

# Public Document Pack



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## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE: THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2010**  
**TIME: 10.00 AM**  
**PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE (NEXT TO CIVIC CENTRE)**

### **Members –**

Councillor Wildy, Chair  
Councillor Mrs Stephens, Vice Chair  
Councillors Delbridge, Mrs Foster, Haydon, Mrs Nicholson, Roberts, Stark and Tuohy

### **Statutory Co-opted Members -**

Mrs M Gee – Roman Catholic Diocesan Representative  
Mr K Willis – Parent Governor Representative

### **Co-opted Representatives -**

Ms A Kearnes - NSPCC

### **Substitutes–:**

Any Member other than a Member of the Cabinet may act as a substitute member provided that they do not have a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter under review.

***Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.***

***Members and Officers are requested to sign the attendance list at the meeting.***

BARRY KEEL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

## **PART I (PUBLIC COMMITTEE)**

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Panel Members.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

#### **3. MOTION ON NOTICE (Pages 1 - 2)**

To consider a motion on notice on submitted by councillors.

#### **4. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 8)**

The panel will be asked to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2010.

#### **5. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

To receive reports on business that, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

#### **6. CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES**

To update the panel on the co-opted representatives for the children and young people overview and scrutiny panel.

#### **7. TRACKING RESOLUTIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD (Pages 9 - 14)**

The Panel will monitor progress on previous resolutions and receive any relevant feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

#### **8. QUARTERLY SCRUTINY REPORT (Pages 15 - 20)**

To note the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny report for the 1st quarter.

**9. YOUNG CARERS IN PLYMOUTH TASK AND FINISH GROUP (Pages 21 - 22)**

The Panel will be asked to consider the PID and approve the membership of the Task and Finish Group.

(Overview and Scrutiny Management Board minute (26 (8)) refers, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel to prepare a PID for a two day Task and Finish group in October focusing on young carers in the city).

**10. BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE - TO FOLLOW**

To receive an update on the Children Services budget.

**11. OFSTED INSPECTION ACTION PLAN AND CIP 7 UPDATE (Pages 23 - 26)**

To receive the action plan update from the recent Ofsted inspection including an update on Corporate Improvement Priority 7.

**12. COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATE - TO FOLLOW**

To receive an update on the common assessment framework.

**13. CAREFIRST - TO FOLLOW**

To receive an update on Care First.

**14. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

No updates to report to the panel.

**15. SCHOOL TRANSPORT - TO FOLLOW**

To receive a report on school transport.

**16. UPDATES FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS (Pages 27 - 30)**

To receive an update from the Corporate Parenting Group.

**17. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 31 - 32)**

The Panel will consider its work programme for 2010/11.

## **18. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **PART II (PRIVATE COMMITTEE)**

### **AGENDA**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE**

that under the law, the Panel is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

NIL

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL****9 SEPTEMBER 2010****MOTION ON NOTICE**

I move that the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel resolve that they have no confidence in Councillor Wildy as Chair as a consequence of her recent conduct and remove her from that position immediately. The Panel also call on the opposition group to nominate a replacement Chair from amongst their group members on the Panel. (See Constitution, Part Three, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference).

In the meantime and until a new Chair is nominated and elected the vice-chair will chair the meetings of the Panel.

**Proposed by Councillor Roberts**

**Seconded by Councillor Delbridge**

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## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 15 July 2010

### PRESENT:

Councillor Wildy, in the Chair.

Councillors Delbridge, Mrs Foster, Haydon, Mrs Nicholson, Roberts, Stark and Tuohy.

Co-opted Representatives: Kevin Willis and Rob Read, Parent Governors Representatives.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Mrs Stephens and Mrs Maggie Gee.

Also in attendance: Colin Moore, Assistant Director for Lifelong Learning, Gareth Simmons, Programme Director for Learning Environments, Sarah Heffernan, Senior Youth Support Worker and Karl Sweeney, Adviser for Citizenship, PSHEE & Healthy Schools

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.05 pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

### 14. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all to Lipson Community College and thanked the College Principal and staff.

