

**Report of East North East Area Leader**

**Report to Outer North East Area Committee**

**Date:** 6 March 2013

**Subject:** Children's Services – School Cluster Funding/Youth Service Review

Are specific electoral Wards affected? Yes If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Alwoodley, Harewood, Wetherby	<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. The Outer North East Area Committee received an update report from Children's Services at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Arising from the discussions on this item, the Director of Children's Services provided a briefing note to address the specific concerns raised by the Area Committee regarding cluster funding arrangements. This briefing note, presented to the October area committee, prompted further questions; therefore the Director of Children's Services has been invited to this area committee.

The Area Committee also has some issues they wish to raise with the Director of Children's Services on the Youth Service Review arising from a discussion prompted by the Area Chair's minutes at the October area committee.

**Recommendations**

2. Members are asked welcome the Director of Children's Services to the area committee meeting and take the opportunity to receive a response on the issues raised, and raise any further questions or concerns they may have.

**1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for the Director of Children's Services to respond to the questions raised at the Outer North East Area Committee on 22 October concerning two issues – EPOSS cluster funding, and the Youth

Service review, and for the Area Committee to raise any further concerns they have on these issues.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The Area Committee receives an Update Report from Children's Services twice a year in September and March. This provides the area committee with an opportunity for discussion on key issues concerning children and young people.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 At the October area committee two issues were raised.
- 3.2 Firstly, concerns were raised in relation to the information provided in the briefing note from the Director of Children's Services on the funding arrangements for clusters. The Area Committee agreed to invite the Director to attend a meeting arranged for 6 March 2013 to provide further information, specifically how much funding is top sliced from the dedicated schools grant for EPOSS schools and how much is then given back to the school clusters. The briefing note provided for the October area committee is attached as appendix A for information. Further information to update re the position reached with school Forum in January 2013 is attached as Appendix D and E.
- 3.3 Secondly, the Youth Service Review which was reported as part of the Area Chair's minutes item. The Area Committee expressed concerns that the review seemed centred on experiences from the urban centre of Leeds and not enough had been done to consult with elected members from the outer areas. It was agreed that the Director of Children's Services should be asked to attend the meeting on 6 March with the Head of Service, Young People and Skills, to discuss the issue in more detail. The relevant excerpt from the Area Chairs minutes presented to the October area committee is attached as appendix B. The minutes from the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Youth Services working group are attached at Appendix C for information.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Not applicable to this report.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 The inclusion of this item is in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part 4, Area Committee Procedure Rules.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

- 4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

#### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 There are no risk management issues relating to this report.

### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The Area Committee has raised concerns about two issues relating to Children's Services – Cluster funding arrangements and the Youth Service review. From the discussions at the October area committee they agreed to invite the appropriate officers to attend this meeting to respond to the concerns raised.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are asked to welcome the Director of Children's Services to the area committee meeting and take the opportunity to receive a response on the issues raised, and raise any further questions or concerns they may have.

### **7 Background documents**

7.1 Minutes of the Outer North East Area Committee, September 10<sup>th</sup> October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 3 December 2012. Notes of Outer North East Area Committee (incomplete) 4 February 2013.