

## **Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)**

### **Increasing the number of young people in employment, education or training (EET)**

#### **Draft terms of reference**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board has been tasked with carrying out a piece of work this year on each of the three Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) obsessions. The third of these relates to reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training, also referred to as NEET.
- 1.2 The council has adopted an Outcome Based Accountability approach to addressing the obsessions, drawing up plans to 'turn the curve' and improve performance. In relation to this particular obsession, the economic downturn presents challenges for young people looking to enter the workplace for the first time.
- 1.3 This inquiry will look at the range of support available to young people in Leeds who are NEET in order to help them access appropriate employment, education or training.
- 1.4 In particular the inquiry will focus on the group identified in the Audit Commission's July 2010 report "Against the Odds" as sustained NEET. These young people often face multiple barriers to progressing to EET and require high-cost targeted support. The Audit Commission suggests that councils should focus on this group and understand what works to achieve value for money.

#### **2.0 Scope of the inquiry**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on:
  - the support available to young people in Leeds to progress from NEET to EET; and
  - what works in supporting those who have been NEET for a sustained period to progress.
- 2.2 The Board hopes that its findings will provide a timely and positive contribution to tackling this particular obsession within the Children and Young People's Plan.

#### **3.0 Comments of the relevant director and executive member**

- 3.1 This inquiry is included in the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference, reflecting one of the three obsessions in the Children and Young People's Plan, which is the multi-agency city priority plan.

3.2 Specific suggestions regarding additional evidence and potential witnesses will be incorporated into the final terms of reference.

#### **4.0 Timetable for the inquiry**

4.1 The inquiry will take place between January and March 2012.

4.2 The inquiry will conclude with the publication of a formal report setting out the board's conclusions and recommendations.

#### **5.0 Submission of evidence**

5.1 The Board will receive evidence through a combination of formal Board meetings and smaller working group meetings or visits with stakeholders and relevant service providers.

#### **5.2 Scrutiny Board meetings – 12 January and 9 February 2012**

The following evidence will be required for the Board meetings:

- The CYPP action plan and report card relating to the NEET obsession, as background and context to the inquiry
- Data on the numbers of young people in Leeds who are NEET
- Information from council services and key partners on the general range of services available to support young people who are NEET to move to EET
- Information on specific targeted support available to those young people classified as 'sustained' NEET
- Information on any evaluation of the value for money of different approaches (if available)
- Information on best practice from other local authorities
- The findings of the Audit Commission report "Against the Odds"

#### **5.3 Working Group meetings and visits**

These will be scheduled as far as possible between the two formal Board meeting inquiry sessions.

The board will then consider emerging conclusions and recommendations to inform the production of the final inquiry report.

#### **6.0 Witnesses**

6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as potential contributors to the Inquiry:

Children's Services

Connexions/IAG providers

Schools and colleges

Training providers

Environment and Neighbourhoods Jobs and Skills

Partner agencies eg JobCentre Plus  
Employers

- 6.2 The Board will seek to include the views of young people as evidence to this inquiry.

## **7.0 Equality, Diversity and Cohesion and Integration Issues**

- 7.1 Where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by the Scrutiny Boards will include  
To review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the council's Equality and Diversity scheme, and on the council's Cohesion and Integration Priorities and Delivery Plan.
- 7.2 The objectives of this inquiry particularly reflect the following theme from the council's Equality and Diversity scheme:  
Service Delivery – Leeds City Council provides fair access to services which meet the needs of our diverse communities and individuals.

## **8.0 Monitoring Arrangements**

- 8.1 Following the completion of the scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.
- 8.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for monitoring the implementation of recommendations.

## **9.0 Measures of success**

- 9.1 It is important to consider how the Board will deem whether its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 9.2 The Board will look to publish practical recommendations.