### 15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made, as follows –

Name	Minute	Reason	Interest
Kevin Willis	Minute 20 – legislative changes update	Governor at Coombe Dean School	Personal
Councillor Stark	Minute 21 – Strategy for Change Building Schools for the Future	Governor at Stoke Damarel Community College	Personal
Councillor Roberts	Minute 21 – Strategy for Change Building Schools for the Future	Governor at Sir John Hunt Community College	Personal

16. **MINUTES**

Regarding minute –

- (a) 8 (ii) delete the sentence ‘she was looking at changing and improving services further’,
- (b) 8 (vi) sentence to include underspend.

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2010 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendments above.

17. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

18. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The Chair updated the panel on their tracking resolutions and feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

With regard to tracking resolutions, the panel was informed that -

- (a) minute 5 (1) a report on young people representation to the panel. A report would be submitted to the next panel meeting for consideration. This item is now complete;
- (b) minute 5 (2) the Chair will be meeting with Kate Taylor and Jake Paget on 27 July 2010 to receive feedback from their experiences on the scrutiny panel;
- (c) minute 6 (1) and (2) the Democratic Support Officer and Lead Officer to look at the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel terms of reference. A copy of the terms of reference to be emailed to each panel member for feedback, prior to submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;
- (d) minute 12 (1) the panel delegated authority to the Lead Officer in consultation with the chair and vice chair to review the work programme in further detail. This item is now complete;
- (e) minute 12 (2) the deadline for this resolution has now passed. A letter from the Chair will be sent to the responsible officer to follow up this outstanding resolution;
- (f) minute 12 (3) the Chair asked the panel for feedback on the induction packs;



- (g) minute 12 (4) the Chair met with the Director of Services for Children and Young People with regard to a Children Services workshop for panel members. The panel agreed to look at the induction packs and feedback the topics they would like covered at the workshop.

With regard to feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 30 June 2010, the panel were informed that a briefing note would be circulated to panel members to facilitate good management of the meeting.

Agreed that the briefing note on feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to be circulated to panel members outside the meeting.

19. **REPORT ON YOUNG PERSONS ENGAGEMENT WITH SCRUTINY**

Sarah Heffernan, Senior Youth Support Project Worker and Karl Sweeney, Adviser for Citizenship, PSHEE & Healthy Schools submitted a report on Young Person's Engagement with Scrutiny. It was reported that –

- (a) over the past two years, two young people were co-opted to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The panel were now looking at extending this engagement to a wider pool of young people;
- (b) it is a good idea to broaden the base of representation of engagement of young people with the panel. The City Youth Council is a very new group and has now met four times with a constitutional link with the UK Youth Parliament and Plymouth Youth Cabinet;

In response to questions, it was reported that –

- (c) approximately 25 schools across the city attend the City Youth Council;
- (d) 14 young people voluntarily put themselves forward for the Youth Cabinet and meet on a weekly basis. Two members of the Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament attend the City Youth Council. As it is held during school times, we have to be mindful that students schooling will always be the first priority;
- (e) the City Youth Council meetings are minuted and circulated via email to all schools that attend the City Youth Council meeting;
- (f) the UK Youth Parliament workers have explored different ways of engaging young people in voting, budgets for this is a problem.

Agreed that –

- (1) information be provided to the panel on the breakdown of schools that attend the City Youth Council and geographical spread;
- (2) the budget is revisited to enable more young people to participate in the Youth Parliament elections in their schools to enable a proper democratic process to take place for young people;
- (3) Active Citizenship is a curriculum entitlement for all and is promoted throughout Plymouth's schools. This has at its core understanding the democratic process, acquiring political literacy and taking informed and responsible action;
- (4) the Children and Young People Representatives on the Scrutiny panel comprise one member of the UK Youth Parliament and one member to be elected from either the Plymouth Youth Cabinet or the City Youth Council, these being the forums with the broadest electoral base and/or levels of relevant experience;
- (5) the above representatives hold their posts for one year and help to mentor their successors;
- (6) the panel recommends that Routeways are commissioned to undertake a review of Children and Young People engagement over the autumn, bringing their findings back to the scrutiny panel in January 2011.

**20. UPDATE ON ALLOCATION OF SCHOOL PLACES**

The School Organisation and Pupil Access Manager submitted a briefing note on allocation of school places this was noted by the panel.

