderland, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the Committee strongly support option A, whilst secondly supporting options B and C and strongly opposing option D as set out.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1 June, 2011 – 30 September, 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider the relevant items of the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 June, 2011 – 30 September, 2011.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the Executive's Forward Plan for the current period be received and noted.

The Chairman then drew the meeting to a close having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

(Signed) T. MORRISSEY
Chairman.

REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 22 JUNE, 2011

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2011-2012

Report of the Head of Law and Governance

1. Why has this report come to this Committee?

- 1.1 To seek the advice and consideration of this Committee on a report considered by Cabinet on 22 June, 2011 on the Youth Justice Plan 2011/2012 and outlining the background, purpose and intentions of the Plan.
- 1.2 Members views will contribute to the consultation process.

2. Background and Current Position

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 22 June, 2011 gave consideration to the attached report of the Executive Director of Children's Services. The report outlines the background, purpose and intentions of the Plan and provides the Plan intended for publication. The Plan is the primary document for the Youth Offending Team Partnerships to set out how they will deliver against the Youth Justice Board's Performance Management Framework for Youth Offending Teams and is a key source for local planning.
- 2.2 Copies of the 22 June Cabinet Agenda have been made available to all Members of the Council.
- 2.3 The Cabinet noted the contents of the report and the Youth Justice Plan 2011 – 2012 (attached) and agreed that the plan be sent for full Council approval. They also agreed to receive a half yearly update on youth justice planning and delivery prior to the development of the next Youth Justice Plan for 2012-2013 as this would enable the council to be informed of the future likely direction of youth justice planning and delivery and to be consulted on potential priorities to be included in the plan for 2012-2013.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration in accordance with Article 4 of the Council's Constitution. The views of this Committee will be reported back to Cabinet on 7 September 2011 and subsequently to Council.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to give advice and consideration and, if appropriate, make comment to Cabinet on the Youth Justice Plan 2011-2012.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 22 June, 2011.
- 5.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from the Head of Law and Governance or can be viewed on-line at:-

<http://mor-maweb-01/cmis5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/7215/Committee/1485/Default.aspx>

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CABINET MEETING – 22 June 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report: Youth Justice Plan 2011-2012	
Author(s): Executive Director of Children's Services	
Purpose of Report: The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan which requires full Council approval. The report informs Cabinet of the background, purpose and intentions of the plan and seeks approval of Cabinet to forward the plan for full Council approval.	
Description of Decision: Cabinet is requested to consider the contents of the report and the Youth Justice Plan 2011- 2012 (attached at Appendix A) and agree that the plan be sent for full Council approval. It is recommended that Cabinet consider receiving a half yearly update on youth justice planning and delivery prior to the development of the next Youth Justice Plan for 2012-2013. This will enable council to be informed of the future likely direction of youth justice planning and delivery and to be consulted on potential priorities to be included in the plan for 2012-2013.	
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework	
Suggested reason(s) for Decision: The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan under the Constitution of the Council and is the primary document for Youth Offending Team (YOT) partnerships to set out how they will deliver against the Youth Justice Board (YJB) performance management framework for YOT's and is a key source for local youth justice planning. The Youth Justice Plan will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by their required submission date of 30 June 2011.	
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: The alternative option is not to submit the Youth Justice Plan to full Council. This would have a negative impact on local youth justice planning, and the service's ability to deliver against its action plans.	
Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes	Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Children, Young People and Learning

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2011-2012

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan which requires full Council approval.
- 1.2 The report informs Cabinet of the background, purpose and intentions of the plan and seeks approval of Cabinet to forward the plan for full Council approval.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to consider the contents of the report and the Youth Justice Plan 2010 – 2011 (attached) and agree that the plan be sent for full Council approval.
- 2.2 It is recommended that Cabinet consider receiving a half yearly update on youth justice planning and delivery prior to the development of the next Youth Justice Plan for 2012-2013. This will enable council to be informed of the future likely direction of youth justice planning and delivery and to be consulted on potential priorities to be included in the plan for 2012-2013.

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 required the Chief Executive of each local authority area to set up a multi-agency Youth Offending Team / Service (YOT / YOS) governed by a multi-agency Management Board. The act required that each Team / Service produce an annual Youth Justice Plan.
- 3.2 The Sunderland YOS Management Board comprises the four statutory agencies of the Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health as well as the area courts as a local partner. The attached Youth Justice Plan 2011-2012 was considered by the multi-agency YOS Management Board on 26th May 2011.
- 3.3 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) currently oversees the youth justice system in England and Wales (though this will transfer to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in the near future). The YJB is required to monitor performance of the youth justice system and report to the Home Secretary. The YJB does this through the collection of performance data and annual Youth Justice Plans.
- 3.4 Each year the YJB issues guidance on the required content for the annual Youth Justice Plan and sets out the required submission date. The Youth Offending Service partnership is therefore given a defined period for the development of the Youth Justice Plan and for the relevant consultations to be undertaken. For 2011-2012 the guidance received from the YJB was that there were no set criteria or templates and that the content of the plan should be in line with local planning arrangements. The plan is to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by their required submission date of 30th June 2011.

4. Current Position – Youth Justice Plan 2011 - 2012

- 4.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2011 – 2012 sets out the principal aim of the Sunderland Youth offending Service to *'prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people'*. It also sets out the key related outcomes of reducing the numbers of first time entrants to the criminal justice system, reducing the proven rate of re-offending for children and young people and maintaining a low use of custody.
- 4.2 The Youth Justice Plan 2011-2012 sets out a number of service development priorities that have been developed on the basis of a comprehensive needs analysis drawing on evidence from a range of sources including:-
- The national and local policy context for youth justice.
 - Performance against key national and local outcome targets.
 - Analysis of prevention and youth offending service assessment data.
 - Outcomes of practice quality assurance audits
 - Analysis Viewpoint data (an interactive game style evaluation tool for use with young people).
 - Outcomes of consultation with children and young people using Sunderland Youth Offending Services.
 - Outcomes of consultations with parents and carers.
 - Outcomes of consultations and satisfaction surveys with victims of crime (this takes into consideration young victims and the views of the wider population of children and young people through the young people's fear of crime survey)
 - Consultation with members of the general public on restorative justice services.
- 4.3 The plan sets out the outstanding performance of Sunderland Youth Offending service and it's achievements in the previous year of 2010-2011. These included:
- First time entrants reduced by 34% at the end of 2010 against a national target of 1.9% for 2010-2011.
 - Youth re-offending reduced by 27% at the end of 2010 against a three year (2008-2011) target of 10% reduction.
 - 88% in education, training or employment at the end of their YOS intervention.
 - 99.8% in suitable accommodation at the end of their YOS intervention.
 - A low use of custody at just 1.7%.
 - No differences in sentencing on the basis of ethnic origin.
 - National recognition in the YJB Communicating Youth Justice Awards 2010 for work in communicating, through the local media, action taken to reduce youth offending.
 - Highly commended in prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards 2011 for the effective management of services.
 - Winner of a Sun FM Business Award for our *Contribution to Children's Services* in Sunderland.
 - Awarded a National Training Award for the Phoenix project which has supported children and young people in relation to education, training and employment.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan under the Constitution of the Council and is the primary document for YOT partnerships to set out how they will deliver against the Youth Justice Board (YJB) performance management framework for Youth Offending Teams (YOT's) and is a key source for local planning.
- 5.2 It is recommended that Cabinet consider receiving a half yearly update on youth justice planning and delivery prior to the development of the next Youth Justice Plan for 2012-2013. This will enable council to be informed of the future likely direction of youth justice planning and delivery and to be consulted on potential priorities to be included in the plan for 2012-2013.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 The alternative option is not to submit the Youth Justice Plan to full council and for the plan not to be approved. This would result in an approved copy of the Youth Justice Plan 2011 – 2012 not being submitted to the Youth Justice Board thereby contravening YJB requirements for the submission of the annual Youth Justice Plan.

7. Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- 7.1 The relevant statutory partners as well as local partners have been consulted on the plan through the YOS Management Board.
- 7.2 Consultations and service user feedback have informed the development of the plan through the needs analysis underpinning the plan.
- 7.3 A session has been arranged with the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee Article 4 Working Group to discuss the plan and consider its implications and delivery.

8. Glossary

MOJ Ministry of Justice
YJB Youth Justice Board
YOS Youth Offending Service

9. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2011 – 2012.

10. Background Papers

None.

SUNDERLAND YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2011 -2012

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Awards 2011

Highly Commended

FORWARD

On behalf of the Sunderland Youth Offending Service Management Board I am pleased to introduce the Youth Justice Plan 2011/ 2012. The plan reflects on our achievements for 2010 / 2011, our 10th Anniversary year. After a decade of working in partnership to reduce youth crime, we have made significant progress with dramatic reductions in re-offending and in the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system. This has been achieved through award winning programmes, passionate and committed staff and a focus on delivering outcomes for children and young people, their families, victims and wider communities affected by youth crime.



In December 2010 the government published “*Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders*”. The document sets out the government’s proposals for it’s reform of the criminal justice system and represents the most significant changes to youth justice since the inception of Youth Offending Teams ten years ago.

This plan sets down, in the context of national reform, how the Sunderland Youth Offending Service partnership will embark on the next decade of delivering youth justice services in Sunderland. It sets out our core aims of continued reductions in young people re-offending and preventing young people entering the criminal justice system altogether. It also outlines our key objectives for the forthcoming year to achieve those aims.

We continue to strive to use resources in the most effective way by preventing the costs of crime through early intervention, transforming services to achieve efficiencies and by exploring re-investment models to produce longer term effectiveness.

As both a criminal justice agency and a children’s service, partnership working continues to be at the heart of our approach to reducing re-offending, ensuring public protection and safeguarding children. The governing Youth Offending Service Management Board remains a strong and committed significant partnership for the city and in 2011-2012 the Board will continue to develop and deliver innovative partnerships with statutory, voluntary, business and community sector partners to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people who offend and who are at risk of offending.

Keith Moore

Chair of the Sunderland Youth Offending Service Management Board
Executive Director of Children’s Services

INTRODUCTION

Sunderland Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency service comprising of the four statutory agencies of Police, Probation, Health and the Local Authority and works in partnership with other key agencies such as the area courts.

The principal aim of the service is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people. The service works with:-

- Young people aged 10-17 who, because of alleged or actual offending have become involved in the criminal justice system.
- Children and young people identified as at risk of offending
- Families of children and young people offending or at risk of offending, and
- Victims of young people who have offended.

The role and responsibilities of local Youth Offending Teams / Services was set down by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It also set down the requirement for each local area to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how youth justice services will be delivered in the local area.

This plan sets out how youth justice services will be delivered in Sunderland in 2011 – 2012.

THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

National Context – The publication of the governments green paper and consultation document “*Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders*”, heralds the most significant changes to youth justice legislation in the decade since Youth Offending Teams were established in April 2000. The paper proposes a number of changes across both youth justice sentencing and in relation to accountability in the youth justice system. Some of the key proposed changes are:-

- An increased focus on the use of restorative justice
- A focus on increasing the use of Parenting Orders and programmes that address the needs of families with complex problems
- The introduction of a payment by results model of funding and,
- Transfer of the responsibility for funding of young people entering the secure estate to local authorities.

Alongside this, national responsibilities for the monitoring of the effectiveness of the youth justice system will transfer from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) creating a period of significant change in the national landscape around youth justice. In assuming national responsibility for youth justice the MOJ proposes to focus on a small number of key outcomes, specifically:-

- First time entrants to the youth justice system
- Proven rate of re-offending for children and young people who offend
- Use of custody

In addition to monitoring key outcomes, the YJB prior to transfer of responsibilities to the MOJ, will continue in 2011 – 2012 to collect a range of data regarding the effectiveness of

local youth justice services. This includes an annual audit of performance against National Standards for Youth Justice. An advice document on *“Information Management in Youth Offending Teams”*, has been released by the YJB to support local Youth Offending Teams to compile and collate performance and case level information whilst simultaneously ensuring that personal data is managed effectively and in accordance with legislative requirements. The green paper *“Breaking the Cycle”*, also indicates that there may be changes to the national framework for inspecting local Youth Offending Teams / Services with a more risk led approach targeting inspection and follow-up support where most needed.

Structure and Governance - Youth Offending Teams were set up under the statutory provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The act set down the requirement for a local youth offending team comprising the four statutory agencies of: the Local Authority (including Children’s Services Social Care and Education), Police, Probation and Health. Accompanying the Crime and Disorder Act of 1998 was an inter-departmental circular on ‘Establishing Youth Offending Teams’, that set out the requirements for a governing chief officer steering group. In 2004 the YJB published *“Sustaining the Success: Extending the Guidance, Establishing Youth Offending Teams”*, that set down the requirements for steering groups to transfer into governing YOT Management Boards. The role and responsibilities of Youth Offending Teams and their governing Management Boards have since, and continue to be, regulated by National Standards for Youth Justice Services. The standards, that have recently been updated, include specific standards for YOT Management Boards. The Board is chaired by the Executive Director of Children’s Services with a direct link to the Chief Executive of the local authority. The Sunderland YOS Management Board comprises representatives of the statutory partners as well as other local partners such as the area court. The governments consultation paper ‘Breaking the Cycle’, on proposed changes to youth justice legislation sets out that there are no proposed changes to the model of Youth Offending Teams.

