

**At a meeting of the CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2009 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Stewart in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Francis, G. Hall, T. Martin, Oliver, I. Richardson, Snowdon and Tye together with Mrs. P. Burn, Mrs. D. Butler, Mrs. M. Harrop, Professor G. Holmes and Mr. D. Snowdon

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Kelly and D. Richardson and on behalf of Mr. Brown, Mr. M. Frank, Mrs. M. Goulden and Mrs. C. Hutchinson

**Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Children and Young People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LDD): A Strategy for Transformation 2009-2025

Councillor P. Stewart declared a personal interest in the item.

**Change in the Order of Business**

The Chairman advised that item 5 on the agenda, 'Children and Young People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LDD): A Strategy for Transformation 2009-2025' would be considered at this juncture to allow the presenting officer to leave thereafter.

## **Children and Young People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LDD): A Strategy for Transformation 2009-2025**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the ongoing work to develop the LDD.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Steve Fletcher, Strategic Manager – Services for Disabled Children, presented the report advising that the purpose of the strategy was to improve outcomes for children and young people who had a learning difficulty/disability by setting out strategic imperatives and identifying governance arrangements in order to transform services.

Professor Holmes referred to the interesting foreword to the strategy written by Councillor Pat Smith. He stated that the aims and objectives of the strategy could not be faulted but the Committee would need to see clear evidence in the delivery plan of the expectations and required behaviours.

Mrs. Burn stated that she had seen first hand the developments taking place in Sunderland at schools such as Sunningdale and Portland. She believed that Sunderland should be held up as an example of best practice in this field. In addition Mrs. Burn highlighted the importance of disability awareness teaching for children.

In response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Lynda Brown, Head of Standards, advised that the Delivery Plan was scheduled to be published during December or January and would be brought before the Committee for consideration.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report and LDD Strategy be received and noted; and
- ii) the LDD Strategy delivery plan be submitted to the Committee at its meeting to be held during January 2010.

## **Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools in England from September 2009**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which introduced a presentation from Lynda Brown, Head of Standards and Chris Campbell, School Improvement Officer, on the new Inspection Framework for Maintained Schools, information on the concerns policy and the identification of schools that need support.

(For copy report and presentation – see original minutes).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Tye, Ms. Brown advised that if a school had emerged from a category as satisfactory but subsequently its performance had dipped, this would immediately register on the Ofsted radar. Mr. Campbell confirmed that such a school would receive a monitoring visit within a year. With regard to the

School Improvement Partner (SIP), Mr. Campbell advised that its role had changed nationally and that its work with a school would be time limited to 5 days every school year.

Councillor Snowdon welcomed the review of the inspection framework and hoped that training would be developed for school governors in conjunction with the governor's support unit. She stated that governors had always been a critical friend of their school but needed to receive training to keep abreast of the changing environment in which they operated.

In response to an enquiry from Mr. Snowdon, Mr. Campbell informed the meeting that school inspections would still last for the current two day period but would include an extended evening meeting on the first day.

Councillor I. Richardson referred to rapid changes within the social housing sector and asked if such changes were monitored so that any impact on schools could be mitigated. Ms. Brown confirmed that one school in the City had such an experience which had resulted in a significant and rapid alteration of its pupil profile over a two week period. Such issues were monitored and in this case, assistance had been provided by a Local Authority Support Officer.

With regard to the changes in the framework for inspection, Councillor Bell welcomed that consideration was to be given to potential 'no notice' inspections. Mr. Snowdon believed that the well managed schools would have nothing to fear from the framework and would welcome the changes.

Councillor Oliver highlighted the number of potential 'trap doors' in the new framework and related that there was a lot of anxiety among schools currently graded at 2 who feared they may fall to a 3. Ms. Brown confirmed that safeguarding was the 'trap door' which gave the most cause for concern among schools.

The Chairman referred to the issue of safeguarding and asked what Sunderland did as an authority to support schools at the first stage. Ms. Brown advised that Sunderland had a 'gem' in Pam Gartland 'Education and Safeguarding Team Manager'. She supported schools via a safeguarding checklist which was constantly reviewed and updated. Ms. Gartland was quick to identify schools in most need and offer support.

Ms. Brown advised that one of the local authority's biggest challenges was how to develop Governing Bodies with regard to their safeguarding role without 'scaring' the horses. It was not what many governors had expected when they applied for the role.

In response to an enquiry from the Chairman, Ms. Brown advised that every single Headteacher would accept an Ofsted invitation to take part in an inspection. It would be foolish not to do so. Although they would not be able to challenge they could potentially influence a judgement.

Councillor Hall referred to the new framework and asked how the Committee could work with schools. Ms. Brown advised that going forward, policies would be written

to highlight that scrutiny by the Committee was not of the school itself but of the Local Authority processes which supported it.

The Chairman having informed Ms. Brown of the Committee's wish to become involved in the development of the Concerns Policy he thanked her and Mr. Campbell for their presentation, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report and presentation be received and noted.

### **Annual Report on Children's Social Care Complaints and Compliments**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Annual Report on Children's Services Social Care complaints (and compliments) for the period April 2008 to March 2009, in accordance with the children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Beverley Boal, Complaints Manager, Children's Services, presented the report which aimed to:-

- provide information on the number and type of complaints and compliments received by Children's Services;
- explain how the complaints procedure operated and offer suggestions for its improvement;
- highlight significant changes made following the introduction of new complaints regulations in September 2006;
- provide information on non social care complaints received by the Children's Services Complaints Team.

