



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION 12 DECEMBER 2006

Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

Children and Young People Commission: Work Programme to April 2007

RECOMMENDATION

1. To a) determine a work programme for the remainder of 2006-07 and b) agree any preparatory steps regarding a work programme for 2007-08.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the 7 November meeting the Commission considered its future work programme and several suggestions were made. It was resolved:

1. To ask the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer to liaise with members of the Commission and Officers to assess how time consuming each of the suggestions would be and report back to the December meeting of the Commission.
2. To ask that members forward any further suggestions to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer.

Since the meeting the suggestions have been worked up into draft proposals, shared with the senior managers of the Children and Young People Department and discussed by the Chair and Vice Chair at their pre-agenda meeting. All four topics were considered important and suitable for review by the Commission and it has proven practical to address two at timetabled business meetings.

Pre-agenda outcome/proposals:

Proposal 1: **Looked After Children: Council Review and Green Paper** - this be included in the agenda of the 23 January meeting

Proposal 2: **Role of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board** - a 30 minute presentation be initially made to the 12 December meeting

Proposal 3: **Provision of Children's play areas and youth provision in new build schools** – For discussion.

Proposal 4: **Special Educational Needs Provision** the Commission may wish to make this the major review for 2007/08. An initial paper could be ready for the January/February commission, but the need for a November 2007 start would suggest a) that members would need to work fairly intensely in the period November 06 to early April 08 b) the prior period May to November 2007 would involve relatively short reviews.

Additional suggestions can still be put forward but members are requested to contact the co-ordination officer by 5pm on Thursday 7 December. Please note that the SMC discourages reviews that cross municipal years.

**For more information
contact:**

Rob Davison 01332 255596 e-mail rob.Davison@derby.gov.uk
None

Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – The Proposals

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1.1 None directly arising.

Legal

2.1 None directly arising

Personnel

3.1 None directly arising.

Equalities impact

4.1 None directly arising.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5.1 This is dependant on which proposals are approved.

The Proposals

Set out below is the proposal title followed by a short description, the inputs and an estimate of the time commitment. Comments of the co-ordination officer, any subsequent feedback and the outcome of the pre-agenda meeting are also shown. The Vice Chair also made the overall comment all the four topics are important and suitable for review by the Commission.

1.

Proposal Looked After Children: Council Review <i>and</i> Green Paper
Description To make a comparison between the Green Paper's national policy and practice proposals <i>and</i> the Commission's recent recommendations.
Inputs Asst Director (and appropriate service head(s))
No/duration of meetings Two hours
OSCer comment: Mr Woodthorpe proposes to bring a paper to the January meeting.

2.

Proposal Role of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board
Description Awareness raising session. Could be extended to all 51 members as part of discharge of Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
Inputs <i>Short version</i> could be delivered by Rachel Dickinson alone; <i>lengthier version</i> : might include contributions from key stakeholders (child protection social work, police, health)
No./Duration of meetings 30 mins to 3 hours according to depth of information required
Cllr MacDonald: I do think this needs the longer time suggested as it involves all councillors' responsibility

3.

Proposal Provision of Children's play areas and youth provision in new build schools
Description To understand the central and local decision-making processes, identify any obstacles to policy coherence and make recommendations to Whitehall.
Inputs <i>Short version</i> : Head of Asset Management from CYP, internal/exterior advisor(s) on play and youth provision; Cllrs Williamson, Hussain and Bolton. <i>Lengthier version</i> : Head of Asset Management from CYP, internal/exterior advisor(s) on play and youth provision, DfES representative, DCLG representative, LGA representative, City MP(s), Cllrs Williamson, Hussain and Bolton.
No./duration of meetings Short version: 2 – 3 hours. Lengthier version: One full day <u>or</u> 3 or 4 two hour sessions.
Cllr MacDonald: the longer time may be too difficult for everyone concerned – needs time constraints to be very carefully considered unless it is to run over into the next municipal year.
Simon Longley: [Inputs have been revised in light of Mr Longley's comments]

4.

Proposal Special Educational Needs Provision
Description To review the assessment, service provision and outcome for children with special educational needs.
Inputs <i>Short version</i> Scene setting with Asst Dir & Service Head; evaluating statistics on children receiving statements; meeting with parents of SEN pupils; meetings with SENCOs i) primary ii) secondary, finance/performance officers. <i>Middle</i> as above with site visits. <i>Lengthier version</i> : as middle plus: Connexions and DfES reps, meeting with local disability groups
No./duration of meetings Short version: 10 hours at Council House (= 3 half day meetings), Middle: 18 hours (= 5 or 6 half day meetings) Lengthier: 25 hours (= 6 to 8 half day meetings)
OSCer comment: at minimum this is a short topic review but would be deliverable by the end of March. To add site visits would require members to prioritise the review against other time commitments to complete before April. The comprehensive version should be reserved for a start after the Annual Meeting, perhaps undertaken as an intense week review, as with LAC.
Cllr MacDonald: Because of time constraints, I believe this should start after the Annual Meeting.
Rita Silvester: This was discussed this with the Head of Assessment and Commissioning. The work of the team is extensive and the proposal would need to be more focussed. An initial paper could be ready for the January/February commission outlining the work of the team; from that the commission could then decide which area(s) of activity they wish to focus on. The external inspections in 2007 mean a topic review would need to begin no earlier than November 2007.

Summary Assessment

Proposals 1, 2 and the short version of three could all be done before the beginning of April.

The longer version of proposal 3 may be difficult to achieve before the beginning of April and proposal 4 should only be commenced after the Annual Meeting.