**21. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES UPDATE**

Colin Moore, Assistant Director for Services for Children and Young People (Lifelong Learning) gave a presentation to the panel on legislative changes. Legislative changes will be a standing agenda item.

In response to questions, it was reported that -

- (a) a dialogue with schools is required on what governors feel is of value from the local authority on how resources are allocated;
- (b) research has shown that extended services can impact on a child. Extended schools as a strategy is about enabling groups to make better use of the community resource and hopefully this will continue;

- (c) there is a reform of the current inspection framework and for many schools will mean less inspections.

Agreed that in future words should be in full and that reports and presentations should only contain abbreviations where the meaning was clear, for example, Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

22. **STRATEGY FOR CHANGE BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE**

Gareth Simmons, Programme Director for Learning Environments submitted a briefing paper on Building Schools for the Future (BSF). It was reported that –

- (a) on the 5 July 2010 all BSF projects were that had not reached financial closure were immediately halted;
- (b) in Plymouth the two academies Marine Academy Plymouth and All Saints Academy have been told that their building projects are for discussion between the sponsors and the Department of Education. The rebuilding of Stoke Damerel was not now taking place and the new science laboratories for Lipson and provision of ICT facilities at Woodview had been cancelled;
- (c) Plymouth City Council has replaced 12% of school buildings in the last decade. However there were a lot of schools with children learning in a poor environment;
- (d) all capital investment is being reviewed;
- (e) the local authority do not have any school buildings that are unsafe. Condition statements on schools are undertaken on a 5 year cycle and identify any urgent work to be carried out. All priority one work is dealt with by schools with their devolved capital;
- (f) primary schools are facing capacity issues due to an increase in the birth rate combined with city growth;
- (g) prioritisation across the city remains in raising attainment in our poorest communities;
- (h) whilst there is not a linear relationship between good school learning environments and good results, high quality learning environments attract good teachers

Agreed that the panel receive a further BSF update in November when the national picture is more clearly established.

23. **UPDATES FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

There were no items from partner organisations to update to the panel.

24. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The panel considered its work programme for 2010/11.

Agreed that –

- (1) the key recommendations from the Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny 2010 for Children Services to be incorporated into tracking resolutions;
- (2) the panel take part in a two-day Task and Finish Group in September focusing on the provision and support for Young Carers in the city;
- (3) the provisional October meeting to be changed to a business meeting. This meeting will focus on the budget for children services in line with the comprehensive spending review.

25. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

The panel were then escorted on a tour of Lipson Community College and had the opportunity to meet with staff and students.

# TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Officer	Progress	Target date
17 June 2010 / 5 (2)	It was <u>agreed</u> that Kate Taylor and Jake Paget to receive a formal recognition of their work on the Panel.		The Chair, Amelia Boulter and Lead Officer	The Chair will be meeting with Jake and Kate on 27.07.10 to evaluate the contribution they have made to the panel. The DSO to set up a meeting with the Chair to look at recognition for Jake and Kate.	
17 June 2010 / 6 (1)	It was <u>agreed</u> that the Democratic Support Officer and Lead Officer produce a pool of people the Panel can draw on to help the Panel with the scrutiny of the work programme;	The Terms of Reference to be reviewed and updated.	Amelia Boulter and Giles Perritt	This item is outstanding. A new Lead Officer has now been appointed. The DSO will set up a meeting with the Lead Officer to discuss this item.	
17 June 2010 / 12 (2)	It was <u>agreed</u> that a briefing note is provided to the Panel on Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision in all schools and how the Panel could address this issue;	The Panel considered the work programme for 2010/11.	Andrea Langman and Lead Officer	A briefing note is being produced and will be circulated to Panel members outside the meeting. The DSO has chased this briefing note. The ASD review has just been completed and the AD will be producing a more purposeful briefing note for the panel.	07.10.10
17 June 2010 / 12 (4)	It was <u>agreed</u> that a workshop on children's services is to be organised for Panel members.	The Panel considered the work programme for 2010/11.	Amelia Boulter and Lead Officer	A workshop to be organised with the new Lead Officer.	07.10.10
15 July 2010 / 18	It was <u>agreed</u> that a briefing note on feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to be circulated to panel members outside the meeting.	Feedback from Management Board.	Amelia Boulter	Completed.	