Councillor Hall welcomed the amount of information provided but stated that he would prefer to see it broken down into a format which would help in identifying trends.

Professor Holmes stated that the report highlighted a great deal of good practice, however, the constantly changing methodologies made it extremely difficult to make comparisons over time.

Councillor Bell stated that he had taken part in numerous Stage 3 reviews in the past and expressed disappointment that elected Members were now excluded from the process. Ms. Boal confirmed that Department for Children, Schools and Families guidelines required that Stage 3 took the form of an entirely independent review panel.

In conclusion the Chairman asked if in future reports information could be provided as to how many cases at Stage 1 were misunderstandings, how many resulted in

resource issues and whether any practices or procedures needed to be changed as a result of complaints received?

4. RESOLVED that the report and Members' comments thereon be received and noted.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Handbook**

The Head of Overview and Scrutiny submitted a report (copy circulated) on a refresh of the Council's Handbook for Overview and Scrutiny in specific relation to a draft Protocol for the Appointment of Co-opted Members to the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report advising that the Chairman had written to all the non-statutory co-opted Members to ascertain whether they wished to remain on the Committee this year. She thanked everyone for their replies and advised that all had confirmed that they wished to continue to serve as Committee Members. In addition, Ms. Brown informed the meeting that the consensus from Members was that they wished the Committee to preserve the flexibility that it had enjoyed in the past.

Councillor Hall referred to paragraph 4.4 of the report and requested that the final two positions (1 rep of diversity and inclusion, and 1 rep of the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust) be filled as soon as possible. Councillor Bell concurred, highlighting the importance of a health and diversity aspect to the Committee. The Chairman proposed that the vacant posts be held in abeyance awaiting a further review leading up to the next municipal year.

The Chairman stated that the protocol represented guidance and should remain only as guidance. He expressed concern at the length of the appointment process from the nomination being sought to the appointee being able to attend their first meeting. He believed that responsibility for the work undertaken by the Committee should rest with the Committee, including the appointment of co-optees.

5. RESOLVED that approval be given to the draft Co-option Protocol subject to the comments of Members outlined above.

### **Work Programme 2009/2010**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching the current work programme for the year 2009-2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

## **Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1 October 2009 – 31 January 2010**

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 October 2009 – 31 January 2010.

The Chairman asked that future reports include more detail about the items for the Committee to be able to determine their interest.

The Chairman also requested a report to a future meeting on item 01227 'Young Persons Supported Housing Project'.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) P. STEWART,  
Chairman.

## 16-19 AND POST 19 EDUCATION AND SKILLS REFORMS

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set the scene for a review by this committee of the transfer of responsibility for commissioning of learning for 16-19 year olds. Lynda Brown, Head of Standards will be at the meeting to provide information on the background and current position of the changes.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 In the White Paper *Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver*, which was jointly produce by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) there were detailed proposed changes to the machinery of government with regard to skills training for adults and the creation of an effective system to deliver the learning entitlement to 14-19 year olds. These changes include the transfer of £7 billion of annual revenue funding to local authorities from the Learning and Skills Council, which is to be wound up from 2010/2011.
- 2.2 The reforms aim to restore to local authorities a significant relationship with (and accountability for) general further education colleges. They are designed to give councils the strategic lead for 14-19 education and training, enabling integration of provision between schools, colleges and employers as they jointly offer the new range of Diplomas and Apprenticeships alongside GCSEs and other qualifications.
- 2.3 The new system aims to enable local authorities to plan and commission provision to meet the needs of young people, to quality assure provision and to operate a funding model which ensures that money reaches providers appropriately.
- 2.4 At its meeting in July, the Committee agreed to carry out a review of the reforms.

#### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 A sub-regional group has been formed to oversee how the planning and commissioning will be carried out. This will include:
  - Developing local understanding of the positive impact of joining up 16-19 education with other services for young people;
  - Overseeing detailed technical issues such as funding and staff transfer.

- Ensuring that the transfer of responsibility for 16-19 education is considered as a cross-council activity;
  - Providing effective communication with elected members and stakeholders about progress and developments;
  - Integrating support for young people aged up to 25 with additional needs;
  - Learner support, including transport and maintenance, particularly for vulnerable young people;
- 3.2 Staff will be transferred from the LSC to the local authority. Three new organisations are being set up:
- 3.3 The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which will set a national framework for 16-19 commissioning; control the overall national budget for 16-19 and ensure that sub-regional plans work; provide strategic data analysis to support commissioning; allocate funds to councils to meet their plans for education and training
- 3.4 The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) which will fund colleges and other providers for learners aged 19 and over; and performance manage further education colleges
- 3.5 The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS – part of the SFA) which will procure the right number and type of apprenticeship places to meet the needs of each sub region.
- 3.6 The transfer of responsibilities will help Children's Trusts integrate planning, funding and local accountability for all services provided for young people and their families. The changes will result in:
- Bringing together provision for children and young people up to the age of 19
  - Ensuring that education and training for 16-19 year olds meets the needs of all, including the most vulnerable and those who are at risk of becoming NEET
  - Providing a smoother transition at 16 and at 19 for students with special educational needs
  - Planning education and training that balances learners' choices, employers' needs and responds to economic trends.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 A presentation will be provided at the meeting which will brief the Committee on the 16-19 changes and what they mean for all stakeholders, the council, the learners and the providers.

