

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the **Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Developing Lifelong Learning** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Monday 25 September 2006** at **10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor A Barker in the Chair

Councillors Coates, N C Foster, Gray, Holroyd, Iveson, Lethbridge , Manton, Meir, Pye, Robinson, and Wade

Other Member

Councillor Pye

Co-opted Members:

Mrs A Tallentire and Mr J Dormer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bell, Mrs Atkinson, and Ms L Bailey.

A1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to item A6, Councillor Barker advised that a meeting was taking place later that day about the issues raised by Councillor Mrs Robinson.

A2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A3 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items raised.

A4 Children and Young People's Services

David Williams, Corporate Director, Children and Young Peoples Services gave a presentation about issues affecting his service (for copy see file of Minutes).

- Every Child Matters: Change for Children
 - Improved outcomes
 - Healthy
 - Safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Positive contribution
 - Economic well-being
 - Partnership working
 - Children Act 2004
 - Director of Children's Services
 - Lead member
 - Duty to co-operate
 - Joint Area Review (JAR)
 - Children's Services Authority (CSA)
 - Scope
 - All former education, Children's Social Care and Health, Youth Engagement Service
 - Education in schools, adult, youth and community services, student awards and support
 - Children in need, looked after, specialist services, secure services, commissioning
 - Youth engagement
 - 302 schools
 - 13 children's homes
 - Secure services (Aycliffe)
 - 65 youth and community centres
 - Field offices
 - 9000+ staff
 - Budget of £300m+
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- Vision for Children, Young People and their Families in County Durham, all children, young people and their families will:
 - Be healthy
 - Be safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Have economic well being
 - All children, young people and their families will be: listened to; a full part of decision making; comfortable with the decision making process;

aware of the opportunities to be involved; and treated with the same respect, dignity and status as adults.

- Vision for the Service
“To improve outcomes for all Children, Young People and their Families in County Durham through working in partnership to co-ordinate and integrate the delivery of services designed, developed and focused on meeting the needs of all of our children”

- How?
 - Integrated governance
 - Integrated strategy
 - Integrated processes
 - Integrated delivery

- The Children’s Trust- Children’s Executive Board and Local Children’s Board

The Sub-Committee noted that there was representation of lead councillors on the Children’s Executive Board, and emphasised the importance that there was member representation on the Local Children’s Board.

Improvements had been made to Key Stage 4 results, along with improvements in other key performance indicators such as truancy, exclusions, and examination results of all pupils not just those in the 5 A to Cs category.

A5 Performance Update and Review of Medium Term Improvement Priorities

The Sub-Committee received an update on performance for quarter one 2006/07, and to inform the review of the Council’s medium term improvement priorities (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Coates requested that where there has been a reduction in performance indicators the reasons for this should be explained in the report.

The Sub-Committee was keen for the improvement priorities to continue its focus on educational achievement particularly KS4 but the way to do this requires further consideration.

Resolved:

1. That the information contained in the report be noted and that subsequent quarterly performance reports be received.

2. That there be no change in the existing medium term improvement priorities in relation to Lifelong Learning , but further consideration be given to the indicators relating to measuring educational achievement.

