

Cllr John Bale
Elected Members
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9th May 2007

Dear Councillor Bale,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Children's Services Scrutiny Board's reports on Trust Schools and on Youth Services. The work that the Board and the officers supporting it have done on these reports is both valued and appreciated.

As you are aware, the reports have been shared with Chris Edwards, Chief Executive of Education Leeds and Councillor Richard Brett the Executive Member for Children's Services. Councillor Richard Harker, has also seen both reports. As such, I am pleased to provide the following collective response.

We welcome the report on Trust Schools and its recommendations and have no specific comments to raise on these at this point in time. We look forward to working with the Scrutiny Board as we progress work in this area.


We also welcome the report on Youth Services. You will be aware that an initial response to that report from myself and John Paxton, Head of the Youth Service, was provided when the final report was initially drafted and we appreciate that the comments raised were taken into account. I would however reiterate the point raised about recommendation one on extending the Youth Offer to those aged 11 and 12. This was a point that both Cllr Brett and Cllr Harker drew attention to.

Whilst we recognise and welcome the ambition and motives behind this recommendation and realise that there is a lot of good work already being done with those aged 11 and 12 which can be developed further, at present, resource and financial considerations mean that fully extending the initial Youth Offer in this way would prove problematic. Indeed the wider issue of provision for those aged 8-13 is something we recognise requires more detailed consideration in the future. The recommendation will however prove valuable in helping us to shape our future ambition for this work and we would of course be happy to discuss this issue further at future Scrutiny Board meetings.

Also within the Youth Services report it is worthwhile to note that the review requested in recommendation two around Youth Services funding to Area Committees does form part of the wider work being done around a report on Youth Services that is due to go the Executive Board shortly.

I hope that these comments are helpful and once again thank you for the work that has been done on these important issues.

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Rosemary K Archer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rosemary Archer
Director of Children's Services.