#### **5. Background Papers**

Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver DCSF March 2008



Raising Expectations: Tyne & Wear and Northumberland Sub-Regional  
Group Submission February 2009  
Cabinet Report Machinery of Government 11 March 2009  
Cabinet Report Machinery of Government Changes Regarding 16-19  
Learning 3 December 2008

**6. Glossary**

NEET Not in Education Employment or Training  
LSC Learning Skills Council  
YPLA Young People's Learning Agency  
SFA Skills Funding Agency  
NAS National Apprenticeship Service

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**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE    12 November 2009**

**AUDIT COMMISSION SCHOOL SURVEY 2009**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Strategic Priorities:** Prosperous City; Healthy City; Safe City; Attractive and Inclusive City

**Corporate Improvement Objectives:**

C101 – Delivering customer focused services

C102 – Being 'One Council'

C103 – Efficient and effective Council

C104 – Improving Partnership Working to Deliver 'One City'

**1. WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE COMMITTEE?**

- 1.1 To provide Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee with a high level summary of the 2009 Audit Commission School Survey results.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This is the eighth year that Sunderland schools have completed the survey. Schools are invited to assess Sunderland Council's performance across a range of services for children and young people. The survey has been streamlined this year to provide a more focussed review of local services and to meet the needs of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- 2.2 The number of schools completing the survey continues to decline both in Sunderland and nationally. 29% (34) of schools completed the survey compared to 29% nationally. Of these, 3 were nursery schools, 24 primary schools, 4 secondary schools and 3 special schools. The responses were completed by headteachers in the main.
- 2.3 Questions are answered on a four point scale this year instead of five, which removes the ability to compare responses over time from previous years. Scores: 4 = Excellent, 3 = Good, 2 = Adequate, 1 = Poor. These individual school scores are then averaged to give an overall Sunderland score. For example, if all schools rated a particular survey question as Good, then Sunderland's score would be 3.00. If half the schools rated the council as Good and half as Adequate, the average response for that question would be 2.50.

- 2.4 The Audit Commission ranks each survey question across participating local authorities to create four benchmark groups. Please note that the benchmarks have been reversed this year, so 4 = top quartile (25% best performing local authorities nationally) and 1 = bottom quartile.

### 3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 4 questions on the survey are rated by schools as between good and excellent, 58 questions are rated between satisfactory and good, and 1 question rated between satisfactory and poor. See Appendix A for details.
- 3.2 The proportion of Sunderland survey questions in the top quartile has declined from 30% to 17% (representing 11 questions), 2008 to 2009. The proportion of questions in the top two quartiles has declined from 89% last year to 49% this year (representing 31 out of 63 questions). The proportion of responses in the bottom quartile has increased from 5% last year to 24% this year. The table below shows Sunderland's position over the last three years.

#### 3.3 Sunderland's survey indicators by quartile band over the last three years

Proportion of Sunderland indicators in:	2007	2008	2009
1 – Top 25% of local authorities	24%	30%	17%
2 – Next 25% of local authorities	37%	59%	32%
3 – Next 25% of local authorities	30%	6%	27%
4 – Bottom 25% of local authorities	9%	5%	24%

*Note: questions and scoring system were changed significantly in 2009*

#### 3.4 The following survey questions are in the top quartile this year:

- 2.1 Local services' safeguarding of children and young people and protecting them from harm and neglect
- 2.2 The training, advice and support on child protection provided by the Local Safeguarding Children Board for designated members of staff and governors
- 2.3 Communication between the Local Safeguarding Children Board and schools
- 2.4 The guidance on when to make a child protection referral to the relevant service
- 5.1 The provision for 14-19 education in meeting local needs
- 5.2 The information, advice and guidance (IAG) provided by local services on options post-16
- 5.4 The provision of post-16 opportunities for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- 6.5 Your council's co-ordination of the admissions process

- 6.8 Your council's support in enabling you to be an effective purchaser or traded services, whether from the council or from external providers
- 6.13 Your council's support for promoting pupil attendance
- 6.21 The schools' forum

**3.5 The following survey questions are in the bottom quartile this year:**

- 1.6 Local services' support for promoting sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancies
- 3.1 Your council's support to develop self-management in your school
- 3.2 Your council's challenge to your school to perform better
- 3.7 The information you receive from your council about looked-after children in your school
- 3.8 The accessibility of the social workers responsible for the looked-after children in your school
- 3.9 Your council's support for meeting the needs of children and young people with English as an additional language
- 3.10 Your council's support for meeting the needs of children and young people from minority ethnic groups
- 3.11 Your council's support for meeting the needs of gifted and talented children and young people
- 3.12 The council's support for promoting sustainable development in schools
- 3.16 Local services' provision of appropriate formal and informal play areas
- 3.17 Local services' support for developing children's centres
- 4.1 Local services' support for children and young people to contribute positively to their local community and to the environment
- 6.3 Your council's communication with your school
- 6.12 Your council's behaviour support programmes
- 6.15 Your council's provision for pupils out of mainstream schools, including pupils who have been excluded

