



---

## Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

### Executive Board

Date: 22nd July 2009

**Subject: Response to the Scrutiny Board (City and Regional Partnerships) Inquiry into the role of the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) in council led community engagement**

---

#### Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

---

### 1.0 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The Executive Board on 13th May 2009 considered the response of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods to the Scrutiny Board City & Regional Partnerships inquiry into the role of the voluntary, community and faith sector in Council led community engagement (attached).
- 1.2 The Executive Board resolved that the Scrutiny Board's report on the VCFS be referred to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) and Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care) for consideration, with a further report being submitted to Executive Board in due course.

### 2.0 Comments of Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) on the 11th June 2009 considered the VCFS report and made the following comments.
- (a) It endorsed the work of the City and Regional Partnerships Board, drawing particular attention to the importance of recommendation 2 regarding stability of funding.
- (b) It was anxious to avoid any duplication of currently ongoing work in response to the Board's recommendations, and asked that the Executive Board be informed

of past work by this Board which was in line with the conclusions of the City and Regional Partnerships Board, as set out below.

- (i) Over the past few years, the role of the VCFS in the provision of children's services has been a feature of many of the Board's inquiries. The Board has specifically included a representative of the VCFS as a co-opted member of the Board to ensure that the sector's voice is integral to the Board's work.
- (ii) A number of the Children's Services Scrutiny Board inquiries have included specific recommendations in relation to the role of the VCFS, and the support required from the council to enable all parts of this very diverse sector to continue to provide an effective input within the commissioning environment.
- (iii) In particular the Board has made the following specific recommendations:

Youth Services Inquiry – published May 2007

Recommendation 3

We recommend that the Director of Children's Services ensures that arrangements for funding and commissioning youth services through the voluntary, community and faith sector includes provision for the strategic capacity of the sector to be an effective partner in service delivery and development.

Recommendation 4

We also recommend that the Director of Children's Services promotes the development of local networks to help smaller organisations to play an effective part in the youth offer and qualify for funding.

Inquiry into Services for 8-13 year olds – published April 2008

Recommendation 1

That the Director of Children's Services reports to us within 3 months on how the new commissioning strategies being adopted by the Children Leeds Partnership will provide a more stable funding framework for services to 8-13 year olds.

Recommendation 8

We recommend that the Director of Children's Services promotes the development of local networks to help smaller organisations to continue to play an effective part in the provision of services for 8 to 13 year olds and qualify for funding.

- (c) Paragraph 72 of the City and Regional Partnerships Scrutiny Board's inquiry report makes particular mention of services for 8-13 year olds, and refers to the above inquiry report by the Children's Services Scrutiny Board. In addition, paragraph 49 of the report refers to the work of the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board of Children Leeds as a positive example of engagement with the VCFS.

### **3.0 Comments of Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care)**

3.1 The Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care) on the 17th June considered the VCFS report and noted the findings of Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships). No additional comments were offered.

### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 The Executive Board is asked to

- (i) consider the comments of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) and Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care) in relation to the Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships) report on the VCFS in Council led community engagement.
- (ii) confirm the proposed responses by the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods to the Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships) recommendations.

### **Background documents:**

Response to the City and Regional Partnerships Inquiry into the Inquiry into the role of the voluntary, community and faith sectors (VCFS) in Council led community engagement – report to Executive Board 19 May 2009.

Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships) Final Inquiry Report on the role of the Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector in Council led community engagement – published on the 11th March 2009