The multi-agency Sunderland YOS Management Board is identified as a ‘significant partnership’ for Sunderland and it also provides the strategic links with other significant partnerships, and their associated strategic plans across children’s services, criminal justice and community safety.

Local Partnership Arrangements– The YOS Management Board links into the Safer Sunderland Partnership (local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)) and up to the Sunderland Partnership (LSP) through the Safer Sunderland Business Support Group. Sunderland YOS shares the aspirations of the Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008 - 2023 to ensure that *“everyone in Sunderland will be and feel safe and secure”*.

The YOS Board is aligned with the Children’s Trust and its vision to work together to improve the life chances and aspirations for each child and young person in Sunderland. The YOS Board, through its Youth Justice Plan, is the responsible partnership for improving Priority Outcome 11 (Youth Offending) in the Children and Young People’s Delivery Plan 2010-2013, the initial 3 year plan for implementing the Children and Young People Strategy 2010-2025.

Sunderland Youth Offending Service is committed to working in partnership with others to deliver on the full range of outcomes for children and young people who offend, their

families and victims. This includes for example, safeguarding children, public protection, reducing child poverty, swift administration of justice, reducing teenage pregnancy and many other key outcomes that support our core outcomes of preventing offending and re-offending.

Sunderland Youth Offending Service will work with other Youth Offending Teams in the area to continue appropriate links with the revised structures of the Local Criminal Justice Board until the appointment of the area Police and Crime Commissioner. The first Police and Crime Commissioners are expected to be elected in May 2012. The recently released Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill has set out plans to introduce Police and Crime Commissioners that will replace existing local Police Authorities. They will have a duty to work with other criminal justice partners in delivering effective criminal justice services.

It is within this national and local context that the priorities within this Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2011 – 2012 are set.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2010 /11 - CELEBRATING A DECADE OF SUCCESS

2010 – 2011 was the 10th Anniversary year for Sunderland YOS since it's inception in April 2000 following the implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. At the end of 2010, after a decade of delivering award winning services including having been a Beacon authority for reducing re-offending, the Sunderland Youth Offending Service partnership is able to demonstrate massive reductions in youth re-offending with even greater reductions in the rate of young people entering the criminal justice system. At the end of 2010:-

- First Time Entrants were reduced by 34%, against a national target of just 1.9%.
- Youth Re-offending was reduced by 27% against a three year target of 10%.

As both a children's service and a criminal justice agency Sunderland Youth Offending Service is committed to delivering life changing outcomes for children and young people who offend, for those at risk of offending for their families. whilst ensuring that justice is done for the victims of their offending and for

the wider community affected by youth crime. At the end of 2010 the Sunderland Youth Offending Service also demonstrated an outstanding performance against a range of other outcomes for children and young people who offend. These included:-

- 88% in education, training or employment at the end of their YOS intervention.
- 99.8% in suitable accommodation at the end of their YOS intervention
- A low use of custody at just 1.7%
- No differences in sentencing on the basis of ethnic origin.

Testimony to our success in enabling young people who offend to turn their lives around is the achievements that young people who have offended have made with the support of Sunderland Youth Offending Service, including young people winning Young Achievers Awards and Top Scorer Awards. Sunderland YOS can also demonstrate, how victims of young crime have been able to move on from offences against them, by being given a voice in how young people payback for their offending.



**Young Achievers Awards
2011**



**Young person makes good for
their offending**

Other achievements for 2010-2011 include:-

- National praise for keeping young people out of custody, which is recognised as one of the most expensive youth justice options.
- National recognition in the YJB Communicating Youth Justice Awards 2010 for work in communicating, through the local media, action taken to reduce youth offending.
- Highly Commended in prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards 2011 for the effective management of services.
- Winner of a Sun FM Business Award for our *Contribution to Children's Services* in Sunderland.
- Awarded a National Training Award for the Phoenix project which has supported children and young people in relation to education, training and employment.



**Highly Commended Management Team
Local Government Chronicle Awards 2011**

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Our priorities for the year ahead are based on a comprehensive needs analysis drawing on evidence from a range of sources including:-

- The national and local context for youth justice.
- Performance against key national and local outcome targets.
- Analysis of prevention and youth offending service assessment data.
- Outcomes of practice quality assurance audits
- Analysis Viewpoint data – an interactive game style evaluation tool for use with young people.
- Outcomes of consultation with children and young people using Sunderland Youth Offending Services.
- Outcomes of consultations with parents and carers.
- Outcomes of consultations and satisfaction surveys with victims of crime. This takes into consideration young victims and the views of the wider population of children and young people through the young people's fear of crime survey
- Consultation with members of the general public on restorative justice services.



Consulting local people about how young people who offend can give back to local communities

The local and national context for youth justice sets down the strategic direction for Sunderland Youth Offending Service and it is within this context that preventing offending



YOS Manager talks to young people about their experiences and how Sunderland Youth Offending Service can make a difference

and re-offending remains the principal aim. Our performance demonstrates an excellent track record and we are committed to reducing rates of re-offending even further. Service user feedback provides us with a perspective on how best to do this whilst consultation with victims and the general public provides us with a greater insight into how this can be done whilst simultaneously ensuring that young people pay back the costs of their offending to their individual victims or to the wider communities in which they have offended.

OUTCOMES

Strategic Priorities

The principal aim of Sunderland Youth Offending Service is to:

“Prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people”.

The key outcomes for our principal aim are:-

1. To reduce the numbers of children and young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time (first time entrants)
2. To reduce re-offending by children and young people (proven rate of re-offending).

Additionally Sunderland Youth Offending Services is committed to preventing young people entering the secure estate (use of custody) and thus a third key outcome is:-

3. To maintain low levels of custodial sentencing.

Targets and actions against each outcome have been identified below. These have been established based on the needs analysis underpinning this Youth Justice Plan.

Preventing Young People Entering the Youth Justice System (First Time Entrants)

We will achieve this by:

- Further development of Arrest Diversion scheme to enable screening for risk and need at the earliest opportunity upon entry to the youth justice system.
- Ensuring robust risk assessments and monitoring arrangements in relation to families referred to YOS Prevention Services who refuse to engage.
- Ensuring the delivery of evidenced based parenting intervention to parents with identified need.
- Ensuring that young people identified as at risk of offending are engaged in suitable Education, Training and Employment.
- Ensure that young people identified as at risk of offending have access to suitable Accommodation.

Outcome Target: A further reduction in the numbers of first time entrants of 5%.