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Officers within Children's Services have considered the survey results in detail. It is important to recognise that the survey response reflects the views of schools and it is therefore important that in addressing issues that the survey raises, then discussions need to be held with schools to understand the results. 34 out of 115 schools responded to the survey and it is necessary to understand if the views are representative of most/all schools or if there are issues for some schools which are not shared by all schools. To enable an appropriate response 2 workshop sessions have been arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November. Following these sessions, further focussed discussions will be held and a series of actions to respond to concerns will be implemented.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Members are requested to receive this report and note its contents and to agree to receive a further report following the detailed discussion with schools as appropriate.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 The attached Appendix A shows for each indicator:
- the average school score, where 4 = Excellent, 3 = Good, 2 = Satisfactory, 1 = Poor
  - The national quartile performance for each indicator, where 4 is top quartile (25% best performing local authorities nationally) and 1 is bottom quartile nationally.

1. Summary analysis - all participating councils in England  
All schools

Survey Question	Sunderland			All participating councils in England						
	Sunderland average	Standard deviation	Description of average (on the 4-point scale)	Min (lowest council average)	Max (highest council average)	All participating councils average	Standard deviation	First quartile (25th percentile)	Third quartile (75th percentile)	Quartile (which Sunderland falls within, where 4 is best and 1 worst)
<b>Summary report for All schools maintained by the council</b>										
<b>1. Be healthy</b>										
1.1. Local services' support for children and young people to cease substance abuse (including smoking and alcohol)	2.58	0.58	Between Adequate and Good	2.22	3.10	2.68	0.68	2.54	2.88	2
1.2. Local services in providing schools with information and support to keep children and young people healthy	2.91	0.62	Between Adequate and Good	2.59	3.42	2.94	0.69	2.85	3.11	2
1.3. The school meals service encouragement for children and young people to eat healthily	2.91	0.79	Between Adequate and Good	2.23	3.50	2.81	0.81	2.64	2.97	3
1.4. Local services in meeting the mental health needs of children and young people	2.24	0.83	Between Adequate and Good	1.19	3.06	2.05	0.84	1.89	2.26	3
1.5. Local services in meeting the needs of children and young people with disabilities and with long term health conditions	2.66	0.48	Between Adequate and Good	1.93	3.21	2.60	0.71	2.50	2.76	3
1.6. Local services' support for promoting sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancies	2.39	0.61	Between Adequate and Good	2.05	3.13	2.57	0.74	2.43	2.78	1
<b>2. Stay safe</b>										
2.1. Local services' safeguarding of children and young people and protecting them from harm and neglect	3.18	0.87	Between Good and Excellent	1.39	3.42	2.63	0.86	2.50	2.92	4
2.2. The training, advice and support on child protection provided by the Local Safeguarding Children Board for designated members of staff and governors	3.59	0.66	Between Good and Excellent	2.00	3.69	3.01	0.77	2.77	3.26	4
2.3. Communication between the Local Safeguarding Children Board and schools	3.18	0.80	Between Good and Excellent	1.50	3.38	2.58	0.84	2.39	2.85	4
2.4. The guidance on when to make a child protection referral to the relevant service	3.38	0.65	Between Good and Excellent	1.78	3.75	2.73	0.79	2.64	2.91	4
2.5. Local services' work to prevent children and young people becoming victims of crime	2.50	0.60	Between Adequate and Good	1.89	3.18	2.45	0.72	2.28	2.65	3
2.6. Your council's support for combating bullying	2.78	0.55	Between Adequate and Good	1.98	3.38	2.69	0.73	2.51	2.83	3

Survey Question		Sunderland			All participating councils in England						
		Sunderland average	Standard deviation	Description of average (on the 4-point scale)	Min (lowest council average)	Max (highest council average)	All participating councils average	Standard deviation	First quartile (25th percentile)	Third quartile (75th percentile)	Quartile (which Sunderland falls within, where 4 is best and 1 worst)
2.7.	Local services' support for combating discrimination and racism	2.78	0.61	Between Adequate and Good	2.09	3.23	2.73	0.70	2.60	2.90	3
2.8.	Local services in ensuring children and young people do not go missing from the system	2.77	0.67	Between Adequate and Good	1.90	3.47	2.62	0.76	2.50	2.84	3
2.9.	Support from local services to help families in danger of harming or neglecting their own children	2.31	0.64	Between Adequate and Good	1.40	3.14	2.23	0.81	2.07	2.50	2
2.10.	Multi-agency early intervention for children in need	2.06	0.79	Between Adequate and Good	1.53	3.00	2.18	0.83	2.03	2.46	2
3. Enjoy and achieve											
3.1.	Your council's support to develop self-management in your school	2.66	0.75	Between Adequate and Good	1.94	3.62	2.84	0.74	2.69	3.00	1
3.2.	Your council's challenge to your school to perform better	2.79	0.70	Between Adequate and Good	2.24	3.86	3.03	0.69	2.88	3.22	1
3.3.	Support from your council for developing personalised learning	2.44	0.76	Between Adequate and Good	1.79	3.38	2.56	0.74	2.39	2.72	2
3.4.	The provision for early years in meeting local needs	2.68	0.75	Between Adequate and Good	1.91	3.71	2.82	0.74	2.68	2.96	2
3.5.	The council's co-ordination of services to support the education of looked-after children	2.67	0.66	Between Adequate and Good	2.00	3.24	2.69	0.74	2.59	2.89	2
3.6.	The advice, support and training from your council for teachers with a designated responsibility for looked-after children	2.82	0.68	Between Adequate and Good	1.67	3.33	2.67	0.75	2.52	2.88	3
3.7.	The information you receive from your council about looked-after children in your school	2.28	0.77	Between Adequate and Good	1.73	3.17	2.48	0.78	2.35	2.68	1
3.8.	The accessibility of the social workers responsible for the looked-after children in your school	1.82	0.73	Between Poor and Adequate	1.59	2.85	2.10	0.81	2.00	2.32	1
3.9.	Your council's support for meeting the needs of children and young people with English as an additional language	2.19	0.66	Between Adequate and Good	1.73	3.29	2.43	0.83	2.22	2.68	1
3.10.	Your council's support for meeting the needs of children and young people from minority ethnic groups	2.19	0.75	Between Adequate and Good	1.80	3.38	2.49	0.78	2.29	2.73	1
3.11.	Your council's support for meeting the needs of gifted and talented children and young people	2.23	0.63	Between Adequate and Good	1.83	3.12	2.53	0.74	2.28	2.74	1

