

Report of the Chair of the Out of Hours Childcare Scrutiny Review

Scrutiny Review of Out of Hours Childcare

Summary

1. This report sets out the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review into Out of Hours Childcare. A copy of the full final report is at **Appendix 1** to this report and Councillor Runciman, a member of the Task Group who undertook the work around this topic, will be in attendance at the March Cabinet meeting to present the report.
2. Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations arising from this review.

Background to the Review

3. At a meeting of Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24th July 2012 Members considered a topic around '*women working in York*' that had been proposed by Councillor Douglas at a scrutiny work planning event earlier in the year. After some further discussion the Committee agreed to slightly move the focus of this to be about out of hour's childcare and the impact that a lack of this had on those working outside of standard hours.
4. Over a series of informal meetings the Task Group gathered the evidence set out in **Appendix 1** and its associated annexes. This led to the following recommendations being made:

Recommendation 1 That the Family Information Service Manager, by means of the childcare audit, audit childcare providers to gather more detailed information on their out of hours availability

Recommendation 2 That the Family Information Service Manager update search routes online to:

- Allow families to search for out of hours or flexible childcare
- Introduce an advanced search feature allowing families to specify required windows of time

- Recommendation 3** That the Family Information Service Manager ensures that a new page be created on the YorOK website providing parents with advice on finding informal childcare/babysitters
- Recommendation 4** That as the Council has recently taken back in house the work relating to the recruitment of childminders the Family Information Service Manager ensure that future work targets existing and potential childcarers in key areas to highlight the need for some out of hours and flexible childcare
- Recommendation 5** That the Family Information Service Manager incorporates into the Family Information Service's Awareness Strategy support options around out of hours childcare to:
- parents and carers
 - potential providers of flexible childcare
- Recommendation 6** That the Family Information Service promote and market the additional information and search functions on out of hours childcare on its website to parents and carers through press releases and additions to any printed information such as leaflets and posters
- Recommendation 7** That the Family Information Service Manager organise a further event for employers around being family friendly as identified in **option 3** at **paragraph 16** of this report
- Recommendation 8** That the Family Information Service Manager report back to Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee after the next Annual Childcare Audit to give an update on the outcomes of the audit and progress on the

implementation of the recommendations arising from this review

Consultation

5. As part of the review process consultation took place with officers within the Council and a question around this issue posted to the GeniUS website. Further details of responses received are detailed within the full final report at **Appendix 1** to this report.

Options

6. Having considered the final report at **Appendix 1** and its associated annexes, Cabinet may choose to amend and/or approve or reject the recommendations arising from this review as set out in **paragraph 4** of this report.

Analysis

7. Analysis of the evidence gathered is contained within the body and the analysis sections of the full final report at **Appendix 1** to this report.

Council Plan

8. This is linked with the create jobs and grow the economy priority set out in the Council Plan 2011-15 which states *'all of the city's residents will enjoy the opportunity to achieve their potential within York's economy'*.

Implications

9. Implications are set out within the full final report at **Appendix 1** to this report.

Risk Management

10. The actions associated with the recommendations arising from this report would be incorporated into an overall action plan for the Family Information Service.

Recommendations

11. The Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee ask the Cabinet to:
 - (i). Note the contents of the final report attached

(ii). Consider the recommendations as shown at **Paragraph 4** of this cover report

Reason: To fully inform the Cabinet of the outcome of this scrutiny review.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Governance and ICT
Tel: 01904 551004

Report
Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Appendix 1 Final report & associated annexes