Reducing Re-offending

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring that young people who offend are engaged in suitable Education, Training and Employment.
- Ensuring that young people who offend have access to suitable Accommodation.
- Undertaking an analysis of need around emotional and mental health services for young people who offend and develop appropriate performance monitoring in relation to access to services.
- Ensuring the delivery of evidenced based parenting interventions to parents with identified need.
- Increasing face to face victim / offender restorative justice interventions
- Delivering an effective programme of offending behaviour intervention with impact measured through evaluation.
- Ensuring effective enforcement of statutory interventions.
- Ensuring that interventions are effectively sequenced in accordance with individual needs.

Outcome Target: A further reduction in re-offending of 2%.

Maintaining low levels of custodial sentencing

We will achieve this by:

- Reviewing all cases of young people remanded or sentenced to ensure robust and appropriate court services are provided in all cases.

Outcome Target: To maintain custodial sentencing below 5%

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 2011 – 2012

To ensure that Sunderland Youth Offending Service is able to respond to national changes around youth justice and deliver local services that are customer focused a number of *Service Development Priorities* have been identified for 2011 – 2012. These can be summarised as:-

- Consultation, participation and engagement
- A whole family approach to services
- Service transformation and,
- Sustaining outcomes

Targets and actions to achieve each priority are set out below.

Consultation, Participation and Engagement

We will achieve this by:

- Quality assuring interventions to ensure that diverse needs are comprehensively assessed.
- Quality assuring interventions to ensure that service user views are fully taken into consideration in developing intervention plans.
- Undertaking specific consultation and participation activities that promote user involvement.
- Holding regular consultation events with children and young people based on the Hear by Rights consultation standards.

Outcome Target: Service planning and delivery informed by consultation, participation and engagement across all service user groups (e.g. children and young people, families, victims)

A Whole Family Approach to Services

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring robust sentencing proposals for Parenting Orders that secure the confidence of the local court.
- Delivering a family approach to services building on the outcomes of the YOS Family Intervention Programme.
- Piloting a family assessment model within prevention of offending services for those receiving an intensive intervention and to explore the expansion of the use of a family assessment model in relation to other YOS services.

Outcome Target: A whole family approach to services enabled through a whole family approach strategy including performance monitoring.

Service Transformation

We will achieve this by:

- Exploring service re-investment models with a particular focus on moving investment from community disposals to early intervention to reduce throughput thereby reducing the longer term investment required in community programmes.
- Better understanding the social return on investment for offending interventions by developing a cost benefit analysis model across all areas of service delivery.

Outcome Target: A reduction of 5% (stretch target) in re-offending after Final Warning from September 2011.

Sustaining Outcomes

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring a comprehensive analysis is undertaken at the end of the intervention describing the offender journey and future likelihood of risk as it relates to risk of re-offending, risks to self (safeguarding) and risks to others (public protection).
- Developing a systematic approach to ensuring exit strategies are in place where needed with a particular emphasis on addressing those escalating from early intervention (Reprimands and Final Warnings) to First Tier Penalties (Referral Orders).

Outcome Target: 100% of interventions ending at Referral Order having an exit strategy in place where there are outstanding risks and needs.

This Youth Justice Plan is underpinned by a comprehensive delivery plan that sets out milestones, targets and timescales for actions to achieve service development priorities and service outcomes.

A Workforce Development Strategy for 2011 – 2012 has been developed that focuses on the workforce development activity needed by youth justice practitioners to deliver our principal aim and service development priorities.

RESOURCING AND VALUE FOR MONEY

Resources

The YOS budget for 2011 - 2012 is made up statutory partner agency funding and in kind contributions, core government funding from the Youth Justice Board and other grants. Within this budget Sunderland YOS will deliver the core statutory youth justice service as set out by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and other subsequent legislation. The core statutory youth justice services can be summarised as:-

- The provision of appropriate adults to safeguard the interests of children and young people detained or questioned by police officers.
- The provision of voluntary interventions in respect of Final Warning (pre-court disposal)
- The provision of court services including reports for the courts
- Support for children and young persons remanded.
- Assessment and supervision of children and young people sentenced by the court to youth justice disposals, and the provision of rehabilitation programmes.
- The provision of Responsible Officers in relation to court ordered Parenting interventions
- Supervision of young people sentenced to a custody including post release interventions for Detention and Training Order.

All the multi-agency professionals required to form the local youth offending service (as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) are in place for 2011 – 2012.

Sunderland YOS has a strong partnership approach to delivering effective services evidenced in a committed and effective partnership YOS Management Board. Additional to statutory services, Sunderland YOS provides a range of specialist and award winning intervention programmes that are targeted at specific need and risk groups.