Survey Question	Sunderland			All participating councils in England						
	Sunderland average	Standard deviation	Description of average (on the 4-point scale)	Min (lowest council average)	Max (highest council average)	All participating councils average	Standard deviation	First quartile (25th percentile)	Third quartile (75th percentile)	Quartile (which Sunderland falls within, where 4 is best and 1 worst)
Summary report for All schools maintained by the council										
3.12. The council's support for promoting sustainable development in schools	2.19	0.64	Between Adequate and Good	1.72	3.12	2.39	0.76	2.21	2.58	1
3.13. Interventions with young children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	2.52	0.67	Between Adequate and Good	1.87	3.29	2.55	0.78	2.36	2.74	2
3.14. How statutory assessments are made for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	2.42	0.79	Between Adequate and Good	1.63	3.25	2.35	0.80	2.24	2.61	3
3.15. Local services' support for young carers to achieve positive outcomes	2.53	0.51	Between Adequate and Good	1.93	3.17	2.53	0.70	2.35	2.74	2
3.16. Local services' provision of appropriate formal and informal play areas	2.17	0.72	Between Adequate and Good	1.71	3.07	2.35	0.76	2.20	2.54	1
3.17. Local services' support for developing children's centres	2.35	0.75	Between Adequate and Good	1.93	3.45	2.64	0.78	2.45	2.82	1
4. Make a positive contribution										
4.1. Local services' support for children and young people to contribute positively to their local community and to the environment	2.34	0.67	Between Adequate and Good	2.10	3.16	2.54	0.72	2.40	2.71	1
4.2. The opportunities provided locally for children and young people to make their voices heard	2.47	0.82	Between Adequate and Good	1.91	3.42	2.57	0.79	2.41	2.75	2
4.3. Local services' provision of activities to deflect children and young people from anti-social behaviour	2.28	0.68	Between Adequate and Good	1.50	2.93	2.24	0.75	2.10	2.43	3
4.4. Local services' provision of appropriate family learning opportunities	2.39	0.57	Between Adequate and Good	1.83	3.16	2.52	0.75	2.38	2.72	2
5. Achieve economic well-being										
5.1. The provision for 14-19 education in meeting local needs	2.90	0.88	Between Adequate and Good	1.75	4.00	2.60	0.79	2.33	2.90	4
5.2. The information, advice and guidance (IAG) provided by local services on options post-16	2.90	0.57	Between Adequate and Good	2.00	3.67	2.60	0.74	2.40	2.87	4
5.3. The provision of opportunities post-16 for care leavers	2.67	0.87	Between Adequate and Good	1.50	3.50	2.44	0.74	2.18	2.71	3
5.4. The provision of post-16 opportunities for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	2.78	0.83	Between Adequate and Good	1.50	3.50	2.36	0.80	2.05	2.65	4
6. Strategic management										



