

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN THEMES 2009/10

1. Children & Young People's Accessibility to Services

- (a) innovative transport schemes to improve accessibility for urban and rural areas – that is environmentally sustainable, affordable and promotes healthy lifestyles i.e. travel cards, bus permits, walk to school initiatives
- (b) improved quality, choice, overall appeal to and better promotion of services for young people, i.e. youth clubs run by teenage youth leaders, more places for young people to go, spend time and have the opportunity to relax in a care-free-safe environment

2. Extended Services (including children's centres)

- (a) future funding and sustainability
- (b) parenting and promotion of the "family"
- (c) inter-generational opportunities and activities, e.g. dialogue and debate, recreational and cultural experiences (councillors attending lessons at schools)
- (d) improved support services for teenage pregnancy, including relationships education for young people and their parents
- (e) a hub for young people 'not in education, employment or training' (NEETs)
- (f) a hub for services, practices and professionals who can promote healthy living and improve young people's wellbeing in their own communities, e.g. tackling bullying and the other pressures young people experience, i.e. alcohol and drug misuse, obesity, depression and other mental health issues

3. Lifelong Learning

- (a) apprenticeships, including vocational options
- (b) life-coaching and mentoring
- (c) 13 – 19 curriculum and strategy, especially 16-19
- (d) the "gifted and talented"
- (e) strategy to improve/replace the county's secondary schools, i.e. Building Schools for the Future, Academies, PFI schools

4. Vulnerable Children & Young People

- (a) child protection
- (b) social care services that are properly funded and resourced
- (c) after care services for young people leaving foster or residential care
- (d) children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities
- (e) transitions
- (f) early intervention and behaviour support

5. Performance & Accountability

- (a) annual service inspections and performance reports
- (b) measuring attainment, achievement, and the overall quality and standards of teaching and school performance, including initiatives such as healthy eating and management of school catering
- (c) budgeting for (and the commissioning of) children and young people's care placements