

# Joint Scrutiny Statement

## Executive Board - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 Investing In Young People – Item 32

Scrutiny Boards (Children and Families and  
Sustainable Economy and Culture )

15<sup>th</sup> July 2013



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL



# Introduction and Scope

## Introduction

which will define and deliver desired outcomes.

1. In March 2013 The Director of Children's Services and the Director of City Development submitted a joint report to the Executive Board proposing a fundamental redesign of youth provision in Leeds. The Executive Board approved bringing together a more co-ordinated approach to universal services, improved targeted and specialist provision, through an enhanced role for Area Committees and clusters and a stronger use of the Breeze brand. At that meeting the Executive Member for Children's Services emphasised the active role intended to be played by Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) in monitoring the implementation of the changes to youth service provision.

## Background

2. During 2012 the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) started to consider all aspects of the transformation of Youth Provision from review to implementation. During the setting of its work programme in June 2013 the Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) expressed that there is a clear need for its involvement in monitoring the implementation of the redesigned youth provision from a leisure, culture and economic perspective.
3. This work will continue to be undertaken by a Scrutiny Working Group comprising of members of both Scrutiny Boards. The focus will be to continue to seek clarity on the strategy for transforming the service and to oversee the programme of change



# Conclusions and Recommendations

## Main Issues

4. The joint Scrutiny Working Group met on 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 to consider the information to be presented to the Executive Board on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2013. At this meeting the working group resolved to make recommendations to the Executive Board to support the decision making process. These recommendations have been endorsed by members of both the Children and Families and Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Boards.
5. During debate a number of key themes emerged :
  - a) The capacity of Area Committee's to recognise and understand good quality youth work and practice. The working group felt that it is essential that Area Committees are provided with the opportunity to gain an understanding of what good quality youth work is to ensure that the judgement, planning and delivery of services at an area level is of a consistently high standard.
  - b) The Working Group were advised that consultation had been undertaken with Area Committee Chairs on 26<sup>th</sup> of June. From an Area Committee perspective the Working Group were advised that proposed responsibilities, relationships and governance arrangements of Area Committees, Clusters and Children's Services with regard to youth provision is still unclear and that this still needs to be resolved.
  - c) The Working Group asserted that there needs to be a process of recognising and sharing good innovative practices established in

individual Areas and a mechanism designed for doing this.

- d) The Executive Board have been advised that 'the voice of children and young people will be at the heart of how the new approach develops with clear evidence of how young people's views have informed decisions about services at a local level.'<sup>1</sup> The Working Group consider it essential for Area Committees to be supported in gaining access to a wider range of young people's views and that Children's Services could broker and facilitate that support.

## Recommendations

6. In addition to the recommendations 6.1 and 6.2 specified in the report of the Director of Children's Services to the Executive Board dated 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) and Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) recommend that:

**Recommendation 1** – The available support provided by Children's Services to Area committees as specified in recommendation 6.2 is expanded to include the provision of information and training which will support the recognition of good quality youth work to promote and maintain an understanding of what is required to deliver a high quality offer.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Director of Children's Services and Director of City Development 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013



# Conclusions and Recommendations

**Recommendation 2** – That Children’s Services facilitates the sharing of good practice between Area Committees and provides practical support which enables children and young people to inform decisions at an Area Committee level.

**Recommendation 3** – That Executive Board endorses that the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) and Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) continue to be involved in shaping the development of responsibility and governance frameworks for the proposed delegated Youth Service Functions.

**Joint Scrutiny Board Statement (Children and Families, Sustainable Economy and Culture...)**

**Investing in Young People – Targeted Youth Work Area Formula  
15<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

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