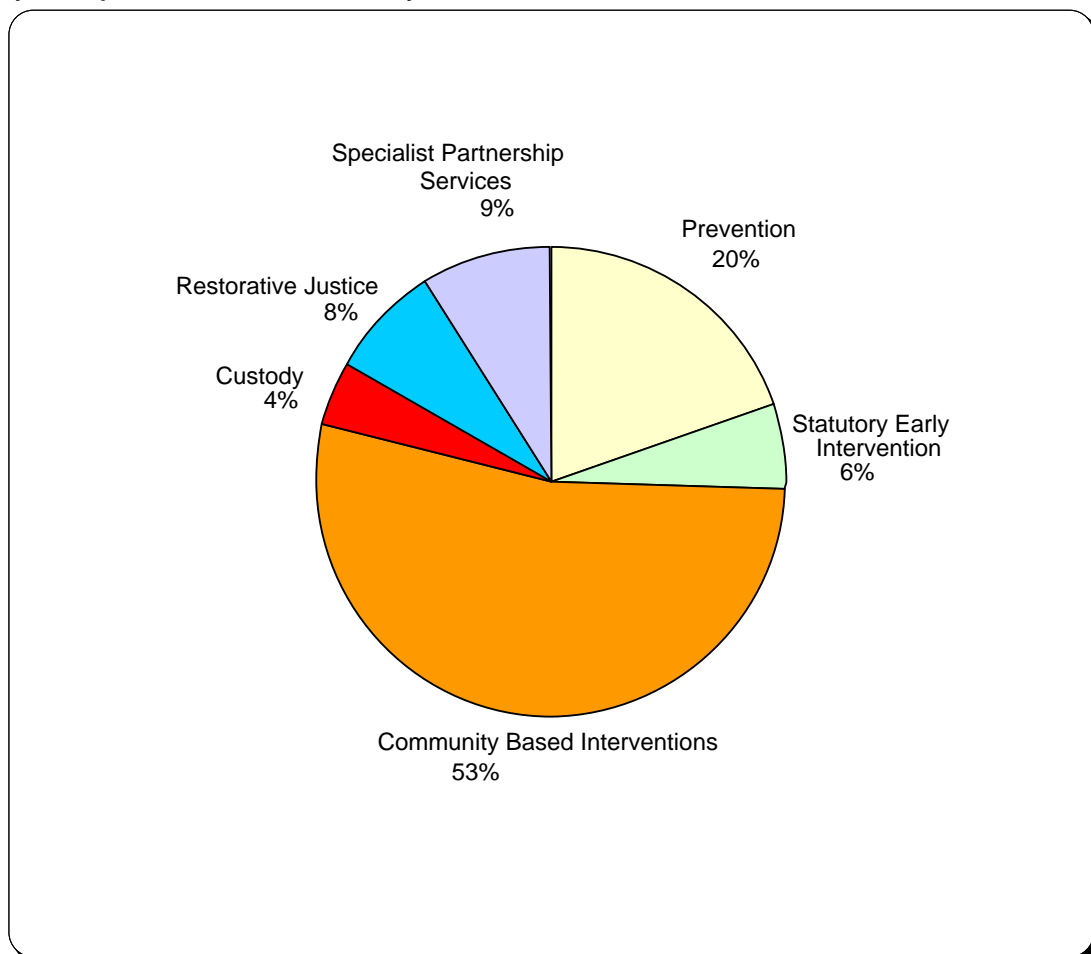


The Phoenix Programme in partnership with Tyne and Wear Fire and Brigade

Additional targeted and specialist interventions include:-

- Tackle it in partnership with Sunderland Football Club Foundation.
- Phoenix Fire Safety Programme in Partnership with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Brigade.
- Specialist Parenting intervention in partnership with Barnardos voluntary sector organisation.
- An Arrest Diversion scheme in partnership with Northumbria Police and other partners.
- A family intervention programme for hard to reach families.
- Mentoring to provide young people with additional support and positive adult role models.

These statutory and specialist provisions combine to form youth justice services across prevention, early intervention, enforced community based interventions and custody. Additionally Sunderland YOS has an established Restorative Justice Service that supports victims of youth crime and enables young people who offend to repair the costs of their offending to their individual victims or to the wider community (Community Payback Services). Based on the indicative delegated budget for 2011-2012, allocation of budget across youth justice service delivery in Sunderland will be:-



The governance of the use of resources is a key priority for the YOS Management Board for 2010-2011

Value for Money

Over the forthcoming year Sunderland YOS will continue to ensure value for money and the effective use of resources through:-

- Effective use of commissioning to ensure best possible service at the best possible price
- Analysis of outcome data to ensure return on costs

Sunderland YOS has a strong performance management culture and effective performance management arrangements to ensure the value of services is effectively measured. Over the forthcoming year Sunderland YOS will enhance this capacity through the further development of cost benefit models that link performance and financial information to develop a greater understanding of the social return on investment. This has been identified as a key action under the Service Development Priorities set out in this plan. The completion of this work will enable Sunderland YOS to be well placed to respond to government proposals on *Payment by Results* as set out in the green paper *“Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders”*.

Sunderland Youth Offending Service will build on existing successful cost benefit analysis models such as negative outcomes cost analysis used within the Youth Offending Service Family Intervention Programme. In 2010/11 the family intervention programme saved statutory services £14,338 through the prevention of negative outcomes (such as criminal or care proceedings) for hard to reach families. The scheme cost on average less than £2,000 per family.

“The family intervention programme demonstrated average potential savings of £14,338 per family through the prevention of negative outcomes for hard to reach families”. The scheme cost on average less than £2000 per family.



Restorative Justice Services – young people who have offended repair the costs of their offending through Community Payback

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st JULY 2011

POLICY REVIEW 2011/12: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP1: PROSPEROUS CITY; SP 4: LEARNING
CITY**

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focussed
Services, CIO2: Being 'One Council', CIO3: Efficient and Effective
Council, CIO4: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to put forward proposals and seek agreement from Members in relation to the forthcoming policy review into early intervention and locality services.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Annual Scrutiny Conference was held at the Crowtree Leisure Centre on 19th May 2011. During the Scrutiny Café sessions a number of viable policy reviews were formulated for discussion by Members of the Committee. At the meeting on 9th June 2011, following discussions regarding the Work Programme, the Committee agreed to focus on early intervention and locality services.
- 2.2 Early intervention is not new and it has even been suggested that its roots can be traced back to Friedrich Fröbel's kindergarten movement in the early 18th century. However and much more recently, well known interventions have included Head Start and the Family Nurse Partnership, which began in the USA in the 1960s and 1970s respectively and still continue to this day. Today, it is widely agreed by experts across the world that early intervention can be of enormous benefit to children. This is reinforced by the findings of the Marmot review into tackling health inequalities. The Marmot review highlighted that giving every child the best start in life was crucial to reducing health inequalities across the life course and it made action in this area its top priority. Early action is the key, 'later interventions, although important are considerably less effective if they have not had good early foundations'.
- 2.3 The joint Treasury and the then Department for Education and Skills defined early intervention for the Government's 2007 spending review as intervening as soon as possible to tackle problems that have already emerged for children and young people.

- 2.4 The term 'early intervention' is used to mean different things and has the potential to cause confusion about whose job it is in a locality. The fact is that every member of staff who works with children, young people and families has some individual responsibility for early intervention. This applies whether they are health visitors, police officers, General Practitioners (GPs), midwives, nursing staff, teachers and teaching assistants, youth workers, speech and language therapists, children's centre staff, social workers, nursery workers and child and adolescent as well as adult mental health workers, among many others. Collectively, schools, colleges, Children's Centres and GP practices and professionals who work in them have contact with almost all children and young people. Universal services and settings are often the places where emerging difficulties can be first spotted, or where children and young people or their families will themselves first ask for help.
- 2.5 Since the inception of Sunderland's Children's Services, ways of working to support children and young people have changed and developed. This has been in response to both local and national imperatives and have often included a move to more localised service delivery e.g. Children's Centres. This way of working has resulted in the development of the 'Team Around the Child/Family' (TAC/TAF) model to respond to the need for joined up services and the need to provide a more integrated approach within existing resources. The aim is to reduce duplication and support a common service delivery approach which continues from the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process.
- 2.6 The Common Assessment Framework is a tool to help identify unmet needs in children and can be used by any person whose job involves working with children. A CAF can provide a simple pre-assessment checklist for practitioners and ultimately is a single route process for implementing support and intervention through the Team Around the Child/Family model.
- 2.7 The key driver for the review will be the appropriateness and effectiveness of the restructured integrated early intervention model's processes, multi-agency support packages and early stage interventions within Sunderland.

3. The Scrutiny Review Process

- 3.1 Scrutiny reviews will carry out a number of stages in undertaking and completing a review. The stages broadly are:

Stage 1 Scope

The initial stage of the review identifies the background, issues, potential outcomes and timetable for the review.

