

**At a meeting of the CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Stewart in the Chair

Councillors Bell, G. Hall, Kelly, D. Richardson, Snowdon and Tye together with Mrs. P. Burn and Mr. S. Laverick

**Also in Attendance:-**

Councillor Tate – Chairman, Management Scrutiny Committee

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Francis and on behalf of Ms. R. Elliott, Mr. M. Frank, Mrs. M. Harrop, Mrs. C. Hutchinson, Professor G. Holmes and Mrs. H. Kelly.

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 and of the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2010**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 and of the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Local Area Agreement Delivery Plans  
Item 7 – National Curriculum Final Results 2009

Mr. Laverick declared a personal interest in the above items on the agenda as he wished to comment on them in his capacity as Vice-Principal of City of Sunderland College.

## Item 11 – Progress Report on Hylton Red House Primary

Councillors Bell and Stewart declared personal interests in the above item on the agenda as they were members of the Shadow Governing Body of the School.

### **City Services – Culture and Tourism Review of Fees and Charges 2009/2010**

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report which updated Members on the review of the Culture and Tourism Fees and Charges Policy and sought further comments from Members.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie McCann, Principal Librarian and Ms. Allison Clarke, Library Manager, presented the report advising Members of a number of further recommendations with regard to the current levels of fees and charges following concerns that had been raised from Members and customers.

Councillor Hall shared his concerns over the fact that there did not appear to be an overall policy for the way in which groups were charged for using facilities and was advised by Ms. McCann that there were standard fees in place but the libraries had been working with longstanding users to best meet their needs and make the facilities more affordable for them.

Members commented that in future any discussions around changes to fees should be presented to the Scrutiny Committee for consultation so that they could be given a proper and decent amount of time. They also felt that there should be consistency across the Council around how smaller community groups are charged to use facilities and the way concessions are applied. The Chair suggested writing to City Services regarding the standardisation of a fair charging policy across the Council, specifically in relation to concessions.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the Committees comments on the review of Culture and Tourism Fees and Charges Policy be received and noted.

### **Local Area Agreement Delivery Plans**

The Learning City and Healthy City Delivery Partnership submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan for those services delivered by partners who are members of the Learning City Delivery Partnership and the Children's elements of the Healthy City Delivery Partnership.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Mike Foster, Building Schools for the Future, Project Director, delivered the presentation which provided Members with background details about the plans

including the key aims and purpose of the Delivery Partnership; the Council services and partners which were involved in the partnership; the key achievements to date and the challenges faced.

(for copy presentation – see original minutes)

In response to a query from Councillor Hall regarding the 97% of young people in training or employment, Ms. Judith Hay, Head of Positive Contributions and Economic Well-Being, advised that at any time the target was to have 98% of young people in some form of training or employment but that the Councillor was right in that at times there were some gaps where courses stopped and young people were looking for the next opportunity. She explained that the aim was to have a seamless programme of activities so that the young person had a clear pathway to an accreditation at the end of possibly a number of courses.

Councillor Hall then went on to comment that there was the fear of the young person undertaking training with no relevant job opportunity being available at the end of it. Ms. Hay advised that Officers had examined the data and identified those schools in the city that produced high numbers of young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), to help the service identify where gaps in provision or support were. She advised that young people who went on to college did tend to stay on their courses and that the challenge was in getting all of the partner agencies to the Council to offer more modern apprenticeships for young people to get them ready to work.

Ms. Hay then responded to a further query from Councillor Hall regarding the NEET Panel, advising that they met every week and managers would bring along 20 cases of individuals who they felt were 'stuck' and they would work out the best pathway for them. As of today's meeting 34 young people had been cleared through this route.

Councillor Hall went on to ask about the review of existing contraception and sexual health services for young people and if this was being undertaken as part of any initiative. Mr. Marc Hopkinson, Children's Services Acting Health Improvement Lead, advised that they had listened closely to what the young people had told them regarding where they wanted services delivered so that local sex health clinics would be most widely accessible by young people. When services were delivered in schools or community areas, young people had not been confident in going into them. Now that there was a clear approach taken the service were working in their areas but obviously the service would continue to set targets for improvement.

Councillor Kelly raised concerns over the quality of apprenticeships and how providers were monitored. Ms. Hay advised that previously the Council had little influence as the providers had been managed by the LSC. From April this would change and fall under the Council's remit so they could approve and monitor providers.

Ms. Hay also advised that providers would also have to go through the quality assurance framework at either a silver or gold level which would help in improving provisions. Councillor Kelly commented that he looked forward to the changes and would welcome the figures coming to Committee Members for monitoring.

Ms. Hay informed the Committee that Canon Stephen Taylor and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) were striving to get businesses to commit to taking on apprentices and the college had recently agreed to accept seven young people. The aim was to have every large organisation in the city to have a young apprentice for a two year period. Councillor Stewart commented that discussions had been held around this topic before and he felt that the Council's own policy on providing apprenticeships needed to be developed internally also.

Ms. Hay advised Members of the Committee that an opportunity had arisen from a training provider in London whereby Sunderland had managed to secure 20 places for young people from the city and they were the only city north of London to have achieved it.

Mr. Laverick commented that there were going to be budget cuts in Further Education in the coming years, in light of the current economy, and that there would be difficulties ensuring that the same levels of training provision were available across all sectors.

Councillor Stewart referred to the personalised approach to teaching at Key Stage 4 level and asked how this would work in practice? Mr. Foster advised that they would be looking to build a personalised teaching package around the young person's curriculum subjects so that they may take a normal session of maths but then also take a maths plus class on another day. This would mean that the individual may not be able to take another subject in its place but the aim is to encourage young people to leave school with 8 or 9 higher graded qualifications than have 10-14 qualifications at a grade D or below.

Councillor Stewart agreed with the approach that different individuals would learn in different ways and finding the best way to suit them would benefit them. Mr. Foster advised that the extra work and new approach often motivated the young person and made them more focus and would in turn help them to receive higher grades than initially expected.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding the lack of information received from Job Centre Plus, Ms. Hay advised that there was an issue nationally regarding the levels of information around the number of young people claiming benefits or having gone into work and they were looking at providing a route for information to be passed from them on a regular basis. Ms. Jessica May, Partnership Manager, commented that discussions would be taking place with the Department for Work and Pensions to see what could be done to improve communications.

