



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 5 July 2007

Subject: Formal responses to Scrutiny Board recommendations

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

1.1 During 2006/07 the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) carried out a number of formal inquiries resulting in final reports and recommendations:

- Adoption in Leeds (March 2007)
- The Implications of Trust Schools for the Local Authority (May 2007)
- 'Catching the Bus' (April 2007)
- Youth Services (May 2007)

1.2 The board also issued two statements, as a result of their work on the following topics:

- Review of 14-19 Education and Training Provision in Leeds (April 2007)
- Departmental Communications (April 2007)

1.3 It is the normal practice to request a formal response from departments to the board's recommendations, once a final report has been issued.

1.4 Formal responses have now been received in response to all of the above recommendations, with the exception of Youth Services, where a response is due to be presented to the board in September.

1.5 The next five reports on the agenda present these formal responses. Copies of the original Scrutiny Board reports and recommendations have been circulated separately to members of the board for ease of reference.

2.0 Recommendation Tracking

- 2.1 Last year Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to adopt a new, more formal system of recommendation tracking, to ensure that scrutiny recommendations were more rigorously followed through.
- 2.2 As a result, each board will receive a quarterly report, coinciding with the quarterly presentation of performance information. This will allow the board to monitor progress and identify completed recommendations; those progressing to plan; and those where there is either an obstacle or progress is not adequate. The board will then be able to take further action as appropriate.

3.0 Formal responses

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the responses provided, and to decide whether any further scrutiny involvement is required, over and above the recommendation tracking process described above.
- 3.2 In deciding whether to undertake any further work, members will need to consider the balance of the board's work programme.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider the formal responses provided and to decide whether further scrutiny involvement is required.