



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 8 March 2007

Subject: Members' questions

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Last year, each scrutiny board was required to include a standard item on its agenda to enable members to ask topical questions of the relevant senior officers, without the need for a full inquiry or written reports.
- 1.2 Members' questions is no longer a required item for each scrutiny board meeting. However, the facility remains available for those boards that wish to do so to ask questions of the relevant director(s) at board meetings.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) found this facility to be a useful way of developing a positive ongoing dialogue about current topics with senior officers, without the need for detailed work on every issue.
- 1.4 Following discussion at the board's meeting in July, members agreed to retain the facility but agreed that members' questions would be included as an agenda item only if prior notice of questions has been received by the time that the agenda for the meeting is published (normally eight days before the meeting).
- 1.5 The scrutiny support unit has received prior notice of a question for this meeting, and the Director of Children's Services or her representative will be attending the meeting to respond.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the board identifies any issues for further scrutiny arising from the members' questions session.