Councillor Stewart referred to the proportion of children living in poverty and one of the key actions being to get them back into work, and asked how the service intended to address this. Ms. Julie Raine, Director of Skills for Life, advised that they knew that a parent's basic skill levels had a direct impact on that of the young person so they were working hard across the primary and secondary sector to raise the aspirations of parents and the Connexions service were also working closely with schools, offering them support for young people from an early age.

Mr. Keith Moore, Deputy Director of Children's Services, informed the Committee that a working partnership was developing a strategy to approach lowering child poverty which would provide some quick wins and as part of the strategy it would look at how to address different aspects of young people's lives.

The Chairman asked that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Committee on the issues around the potential impact of future budget reductions for training and education providers in the city and having thanked the Officers for their report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the content of the Delivery Plan be received and noted.

### **Reference from Cabinet – 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2010 Children and Young People's Plan 2010 - 2025**

The Chief Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the Committee's advice and consideration on the report considered by Cabinet on 3 February, 2010 presenting a consultation draft of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2010-2025 and Delivery Plan 2010-2013.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Keith Moore, Deputy Director of Children's Services and Mr. John Markall, Planning and Commissioning Manager, presented the report advising that it set out the key issues of the plan and raises Members awareness to the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act which facilitates greater partnership ownership of the Plan by legislating to place duty from April 2011 on the Children's Trust board to produce, publish and monitor the Plan.

Councillor Stewart advised that the Committee had discussed the Plan on two previous occasions and requested that the comments of the Committee raised on those occasions and through the working group be forwarded to Cabinet to note and that the Plan be endorsed.

4. RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Scrutiny Committee endorsed the Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2025 and Delivery Plan 2010-2013.

### **National Curriculum Final Results 2009**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on the final, validated 2009 national curriculum results, including individual school and college results.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sue Morgan and Mr. Patrick Candon, Senior School Improvement Officers and Mr. Stuart Laverick, Vice-Principal City of Sunderland College, attended the meeting to answer any questions from Members on the current position with regards to results from the Early Years Foundation Stage right through to Key Stage 5 (A Level and equivalent).

Councillor Stewart commended the work of the staff involved in helping the Early Years Foundation Stage children improve significantly and asked that the Committee's congratulations be forwarded to them.

With regard to Key Stage 1, Councillor Snowdon referred to the Every Child a Reader (ECaR) programme ending in April, 2010 and was advised that the funding into the Local Authority was only secured until the end of March, 2011 but the programme would run until the end of the school year. Ms. Morgan advised that they would look hard at how the programme could be sustained following this using the school's own funding but work would need to be done around how the programme was maintained.

Councillor Hall referred to the ECaR programme working with 120 children, making 3% difference and asked if this was accessing the correct amount of children. Ms. Morgan explained that this was around the right number of children for the programme and that it was offered to schools on the basis of their results, with those children being below the bottom of level one being supported to access the programme. She informed Members that the programme was a 12 week intervention programme which was very structured and was not allowed to be modified in anyway to warrant the most successful rates of improvement. Of the children that accessed the programme 60-70% would go on to attain Level 4 Reading.

Mr. Laverick commented that there was a good range in terms of language development at Key Stage 2 and asked if there was support for the programmes from the young person's family. Ms. Morgan advised that each programme was directly linked to working with the young person's parents or carer and the reason for the child being on the programme was carefully explained so that it was firmly embedded with their parent/carer in their home life.

Councillor Stewart referred to the national indicator floor target ensuring that at least 55% of pupils achieve level 4 or higher in both English and Maths, and pointed out that there were one or two schools which did not meet this target and were considerable below the 55% and asked what work was being done to rectify the problem. Ms. Morgan advised that the service were mindful of the number of schools not reaching the target and the Department for Children, Schools and Families shared their concerns.

She explained that they held a database of those schools that were 'hard to shift' and they maximised a consistent level of support, having been given the highest priority to improve. She informed Members that once a school was able to show it had improved it was removed from the 'hard to shift' database and that one of the schools on the database was long term but with the right level of support it was improving.

Councillor Hall referred to the School Level Performance table and asked if there was any explanation as to why some schools figures were so erratic, giving Southwick Primary as an example, having been at 53% in 2007, 58% in 2008 and then only 30% in 2009. Ms. Morgan advised that this could be as a result of a number of things but that a low position of attainment does not necessarily mean it is a bad school. Some children start so low with their abilities that the progress being made could be good and show they were doing well but would not be up to level 4+. Ofsted reports would explain the circumstances of each individual school better and show if children were reaching their expected potential.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding schools working in the context of the new Ofsted Framework, Ms. Morgan informed the Committee that those schools where attainment was low, would, generally speaking, start in a low category. Schools which they were concerned may fall into the lower bracket were formally identified and the appropriate support was offered to them.

Councillor Stewart sought more information around the Gaining Ground Initiative and was advised that it was a national challenge which looked at those schools which were doing quite well but with additional support could do better and within those schools there was a certain group of children who should be achieving more and would benefit from additional support. There were six Sunderland Schools on the initiative and all pupils were raising their achievement levels.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding the disparity between the Contextual Value Added Scores at Key Stage 5 between the City of Sunderland College and the three Sixth Forms, Mr. Andrew Baker, Information Manager, advised that there were a number of factors that made up the score and schools were still working to get their heads round the system and that it was early days for everyone to fully understand it. As an example he worked out that the College's score of 1005 would put them just above the top 40% on a national level.

Councillor Stewart commented that young people who attended college appeared to become more independent than those who attended sixth forms. Mr. Laverick stated that it was crucial to the young person to gain some level of independence and confidence if they were to move successfully onto the next stage of higher education.

5. RESOLVED that the performance of Sunderland national curriculum results be received and noted.

### **Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2000-2010**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) informing the Members of the current position of the Council as a 'Corporate Parent', ensuring that Members are aware of the current performance on the Council in meeting this responsibility.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Meg Boustead, Head of Safeguarding, took the Committee through the report advising Members of the services and initiatives in place and under development to further improve outcomes for those children and young people for whom the Council has parenting responsibility.