<b>Date / Minute number</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Explanation / Minute</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Target date</b>
15 July 2010 / 19 (1)	Agreed that – information be provided to the panel on the breakdown of schools that attend the City Youth Council and geographical spread.	Report on Young Persons Engagement with scrutiny.	Karl Sweeney		
15 July 2010 / 19 (2)	Agreed that - the budget is revisited to enable more young people to participate in the Youth Parliament elections in their schools to enable a proper democratic process to take place for young people.	Report on Young Persons Engagement with scrutiny.	Sarah Heffernan/ Karl Sweeney		
15 July 2010 / 19 (3)	Agreed that – Active Citizenship is a curriculum entitlement for all and is promoted throughout Plymouth's schools. This has at its core understanding the democratic process, acquiring political literacy and taking informed and responsible action.	Report on Young Persons Engagement with scrutiny.	Sarah Heffernan/ Karl Sweeney		

<b>Date / Minute number</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Explanation / Minute</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Target date</b>
15 July 2010 / 19 (4)	Agreed that – the Children and Young People Representatives on the Scrutiny panel comprise one member of the UK Youth Parliament and one member to be elected from either the Plymouth Youth Cabinet or the City Youth Council, these being the forums with the broadest electoral base and/or levels of relevant experience.	Report on Young Persons Engagement with scrutiny.	Sarah Heffernan/ Karl Sweeney		
15 July 2010 / 19 (5)	Agreed that – the above representatives hold their posts for one year and help to mentor their successors;	Report on Young Persons Engagement with scrutiny.	Sarah Heffernan/ Karl Sweeney		
15 July 2010 / 19 (6)	Agreed that - the panel recommends that Routeways are commissioned to undertake a review of Children and Young People engagement over the autumn, bringing their findings back to the scrutiny panel in January 2011.	Report on Young Persons Engagement with scrutiny.	Sarah Heffernan/ Karl Sweeney		
15 July 2010 / 22	Agreed that the panel receive a further BSF Update in November when the national picture is more clearly established.	Strategy for Change Building Schools for the Future.	Gareth Simmons	Update to be given to the Panel at the 11.11.10 meeting.	11.11.10

<b>Date / Minute number</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Explanation / Minute</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Target date</b>
15 July 2010 / 24 (1)	Agreed that – the key recommendations from the Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny 2010 for Children Services to be incorporated into tracking resolutions.	Work Programme	Amelia Boulter	Recommendations from the budget and corporate plan have been incorporated into the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel's tracking resolutions – completed.	09.09.10
15 July 2010 / 24 (2)	Agreed that – the panel take part in a two-day Task and Finish Group in September focusing on the provision and support for Young Carers in the city.	Work Programme	Amelia Boulter and Claire Cordory	The DSO and Vice-Chair have met and pulled together a PID to be agreed at the panel meeting of 09.09.10 – completed.	09.09.10
15 July 2010 / 24 (3)	Agreed that – the provisional October meeting to be changed to a business meeting. This meeting will focus on the budget for children services in line with the comprehensive spending review.	Work Programme	Amelia Boulter	Provisional meeting has been changed to a business meeting - completed.	09.09.10
Feb 10 R 5.1	Formal engagement between school governors and Third Sector organisations takes place over the memoranda of understanding with new schools to maximise the extent to which their facilities are available and accessible to local communities.	Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny Report Recommendations 2010			



<b>Date / Minute number</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Explanation / Minute</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<i>R 5.2</i>	Plans are published for better coordination of 'back office' functions between Children and Young People's services and the rest of the organisation to avoid duplication and to gain efficiencies.	Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny Report Recommendations 2010			
<i>R 5.3</i>	Performance management arrangements between the Children's Trust and the Council's executive and scrutiny arrangements are harmonised and clarified.	Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny Report Recommendations 2010			
<i>R 5.4</i>	That, in light of the poor results of the recent unannounced inspection in Children's Services, the department responds to concerns raised over caseloads of Children's Social Workers, resources for Foster Care and the lack of evidence of new and innovative ways of making efficiency savings in co-operation with other departments and partners.	Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny Report Recommendations 2010			

