

## Work Programme of the Children and Young People Commission

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To consider and agree the Commission's work programme 2010-11.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the last CYP Commission meeting Members made a number of suggestion covering a range of areas which they wished to review in the coming year. The attached paper provides more details on how these suggestions could be taken further as part of the Commission work programme.

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**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 – Implications  
Appendix 2 – Draft Work Programme

# Appendix 1

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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## **Financial**

1. None arising from this report.

## **Legal**

2. None arising from this report.

## **Personnel**

3. None arising from this report.

## **Equalities impact**

4. Effective scrutiny will benefit all Derby people.

## **Corporate Priorities**

5. This report links with Council's priority to make, by 2020 Derby a City that builds a brighter future for Children and Young People who enjoy a healthy, safe and happy childhood, with the opportunity to meet their full potential.

## Appendix 2

### **Draft CYP Commission Work Programme 2010-11**

#### **1. Children Looked After**

The Children and Young People Commission conducted a detailed review on looked after children and published its report with 34 recommendations in November 2006. The vast majority of the recommendations were accepted by the Council Cabinet and those with financial implications were being monitored with a view to adopting them when resources allow.

It is suggested that the Commission reviews its 2006 report, the response of the Council Cabinet to the report as well as the Government White Paper, Care matters to understand the issues related to looked after children. The Commission can then receive a briefing to update members on how the Council is meeting the needs of looked after children. The briefing could cover legal issues, how children come into care; different types of placements; key statistics relevant to LAC such as health and education attainment of the children; role and responsibility of elected members. The briefing could be provided at either September's scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. This would enable members to get better understanding of the issues surrounding looked after children help them decide which element they wished to scrutinise in more detail.

#### **2. Review of recruitment and retention of Social Care Workers**

A suggestion was made to look at successful methods employed by other Councils to attract and retain social workers due to high vacancy rates in the service. This topic was included in the LAC review conducted in 2006 when the vacancy rate was around 40%. However, by the time the review was completed the Commission was informed that these rates had been substantially reduced. Similarly high levels of vacancy rates were experienced a few months ago and action is being taken to bring these down. The Commission will be briefed on the actions being taken to bring the vacancy rates down. **Jacqui Jensen to brief members at 20 Jul meeting**

Following the presentation the Commission can decide what action if any, it wishes to take with reference to recruitment and retention of social care workers. The Commission may for example consider visiting some local authorities who have successfully reduced their vacancy rates and look at their policies and practices on recruiting and retaining social workers.

#### **3 . School funding**

Members questioned the disparity in schools funding. It was stated that there were significant differences in the level funding allocated to schools and questioned whether this was linked to the numbers of children with special needs.

It is suggested that this issue is considered in two stages. Firstly the Commission is briefed on the schools funding process in Derby. This could look at how decisions on school funding are reached, considers the key factors dictating funding levels, the consultation process used in reaching the decisions and the role of scrutiny Commission in the consultation process. The briefing could also

look at how the school funding formulae had worked historically, the current process and any changes being considered due to the financial pressure on budgets. Secondly the Commission is included in this years consultation process and given the opportunity to comment on the allocation policy. **Briefing at September meeting?**

## **5. Academies**

The Coalition Government is encouraging schools that have been assessed as outstanding by OFSTED to become academies. The Commission may wish to examine the advantages and disadvantages of different types of school structure such as academies, Trusts and partnerships etc. The Commission may examine the impact changes in structure may have on pupils, staff and the local education authority. The review could involve receiving a presentations from officers as well as talking to schools that have either changed their structures, are considering going down that route as well as those that have explored the issues and have decided not to change their structure. **Briefing at September meeting?**

## **6. Equity of Youth Service**

It was stated that some wards in the city have more youth provision than others and requested that the Commission examines how the Youth Service is currently provided in the city.

This issue is already being examined by the Council Cabinet and a draft report is being prepared for end of July 2010. It is suggested that to avoid duplication, the Commission allows the Cabinet to continue with its review and examine the report when it is available. The Commission can then scrutinise the proposals for the Youth Service and consider whether it could be delivered differently to provide a more effective and efficient service. **Briefing at September meeting?**

## **7. Review of Out of Hours Care-**

Members questioned how is out of hours care provided in the city, how does it link in with care line; does it provide good value for money. **Jacqui Jensen to brief members at 20 Jul meeting**

## **8. Safeguarding Training for members**

The Council is responsible for the safety and welfare of children and young people within its care. Local authorities are expected to closely work with its partners to ensure that services are working together effectively at an operational level, for example by meeting regularly to help build and develop positive professional relationships, share information, discuss issues and improve working practices. Local authorities, together with their Children's Trust partners, should look closely at any opportunity to integrate and co-locate services, taking into account specific local needs and circumstances.

The Commission may review the effectiveness of the partnership working relative, training offered to members with respect to safeguarding and making regular visits to Children's Homes. This issue is being prioritised by the Cabinet Member for CYP. The Commission may wish to examine the training being provided to members on safeguarding issues.

### **9. Updates to issues raised at previous meetings**

The Commission has in the past asked for briefings on the issues listed below. The Commission could scrutinise action plans on these topics and monitor how effectively these are being implemented. Members are asked to when they wished to receive the updates .

- Children's Trust Board
- Update on Gangs Review
- World Class Primary Schools Programme

### **10. Draft CPY plan**

The current three year CYP plan expires in March 2011 and will be reviewed around the beginning of September. The Commission may wish to examine any changes to the new plan and consider whether the CYP Department still had the same priorities or new priorities were required. **The Commission to receive a draft report at the 2 November meeting.**

### **11. Budget consultation Jan 2011**

The Commission scrutinises the relevant parts of the Council Budget at its January meeting.