Councillor Tye commended the report, stating that the information contained within it was excellent and giving credit to its author and with regard to training for Members asked if there would be a way to bundle it together into one package and possibly offer it online or via one-to-one training. Ms. Boustead agreed this was a good idea and was aware that there were a number of e-learning packages already offered and agreed to look at the issue with Corporate Development to see if this could be personalised for each Member and offered that way.

Councillor Hall advised that the Committee had received the Ofsted Inspection reports of the Children's Homes and wished to congratulate the Management Teams and staff involved in continuing to make progress and consistently report high quality of care.

With regards to the Regulation 33 training, Councillor Hall advised that himself and Councillor Bell had taken part in it and had found it extremely informative and he looked forward to taking part in the monitoring visits.

In response to a query from Councillor Hall regarding young people placed in care outside of the city, Ms. Boustead advised that there were a small number outside of the city but not the region in various placements. Some young people were placed in independent foster care where their needs could not be met in Sunderland and a small number were in specialist residential care who had challenging behaviour or complex needs. She advised that there were a small number of young people overall and they were constantly monitored and provided with the exact service that a child in the Council's own provision would receive.

With regards to the issue of young people leaving care at the age of 18 and not being ready to, Ms. Boustead advised that since 1999 every child must have a Pathway Plan which determines the individual's future and looks at what their preparation needs are in the build up to them leaving care. Young people have still stated that despite all the support they are offered they still felt unprepared to leave care at 18 years old.

Ms. Pat Burn referred to paragraph 15.1 of the report and was concerned that one third of care leavers were not in education, employment or training and that just over ten percent were being housed in unsuitable accommodation. Ms. Boustead informed Members that she had spoken with the Leaving Care Service and shared their concerns but also advised that they could only report on those young people who they were still in touch with once they left care. Once the young person left care, they did not have to keep in touch with the service but they were trying to put incentives in place to encourage them to stay in contact.

Councillor Bell advised that he would be participating in the Regulation 33 Monitoring Visits the following week and was looking forward to them. He advised the



Committee that he had previously completed safeguarding training on-line and felt it was a good way for Members to undertake training in their own time.

In response to a query from Councillor Bell regarding any increase in caseloads following the Baby P enquiry, he was advised that there were now 383 young people on the child protection plan as opposed to 200 young people previously so the number of cases had almost doubled.

Councillor Hall asked how the increase in young people on the child protection plan had impacted on social workers and if anything had been done in terms of recruitment of new members of staff and was advised that the Committee would be receiving a report to their next meeting on the roles and responsibilities of a social worker. With regards to recruitment and retention issues, Ms. Boustead advised that there were a number of initiatives being undertaken such as the golden hello welcoming new members of staff to Sunderland, good conditions of service, flexible working, development opportunities and more.

She explained that one difficulty was that now there were less trained and experienced staff in the field of work but that there was a lot of work being done nationally to improve the situation. Newly qualified staff were supported throughout their first year to allow them to develop their skills and settle into their position.

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

### **Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1 February, 2010 – 31 May, 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 February, 2010 – 31 May, 2010

(for copy report – see original minutes).

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

### **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)

8. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted and items as discussed previously in the meeting be added where appropriate.

### **Progress Report on Hylton Red House Primary School**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an update on activity and progress at Hylton Red House Primary School that is subject to Special Measures through an Ofsted judgement.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information.

### **Inspection of Sunderland Youth Offending Service**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) informing Members of the outcome of inspection of Sunderland Youth Offending Service which took place in October 2009.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

10. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information.

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.

## **APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with information about apprenticeship opportunities within Sunderland Council. The Director of HR & OD will be in attendance at the meeting.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 There is national commitment to boost the number of apprenticeships to 250,000 by 2020. Apprenticeships will be managed by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) which will be part of the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). Apprentices will be given employment status. It will be a job with training.
- 2.2 The Committee has been taking evidence this year on 16-19 changes. The local authority will become the single point of accountability for all 0-19 Children's Services and key to the planning, coordination and integration of services in their area. Local government has a key role and opportunity to push the apprenticeship agenda forward and as part of the evidence gathering of the review the Committee will be provided with information about the Council's use of apprentices.

#### **3. Placement Opportunities Team**

- 3.1 The Placement Opportunities Team is based in the Training and Development section of HR & OD. The team is the central function for apprenticeship opportunities within the Council. The purpose of the team is to deliver the Council's engagement as a key employer in the City to:
- Provide a focus on the organisational need for professional skills development and capacity.
  - Enhance students' learning opportunities.
  - Deliver a fair and consistent entry to the organisation.
  - Manage risk in terms of safer working with entrants.
  - Develop consistent management of the placement and the experience of the individual.
- 3.2 Since 2006 the opportunities available for apprenticeships within the Council has seen numbers increase from 23, to upwards of 170 across Directorates.
- 3.3 Developments are taking place to promote a "grow your own" ethos and to promote the benefits of using apprentices and also raise awareness of the responsibilities of those wishing to employ an apprentice. The aim is for an apprentice to progress into employment although apprentices are required to

be recruited into any permanent post in line with the usual recruitment and selection process.

- 3.4 It is recognised that as well as contributing in part to meeting the Governments commitment to doubling the number of apprentices by 2020, there are significant advantages for the organisation's ability to develop a skilled workforce for the future.

#### **4. Numbers of Apprentices**

- 4.1 Currently, there are 97 apprentices engaged within the City Council, in a variety of roles and 48 are aged 16-18 years old. 85 have completed apprenticeships and to date 68 have gained employment within the City Council. In addition a further 60 potential posts have been requested for the 2010 cohort and will be progressed accordingly. Five apprentices have had their learning suspended due to maternity leave or long term sick. The monitoring of this data is analysed and held by the Placement Opportunities Team.
- 4.2 Traditionally apprentices have been in areas such as Customer Service and Business Administration, however there are many more 'frameworks' now available and this has lead to new apprenticeships in areas such as catering and childcare, learning and development as well as a range of 'craft' apprentices which includes electricians, gas fitters, paviors and plumbers.