<b>Date / Minute number</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Explanation / Minute</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<i>R 5.5</i>	The Board responsible for the improvement of the CareFirst management system clarify the key elements of the project plan with respect to children's social care, including investment, people resources and key milestones and timelines.	Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny Report Recommendations 2010			
<i>R 5.6</i>	Further details are provided of efficiency savings contained within the budget reduction in Lifelong Learning.	Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny Report Recommendations 2010			
<i>R 5.7</i>	Scrutiny input is requested into the decision as to whether to apply for grant support for free school meals and how match funding is identified.	Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny Report Recommendations 2010			
<i>R 5.8</i>	Initiatives contributing to the reduction of teenage pregnancy should be part of an overall plan, and properly highlighted to relevant stakeholders.	Budget and Corporate Plan Scrutiny Report Recommendations 2010			

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH**

**Subject:** Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Quarterly Report

**Committee:** Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date:** 9 September 2010

**CMT Member:** Bronwen Lacey, Director of Services for Children and Young People

**Author:** Claire Cordory-Oatway, Head of Performance & Quality Services for Children and Young People

**Contact:** claire.cordory@plymouth.gov.uk

**Part:** Part I

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**Executive Summary:**

This report sets out a review of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the first quarter of 2010/11.

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**Corporate Plan 2010-2013:**

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel provides strategic scrutiny of the following Corporate Improvement Priorities and key areas:

- CIP7 - Keeping children safe
  - CIP8 - Improving skills and educational achievement
  - CIP9 - Developing high quality places to learn in
  - CIP 13 - Helping staff to perform better
  - CIP 14 - Proving better value for money
- 

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

**Including finance, human, IT and land**

None

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**Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.**

None

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**Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:**

That the report is noted

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**Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:**

N/A

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**Background papers:**

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny minutes and forward plan

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**Sign off:** N/A

## CITY OF PLYMOUTH

**Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Quarterly Report****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out a review of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the first quarter of 2010/11 incorporating the meetings of 17 June and 15 July 2010 respectively.

**2. Scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

- 2.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel is primarily concerned with the strategic scrutiny of the following Corporate Improvement Priorities and key areas:
- CIP7 - Keeping children safe
  - CIP 8 - Improving skills and educational achievement
  - CIP 9 - Developing high quality places to learn in
- 2.2 The detailed terms of reference for the panel are contained in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The panel consists of the following members and officers

Title	Name	Attendances (2 meetings)
Councillor (Chair)	Wildy	2
Councillor (Vice Chair)	Stephens	1
Councillor	Delbridge	2
Councillor	Foster	2
Councillor	Haydon	2
Councillor	Nicholson	1
Councillor	Roberts	2
Councillor	Stark	2
Councillor	Tuohy	2
Statutory Co-opted rep	Vacant Post	-
Statutory Co-opted rep	Vacant Post	-
Statutory Co-opted rep	K Willis	2
Statutory Co-opted rep	M Gee (long term sick)	-
Co-opted rep	A Kearnes	-
Co-opted rep	Vacant Post	-
Co-opted rep	Vacant Post	-
Lead Officer	Claire Cordory-Oatway	1
Democratic Support	Amelia Boulter	2

- 2.4 The Panel, through effective strategic and operational scrutiny, supports the following cabinet member and CMT officer

Title	Name
Cabinet Member (Children and Young People)	Mrs Joan Watkins
Director of Services for Children and Young People	Bronwen Lacey

- 2.5 The panel has a budget of £2,000 to support the scrutiny work.
- 2.8 The panel has requested practical training in respect of finance and to attend a children services workshop.

### **3. Key achievements to date**

The panel has now met on two occasions. Meetings have been well structured, managed efficiently and well attended by panel members. A positive contribution has been made to support an effective strategic and operational overview; in particular, the following achievements have already been made:

#### **3.1 Co-opted representatives**

The panel requested a report looking at ways the CYP OSP can engage with young people.

#### **3.2 Visit to schools**

The panel visited Riverside School and Lipson Community College

#### **3.3 A focus on reducing teenage conception rates in the city report.**

The report went to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 28 July 2010. It was report that –

- (i) the report to be commended to Cabinet;
- (ii) the Cabinet Member for Children Services to champion the report at Cabinet;
- (iii) an addendum to the report be prepared for submission to Cabinet containing background information;
- (iv) a vote of thanks be extended to all participating members, officers and witnesses;
- (v) the press be notified when the report is presented to Cabinet and press release issued;
- (vi) accurate and timely relevant statistics regarding conceptions in the city are provided by health agencies and the Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust or their representative to be invited to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to discuss data sharing between agencies.

