

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2009

Present: Councillors Mrs Y Clarkson, Chairman; Mrs M Docherty; G Garrity; M McVeigh; S Meteer; J Park; R Salkeld; P Tyson; P Watson and C Whiteside.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors; A Carroll; R Cole and Mrs A Faichney;

Officers: A Johnson, Interim Scrutiny Consultant; J Crellin, Head of Finance and Management Information Systems; C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

CYPHC 15/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2009 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to :-

- a) Councillors Mrs M Docherty and S Meteer being shown as apologies,
- b) Councillor C Whiteside being shown as an attendee, and
- c) Minute Number CYPHC 11/09 being amended to read "RESOLVED – Noted – To be deferred for further consideration"

CYPHC 16/09 Arrangement of Agenda

Due to the attendance of Officers, it was agreed that Agenda Item 8 be taken prior to Item 7.

CYPHC 17/09 Declarations of Interest

Councillor C Whiteside declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 (Work Plan – Closer to Home) due to his children having their eyes tested at the Ophthalmology Department.

CYPHC 18/09 Work Plan

Consideration was given to updating the Committee's Work Plan. During discussion, Members requested an update on the new West Cumberland Hospital.

It was reported that a newsletter produced by the North Cumbria University Hospital NHS Trust had just been issued and it was requested that this be circulated to all Members of the Council.

The Committee suggested sending an invitation to Kevin Clarkson and others to attend a future meeting and it be delegated to the Chair and deputy Chair to decide who were the most appropriate people.

It was also suggested that the Committee update itself on the Ophthalmology situation.

In respect of the IDeA Healthy Communities Peer Review, it was reported that Councillors Mrs Y Clarkson and G Garrity together with the Interim Scrutiny Consultant are to meet to consider the findings of the report early in the new year and to meet with the newly appointed Joint Health Officer, reporting back to the Committee's meeting on 4 February 2010.

It was further reported that the Youth Engagement Task and Finish Group had planned future meetings and committee would be kept informed.. There had been a request for Copeland Borough Council to host the next meeting of the 14-19 Group on 9 February 2010.

Members were advised that the YMCA building had been earmarked for a Foyer facility in Whitehaven and Impact Housing were developing plans.

The Committee discussed the provision of Dental Services in Copeland and it was suggested the two new dental surgeries be contacted with regard to a) any waiting lists and b) details of their emergency treatment process.

Following the closures of Ehenside School at Cleator Moor and Wyndham School in Egremont, Members expressed their concern regarding the lack of Playing Fields and the building of schools for the future. It was suggested that the appropriate County Councillor be invited to attend a future meeting of this committee.

With regard to the item on how voluntary agencies can access funds, it was suggested that the Economic Development Team of Copeland Borough Council be contacted with a view to addressing the issue.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the Work Plan be considered and updated, and
- b) the appropriate County Councillor be invited to attend a future meeting of this committee to update Members on the County Council's plans for Playing fields and future school building.

- c) it be delegated to the Chair and Deputy Chair to invite health officials to a future meeting.
- d) the Chair and Deputy Chair meet to consider the findings of the IDeA Healthy Communities Peer Review and report back to the Committee at the 4 February 2010 meeting.
- d) the two new Dental surgeries in Copeland be contacted with regard to:
 - i) any waiting lists and
 - ii) details of their emergency treatment process, with findings to be reported back to this committee.
- e) the Economic Development Team of Copeland Borough Council be contacted with a view to addressing the issue of voluntary agencies accessing funding.

CYPHC 19/09 Concessionary Fares

Members received a very composite report from the Head of Finance and Management Information Systems in relation to the emerging concerns around concessionary fares and the consultation exercise currently underway by the Department of Transport in relation to the redistribution of the special grant allocated for this purpose in 2010/11. If their proposals are implemented Copeland's special grant is likely to be reduced. Key stakeholders were making their dissatisfaction with this process known to Government. However, the position was that difficult decisions would need to be made to ensure prudent financial planning. The Committee was informed that Copeland Borough Council would be responding to the Government consultation, the deadline for which was 31st December 2009, to express its dissatisfaction with the proposed redistribution. Members spent some time absorbing and debating the complex details around the report, and voiced their own grave concerns around the implications for the Borough, in particular the serious impact on the rural communities of Copeland, arising out of this mid-year exercise being carried out at national level. Ultimately they accepted the advice of the Head of Finance and Management Information Systems, noting that the intention was that this would result in a reduced budgetary pressure for the Council to find in funding the 2010/11 budget proposal. It considered the current scheme and the options summarised in the report and in so doing supported her recommendation to Resources Planning Working Group as they considered the Council's budget proposal for 2010/11.

RESOLVED – That

1. in accordance with option 1a set out in the report, (the current scheme except for the peak travel bus concession removed) it be recommended to the Resources Planning Working Group that the way forward would be
 - a) not to extend the current scheme in the light of budgetary constraints,
and
 - b) to withdraw the discretionary concession in respect of peak hours bus travel for 2010/11,

and
2. the overview on Concessionary Fares be noted.

CYPHC 20/09 Future Scrutiny Training Needs for the Authority

Members were advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee would be holding a Workshop on Monday 14 December 2009 to review the future of Scrutiny and Training & Development needs for the Authority

RESOLVED – That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Workshop on Monday 14 December 2009 to review the future of Scrutiny and Training & Development needs for the Authority be noted, and any points members wanted to raise be fed into that process.

The Meeting Closed at 3:40 pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....