#### **5. Development Activity**

- 5.1 A new centralised approach to coordinating Apprenticeships will include:
- Developing a data management system to track apprenticeships.
  - Delivering awareness sessions for Managers and teams supported by the production of a Managers Guide.
  - Ensuring OHU / CRB checks are carried out and Statement of Particulars are issued where necessary.
  - Coordinating safeguarding training to those managers with apprentices' under the age of 18.
  - Developing standard recruitment processes and procedures compliant with the Council's Recruitment and Selection policy.
  - Monitoring of training provider activity.
- 5.2 Information about opportunities is available through the Council's Intranet and articles have appeared in 'Workwise'. The Placement Opportunities Team is further developing communication and promotion in order that Managers are aware of the team, the services on offer and also the benefits of employing an apprentice.

#### **6. Conclusion**

The Committee is asked to receive the report.

#### **7. Background Papers**

None

# **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**11 MARCH 2010**

## **SOCIAL WORK ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

#### **Strategic Priorities: Learning City, Safe City**

#### **1. Why has this report come to Committee?**

- 1.1 This report has come to Scrutiny to provide an update on developments within social work with children and families, both locally and nationally, including:
- an update on the Integrated Children's System;
  - consideration of how social workers spend their time;
  - the findings of the Social Work Task Force; and
  - the development of the Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Qualified Social Workers in Sunderland's Children's Services.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Social workers have always had to balance their direct face to face work with children, young people and their families with the “behind the scenes” aspect of the role. Given the complex and life -changing decisions for which they are responsible, social workers have always needed time to reflect and consider what approach is needed and to plan future work. This most often takes the form of formal supervision with a team manager, which is an essential element of the social work professional ethos.
- 2.2 Social work has also always involved working with other agencies, often in the form of multi- agency meetings, in order to make and review plans. In the past such meetings often did not include the family themselves, which is now rare. In addition, social workers have also always needed to record their interventions and keep accurate records, in order to inform their decisions and evidence their actions. However since the inception of the Integrated Children's System, (ICS) some managers have been concerned about the amount of time that social workers have to spend entering information into electronic systems.

#### **3. Integrated Children's System (ICS)**

- 3.1 Social work, in line with other parts of the public sector, gradually moved from reliance on paper based recording systems to IT based systems throughout the 1990s. In the early 2000s, the Department of Health (DoH), and later the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), developed ICS. The introduction of ICS has been a key component of the Government's Change for Children agenda and represented

the introduction of the electronic social care record.

- 3.2 The introduction of ICS was intended to re-invent social work with vulnerable children and their families. It was designed to improve the quality of assessments and demonstrate the outcomes of interventions. The government view was that the introduction of the system would improve the quality of social work practice and “enhance the service user experience”. As the DCSF website explains;

*“The ICS has been developed to improve outcomes for children defined as being in need, under the Children Act 1989. It provides a conceptual framework, a method of practice and a business process to support practitioners and managers in undertaking the key tasks of assessment, planning, intervention and review. It is based on an understanding of children's developmental needs in the context of parental capacity and wider family and environmental factors. It has full regard for current legislation the work with children in need requires skilled use of detailed and complex information, ICS is designed to be supported by an electronic case record system.*

*A key aim of ICS is to provide front-line staff and their managers with the necessary help, through information communication technology (ICT), to record, collate, analyse and output the information required”*

- 3.3 The original development of ICS was in line with national strategic thinking about children's services at the time. The new system amalgamated the two previously separate systems for assessment and planning for children; the Looked After Children Materials (Assessing Outcomes) introduced in 1995, and the National Framework for Assessment of Children in Need, introduced in 2000. Each local authority in England and Wales introduced ICS in different ways, although a number of suppliers, including Northgate which supplies Sunderland's system, did develop products that could be used by more than one local authority.
- 3.4 ICS has been in place in Sunderland since December 2007. Although some social workers have found the system helpful, many social workers find that entering information into the system is very time consuming, and prevents them spending as much time as they would like on other tasks, such as direct work with children and families.
- 3.5 In 2009, the DCSF in response to Lord Laming's report following the death of Baby Peter and the Initial Report of the Social Work Task Force, agreed that local authorities could have more autonomy on how they used ICS to support practice. In Sunderland an independent consultant was engaged to develop a dialogue with staff. This has led to the development of a detailed improvement plan which aims to address the challenges of the current system and make ICS more fit for purpose for children, families and social workers.

#### **4. The roles and responsibilities of social workers in Children's Services**

- 4.1 Social workers have clearly defined roles and responsibilities. In Children's Services these are for the most part statutory, and are governed by the Children Act 1989, and associated statutory guidance. Additional responsibilities were introduced through

the Adoption and Children Act, 2005. In relation to child protection, the key statutory guidance is Working Together to Safeguarding Children, 2006.

- 4.2 The role of the social worker can be very broadly summarised as encompassing four inter-related professional activities; assessment, planning, intervention and review.
- 4.3 The first aspect of the assessment function takes the form of an Initial Assessment, which has to be completed within seven days of the referral. These relatively brief assessments have to include meeting the child and his/her family, and talking to health and school colleagues. The Initial Assessment determines whether or not the child is identified as a “Child in Need” and whether services are required to ensure that he or she achieves the outcomes that would be expected.
- 4.4 Following the Initial Assessment there may be a need for a more in depth assessment, called a Core Assessment, which has to be completed within 35 days from the date of the original referral. Social workers are responsible for co-ordinating these multi-agency assessments of children and their families. Each assessment leads to the development of a plan for the child, which will also need to be recorded on ICS.
- 4.5 In some circumstances, a child may be assessed to be at risk of continued significant harm. Such children will require multi-agency Child Protection Plans to keep them safe. The social worker is responsible, as the Key Worker, for co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of the Child Protection Plan, completing detailed reports for Child Protection Reviews and ensuring that everything is fully recorded within ICS. If the Child Protection Plan does not prove effective in leading to the necessary changes in the family required to keep the child safe, the social worker and his/her team manager may need to seek legal advice about whether to seek a legal order to safeguard the child.
- 4.6 The process for seeking legal orders through the courts changed radically in 2008 with the introduction of the Public Law Outline. This new Court process requires social workers to complete all assessments, including assessments of other family members who may be suitable to care for the child, before the application can be made to the court for a Care Order. This change has led to significantly more work for social workers. The reports that are written for court need to explain the future plan for the child as well as explaining why a legal order is required to keep children safe. In the court social workers often face rigorous cross examination. If the child is ultimately not able to return to his or her birth family, or extended family, the social worker will also be responsible for completing detailed reports to inform the search for a new family, either via adoption or permanent fostering, and in the critical and complex process of matching the child with his or her new family.

