

Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Youth Services: Working Group Meeting: 18th October 2012

Appendix 4

Jacqueline Ward

Cllr Alan Lamb

Cllr Bob Gettings

Officers and Representatives

Ken Morton – Head of Service Young People and Skills

Paul Brennan – Deputy Director Children’s Services

Sandra Newbould – Principal Scrutiny Advisor

Apologies Taira Kayani
Cllr Alex Sobel
Cllr Pat Latty
Christine Raftery
Celia Foote

No.	Item	Action
1	<p>Attendance</p> <p>The attendance and apologies as above were noted.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of previous Meetings</p> <p>Accepted with amendment to paragraph 2 on page 3 which now reads ‘With regard to places to go and things to do, the method of funding, which could be via grant allocation, has yet to be decided.’</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>None</p>	
4	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Chair requested that the working group be advised on the updated position since the meeting on the 2nd of October and requested that the working group focus on the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether sufficient and robust consultation had been undertaken. • The content of the report itself, particularly the main findings, principles, propositions, stakeholder feedback and recommendations specified. <p>The working group were advised that the Damian Allen report with a report of the Director of Children’s Services is now scheduled to be presented to Executive Board December 2012.</p>	

5	<p>Questions, Statements and Outcomes</p> <p>The method for gathering evidence was explained to the working group with a full list of stakeholders visits and interviews listed at appendix 1. The working group were further advised that more detailed discussions at a local level and cluster level would be undertaken once Executive Board had been presented with the Damian Allen report in December.</p> <p>The working group made the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected member consultation was inadequate and not representative of the political spectrum. It was suggested that further consultation be undertaken with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board ○ Children’s Champions ○ Shadow Exec/Lead members in opposition groups. ○ Members who sit of the Children’s Trust Board <p>It was also suggested that consultation be extended to charitable organisations who work extensively with young people such as the Salvation Army.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group felt that the Council should not commit to any further expenditure with the Damian Allen for the additional consultation work identified. • Further consultation needed to take place as quickly as possible to avoid further delays in the process. • The report as it stands is considered to be incomplete until further consultation has taken place and therefore it is recommended that it is not yet shared with the wider public. <p>It was explained to the working group that consultation was scheduled to occur at an all party working group session. However the meeting did not taken place and a subsequent meeting was never arranged.</p> <p>The Damian Allen report this was perceived as a ‘starting block’ for transformation by the working group. The working group stated that it contained information that some may disagree with depending on knowledge of provision in their locality and their experience of the youth service, however the working group stated that they were broadly in agreement with the content of the report which reflected many of the observations made by working group in previous meetings.</p> <p>The working group also made the following statements and observations with regard to the content of the report :</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the recommendations should be prioritised. The working group considered that recommendations 8,13,14,15,16,20 and 22 are of greatest importance. • Provision of service managed by Area is welcomed to supply a service that meets local need. • There is a lack of clarity in the governance, relationships and linkages that would exist between Clusters and Area Committees/Management and also Children’s Services. • The working group agreed that universal and targeted services need to be clearly defined. • More importantly the working group stressed the importance of getting the transformation right and taking the appropriate time to do this. <p>The working group stated that where responsibility for service delivery is to be devolved to the localities that the appropriate resource, staff or financial, should be allocated to support this. It was felt that Area Management team resources are already stretched. The group were reassured that this would be provided and that work has already started to look at how resources may be allocated. Officers were advised that some areas already work well and therefore would require a ‘lighter touch’ in the change process.</p> <p>The working group highlighted that there needs to be a balance in meeting the needs of an area and the needs of a child, stating that there are children who need intensive support in wards that are perceived to be the more affluent areas, therefore support networks are required across the whole city.</p> <p>The group welcomed the suggestion of Youth Work Improvement Units and expanding the number of advanced practitioners within the Youth Service.</p>	
6	<p>Further Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group concluded that the outcome of this meeting should be reported to the full Scrutiny Board at its meeting on the 8th of November 2012. It will be raised under the work programme. • The working group also resolved that their conclusions from this meeting be reported to the December Executive Board for their consideration. These are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Scrutiny Board are broadly in agreement with the observations and recommendations made by Damian Allen. ○ The Scrutiny Board consider that further consultation is required with a wider range of Elected Members and VCFS organisations. ○ The Scrutiny Board does not recommend any 	SN

	<p>further expenditure should be made in consultancy fees to undertake the recommended consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That the report is not circulated to the wider public until such time as further consultation is undertaken and feedback has been evaluated. ○ That recommendations are prioritised. The Scrutiny Board recommend that these are 8,13,14,15,16,20,and 22 in the consultants report. ○ That the Executive Board is clearly advised of the proposed responsibilities, relationships and governance arrangements of Clusters, Area Management and Children’s Services with regard to Youth provision. ○ That the Executive Board are provided with a defined overview of Universal and Targeted Youth provision and clarity on who will be responsible for the provision of services. 	
7	<p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>No future meeting arranged.</p>	