

APPENDIX 1

Action Plan – Implementing the Children Act

Recommendation	Action taken/proposed	Responsibility	Timescale
<p>1. That the Chief Executive facilitates a review in order to identify the most appropriate local democratic arrangements for the discharge of the role of Lead Member for Children’s Services (Executive Member in Leeds), including any designated member support for the role, and any consequent implications for the Executive Board as a whole.</p>	<p>Proposals to be developed including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an explanation of the new arrangements under the officer delegation scheme and its interrelationship with the role of Executive Member • précis of legislative requirements and statutory guidance re role of Executive Member and any support Members • explanation of implications of individual Executive member decision making • consideration of available options and identification of preferred option 	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>Report to 6 April 2006 Scrutiny Board</p>
<p>2. That all elected Members are made aware of the outcome of the review requested in recommendation 1, well in advance of the Leader appointing the Executive Board for the new municipal year.</p>	<p>Members will be made aware via the report to Scrutiny Board referred to above.</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>Report to 6 April 2006 Scrutiny Board</p>

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<p>3. That the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development produce proposals for the future management of Scrutiny in relation to Children's Services, in order to address the Board's concerns about the workload implications caused by one Scrutiny Board having such a broad remit, whilst recognising the desirability of integrated scrutiny of the Children's Services domain.</p>	<p>Proposal at AGM of Council that Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) be re-established and that a report be brought to an early Scrutiny Board meeting with proposals re effective operational arrangements for the Board to ensure its broad remit is appropriately considered</p>	<p>Head of Scrutiny and Member Development</p>	<p>July 2006 cycle of Scrutiny Board</p>
<p>4. That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services develops criteria for determining whether member or officer representation (or both) is appropriate on external bodies and partnerships relevant to the Children's Services portfolio, taking account of models from elsewhere and also the constitutional arrangements for executive decision making.</p>	<p>Review current external bodies and partnerships re children's services involving Member/officer representation.</p> <p>Identify possible future external bodies/partnerships re children's services likely to require Member/officer representation</p> <p><u>Action update (July 2006)</u> The Director of Children's Services is continuing to work with the current partnership arrangements whilst this review</p>	<p>Director of Children's Services</p>	<p>Autumn 2006</p>

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	<p>work is undertaken (for example, a successful half-day Open Forum with more than 400 people working in the city across a wide range of organisations) and continuing the city-wide CYPSP and district arrangements.</p> <p>The review work is under way and is expected to be concluded in the Autumn, as is the review of district arrangements for Children and Young People being undertaken within the Leeds Initiative.</p> <p><u>Action update (October 2006)</u> Children's trust arrangements were agreed at the Executive Board meeting of 20 September 2006, setting out membership of bodies at a city-wide level. Work is under way to look at the most effective way to organise district level arrangements and meetings. Part of this will be discussions with each Area Committee during the October and November meeting cycles.</p>		<p>Winter 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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	<p><u>Action update (January 2007)</u> The Children Leeds Partnership is now established and meets on a six-week cycle.</p> <p>All Area Committees have been visited by a member of the Director of Children’s Services senior team and discussions opened on involvement at locality level.</p> <p>Five Locality Enabler posts are currently being recruited (one for each of the five areas) and their role will be to fully develop locality working</p> <p><u>Action Update (April 2007)</u> Locality Enablers now in post and work underway to match skills, knowledge and experience to the most appropriate areas. Wider staffing arrangements are also now in place in the DCSU that will help to engage Members more effectively in Children’s Services activity.</p>		<p>Spring 2007</p>

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	<p>Identify possible options for Member involvement in Children's Services portfolio generally (eg Reg 33 etc)</p> <p>Identify models from elsewhere</p> <p>Draft report to set out proposed framework for Member involvement in Children's Services including section on implications of individual decision making by Executive Members</p> <p><u>Action update (July 2006)</u> Executive Board will discuss the role of elected members as Corporate parents, including a Corporate Parenting Framework and Corporate Parenting Guarantee at the July meeting.</p> <p>During the Autumn, a series of members' Seminars has been planned (among other things) to cover the kinds of issues raised through the Scrutiny process.</p> <p><u>Action update (October 2006)</u> Executive Board approved the Corporate Parenting Framework</p>		

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	<p>at its July 2006 meeting. This included a Corporate parenting Guarantee and a Corporate Parenting Action Plan. This included specific arrangements for overview and monitoring of Corporate Parenting, including Regulation 33 matters.</p> <p>Ten Councillors have been recruited to lead on Corporate parenting and are to receive training when the Total Respect programme is implemented.</p> <p>Two awareness-raising seminars have been held in July and September for elected members generally.</p> <p>An action plan to guide further activity has been drawn up and is monitored regularly by the Executive Member for Children's Services and the Multi-Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP).</p>		Ongoing

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	<p><u>Action update (January 2007)</u> The Corporate Carer's Group has now been recruited and meets regularly.</p> <p>Young people have been recruited to carry out the specialist training and are themselves undergoing training for this purpose. The member training sessions will take place in spring 2007.</p> <p>Monthly members' seminars were held during the autumn and winter of 2006 and dates for further seminars in 2007 have been set.</p> <p>Congratulatory cards and gift tokens, signed by the Children's Services Executive Board Members, have been sent to all young people gaining success in GCSE examinations.</p> <p><u>Action Update (April 2007)</u> Members seminars have taken place and dates for training sessions have been arranged during May and June.</p>		

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<p>5. That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services ensures that awareness is raised with regards to the existing guidelines for the level of support that will be provided to Members representing the Council on external bodies and partnerships.</p>	<p>Review effectiveness of existing guidelines and include paragraph re monitoring of that support</p> <p>Upon appointment to an external body/partnership, the Member/officer will be provided with a copy of the guidelines and advised of the support provided.</p> <p><u>Action update</u> Once roles are determined, then appropriate support will be given.</p>	<p>Head of Governance Services</p>	<p>Autumn 2006</p>