### **4. On the Horizon**

The panel has set out the following topic areas on the work programme for the remainder of 2010/11:

## Overview:

- School Transport
- Reviewing the Ofsted Announced Inspection Action Plan
- Employment for young people (not in education, employment or training)
- Common Assessment Framework
- CAMHS Strategy
- Review of initiatives to prevent and manage obesity in young people
- Regular updates from Corporate Parenting Group, Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Children's Trust and LSP Wise Theme Group

In addition, a task and finish group to be set up looking at young carers within the city. The task and finish group will examine how young carers in Plymouth are identified and the need to provide support and services. The group will produce a report with recommendations.

## Performance:

- Performance review, including budget
- Complaints and compliments (annual report)

## Strategic Policy Documents:

- Youth Justice Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan

## **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 That the progress of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny panel is noted by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Claire Cordory-Oatway  
Lead Officer Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
20 August 2010

**Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**  
**Terms of Reference**

1. To scrutinise matters relating to children and young people and to hear the views of children and young people, with a view to improving services, reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for children and young people.
2. To respond to consultations from the Department of Education and other relevant bodies.
3. To scrutinise Council services and those of key partners in respect of children and young people.

In relation to the above, the panel will be responsible for -

- on-going monitoring and evaluation of plans for children and young people;
- reviewing all policies relating to children and young people and to consider how these may be improved and developed;
- monitoring the budget and performance of the Cabinet Member, Department and partners to ensure that priorities for the area are being delivered upon;
- reviewing relevant policies with the budget and policy framework;
- considering Equality Impact Assessments against new and existing policies and plans;
- investigating local issues with a view to making recommendations on how the council and its partners can improve services for children and young people;
- making recommendations about service delivery to the Cabinet (via Overview and Scrutiny Management Board);
- reviewing and scrutinising the performance of relevant partner organisations currently –
  - Children's Trust
  - Local Safeguarding Children's Board
  - LSP Wise Theme Group
  - Corporate Parenting Group
- setting up ad hoc working groups as and when required;
- producing quarterly progress reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;
- undertaking such tasks as may be delegated to the panel by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;

### Policy Areas

- Children and Young People's Plan
- Youth Justice Plan

### Cabinet Members

- Children and Young People

### Directorate

- Services for Children and Young People

### Corporate Improvement Priorities (CIPs)

- Keeping Children Safe (CIP 7)
- Improving Skills and Educational Attainment (CIP 8)
- Developing High Quality Places to Learn In (CIP 9)

### Membership

The Chair of the panel shall serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be chaired by a member of the opposition political group with the vice-chair from the majority political group. All members of the panel will adhere to the general rules of Overview and Scrutiny. There are 9 members of the panel including the Chair and the vice-chair. The vice-chair is from the opposite political group to the Chair.



## Request for Scrutiny Work Programme Item

1	<b>Title of Work Programme Item</b>	Young Carers in Plymouth
2	<b>Responsible Director (s)</b>	Bronwen Lacey, Director of Services for Children and Young People
3	<b>Responsible Officer</b>  <b>Tel No.</b>	Mairead McNeil, Assistant Director
4	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Councillor Mrs Watkins, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
5	<b>Aim</b>	To examine the way young carers in Plymouth are identified and how the need to provide support and services are met.
6	<b>Objectives</b>	<p>To review the relevant part of the Carers Strategy.</p> <p>To ascertain how effective current strategies are in identifying young carers.</p> <p>Review the provision of support and services provided.</p> <p>How effective is multi-agency working in identifying support for young carers in the city.</p> <p>To consider what can be done to improve support for carers.</p>
7	<b>Benefits</b>	To raise awareness of the existence of young carers and their needs. To help to foster multi-agency working.
8	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<p>Young carers in the city of Plymouth.</p> <p>Families of young carers.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council and its partners.</p>