Stage 2 Investigate	The Committee gathers evidence using a variety of tools and techniques and arranges visits where appropriate.
Stage 3 Analyse	The key trends and issues are highlighted from the evidence gathered by the Committee.
Stage 4 Clarify	The Committee discusses and identifies the principal messages of the review from the work undertaken.
Stage 5 Recommend	The Committee formulates and agrees realistic recommendations.
Stage 6 Report	Draft and final reports are prepared based on the evidence, findings and recommendations.
Stage 7 Monitor	The Committee monitors recommendations on a regularly agreed basis.

4. Overall Aim of the Scrutiny Policy Review

- 4.1 To investigate preventative and early intervention services for children, young people and their families.

5. Proposed Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Policy Review

- 5.1 The following Terms of Reference for the policy review are proposed:-
- (a) To understand and define the Early Intervention offer;
 - (b) To look at the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process and how this directly links to intervention and support;
 - (c) To identify and understand the pathways, benefits and barriers to families and/or individuals accessing early intervention support;
 - (d) To investigate the impact of support available and identify if these approaches are coordinated, multi-agency in nature and deliver an improvement in outcomes;
 - (e) To consider how interventions can be robustly monitored to evaluate outcomes and provide information to further develop service delivery, and;
 - (f) To look at examples of good practice from across the region and country in relation to the policy review.

6. Potential Areas of Enquiry and Sources of Evidence

6.1 The Scrutiny Committee can invite a variety of people, key stakeholders and interested parties to provide written or oral evidence in order that a balanced and focused range of recommendations can be formulated. A list of potential witnesses, though not exhaustive, is included for Members information:

- (a) Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holders;
- (b) Executive Director of Children's Services;
- (c) Head of Early Intervention and locality Services;
- (d) Children's Centres;
- (e) Gentoo;
- (f) Headteachers and Schools;
- (g) Youth Offending Service;
- (h) Connexions
- (i) Police;
- (j) Voluntary and Community Sector;
- (k) Health Visitors;
- (l) Ward Councillors;
- (m) Local MPs and;
- (n) Local Authorities of good practice.

6.2 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the scrutiny process. Consideration will be given to how involvement can be structured in a way that the Committee encourages those views.

6.3 In addition, diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. As such the views of local diversity groups will be sought throughout the inquiry where felt appropriate and time allows. Consequently, consideration has been given as to how the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage (for example, people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, black and minority ethnic people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people), which may not be gathered through the usual community engagement routes, can be included over the course of the inquiry.

7. Funding from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget

- 7.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report of the need to use funding from the committee's dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid Members in their enquiry.
- 7.2 At this stage it is suggested that funding may be necessary to support the following activities:
- (a) Key witnesses;
 - (b) Engagement with voluntary and statutory organisations;
 - (c) General publicity;
 - (d) Visits (as necessary) to deliver effective scrutiny; and
 - (e) Task and Finish activities.

8. Proposed Timetable of the Scrutiny Investigation

- 8.1 The following scheduled meetings will include evidence gathering for the study:

Setting the Scene - September 2011

Evidence Gathering - October 2011 to February 2012

Consideration of Draft Final Report - March 2012

Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Committee - April 2012

Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet/Council- June 2012
(tentative date)

- 8.2 Additional working group meetings may be required to complete the evidence gathering.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Members are recommended to discuss and agree the scope of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee's policy review for 2011/12 as outlined in the report.

Background Papers

Sunderland's Children's Trust Website

Early Intervention: Securing Good Outcomes for all Children and Young People (Department for Children, Schools and Families)

Cabinet Report: Locality Based Work (December 2008)

Children's Services Leadership Team: Locality Based Working Update (April 2009)

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 July 2011

TERMLY SUMMARY REPORT FROM CONCERNS, SHARED INTELLIGENCE AND OFSTED INSPECTIONS

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: Learning City

CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES: Delivering Customer
Focused Services, Efficient and Effective Council

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 Following the presentation to Scrutiny Committee in October 2009 on the Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools in England from September 2009, it was agreed that Members would receive a termly summary report.

2. Background

- 2.1 Concerns Policy: Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006 outlines the provisions relating to schools causing concern in England. The section builds on existing statutory powers and good practice to ensure that every pupil is provided with the education and opportunities they deserve. Local authorities can make full use of the powers provided by the Act to tackle school under-performance so that it does not become entrenched and lead to formal school failure, to ensure that effective support and challenge is provided immediately when an unacceptable standard of education is identified, and to secure decisive action if a school in special measures fails to make sufficient improvement. Supporting Success in Schools, 2008 provides Sunderland's guidelines in relation to this responsibility.
- 2.2 Shared Intelligence: This is the means by which Children's Services accumulate information from the Concerns Policy, and from other sources within Children's Services and the wider Council to identify schools in need of support and intervention. These schools are RAG rated.
- 2.3 Ofsted Inspections: The evaluation schedule of judgements for schools inspections under section 5 of the Education Act, 2005 was revised in September 2009. The detail of the new inspection framework was the subject of a presentation to Scrutiny Committee in October 2009.

3. Current position

3.1 Concerns Policy

3.1.1 At the time of writing this report, eight schools were designated with LA Concerns. Of these, seven are primary schools and one is a secondary school.

3.1.2 Date Joined Concerns: of the seven primary schools on the concerns register currently, they were identified as causing concern in academic years:

2005-06 one school

2008-09 one school

2009-10 one school

2010-11 four schools

3.1.3 The secondary school on the concerns register was identified as causing concern in 2008 and was placed in Special Measures in 2010.

3.1.4 Current levels: in relation to current levels of concerns two schools are at Level 1 and one school is at Level 3. There are currently two schools with a Notice to Improve and there are three schools in Special Measures.

3.1.5 Reasons for escalation: The predominant causes of schools becoming a concern are declining achievement (attainment and/or pupil progress) and the quality of leadership and management. Other factors include the quality of teaching and learning, assessment, staffing issues and safeguarding issues. For current schools, concerns were declared for the following reasons:

- Declining achievement (attainment and/or progress) - two schools
- Declining achievement and leadership and management – four schools
- Support for leadership and management around an HR issue - one school - achievement was also low in 2010
- Exclusions and pupils' behaviour – one school – this school has since been given a Notice to Improve as pupil progress in Key Stage 2 was judged to be poor

3.1.6 Anticipated Exit from concerns: For some schools a satisfactory Ofsted will signal an exit from concerns whilst other schools may remain in concerns despite satisfactory Ofsted. For schools in categories, the timescale for the exit from that category is dependent upon re-inspection by Ofsted. For other schools, an improvement in standards that is deemed to be sustainable will result in an exit from concerns.

