
To
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 16 April 2008

Subject: Scrutiny Chairs Quarterly Reports – Scrutiny Board 2

1 Purpose of the Note

To inform Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee of the activity, recommendations and outcomes of the work of Scrutiny Board 2 (Children, Learning and Young People) in the period January 2008 to April 2008.

2 Recommendations

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to note this information and consider any further action.

3 Information/Background

Activity

The Scrutiny Board was involved in consideration of the following issues:

- Cabinet Member Strategic Plan
- Coventry Family Intervention Project
- Coventry Teenage Pregnancy Partnership and the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
- The Strategic Review of Coventry Children's Residential Provision
- Children's Centres in the City
- Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- Foundation Stage Outcomes 2007
- School Places and Planning
- Proposed changes to admission numbers for Community Primary Schools
- Primary Strategy for Change
- "Lessons from Auschwitz"
- Consultation on the establishment of the Swanswell Academy
- Domestic Violence and Abuse Screening Pilot (joint City Council / West Midlands Police pilot)
- Sexual Health in Coventry – Strategic overview from the PCT
- Sexual Health and Drugs Outreach Work (SHADOW)
- "Moving to Coventry" video and teaching aid
- Report back on the Short Breaks Consultation
- PE Curriculum and links to Sports Strategy and Healthy Schools

Additionally the Chair has recently met with the Coventry Youth Council and discussed with them future links with the Board. Planning is underway for a joint meeting between the Scrutiny Board and the Youth Council with the young people setting the agenda.

The Board's Corporate Parenting Sub-group has continued to meet with representative looked after children. Issues of recent priority have concerned leaving care and difficulties placed before young people attempting to access benefits and move into independence.

The Chair has requested that preparation commence on a project for the Board next year identifying the transition between children's and adults specialist services.

Recommendations made:

- Following consideration of the Cabinet Member Strategic Plan the Board requested a review of the PE curriculum and associated issues of young people accessing sport in school.
- The Board has requested that the Cabinet Member Strategic Plan in future include targets to reduce the misuse of alcohol by young people.
- The Board have requested that officers consider the provision to disabled parents, particularly those with disabled children.
- The Board considered a report on the Coventry Family Intervention Project, and noted that Government funding had been reduced to this successful initiative. The Board urged the Cabinet Member and Director to investigate alternative sources of funding to ensure the project's continued success.
- The Board have made a number of observations on the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy including links to schools, and requested a further report back in 6 months.
- The Board made recommendations to the Cabinet Member regarding the new Academy in the Swanswell regarding the size of the site being planned for.
- The Board has requested the Building Schools for the Future Scrutiny Review Group to consider issues regarding the design of the new school.
- The Board have requested that officers investigate the possibility of wider dissemination of the "Moving to Coventry" video so that it may be used as a training tool and as a way to widen understanding of the experiences of migrant families moving to the City.
- Following the Board's proactive request for information regarding the Directorate's efforts to meet the future needs for school places in the City it has asked to monitor future developments in this process.
- Following consideration of the Short Breaks report and various suggestions made by the Board regarding the provision of respite care for children with physical and learning difficulties, the Board has requested a report be submitted including draft recommendations early in the new civic year.

Outcomes achieved:

- The Council is developing closer working arrangements with the Coventry Youth Council, further developing the ways in which young people can make their voices heard and influence public policy in the City.
- The Council and the PCT are looking at new ways of achieving targets in reducing STIs in the City.
- The Family Intervention Project is to continue on a fully funded basis, in part thanks to the Board's efforts.
- Proposals for the new Academy in the Swanswell have been improved by the Board.

- The "Moving to Coventry" video which documents the experiences of young people and their families moving to Coventry will be disseminated wider and used by more Council staff as a training tool.
- Preparation is underway for a major project to be undertaken in the new civic year examining the transition between children and adults specialist services.

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4th April 2008