9	Criteria for Choosing Topics	TBC		
10	Scope	<b>Definition –</b> A young carer or young caregiver is a child or young person (up to the age of 18 or in some programs 25) whose life is affected by looking after someone with a disability or a long-term illness		
11	Exclusions			
12	Programme Dates	Task and finish to take place over 2 days in October 2010.		
	Timescales and Interdependences	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Target Date for Achievement</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
13	Links to other projects or initiatives / plans	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel Task and Finish Group on Modernisation of Adult Social Care – TBC		
14	Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel / Membership if Task and Finish Group	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel		
15	Lead Officer for Panel	Claire Cordory-Oatway		
16	Reporting arrangements	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Cabinet		
13	Resources	Staff time		
14	Budget implications	TBC		
15	Risk analysis	Young carers not receiving support and services.		
16	Project Plan / Actions	Project plan to be prepared by the panel.		

**Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**  
**9<sup>th</sup> September 2010**  
**Corporate Plan – Keeping Children Safe**

The Corporate Plan (CIP 7) was amended in May 2010 to respond to recommendations contained in the Ofsted Inspection Report for Safeguarding and Looked After Children published in May 2010. This report outlines progress against key milestones.

**Foster care Provision – Improving sufficiency of care provision**

The target set was to recruit 10 additional foster caring households each year for 3 years. This is year 2. The implementation of a new Payment for Skills fostering scheme in Plymouth has created attractive remuneration rates and support packages with the aim of giving Plymouth a competitive edge in a pressurised market environment in order to reduce dependence on independent sector placements. In January 2010 there was a comprehensive recruitment campaign. Since April 2010, we have recruited 1 family and friends carer and 3 mainstream carers. By December, we will have 3 additional family and friends carers and 7 mainstream additional foster caring households.

Foster care recruitment and retention continues to be a priority need for children in care particularly in the context of rising numbers of children being admitted to care in 2010.

**Workforce Development – Improving the skill set of the workforce**

The newly qualified social work programme and the advanced practitioner grades have been introduced. To support the career progression of social workers there is an opportunity and an expectation that social workers have experience of different service areas in order to widen their skills and knowledge base. There is a comprehensive training programme in place.

**Range and Sufficiency of Family Support**

The family support service has been restructured to redefine service functions and career grades for staff. Family Group Conferencing has been very successful in promoting safe family plans that support children to remain in their own family networks. However, demand has exceeded supply and an investment to save business case has been prepared to create additional capacity.

### **Actions from Unannounced Ofsted Inspection**

#### ▪ **Child Protection Processes and Procedures**

Caseloads were reduced in the Advice and Assessment Service through changes made to the management structure and tightening case transfer arrangements into other services.

In addition Carefirst reconfiguration is in progress with a comprehensive priority action plan. Additional capacity has been created in the ICS delivery team to develop ICT and process changes.

EDRMS has been installed to ensure all case files are electronically linked and easy to access.

#### ▪ **Case Recording**

There is tighter managerial tracking of timeliness of initial and core assessments and completion of initial and core assessments within timescales has improved by 20% in the last quarter for initial assessments.

Quality of recording is ensured through management audits and regular supervision. The quality of assessments has improved with external validation by the announced inspection in March 2010.

#### ▪ **Management and Supervision**

Management capacity has been increased in the Advice and Assessment Service. There has been bespoke training provided to this group of managers leading to demonstrable improvement in the quality of supervision and support provided to staff.

#### ▪ **Thresholds and Workload**

A clear threshold criteria has been introduced and shared with key stakeholders. A threshold manager has been appointed to ensure consistency of response across the service. The continued use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to provide a targeted multi agency response to vulnerable families is vital to the effective control of referrals and caseloads within the Advice and Assessment service.

#### ▪ **CRB Checks**

All staff now have current CRB checks in place and there is a more robust process in place for renewals.

**Actions from Announced inspection**

▪ **Management Information Systems**

Management oversight, information systems, social worker and managerial skills have been a focus to improve overall practice, data quality and performance. Tracking tools have been developed to enable managers to understand and address team performance and trends.

▪ **Case Recording**

Managers have been tasked to authorise all assessments and plans, undertake qualitative file audits. These activities are promoting a more consistent standard of case recording. The Head of Service also randomly audits files and obtains service user feedback on the quality of service they have received.

