



Report of the Director of Children's Service

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 7th May 2009

Subject: **East Leeds Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) Scrutiny Report:
Response to the Recommendations and Position Update**

Electoral Wards Affected:	Specific Implications For:
	Equality and Diversity
	Community Cohesion
	Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In late 2008 and early 2009, following a request for scrutiny from Councillor Brian Selby, the Children's Services Scrutiny Board conducted an inquiry into action taken by children's services around the MAST, which works with the Seacroft Manston family of schools. The request had followed concerns about proposals to reduce aspects of funding to the service and the subsequent handling of activity relating to this. The final scrutiny report, containing full details is attached at appendix 1.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Board's reports made six recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Director of Children's Services, who acknowledged the importance of learning from the issues that the MAST has raised. On 1st April 2009 the proposed response to the recommendations was submitted by the Director of Children's Services to the Council's Executive Board, who accepted the actions detailed in the response.
- 1.3 This report provides the Scrutiny Board with a copy of the response submitted to the Executive Board by the Director of Children's Services, it also provides an update on the activity that has taken place relevant to each of those recommendations. For ease of reference this information has been summarised in a single table, attached at appendix 2.

2.0 Main Issues

- 2.1 The Locality Enabler (East) is continuing to work on behalf of the Director of Children's Services with those local services and individuals who are involved with the MAST. As outlined in the summary table at appendix 2, progress is being made to ensure that the services and individuals concerned are being appropriately considered and informed as the work progresses and that steps are being taken to ensure learning from the experiences of the MAST service can be acted on constructively in future.
- 2.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Board will continue to be kept informed of this work through regular updates in the coming months.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Board inquiry into the MAST provided valuable information for helping to support and develop services both in the local area and across the city. Actions relating to these recommendations are now being taken forward. The Board will continue to be informed about developments regarding this work.

Background Papers

Report to Executive Board: March 2009 – Response to the Children's Services Scrutiny Board's MAST Inquiry.