

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2009

Present: Councillors Mrs Y R T Clarkson (Chairman); M McVeigh (Deputy Chairman); Mrs M Docherty; G Garrity; A Jacob; J Kane; A Mossop and J Park.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Cole; Mrs A Faichney; T Knowles and P Tyson.

Also Present: Councillor H Branney.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; J O'Reilly, Environmental Health Manager; P Tyas, Acting Cultural Services Manager and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

CYPHC 23/08 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CYPHC 24/08 Child Protection

Helen Smith, Head of Service for Child and Family Care at Cumbria County Council gave a presentation to Members on Child Protection.

Members were advised that Child and Family Care was divided into four areas within the county - Carlisle, Kendal, West Cumbria and Furness. There was a children's home being operated in each of Barrow, Carlisle and Whitehaven.

For the year ended December 2008, there were 505 referrals to the Child and Family Care section, resulting in 363 Initial Assessments of which 70 children were looked after and 54 children made subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Helen Smith was thanked by Members for her presentation

AGREED – that the presentation on Child Protection be received,

CYPHC 25/08 Concessionary Fares

In the absence of the Head of Finance and Management Information Systems, Members were provided with a brief written update.

This stated that the forecast underspend, based on information received from NOWcard back office to 30th November remained at £190k for 2008/09 and the budget proposal agreed by the Resource Planning Working Group to be recommended to Executive for 2009/10 included reducing the cash limited budget by £170k to reflect this underspend.

There was no proposal to make amendments to the scheme i.e. the current concessionary (and discretionary) scheme continue. In addition, there was some provision in the risk based reserve to accommodate this budget area, if overspending was to occur in 2009/10.

Members requested the Head of Finance and Management Information Systems be invited to attend the next meeting to give a more detailed update.

During discussion of this item, two issues were identified for the Scrutiny committee to consider and it was suggested the Task and Finish Group be re-established to look at them and this be considered at the next meeting.

Members also raised concerns that some rural areas had no buses and Rural Wheels charged 30p per mile.

Members asked if there was a way of receiving a discount for rural areas.

It was noted that the County Council is proposing to start a Task and Finish Group to look at Concessionary Travel and Members would like input to this.

AGREED – that

- a) the update on Concessionary Fares be received, and
- b) the Head of Finance and Management Information Systems was to be invited to attend the next meeting
- c) Members request they have input to the County Council's Task and Finish Group to look at Concessionary Travel.

CYPHC 26/08 Work Plan

Members considered the Committee's Work Plan.

During consideration of this item, Members discussed activities for Young People at the Civic Hall. This included noise and licensing issues.

AGREED – that the Work Plan be received

The Meeting Closed at 3:05pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....