## **5. How social workers spend their time in Sunderland**

- 5.1 As part of the Business Improvement Project (BIP) within Safeguarding Case Management, a Time Monitoring Study was carried out by the Office of the Chief Executive to look at how social workers spend their time.

5.2 The study was carried out by two business analysts who shadowed individual workers for 2-3 days each between 21 September 2009 and 3 December 2009.

The individual workers who were shadowed were from the following teams:

- Telephone room
- Business Support - IRT
- IRT - Contact Team
- IRT - Initial Assessments (Developed ICT skills)
- IRT – Initial Assessments (Undeveloped ICT skills)
- IRT - S47 Team
- Business Support - Locality
- Locality Team (Developed ICT skills)
- Locality Team (Undeveloped ICT skills)
- Permanence Team (Developed ICT skills)
- Permanence Team (Undeveloped ICT skills)
- ACCW - Supervised Contacts

5.3 Two Principal Social Workers were shadowed within the Initial Response Team (IRT). One of these social workers had well developed ICT skills and the other did not. The main observations were that in relation to the IT literate social worker;

- 61% of time was spent in the office. Of this time;-
  - 29% of time spent consulting colleagues regarding case history
  - 20% of time recording information onto ICS
  - 8% of time spent reviewing files and case history
- 24% of time was spent traveling (including 30 minutes over 2 days walking to and from the car)
- 13% time was spent on client visits

5.4 The main observations in relation to the social worker who was less skilled in IT were:

- 71% of time was spent in the office. This comprised of:
  - 10% of time spent consulting colleagues regarding case history
  - 47% recording information on ICS (including 48 minutes spent receiving help from Business Support)
  - 13% speaking on the telephone to clients
- 9% of time was spent traveling (including 9 minutes over 1 days walking to and from the car)
- 13% time was spent on client visits

5.5 Therefore with the exception of the amount of time spent entering information on the ICS system there was little difference in how the Social Workers used their time.

5.6 The proportion of time spent recording information on ICS was similar across the various teams, with again the main difference being between social workers who were skilled and confident in their use of IT systems and those who needed more



support.

- 5.7 The ICS Improvement Board is now considering how staff can be supported to develop their IT skills, and how Business Support functions can improve overall effectiveness.

## **6. The Social Work Task Force**

- 6.1 The Social Work Task Force was commissioned to report on the state of social work in England and Wales. The Task Force sought evidence from a range of sources across the country, including service users, carers, social workers and their managers. Task Force members listened to a wide range of views and experiences, drawing on this evidence to critically evaluate the state of social work in Britain today. The Final Report of the Task Force was published in November 2009. The report has been widely welcomed in that it recognises the demands on social workers in the public sector, in both children's and adult settings. The Task Force Report acknowledges that there are significant challenges facing the profession at the moment. Social work with children is being required to move to more integrated working with other agencies, at the same time as adapting to heightened public perception in the field of child protection. The report highlights the need to improve social work training, including the quality of practice placements, the importance of continuous professional development, and the centrality of supervision and support for social workers. The report also recognised that social work salaries nationally are not always sufficient to keep experienced workers within the profession. The Task Force recommended a national career structure which would allow social workers to develop their careers while remaining in front line practice, unlike the current situation where experienced workers can only progress by applying for management positions.
- 6.2 The 15 recommendations of the Task Force, although helpful, are all medium to long term in realisation and do not address the immediate challenges facing the profession in terms of recruiting and retaining sufficient numbers of experienced social work practitioners and first level managers. Not surprisingly, five of the 15 recommendations address the arrangements for training new social workers. However, it is disappointing that there are no new imaginative solutions to the immediate problem of the national shortage of children's social workers.

## **7. Recruitment and Retention of Social workers in Sunderland**

- 7.1 The Council has already made significant investment in social workers in the Case Management part of the Safeguarding service, to bring it to the current resource level. Following the JAR in January 2007, there was an increase in the core establishment of social workers from 56 to 70 posts. There has also been recent approval for six additional posts in IRT and agreement to fill social worker posts immediately, rather than achieve a turnover saving. Currently there are 25 agency workers employed in the Safeguarding service.
- 7.2 In line with many Councils nationally and regionally, Sunderland faces significant challenges in relation to recruiting and retaining sufficient numbers of experienced social workers who are able to carry out the full range of roles and responsibilities of

the post. Various initiatives have been introduced to try to attract experienced social workers to Sunderland. These include the introduction of a “golden hello”, extension of the career grade for social workers, promotion of flexible working, and use of new technology to facilitate mobile working initiatives. These initiatives may have assisted in attracting some newly qualified workers to Sunderland, but have not been able to attract experienced social workers. Newly qualified workers are an asset that can be developed over time, but they are not sufficiently skilled or experienced to undertake many of the complex tasks outlined above.

- 7.3 In order to address the difficulty of recruiting and retaining experienced social workers in Sunderland, the revised Recruitment and Retention Strategy is currently exploring a range of options.

## **8. Demand for social workers**

- 8.1 A National study conducted by Staffordshire University in 2009 analysed the responses from 50% of local authorities to a survey sent out between June and September 2009. The study found that local authorities overall estimated that they would require 10% more children's social workers by 2014/2015. The need for social workers in children's services was correlated with population size, demography and indices of multiple deprivation.
- 8.2 In Sunderland, the level of contacts, referrals and subsequent assessments and ongoing planned interventions with families, including Court proceedings, has increased significantly over the past two years, particularly over the past year. The number of children subject to child protection plans in Sunderland has been growing steadily since early 2008. The number of children with child protection plans increased from 200 in April 2008 to 351 in early January 2010. In the last 8 weeks, the number of children with child protection plans has risen by a further 52, to 403. This is causing significant pressure upon the Case Management service, particularly in terms of high levels of case loads. However, all looked after children and child protection cases continue to be allocated and worked with in accordance with statutory requirements.
- 8.3 The exact reasons for this increase in demand are not fully understood, but many commentators relate it to heightened professional and public awareness of safeguarding following the nation-wide publicity surrounding the death of Baby Peter in November 2008.
- 8.4 The Independent Chair of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board has requested the Sunderland Children's Trust to look into the impact on all agencies of this rise in safeguarding activity. A detailed analysis is now ongoing.

