

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

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Part: Part I

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.

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
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Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Including finance, human, IT and land

None

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

None

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

That the report is noted

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

N/A

Background papers:

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny minutes and forward plan

Sign off: N/A

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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 met students and staff and the scrutiny meeting took place at Lipson Community College followed by a comprehensive tour of the school.

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.