

## (a) CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

### REPORT OF CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform the Members of the Management Scrutiny Committee of the progress made to date by the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee.

#### 2. Progress of the Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1 Since the start of the Council year the Scrutiny Committee has :

- Scoped a review of changes to 16-19 and post 19 learning;
- Been consulted on workforce innovation in Children's Services;
- Taken a timely briefing on an outbreak of measles in Sunderland's schools;
- Kept close scrutiny of schools under Ofsted monitoring arrangements and agreed a new arrangement for the monitoring of schools causing concern;
- Been consulted on the Youth Justice Plan under the Council's policy framework;
- Kept abreast of the Council's Parenting Strategy;
- Monitored the action plan on a previous policy review of support for children in care;
- Taken a briefing on the Council's response to the Laming Report following the death of Baby Peter;
- Been consulted on the Council's Library Plan;
- Assessed the provisional Key Stage results in Sunderland's schools;
- Been briefed on the new Ofsted inspections arrangements for safeguarding within Children's Services;
- Received the statutory Children's Services Annual Complaints Report for complaints within children's social care;
- Been consulted on the strategy to support children and young people with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities;

- 2.2 The Scrutiny Committee has used its budget to fund member attendance at the Public Library Association annual library conference.

- 2.3 The Scrutiny Committee has set up a consultation working group to consider all Article 4 Plans and Strategies within its remit as they are developed so that by the time Cabinet consults formally with the Committee members will have had full input into the plans and strategies. To date, the working group has been consulted on the Behaviour and Attendance Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan.

- 2.4 The policy review of 16-19 changes will require an additional meeting to be held at the end of December. As can be seen from the list of issues above, this Scrutiny

Committee has a particularly heavy agenda, and while efforts are taken to manage the business effectively, with short focused meetings, policy review work often has to be taken at additional scrutiny meetings, and this year is no exception.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Management Scrutiny Committee notes the progress of the Scrutiny Committee.

### **4. Background Papers**

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee Work Programme  
2009/10

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