## **9. Public image of social work**

- 9.1 The Social Work Task Force and the Staffordshire study of social work demand, both recognised that the media presentation of social work with children and families, particularly since Baby Peter, has often been very negative. Social workers often report that this makes their role even more difficult. It is also likely to be contributing to experienced workers leaving the profession, or moving to a less stressful area of

work than child protection.

- 9.2 Work is being undertaken both nationally by the Social Work Task Force Implementation Board, and locally through Sunderland's recruitment and retention strategy, to try to project the positive role that social workers have in promoting the safety and welfare of society's most vulnerable children.

## **10. Conclusion**

- 10.1 Social work with children and families has never been so demanding or so, quite rightly, subject to public scrutiny and debate.
- 10.2 The Safeguarding service will continue to do everything possible to attract and retain appropriately skilled and experienced social workers in Sunderland, and to support and develop them to provide the quality of assessments, care planning and review that is needed to keep children and young people safe.

## **11. Recommendation**

11. Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of this report and consider if further updates are required.

## **12. Background Papers**

***"We help develop the skills of social workers"* - social work demand - a survey of local authorities** (Hawthornes Research and Business Development Ltd, Staffordshire University, October 2009)

**Building a safe, confident future; The final report of the Social Work Taskforce** (November 2009)

**Safeguarding: Time in Motion Study** (Susan Veitch and Chris Parry, Business Improvement Programme, February 2010)

# **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

11 MARCH 2010

## **BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF) – PROGRESS ON BSF WAVE 2 AND SUBMISSION OF THE BSF WAVE 2 STRATEGY FOR CHANGE (SfC) BUSINESS CASE**

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

#### **Strategic Priorities: Learning City**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress made on Wave 2 of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme and on the submission of the BSF Wave 2 Strategy for Change to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) by 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The Strategy for Change will be circulated prior to the meeting. .

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Sunderland's Wave 1 BSF/ Academies programme is very well advanced with six of the eight schools involved now open and operating. The first school to be completed was the major remodelling of Oxclose School under BSF Quick Wins in June 2007. The three 'Sunderland Academies' – Academy 360, Castle View Enterprise Academy , Red House Academy – and Washington School have all been rebuilt and opened in September 2009. All of the above , including Sandhill View School have benefited from BSF ICT investment with the ICT Managed Service, which came into operation from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009. There are two remaining Wave 1 projects still on site: the major remodelling of Biddick Community Sports College will open in April 2010 with St Robert of Newminster RC VA School complete by September 2010. The vocational skills centres at Harraton and Pallion also received BSF funding and now provide 14-19 education for young people city-wide. The Wave 1 BSF Programme is being delivered on time and to budget.
- 2.2** In May 2009, the Council was one of only 40 authorities invited to prepare a 'Readiness to Deliver' (RtD) submission for Sunderland's remaining secondary and secondary special schools. The RtD was subsequently submitted to PfS on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The outcome of this was very positive with the Council one of only 5 authorities to go through the RtD to Remit Stage and, of those 5, the only authority to have benefited from BSF previously.
- 2.3** Officers from Children's Services including the Executive Director and Executive Deputy Director met with PfS officials on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009

for the Formal Remit Meeting for the Wave 2 programme. The 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Cabinet Report set out the position at that time in relation to BSF Wave 2 following the 'Remit Meeting' with Partnerships for Schools (PfS) on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The Remit Meeting was the sign off point for the Readiness to Deliver Submission (submitted in May 2009) and signalled Sunderland's formal entry into the programme. The immediate next steps are the submission of the Strategy for Change (SfC) Business Case.

- 2.4** PfS confirmed at that meeting that the indicative funding for the Wave 2 project would cover all remaining schools in the programme and would be approximately £137million (including ICT funding), subject to variations due to changes to pupil numbers at the time of Outline Business Case submission and Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Buildings Indexation. This news was very welcome as it enables the whole of the secondary school estate to be completed through BSF by 2015/16 and avoids the creation of a 'two tier' estate where some of the city's children and young people benefit from transformed facilities and some do not. The schools involved in the second wave of BSF are as follows:

Barbara Priestman School  
Castlegreen School (ICT only)  
Farringdon School  
Hetton School  
Houghton Kepier School  
Monkwearmouth School  
Portland College (ICT only)  
Pupil Referral Unit (Key Stages 3 and 4)  
Southmoor School  
Springwell Dene School  
St Aidan's Roman Catholic (RC) Voluntary Aided (VA) Boys School  
St Anthony's Roman Catholic (RC) Voluntary Aided (VA) Girls School  
Thornhill School  
Venerable Bede Church of England Voluntary Aided (VA) School (ICT only)

- 2.5** The 'Post-Remit Letter' which followed the Remit Meeting set out a small number of conditions to the Readiness to Deliver Submission which are highlighted in the Executive Summary to the SfC. These are set out in more detail at 4.3 below.

### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1** The Strategy for Change (SfC) document sets out the strategic objectives for the programme, including the broad scope of works and the transformational vision for both the Council and schools. The SfC is the first formal stage of the BSF approvals process and is designed to capture the Local Authority strategy for 11-19 services and the requirements that this strategy places upon the physical school estate. In addition, to secure coherent capital investment to support the 14-19 reforms, it formally extends BSF and the SfC development to include all settings in which young people learn. The SfC is also expected to cover

the implications of local plans for the transformation of services for children, young people and families, in particular the potential for these services to be co-located on or around schools. The SfC includes schools' strategies for change and how these relate to the overall city vision. The SfC also begins to scope the capital works at each of the BSF sites and provides an initial outline costing against each of the schemes in the programme. The SfC must therefore also give an indication that the programme is affordable within the resources available. Following approval of the SfC, the proposals will then be worked up to a much greater level of detail for the Outline Business Case (OBC) which is to be submitted to PfS in October 2010. The aim of the SfC is to ensure that:

- the local estate and educational strategies are brought together into a coherent document;
- a formal PfS review of the Council's proposals is secured ;
- the proposed designs are transformational and determined by local educational and children's services priorities;
- these priorities remain at the forefront throughout the planning process and the potential for co-location of services on school sites is maximised;
- the scope for slippage in the pre-procurement stages of BSF is reduced;
- the proposals are sufficiently radical, robust and transformational.

