

## **Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)**

**23 June 2011**

### **Green Paper – Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability**

#### **Comments**

Having considered a brief outline from officers of some of the key issues already emerging from discussions elsewhere, the Board made the following comments to feed into the corporate response to the Green Paper:

- Members were concerned that families varied in how 'ready' they are to manage a personalised budget. They were concerned about the impact for children and young people whose families struggled to navigate the market place.
- In particular they were concerned that those with the greatest needs could be left vulnerable under such a system. For example they referred to children and young people whose parents may have special educational needs or disabilities themselves that would make it difficult for them to fully understand their child's needs, or parents who may be 'in denial' about their child's needs.
- Following on from this, the Board also highlighted the potential impact on the sustainability of some services if families were negotiating provision on an individual basis.
- This could be further exacerbated if parents could transfer funds between various elements of the single care plan, ie education, health and care.
- Members were concerned about the potential impact on the multi-agency model that the Leeds response to these families is currently built upon.
- They also highlighted the need for parents to have good information about the services that were available and who to contact.
- Members were concerned about the complexity of the consultation process itself, with a lengthy Green Paper and 59 consultation questions. They felt that there was a real danger that many parents would be excluded from the consultation.

The Board encouraged Celia Foote to submit her extensive comments on the Green paper direct to government, since there was not time to go through them in detail and decide whether to adopt them as the Scrutiny Board's comments. It was also suggested that she forward a copy to the officers.

Members asked to receive a copy of the corporate response when it has been submitted.