- 3.1.7 Two schools in Special Measures have had two monitoring inspections now and both are judged to be making satisfactory progress. It is expected that they will emerge from the category no later than the autumn term of 2012. A third school in Special Measures is awaiting its first monitoring inspection which is now due to take place.
- 3.1.8 One school with a Notice to Improve expects a monitoring inspection at any time now and it is expected that it will emerge from the Ofsted category within the required timescale towards the end of December 2011. The second school with a Notice to Improve was inspected in June of this year and is expected to emerge from the Ofsted category within the required timescale in June 2012
- 3.1.9 The school at Level 3 is making significant improvements so the level of concern will be reviewed in the autumn term of 2011.
- 3.1.10 One school at Level 1 should be removed from a level of concern once ongoing HR issues are resolved and achievement is securely above the national average. A second school at Level 1 should be removed from concerns if an analysis of 2011 test results and predictions for 2012 results shows an improving trend.

3.2 Shared Intelligence

	Red	Amber	Green
Nursery	0	2	7
Special	0	1	9
Primary	5	10	65
Secondary	1	0	13

- 3.2.1 The reason for a school to be identified on the shared intelligence matrix may reflect any issue that is impacting upon the school, and so is not necessarily a matter relating to the quality of leadership and management or to pupil performance.

3.3 Ofsted Inspections

- 3.3.1 There have been eight Ofsted Inspections carried out since the last report to Committee on 7th April 2011 (six primary schools, one secondary school and one special school). Two of these schools were judged to be outstanding, one good, three satisfactory, one was given a Notice to Improve and one was placed in Special Measures.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members of Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the content of this report and provide comment on content for future termly reports.

5 **Background Papers**

Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006

Supporting Success in Schools, 2008

Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools In England, 2009

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**FULFILLING THE BREAKS FOR CARERS OF DISABLED
CHILDREN REGULATIONS 2011**

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

STRATEGIC PRIORITY/PRIORITIES: Attractive and Inclusive City
CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY/PRIORITIES: Delivering
Customer Focussed Services

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to provide breaks from caring for carers of disabled children to support them to continue to care for their children at home and to allow them to do so more effectively. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 give more detail on how local authorities must fulfil their duty to provide breaks from caring, including a requirement to produce a Short Breaks Statement which must be published on the Council's website in October 2011.
- 1.2 Non-statutory advice from the Department of Health states that Local Authorities should consider how best to ensure strategic sign off and shared accountability locally for the statement and the services to which it refers. Members are therefore asked for their views and comments on the draft Statement as part of the process of consultation with Stakeholders.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme (AHDC) was a high profile Government initiative in which Sunderland played a national role as a short break Pathfinder and Change Champion. During the 3 year programme £2.23m revenue funding and £410k capital funding was made available to Sunderland and enabled significant progress to be achieved in providing regular, reliable and flexible short breaks for families with disabled children. The programme came to an end on 31 March 2011. The coalition government have since made additional funding for short breaks available through the Early Intervention Grant.
- 2.2 On 1 April 2011 the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 came into effect. These provide further detail on how Local Authorities must perform their duty in the Children Act 1989 to provide breaks from caring for carers of disabled children. The intention of the new regulations is to embed the progress achieved through AHDC in

core funding beyond 2011. The regulations stipulate that Local Authorities must:

- Publish a statement of their short breaks services on their website
- Keep their short breaks statement under review
- State in their short breaks service statement the range of short break services available, the criteria by which eligibility for services will be assessed, and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area

3. Current position

3.1 The Department for Education has issued non-statutory advice for Local Authorities to help them understand how to fulfil their duties under the Children Act 1989 and the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011. The advice states:

- Short breaks should not just be there for those at crisis point
- Access to short breaks must not be judged on impairment alone
- The Local Authority must provide a range of short break services
- Short breaks should be culturally appropriate
- Short breaks should be reliable and regular to best meet families' needs
- Parents should be engaged in the design of local short break services
- Short breaks can build on and be offered by universal service providers
- Local Authorities should work in partnership with health services to understand the range of short break services in their area and to train the workforce
- Local Authorities must give families the choice to access short break services using a direct payment
- Short break services can be a key service to promote greater levels of confidence and competence for young people moving towards adult life

3.2 A draft short break services statement has been produced in consultation with colleagues from Children's Services, Leisure Services, the TPCT, City Hospitals Sunderland, the voluntary and community sector including Sunderland Carers Centre, and schools. The main audience for the statement will be families with disabled children therefore the statement is designed to be succinct and written in plain English.

3.3 Further consultation with all stakeholders, including disabled children and their families will take place during July and August 2011 to produce a shared, strategic short break services statement.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Under the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, the Council is required to produce a Short Breaks Services Statement which must be published on the Council's website in October 2011.
- 4.2 A draft short break services statement has been produced in consultation with stakeholders.
- 4.3 Consultation with the committee on the draft statement is part of a period of consultation with all stakeholders.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are invited to consider the draft short break services statement in the light of the non-statutory advice issued by the Department for Health and to comment upon its suitability as a statement that reflects the city's approach to short break services for families with disabled children.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 Department for Education. Short breaks for carers of disabled children. Advice for local authorities.

7. Glossary

AHDC – Aiming High for Disabled Children

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SHORT BREAKS STATEMENT FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Introduction

The Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to provide breaks from caring for carers of disabled children to support them to continue to care for their children at home and to allow them to do so more effectively. The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 give more detail on how local authorities must fulfil their duty to provide breaks from caring, including a requirement to produce a Short Breaks Statement outlining the range of short break services available, who they can be accessed by and how.

Short breaks give disabled children and young people the opportunity to participate in enjoyable leisure activities while also giving their parents/carers a break from their caring role. Short breaks can take place after school, at the weekend and in the holidays, and include overnight breaks.

In Sunderland, a short break is part of a continuum of services which support disabled children aged 0-18 and their families to live ordinary lives.

Writing the Short Breaks Statement

The person responsible for preparing this Statement is Steve Fletcher, Acting Manager, Looked After and Disabled Children.

The (draft) Short Breaks Statement has been written in consultation with disabled children in Sunderland, their parents, schools, Early Years practitioners, the Youth Service, short breaks providers, Sunderland Carers Centre, professionals from Health, Education and Social Care and colleagues in Play and Leisure services. Wider consultation will take place during the summer of 2011. A final draft will be presented to Children's Services Leadership Team and Sunderland Children's Trust for approval.

Publication and review

The Short Breaks Statement will be published on the Sunderland City Council website in October 2011. It will be reviewed annually in consultation with partners.

Needs assessment

Through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme which ran in Sunderland between 2008 and 2011, work was undertaken to identify disabled children and to find out about the types of short breaks they and their families wanted. Disabled children told us they wanted to be able to spend time with their friends doing the things all children and young people like to do. Many families told us that short breaks at the weekend and during the holidays were more important than breaks after school, but as disabled children

became teenagers, having short break activities after school became important as well. Some families told us that having enough short breaks during the day meant that they did not need occasional overnight breaks. Other families told us that regular, planned overnight breaks were a lifeline to them. All families wanted choice and flexibility in the short breaks services they received. Some families did not want anyone else looking after their children, but wanted support to be able to enjoy leisure activities as a whole family.

