



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board: Children's Services

Date: 11 June 2009

Subject: Executive Board referral

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A referral for scrutiny has been received from the Executive Board.
- 1.2 At the Executive Board meeting on 13 May, Members considered the Scrutiny Inquiry report published by the City and Regional Partnerships Scrutiny Board on the role of the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) in council led community engagement. As a result of the discussion, the Executive Board resolved

"That the Scrutiny Board (City and Regional Partnerships) inquiry report into the role of the voluntary, community and faith sectors in Council led community engagement be referred to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) and Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care) for consideration, with a further report being submitted to Executive Board in due course."

A copy of the Inquiry report is attached as Appendix 1, along with the proposed officer response to the recommendations, which was reported to the Executive Board.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Over the past few years, the role of the VCFS in the provision of children's services has been a feature of many of the Board's inquiries. The Board has specifically included a representative of the VCFS as a co-opted member of the Board to ensure that the sector's voice is integral to the Board's work.

- 2.2 A number of the Children's Services Scrutiny Board inquiries have included specific recommendations in relation to the role of the VCFS, and the support required from the council to enable all parts of this very diverse sector to continue to provide an effective input within the commissioning environment.
- 2.3 In particular the Board has made the following specific recommendations:

Youth Services Inquiry – published May 2007

Recommendation 3

We recommend that the Director of Children's Services ensures that arrangements for funding and commissioning youth services through the voluntary, community and faith sector includes provision for the strategic capacity of the sector to be an effective partner in service delivery and development.

Recommendation 4

We also recommend that the Director of Children's Services promotes the development of local networks to help smaller organisations to play an effective part in the youth offer and qualify for funding.

Inquiry into Services for 8-13 year olds – published April 2008

Recommendation 1

That the Director of Children's Services reports to us within 3 months on how the new commissioning strategies being adopted by the Children Leeds Partnership will provide a more stable funding framework for services to 8-13 year olds.

Recommendation 8

We recommend that the Director of Children's Services promotes the development of local networks to help smaller organisations to continue to play an effective part in the provision of services for 8 to 13 year olds and qualify for funding.

- 2.4 Paragraph 72 of the City and Regional Partnerships Scrutiny Board's inquiry report makes particular mention of services for 8-13 year olds, and refers to the above inquiry report by the Children's Services Scrutiny Board. In addition, paragraph 49 of the report refers to the work of the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board of Children Leeds as a positive example of engagement with the VCFS.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Board is asked to consider the City and Regional Partnerships Scrutiny Board inquiry report, and agree any comments to be fed back.

Background papers

Executive Board minutes – 13 May 2009