Survey Question	Sunderland			All participating councils in England						
	Sunderland average	Standard deviation	Description of average (on the 4-point scale)	Min (lowest council average)	Max (highest council average)	All participating councils average	Standard deviation	First quartile (25th percentile)	Third quartile (75th percentile)	Quartile (which Sunderland falls within, where 4 is best and 1 worst)
6.1. The leadership of senior officers of your council	2.43	0.69	Between Adequate and Good	1.32	3.75	2.57	0.80	2.35	2.88	2
6.2. The leadership of elected members of your council	2.21	0.72	Between Adequate and Good	1.50	3.27	2.32	0.73	2.14	2.53	2
6.3. Your council's communication with your school	2.17	0.76	Between Adequate and Good	1.43	3.30	2.43	0.78	2.19	2.65	1
6.4. Your council's school place planning	2.29	0.78	Between Adequate and Good	1.58	3.32	2.31	0.79	2.11	2.63	2
6.5. Your council's co-ordination of the admissions process	2.81	0.70	Between Adequate and Good	1.38	3.50	2.50	0.84	2.32	2.76	4
6.6. Your council's support to improve building management and development in your school	2.27	0.74	Between Adequate and Good	1.36	3.23	2.31	0.89	2.11	2.62	2
6.7. Your council's financial information, including comparative data for schools	2.87	0.76	Between Adequate and Good	2.00	3.54	2.76	0.79	2.53	3.00	3
6.8. Your council's support in enabling you to be an effective purchaser of traded services, whether from the council or from external providers	2.65	0.71	Between Adequate and Good	1.73	3.25	2.42	0.78	2.23	2.61	4
6.9. Your council's challenge to improve resource and financial management in your school	2.71	0.78	Between Adequate and Good	1.90	3.37	2.64	0.76	2.45	2.83	3
6.10. Your council's support for developing extended schools and other out of school activities for children and young people	2.71	0.53	Between Adequate and Good	1.91	3.33	2.66	0.80	2.45	2.91	3
6.11. Your council's support in developing the effectiveness of your governing body	2.90	0.60	Between Adequate and Good	1.94	3.46	2.70	0.77	2.56	2.95	3
6.12. Your council's behaviour support programmes	2.14	0.80	Between Adequate and Good	1.63	3.38	2.42	0.80	2.21	2.67	1
6.13. Your council's support for promoting pupil attendance	2.97	0.76	Between Adequate and Good	1.71	3.55	2.60	0.82	2.44	2.88	4
6.14. Your council's management of the procedures for re-admission of excluded pupils	2.29	0.73	Between Adequate and Good	1.38	3.50	2.41	0.79	2.22	2.71	2
6.15. Your council's provision for pupils out of mainstream schools, including pupils who have been excluded	2.00	0.82	Adequate	1.40	3.50	2.25	0.85	2.05	2.57	1
6.16. Your council's specialist learning support	2.57	0.57	Between Adequate and Good	1.71	3.40	2.55	0.76	2.36	2.78	2

Survey Question	Sunderland			All participating councils in England						
	Sunderland average	Standard deviation	Description of average (on the 4-point scale)	Min (lowest council average)	Max (highest council average)	All participating councils average	Standard deviation	First quartile (25th percentile)	Third quartile (75th percentile)	Quartile (which Sunderland falls within, where 4 is best and 1 worst)
Summary report for All schools maintained by the council										
6.17. Your council's educational psychology support	2.65	0.66	Between Adequate and Good	1.19	3.44	2.41	0.88	2.23	2.68	3
6.18. The extent to which schools influence policies/plans/procedures of the Children's Trust/Partnership	2.48	0.58	Between Adequate and Good	1.25	3.21	2.27	0.75	2.10	2.50	3
6.19. The delivery of the five Every Child Matters outcomes by the Children's Trust/Partnership	2.61	0.50	Between Adequate and Good	1.75	3.26	2.56	0.68	2.40	2.81	3
6.20. Local services in helping you to deliver your statutory responsibility for promoting the wellbeing of children and young people	2.55	0.63	Between Adequate and Good	2.00	3.30	2.53	0.70	2.38	2.77	3
6.21. The schools' forum	2.89	0.58	Between Adequate and Good	2.00	3.29	2.62	0.70	2.47	2.83	4
6.22. The Children's Trust/Partnership in combating the impact of child poverty	2.38	0.67	Between Adequate and Good	1.38	3.20	2.30	0.70	2.13	2.53	3
7. Local questions										
7.1. The support and advice your school receives from Children's Services on the planning and control of your school budget	3.00	0.82	Good	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.2. The quality of the residential experiences offered at Derwent Hill Education Centre	3.68	0.48	Between Good and Excellent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.3. The quality of advice and support your school's Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) receives from the External Visits Advisory Service at Derwent Hill	3.42	0.56	Between Good and Excellent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.4. The quality of support from your council to enable you to use effectively the common assessment framework	2.23	0.72	Between Adequate and Good	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.5. Measures in place to manage allegations of abuse made against staff	2.89	0.42	Between Adequate and Good	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.6. n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.7. n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.8. n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.9. n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

**ANNUAL LIBRARIES CONFERENCE – FEEDBACK REPORT**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide feedback to the Scrutiny Committee from the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Annual Conference ‘Impact, Inclusion, Information: The Value of Libraries in the Lives of Communities’.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Handbook contains a protocol for use of the Scrutiny Committees budget by members to attend training and conferences relevant to the remit of the Committee.
- 2.2 The Public Library Authorities (PLA) Conference one of the key dates in the calendar.
- 2.3 The Conference took place between 7-9 October 2009 in Bristol and was attended by Councillors Tom Martin and Councillors Graham Hall. A feedback report is attached from Councillor Martin. Councillor Hall will provide oral feedback at the meeting.
- 2.4 The Conference was built around three themes : Local Democracy, Local Involvement, The Power of Reading and Healthy Communities (including case studies on health and well-being and digital inclusion).

**3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to receive the feedback report from the delegates.

**4. Background Papers**

- 4.1 Conference packs issued by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

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## **Public Library Authorities Conference 2009.**

Cllr. Graham Hall and I travelled down from Newcastle Airport by Easy Jet in fifty minutes flying time. After checking in to the hotel a short walk found us in Sam's Pub with real ale and good company. Later we enjoyed a brilliant meal back at the hotel.