**3.2** The Council was asked at the Remit Stage to focus on specific areas as the SfC and OBC are developed:

- (i) In relation to the transformational overview, headline Educational Key Performance Indicators (EKPIs) should be developed. These are included in the SfC Executive Summary and in Appendix 1 to the main Business Case;
- (ii) In relation to the Special Educational Needs (SEN) and inclusion strategy, firm proposals should be in place for the location of Barbara Priestman School and the additional SEN provision in mainstream schools. This is addressed in the SfC Executive Summary and in Part 1 of the main Business Case. There are no plans to relocate Barbara Priestman School as part of the SfC proposals and the school will be redeveloped on the existing site;
- (iii) In relation to the development of a robust change management strategy, plans to address this are addressed in the SfC Executive Summary and in Part 1 of the main Business Case;
- (iv) PfS noted at the Remit Stage that significant progress had been made in addressing issues in the conditional approval to use the PfS Contractors Framework rather than the Local Education Partnership (LEP) model. This has been achieved through the Alternative Procurement Business Case, developed in conjunction with the Council's BSF Financial Advisers KPMG. This will be further developed for the Outline Business Case Stage if required by PfS. The Council was also asked by PfS to review its estate proposals in order that a maximum amount of 70% new build is carried out at any one school, with the balance

of works as either remodelling or refresh. A higher percentage than this could also trigger a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) interest, which would also necessitate procurement through a LEP. Having carried out this review exercise, it was subsequently agreed by the PfS Operations Panel that Sunderland could use the PfS framework, subject to demonstrating the Value for Money (VFM) case for the choice of procurement and funding mechanism in the Outline Business Case, which is scheduled for completion by October 2010. Subsequently, it has been proposed that the solution for Hetton School is 100% new build given the condition of existing buildings. Hetton School is the only 100% rebuild project. However, as the current estimated construction cost of £14.5million for the project is below the Treasury threshold for PFI projects (currently £20 million), it is proposed that this will be a Design and Build project procured through the PfS Contractors Framework, in common with the rest of the programme;

- (v) The Council was also asked to provide commitment to ensuring that resources are in place to ensure appropriate management of the programme. The approach to this issue is set out in the SfC Executive Summary and in Part 2 of the main Business Case. Further detail will be provided at OBC stage

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The affordability position of BSF is monitored by calculating estimated costs for the scope of works for the proposed programme and comparing this against the PfS Funding Allocation Model (FAM), which calculates the envelope of funding that will be available from PfS for Wave 2. The FAM is driven by projected pupil numbers, floor areas and a number of other factors. The PfS funding formulae generate different sums for new build, refurbishment and minor works. A cap is applied on total national funding across the programme in the ratio 50:35:15 respectively for new build, remodelling and minor works. The FAM will generate funding in these ratios to calculate the Council's funding allocation for Wave 2.
- 4.2** Great care has been taken to control the level of new build in the individual scheme proposals and to retain and remodel a substantial part of the existing stock in order to conform closely to the 50:35:15 funding ratios for the scope of works for the proposed programme.
- 4.3** An indicative FAM was sent to the Council by PfS in September 2009 with a value of approximately £137million (including ICT funding). The indicative available funding in the FAM has now been revised using September 2009 building indices and agreed with the PfS funding team. Accordingly, the available funding for capital expenditure has been reduced, in line with the change in indices, from £123,390,105 to £113,358,355. Funding for ICT investment remains unchanged at £13,906,950 as this is based on a flat rate allowance that is not affected by indexation.

The scope of works has been developed further with each school, by

the Council's Design Services Team. The cost of the individual school investment proposals has been reviewed to reflect advice from PfS. As the construction prices of Bidders on the PfS Contractors Framework are based on second quarter 2009, the cost of the Council's scope of works has been adjusted to reflect changes to the DTI PUBSEC indices from that base date.

As a matter of prudence, the construction rates for remodelling/refurbishment have not been revised down, as there is a greater degree of uncertainty around the pricing of these works. In broad terms the overall cost of the outline scope of works at £113,157,508 is in line with the available funding from the FAM. The FAM will not be finally agreed until the Outline Business Case is approved and the matching of the available funding with the programme costs will be a very detailed and iterative process up until that point.

- 4.4 The precise funding requirements for internal project management and external consultancy costs are currently being drawn up. The approach, which includes proposals for 2010/2011 project resourcing, is covered in some detail in the SfC Part 2 section 10 and will be fully determined at the OBC stage.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Schools included in Sunderland's Wave 2 project have been involved in the development of their own Schools Strategy for Change Business Cases and there is ongoing dialogue with schools staff and governing bodies.
- 5.2 It is proposed to consult with ward members through the Area Committee Framework and through consultative mechanisms that will be established in the governance of BSF Wave 2 (ie the BSF Consultative Forum).

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the content of this report and agree to receive further updates on the progress of BSF.



## FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH 2010 – 30 JUNE 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 March – 30 June 2010.

#### 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 March – 30 June 2010

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## Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Mar/2010 to 30/Jun/2010

### Items which fall within the remit of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

| No.   | Description of Decision                                                                                                                                                                                 | Decision Taker | Anticipated Date of Decision | Principal Consultees                                                        | Means of Consultation                                                  | When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee                             | Documents to be considered                                 | Contact Officer  | Tel No  |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| 01352 | To approve the BSF Strategy for Change Submission to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) for Sunderland's Wave 2 Programme                                                                                   | Cabinet        | 10/Mar/2010                  | Schools in Wave 2 Programme                                                 | Meetings with schools, distribution of draft documents                 | To the contact officer by 22 February 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee | PfS Guidance, Sunderland's Readiness to Deliver Submission | Beverley Scanlon | 5611965 |
| 01357 | To agree the procurement of childcare places for disadvantaged 2 year olds under the Pathfinder Project, and free childcare for 0-5 year olds under Children's Centres family support childcare service | Cabinet        | 10/Mar/2010                  | Procurement, Legal Services, Finance                                        | Meetings to discuss requirements and circulation of report for comment | To the contact officer by 21 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning                     | Government guidance                                        | Rachel Putz      | 5615640 |
| 01371 | To approve the arrangements for admissions to schools in Sunderland for the academic year 2011/2012                                                                                                     | Cabinet        | 10/Mar/2010                  | All Sunderland Schools, CE & RC Dioceses, neighbouring LAs, City Solicitors | Distribution of draft documents and publication on website             | Via Contact Officer by 19/02/10 - Children, Young People and Learning                               | DCSF Guidance on school admissions                         | Val Thompson     | 5611372 |

