



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 8 November 2007

Subject: Review of 14-19 education and training provision in Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) has been following the progress of the review of 14-19 education and training provision in Leeds since the last municipal year. Education Leeds and the West Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have been working together to review this area of provision, and have produced a number of reports, leading up to the publication of formal reorganisation proposals.
- 1.2 In March 2007, the Scrutiny Board considered a report on the 14-19 review, as a result of which the Board published a statement of its views, including a number of recommendations. A copy of the statement is attached as a reminder to the Board of the issues that were highlighted for consideration at that time (appendix 1).
- 1.3 In October the Executive Board considered an update report setting out progress and next steps from the council's perspective. A copy of the report is attached in order to update the Scrutiny Board (appendix 2). The exempt appendix of the Executive Board report has not been included.
- 1.4 The review of 14-19 provision has now progressed to the stage where the LSC is about to publish formal proposals for consultation regarding reorganisation of the college sector in Leeds. The formal consultation document is not available in time for the publication of the agenda for this meeting, but will be circulated to members of the Board as soon as it is available, in advance of the meeting itself. However the Executive Board report at appendix 2 includes information from the LSC on the progress of the review and the proposal to be consulted upon.

- 1.5 The period of formal consultation is 28 days, and the Executive Board is due to agree the council's formal response to the consultation at its meeting on 14th November.
- 1.6 The Scrutiny Board will need to agree at this meeting any comments that it wishes the Executive Board to take into consideration in agreeing the council's formal response to the consultation.
- 1.7 This will be the only opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to input to the LSC's formal consultation. There will be further opportunities for the Board to consider progress with other elements of the 14-19 review, particularly any proposals from Education Leeds.
- 1.8 Officers from Education Leeds and a representative from the LSC will be present at the meeting to respond to members' questions.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The board is requested to agree any comments on the LSC's formal proposals which it would wish the Executive Board to take into consideration in agreeing the council's formal response to the consultation.