**Wed. 7 th. Oct. Local Democracy, Local government.** Kate Millin, Chair, PLG, and Cllr. Simon Cook, Bristol City Council welcomed us.

Local democracy - the rights of local people to be engaged in service planning and delivery was spoken about by Jayne Hathaway, Director, 2QAB.

Norma McDermott & Angie Weatherhead introduced us to the Public Library Building Awards which included the videos made by those who entered. Could Newcastle be successful?

Julie Finch spoke about Bristol's new museum which is rather different where communities are at the heart of the project reaching out to under represented groups.

John Hicks, Kentwood Associates spoke about Charitable Trusts which have been set up in places like Wigan, Luton and Glasgow.

At the Elected Member' workshop we looked at libraries engaging with young people. Two young people spoke about their experience with the Big Bang Secret campaign and being active through their library youth council.

On the evening we attended the Public Library Awards Dinner with guest speaker Gervase Phinn. It was an excellent evening with Newcastle taking away at least three awards and being put in 'stitches' by the tales from Gervase retired Yorkshire HMI.

**Thus. 8 Oct. Impacts and Outcomes.** Andrew Cozens, IDeA introduced the principles of outcome based accountability which can become a way of securing strategic and cultural change by moving organisations from a focus on efficiency and process towards making better outcomes the primary purpose.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Hodge MBE, Minister for Culture and Tourism, DCMS, spoke and was well received. I mentioned to her how well the free swimming had gone in Sunderland which was announced at last years Liverpool conference.

The power of libraries' to engage and benefit citizens in new ways and urge local authorities to have a big new push on using libraries' innovative reading work to deliver key targets. was picked up by Mirander McKearney, Director, The Reading Agency, after Liz Fogan, Chair, Arts Council England, challenge to work with partners.

Terry Ryall, Chief executive, v, sounded a compelling call to action for libraries to engage young volunteers during the economic crisis which is having a catastrophic effect on young people's employment chances.

I visited the Bradley Stoke Library and sports centre, South Gloucestershire, where a common active card was used for several facilities. Nexus are considering a smart card which could be used in a similar way.

We had a surprise procession to Colston Hall for the Civic Reception with rather tall spinning ladies and jugglers leading the way. Afterwards we returned in a similar manner to dinner at the Grand and were entertained by Project Adorno who told jokes about the way books are numbered?!

**Fri. 9 Oct. Healthy Community** Bob Gann spoke about a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Health and the Society of Chief Librarians to provide those with the greatest need for health care services the opportunity to be given digital access.

We heard about the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) and the impact of library and information services in multiple disadvantaged communities. Graham asked about the use of native languages compared with use of English.

John Fisher, CEO, Citizens on Line, talked about digital inclusion and delivering the Every Online Programme and undertaking commissioned research and consultancy in this work.

We had a table based discussion on out-come based library services led by a student from the University of the West of England MSc. Course in Library studies.

Andrew Knight drew on experience from international development and the evidence base relating to culture and literacy to suggest ways public library services can play a central role in sustainable community development.

After a quick call in to Sam's bar it was off to Bristol Airport to be greeted by the 'Brazilian Football Team' out for a stag night in Newcastle. A delay in departure found a rather long queue of young men down the length of the plane after take off with funny hats and full bladders waiting for access to the only toilet on board the plane. At Newcastle, after they were given a bit of fatherly advice on the pubs to visit by Graham and best wishes from me for a good night out, they disappeared into the distance as we went in search of the car to return home.

Cllr. Tom Martin

## FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2009 – 28 FEBRUARY 2010

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 November – 28 February.

#### 2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 In considering the Forward Plan, members are asked to consider only those issues which are under the remit of the Scrutiny Committee. These are as follows:-

*General Scope: To consider issues relating to children and young people, and learning for all ages.*

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

#### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 The relevant extract from the Forward Plan is attached.
- 3.2 In the event of members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

#### 4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the current period.

#### 5. Background Papers

Forward Plan 1 November – 28 February

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**Forward Plan: Key Decisions for the next four months - 01/Nov/2009 to 28/Feb/2010**  
**Items which fall within the remit of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description of Decision</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Principal Consultees</b>	<b>Means of Consultation</b>	<b>When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Documents to be considered</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Tel No</b>
01328	Accept a progress report on the BSF Wave 2 after approval of Readiness to Deliver submission. Also seeking approval to review the requirement for external support for Wave 2 of BSF and appoint where appropriate	Cabinet	04/Nov/2009	School staff and governors, community consultees, councillors, directorate officers	Draft documentation, stakeholders meetings with school staff and governors, parents, etc	Via Contact Officer by 20th October 2009 - Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee	Readiness to Deliver submission, previous reports to Cabinet	Beverley Scanlon	5611965
01227	To approve a Young Persons Supported Housing Project.	Cabinet	04/Nov/2009	Cabinet Portfolio Holders, Health, Housing & Adult Services Staff, Children's Services, Partner Agencies	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties.	Via the Contact Officer by the 20 October 2009 - Sust Comms & Child, YP & Learn Scrutiny Cttees	Report	Alan Caddick	5662690