| <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> |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 01374      | To approve the arrangements for the procurement of therapeutic services for children who have experienced abuse with effect from 1 October 2010 | Cabinet               | 10/Mar/2010                         | CS Joint Commissioning Team, TPCT, Corporate Procurement           | Face to face meetings                                      | Via the contact officer by 22 February 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning | Service specification relating to previous contract | Nick Murphy            | 5663235       |
| 01360      | To agree the transfer of responsibility for 16-19 funding from the Learning Skills Council to the Local Authority in April 2010                 | Cabinet               | 10/Mar/2010                         | LA in sub regional group, 14-19 Partnership                        | Meetings and distribution of draft reports for comment     | To the contact officer by 20 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning   | ASCL Act, November 2009, REACT Briefing notes       | Lynda Brown            | 5611410       |
| 01370      | To recommend Council to approve the final draft of the CYPP 15 Year Strategy and 3 Year Delivery Plan                                           | Cabinet               | 10/Mar/2010                         | CSLT, Children's Trust, Elected Members, children and young people | Presentation of draft plan to various fora, drop-in events | Via Contact officer by 19 February 2010 Children, Young People and Learning       | CYPP 2009-2010, Needs Assessment                    | John Markall           | 0191 561 1836 |

# CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

11 March 2010

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to receive the updated work programme for 2009-10.
- 1.2 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:
- 3.2 Members of the Committee attended an event on 17 February to discuss with key agencies the 16-19 agenda. The session was led by the Raising Expectations Action Programme (REACT) on behalf of local councils. React is the sector-led support programme on 16 to 19, funded by the DCSF and hosted by the LGA. The session included information about the transfer and a chance to think through the role of a councillor in the new commissioning responsibilities.
- 3.3 A visit for members of the Scrutiny Committee to the City of Sunderland College was held on 12 February. The visit included discussion of the sixth form, vocational offer, apprenticeships, NEETs and provided the opportunity to talk to students about the services they receive.

#### 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<br/>18.6.09</b>                                                                                  | <b>JULY<br/>9.7.09</b>                                                                                    | <b>SEPTEMBER<br/>17.9.09</b>                                               | <b>OCTOBER<br/>15.10.09</b>                                    | <b>NOVEMBER<br/>12.11.09</b>                 | <b>DECEMBER<br/>10.12.09</b>                                                     | <b>DECEMBER<br/>18.12.09</b>               | <b>JANUARY<br/>14.1.10</b>     | <b>FEBRUARY<br/>11.2.10</b>                                                                                    | <b>MARCH<br/>11.3.10</b>                                           | <b>APRIL<br/>22.4.10</b>                                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Policy Review</b>                | Proposals for policy reviews (KB)                                                                        | Scope of review – Commissioning 16-19 learning<br><br>Looked After Children – Progress on recommendations |                                                                            |                                                                | 16-19 Learning – Setting the Scene (LB)      | Achieving Educational Inclusion (MF)                                             | Evidence Gathering Meeting – 16-19 Changes | Youth Work Commissioning (AN)  | YOS Improvement Plan (JH)                                                                                      | Apprenticeships (SS)                                               | Final Report – 16-19 changes                                              |
| <b>Scrutiny</b>                     | Workforce Innovation & Reform Strategy consultation (PC/PT)<br><br>Health Notice : Measles Outbreak (KM) | Laming Report Action Plan (KM)<br><br>Health Notice : Swine Flu / Measles Outbreak (NC)                   | Library Plan (JH)<br><br>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)<br><br>Behaviour & Attendance Strategy (PH) |                                            | Schools Concerns Policy (LB)   | Corporate Parenting Annual Report (MB)<br><br>Library Services Pricing Review (JH)<br><br>HRH Monitoring Visit | Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities (MB)<br><br>BSF Wave 2 (BS) | Schools Performance (LB)<br><br>Phoenix Project<br><br>Tellus4survey (SM) |
| <b>Scrutiny (Performance)</b>       | HRH Primary – Improvement Plan (SM/MF)<br><br>Ofsted 12 months progress<br><br>Plains Farm Primary       | Castle View Monitoring Visit (MF)                                                                         | Provisional KS Results (MF/AB)<br><br>Performance & VFM Annual Report (SM) | Complaints Annual Report 08/09 (SM)<br><br>LDD Strategy (SF)   | Audit Commission School Survey 2009 (SM)     | HRH Primary Improvement Plan (MF/SM)                                             |                                            | Performance Q2 April – Sept 09 | Attainment of C&YP inc Gender (LB)                                                                             |                                                                    | Performance Framework Q3                                                  |
| <b>Cabinet</b>                      | Article 4: Youth Justice Plan 09/10 (JH/GK)                                                              |                                                                                                           |                                                                            |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                  |                                            | Strategic Planning Process     | Article 4: CYPP 2009-11<br><br>LSP Delivery Report                                                             |                                                                    |                                                                           |
| <b>Committee Business</b>           | Work Programme 2009/10 (KB)<br><br>Children's Homes Inspections<br><br>Parenting Strategy                | Libraries Conference                                                                                      | Ofsted Safeguarding Inspections<br><br>Final Draft Work Programme          | Co-opted Review (KB)                                           | Libraries Conference Feedback (GH/TM)        |                                                                                  |                                            | CCfA revisions                 |                                                                                                                |                                                                    | Annual Report (KB)                                                        |
| <b>CCfA/Members items/Petitions</b> |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                           |                                                                            |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                  |                                            |                                |                                                                                                                |                                                                    |                                                                           |

To be scheduled: Academy Schools Vision & Future  
Children's Trust  
Teaching & Take up of MFL  
Children's Centres / Sure Start  
Sandhill Scores

At every meeting: Forward Plan items within the remit of this committee  
Work Programme update