**Mairead MacNeil**

**Assistant Director – Children's Social Care**

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

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**Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel**  
**9<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**Update from the Corporate Parenting Group**

The Corporate Parenting Group meet 6 times a year as a formal group to consider issues and priorities for children & young people in care to Plymouth City Council.

Four times a year the Corporate Parenting Group meet with children & young people to hear directly about their views and experiences.

Over the coming year two events will be planned so that members of the Corporate Parenting Group can meet and talk to younger children with their foster carers in an informal setting.

The Corporate Parenting Group is made up of 9 Elected Members, 2 Foster Carers, Head of Service for Children & Young People in Care and the Participation Officer. This group reports to the Lead Member for Services for Children & Young People and the Director of Services for Children & Young People.

The terms of reference are:

- I. Within the Council to lead on corporate parenting issues and advise on how members can take forward their responsibilities to children and young people in care by ensuring that the profile of the Corporate Parenting agenda is incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies throughout the council.
- II. To explore new ways for the Council to make a real difference to young people's existing lives, and their future life chances.
- III. To establish an environment whereby members and young people work together to address the needs and aspirations of Plymouth children and young people in care.
- IV. To empower children and young people to be involved in decision making with adults.
- V. To support the involvement of children and young people in the development and evaluation of services, and in care planning processes, and to ensure their views are heard.
- VI. To oversee, with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the implementation of best practice principles in all aspects of service delivery, with the aim of producing positive outcomes for children and young people in care.
- VII. To support the work of foster carers in making a difference to the care and support they provide to children and young people in care.

The attached work programme has been agreed for 2010/11. Since April 2010 there have been two meetings to consider fostering recruitment, private

fostering, contact between children & their birth parents and youth homelessness.

The group receives regular reports about the work of the Listen & Care Council and from the Foster Carer Forum at each meeting.

Mary Brimson  
Head of Service  
Children & Young People in Care



## **Corporate Parenting Group** **2010-2011 Work Programme**

<b>28 June 2010</b>	<p>DVD – Pledge</p> <p>2010-2011 Corporate parenting Work Programme</p> <p>Inspection Findings</p> <p>Foster Carer Recruitment update</p> <p>Private Fostering presentation</p>
<b>4 August 2010</b>	<p>Youth Homelessness</p> <p>Contact Arrangements for Children in Care</p>
<b>20 October 2010</b>	<p>Report from the Virtual School Head Teacher</p> <p>Mother &amp; Baby Placements</p>
<b>1 December 2010</b>	<p>Report from the Designated Looked After Children's Nurse</p> <p>Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire</p> <p>Substance Misuse – Dave Schwartz &amp; Shirley Sinclair, Team Manager Harbour</p> <p>Family Group Conferencing</p>
<b>16 February 2011</b>	<p>Placement Stability Report</p> <p>Adoption and Permanence Report</p> <p>Independent Providers to be invited</p>
<b>13 April 2011</b>	<p>Corporate Parenting Group 2010-2011 Priorities and Achievements</p>

A report from the Listen and Care Council, a report from the Foster Carer Forum and inspection update are standing items on each agenda.

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### Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2010/11

Topics		J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
Joint Finance and Performance monitoring including LAA performance monitoring		17			9	7	11		6	24		14 (P)	
Update on allocation of School Places			15										
Visit to a primary and secondary school			15										
OFSTED Announced Inspection - Action Plan					9								
Common Assessment Framework					9								
Task and Finish Group - Provision and Support for Young Carers													
Employment for Young People (NEETs)													
CAMHS Strategy (written report)									6				
Review of initiatives to prevent and manage obesity in young people									6				
Equalities									6				
Adult and Community Learning													
Performance Review (including budget)	Locality Working					9 PR		11 LO C					
School Transport					9								

Topics	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
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School Building/Capital Programme		15										
Youth Justice Plan						11						
Local Democracy Week (Report of last event)						11						
Legislative Changes		15		9		11		6				
Eperform Training												
Quarterly Scrutiny Reports				9								
Update from Children's Trust				9								
Update from Corporate Parenting Group				9		11		6	24			
Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers												
Update from Local Safeguarding Children's Board				9		11		6	24			
Update from relevant LSP Theme Groups				9		11		6	24			