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description of Decision</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Principal Consultees</b>	<b>Means of Consultation</b>	<b>When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Documents to be considered</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Tel No</b>
01323	Agree to seek competitive tenders & appoint a contractor to construct the new build at St Joseph's RC Primary School, & demolish existing buildings & complete site establishment.	Cabinet	04/Nov/2009	Councillors, schools, parents, carers, Sport England & local community	Public meetings with consultees. Presentations made and documents presented. Members views sought on priorities within strategy. Further consultation will include Sport England and the wider community as appropriate.	To the contact officer by 20 October 2009 - Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee.	Previous Cabinet reports relating to Primary Strategy for Change and Council's procurement procedures	John Walvin	5611437



# CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

12 November 2009

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to receive the updated work programme for the 2009-10 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priority of a Learning City.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 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 In addition to the items taken at the scheduled meetings the following activities have taken place since the last meeting:

##### Consultation Working Group

- 3.2 At the Scrutiny Committee meeting in June it was agreed that a Consultation Working Group should be set up to assist in the development of the Article Four Plans within the Committee's remit. Membership of the group is the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllr Bell, Cllr Francis and Mrs Butler.
- 3.3 The Working Group had its first meeting on 2 October to discuss the development of a Sunderland Behaviour and Attendance Strategy.
- 3.4 The Working Group held a further meeting on 22 October to be consulted on the development of the Children and Young People's Plan. The Group discussed:
  - How the strategic vision could be translated into practical action and actual improvements
  - The role of partners who will take on a commissioning role to deliver the improved outcomes. The relationship between the scrutiny committee and delivery partners was discussed and it was agreed that the committee could take on more of a role in monitoring and evaluating delivery by other organisations.
  - The inclusion of priorities for BME children and the role of parents was welcomed.

- Housing for vulnerable young people was highlighted as a priority.

#### Membership of Committee

- 3.5 A new Parent Governor Representative, Helen Kelly a governor at St Joseph's, Washington was elected in October and Council will be recommended to make the appointment to Committee at their meeting on 28 November. Helen will join the Committee in December.

#### 16-19 Changes

- 3.6 The Committee is asked to note that an extra meeting has been scheduled for the morning of Friday 18 December 2009 to gather evidence in relation to 16-19 changes (see item elsewhere on this agenda). The meeting is likely to take place between 9.30 am – 12.30 pm. Further details will be issued nearer the time.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 That Members note the information contained in the updated work programme.

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**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10**

	<b>JUNE 18.6.09</b>	<b>JULY 9.7.09</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 17.9.09</b>	<b>OCTOBER 15.10.09</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 12.11.09</b>	<b>DECEMBER 10.12.09</b>	<b>DECEMBER 18.12.09</b>	<b>JANUARY 14.1.10</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 11.2.10</b>	<b>MARCH 11.3.10</b>	<b>APRIL 22.4.10</b>
<b>Policy Review</b>	Proposals for policy reviews (KB)	Scope of review – Commissioning 16-19 learning  Looked After Children – Progress on recommendations			16-19 Learning – Setting the Scene (LB)	Achieving Educational Inclusion (MF)	Evidence Gathering Meeting	Youth Work Commissioning (AN)  YOS Improvement Plan (JH)	Gender & Attainment – Progress on recommendations		Final Report
<b>Scrutiny</b>	Workforce Innovation & Reform Strategy consultation (PC/PT)  Health Notice : Measles Outbreak (KM)	Laming Report Action Plan (KM)  Health Notice : Swine Flu / Measles Outbreak (NC)	Library Plan (JH)  HRH Primary – Improvement Plan (SM/MF)	Ofsted Inspection Framework / Schools Performance 2008/09 (LB)	Young Persons Supported Housing Project (PB)	Library Services Pricing Review (JH)  Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities		Workforce Strategy Monitoring  Schools Performance (LB)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (MM)	Foster Carer Strategy – progress  Initial Response Team Annual Report (MB)	Annual Report (KB)  Workforce Strategy Q Monitoring  Schools Performance (LB)
<b>Scrutiny (Performance)</b>	HRH Primary – Improvement Plan (SM/MF)  Ofsted 12 months progress  Plains Farm Primary	Castle View Monitoring Visit (MF)	Provisional KS Results (MF/AB)  Performance & VfM Annual Report (SM)	Complaints Annual Report 08/09 (SM)  LDD Strategy (SF)	Audit Commission School Survey 2009 (SM)			Performance Q2 April – Sept 09  HRH Primary Improvement Plan (MF/SM)	Attainment of C&YP (LB)	Tellus4survey (SM)	Performance Framework Q3
<b>Cabinet</b>	Article 4: Youth Justice Plan 09/10 (JH/GK)								Article 4: CYPP 2009-11		
<b>Committee Business</b>	Work Programme 2009/10 (KB)  Children's Homes Inspections  Parenting Strategy	Libraries Conference	Ofsted Safeguarding Inspections  Final Draft Work Programme	Co-opted Review (KB)	Libraries Conference Feedback (GH/TM)						
<b>CCFA/Members items/Petitions</b>											

<p>To be scheduled:</p> <p>Academy Schools Vision &amp; Future Children's Trust Annual Report Teaching &amp; Take up of MFL Sure Start Children in Transit Total Place / Sandhill Scores</p>	<p>At every meeting:</p>	<p>Forward Plan items within the remit of this committee Work Programme update</p>
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