Short breaks available in Sunderland

Most disabled children will be able to access the same leisure activities as their non-disabled peers provided by universal services. Service providers have a responsibility under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments to the way their services are provided in order to be inclusive to disabled children. We will work with our Families Information Service to ensure that families have access to good quality information about universal services and how accessible they are.

For disabled children who require additional support to access leisure activities, and for those whose family need more breaks from caring to support them in continuing to care for their disabled child at home, a range of short break services are provided. These include:

- Leisure Link workers who will support a disabled child or young person to access leisure activities at home and/or in the community
- Youth clubs
- Holiday activities and play schemes
- Weekend activities
- Overnight short breaks

Alternatively, following an assessment, a family may decide to have a Direct Payment and use the funding allocated to them to arrange their own short break services. Families will be supported to understand how a Direct Payment may benefit them. Direct Payments will be offered as part of a number of choices as to how their needs could be met. Families will not be forced to have a Direct Payment, but will receive support in managing one if they chose this option.

An assessment with the disabled child and their family will help to establish how much support they need, including the need for short breaks. The assessment will take into consideration the nature and severity of the child's disability, the support needed by the family to enable them to continue caring for their disabled child, and other factors that might be having an impact of the family's ability to care for the disabled child. Once an assessment is completed, each family will be provided with a tailored package of services, which may include short breaks, to support them in their caring role.

We aim to provide reliable, regular, planned short breaks so that families can plan around the frequency and duration of breaks. Short breaks are part of a strategy of prevention, to avoid families reaching breaking point through the demanding nature of their caring role. However, all families experience crises from time to time and may require additional short breaks to help them through a difficult period.

We will work closely with colleagues in Health to ensure disabled children with complex health needs have access to short break services. Health professionals in Sunderland have a good track record of supporting short breaks service providers by providing training, nursing support and advice on specialist equipment and this will continue.

Transport

We know that some families do not have access to a car and therefore struggle to take their disabled child to short break activities, and only some families receive the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance to help with transport costs. Providing transport can be time consuming – with children sometimes spending longer than an hour on a bus – and is expensive, so in Sunderland we will only provide transport where an assessment of a family's needs has identified this as a priority. Our aim is to provide transport fairly, but not unnecessarily. Some short break providers may offer transport to and from their service, but may charge families to use it.

Transition to adulthood

As disabled young people approach adulthood, the professionals and services that support them and their families change from children's services to adults' services providers. To help maintain friendship groups at this time and to recognise that some young people do not leave school until they are 19, specialist inclusion youth clubs remain open to disabled young people until they are 19. Young people can then be supported to make the transition to a club for 19 to 25 year olds.

Moving on from other short break services will be managed through the processes described in Sunderland's Transition into Adulthood Protocol and Pathway. Through this process, information and assessments will be shared, and future short breaks for the young person when they turn 18 will be identified in advance.

As young disabled people approach adulthood, their short break services will help them to grow in confidence and competence, and increase their independence.

Participation

The voice of disabled children and young people and their families is at the heart of planning and delivery of short break services. Young people and their families are able to shape the development of services through consultation and through involvement in the commissioning process. All commissioned short break services are contractually bound to involve their service users and their families in planning, review and evaluation of the service they receive.

Information

Information about what short break services are available and how to access them will be made available to families in a range of formats including through the Families Information Service, on the www.sundc.org.uk website and through the Real Issues bulletin distributed by Sunderland Carers Centre.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & 21 JULY 2011 LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP1: Prosperous City; SP 4: Learning City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO2: Being 'One Council', CIO3: Efficient and Effective Council, CIO4: Improving Partnership Working to Deliver 'One City'.

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2011-12 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priorities of a Prosperous City and a Learning City as well as helping the Council achieve Corporate Improvement Objectives CIO1 (Delivering customer focussed services), CIO2 (Being 'One Council'), CIO3 (Efficient and Effective Council) and C104 (Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City').

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which the Committee can develop throughout the year. As a living document the work programme allows Members and Officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the 9 June 2011 Scrutiny Committee meeting. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2011-12.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.

6. Glossary

n/a

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

	JUNE 9.6.11	JULY 21.7.11	SEPTEMBER 8.9.11	OCTOBER 20.10.11	DECEMBER 8.12.11	DECEMBER TBC	JANUARY 12.1.12	FEBRUARY 23.2.12	APRIL 5.4.12
Cabinet Referrals and Responses		Article 4: Youth Justice Plan 2011/12 (JH/GK)	Cabinet Response to 2010/11 Policy Review – Learning at Work (NC)			Evidence Gathering Meeting			Article 4: CYPP Update
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (NC)	Scope of review (NC)	Approach to the Review (NC)	Update on Policy Review (NC)	Policy Review – Update		Policy Review	Policy Review – Update	Policy Review – Draft Report
Performance	Looked After Children and the Court System (MB) Youth Commissioned Contracts (SM)	Schools Performance - Termly Report (MF) Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (KP)	Provisional KS Results (MF/AB) Performance & VFM Annual Report (BS) New Ofsted Inspection Framework (MF) SSCB Annual Report and Business Plan (JV)	Complaints Annual Report 11/12 (BS)	Ofsted Annual Children's Services Assessment (BS) Schools Performance – Termly Report (MF) Performance Q2 April – Sept (BS)			Attainment of C&YP (MF) Outcomes of Annual Inspection of Children's Services (ofsted) (BS)	Schools Performance – Termly Report (MF)
Scrutiny	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC) Safe & Sustainable Consultation: Children's Heart Services (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)		Library Plan (JH) Corporate Parenting Annual Report (MB) Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Scrutiny Annual Report (NC) Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions									

To be scheduled: Behaviour & Attendance Strategy
School Place Planning
Young People's Housing Options
Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements – Action Plan
Teenage Pregnancy

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2011 – 31 OCTOBER 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

21 JULY 2011

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 July 2011 – 31 October 2011 which relate to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, it has been agreed that the most recent version of the Executive's Forward Plan should be included on the agenda of this Committee.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 In considering the Forward Plan, Members are asked to consider only those issues which are under the remit of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee. These are as follows:-

Children & Young People's Plan Outcomes: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Positive Contribution; Achieve Well-Being and Adult Learning, Libraries, Youth Justice and Economic Well-Being

- 3.2 It should be noted that there are no items on the Forward Plan for the period 1 July 2011 – 31 October 2011 that fall under the remit of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 There are no recommendations associated with this report.

5. Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

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