

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 24 July 2014

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Cluster Partnerships

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

- 1 At its meeting on 28 June 2013, the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) considered its work programme for the 2013/14 municipal year. It was acknowledged that the Board had expressed during two meetings, 14 March 2013 and 25 April 2013, a wish to conduct an inquiry which would consider the role and function of Cluster Partnerships. The purpose was to consider the function of the partnerships and evaluate their impact, effectiveness and value.
- 2 Terms of reference for this inquiry were agreed on 10th October 2013 when the Scrutiny Board resolved that the purpose of the inquiry would be to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
 - Clarification of the lines of Cluster accountability to organisations, within and external to the Local Authority.
 - Cluster governance arrangements and framework
 - Partnership engagement, representation and participation in order to identify if this complements arrangements at a city level.
 - The performance of Clusters and the management of performance and financial information.
 - Ensure measures are in place which secure total accountability for resources.
 - The improvement measures in place to progress the performance of Clusters where it is required.
 - The extent of collaborative and supportive working relationships between Clusters.

- The value of Clusters and the difference partnership activities are making across the City to improve outcomes and to ensure that local investment is providing good value for money and having a positive impact on children, young people and their families.

- 3 When considering the terms of reference we acknowledged that the Children and Young People's Plan's specifies a number of Cluster related activity improvement measures. This demonstrates a clear commitment by Leeds Children's Trust Board to develop and strengthen services through Cluster Partnerships.
- 4 The inquiry was conducted over three evidence gathering sessions which took place between November 2013 and February 2014. The Board also visited four Cluster Partnerships, Temple Newsam, Beeston Cottingley and Middleton, Alwoodley and OPEN XS.
- 5 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised". Advice is currently being sought therefore the inquiry report will be presented as last substantive information but will be circulated in advance of the meeting on the 24th of July 2014.
- 6 Any advice received will be reported at the Board's meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report.
- 7 Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations within three months.

Recommendations

- 8 Members are asked to consider and agree the Board's report following its inquiry into Cluster Partnerships .

Background documents

- 9 None used¹

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.