

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13th January 2015

EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO REPORT OF COMMITTEE TITLED:

'LISTENING EVENT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN MARCH 2014'

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the December 2014 Cabinet response to this Committee's scrutiny task and finish report on the Listening Event with Looked After Children, which was published in March 2014.

Background

2. On 26th February 2014 this Committee convened a listening event with Looked After Children under the age of 11 to ensure the views of younger looked after children could be taken in to account:
 - School and Healthy Living.
 - Visiting Families and where you live.
 - Social Services.
3. The Event, which was held in a Committee Room of County Hall, was facilitated by Tros Gynal Plant and supported by a number of Committee members. The evidence gathering with the Children was based around a number of games and exercises.
4. The resultant report which captured the main comments and views of the children, was endorsed by Committee on 8 April 2014, and contained 5 key findings and identified 4 recommendations.

5. The Cabinet considered the report at its meeting on 17 July 2014, and agreed its formal response at its business meeting on 15 December 2014. A full copy of the Cabinet Response is attached at **Appendix A**.

Cabinet Response to Recommendations

6. The Cabinet response shows that the report's single recommendation has been accepted, as well as detailing the Cabinet's response to the recommendation.

Way Forward

7. Councillor Sue Lent (Cabinet Member, Early Years, Children and Families) and Tony Young (Director of Children's Services) have been invited to present the Cabinet Response and answer Members' questions.
8. Members are requested to consider the responses received from the Cabinet.

Legal Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet or Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet or Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider the information contained in **Appendix A**, and submit any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Director of Children's Services.

Marie Rosenthal
County Clerk and Monitoring Officer

28 December 2014

Background Report: Listening Event – Looked After Children – March 2014
Report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny
Committee