

CABINET MEETING – 13 FEBRUARY 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Scrutiny Committee – Policy Review Final Reports

Author(s):

Report of the Scrutiny Committee, Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director for Children’s Services

Purpose of Report:

To set out the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee following its scrutiny policy reviews into Reducing Re-offending; the Tell Us Once for Bereavement Service and Improvement, Admissions and Planning : Implementation of the Education Act 2011.

Description of Decision:

To consider and approve the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and the proposed Action Plans for their implementation.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The scrutiny policy review recommendations are intended to inform the future development of policy and practice by Cabinet.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The Scrutiny Committee and its Scrutiny Panels have gathered detailed evidence and arrived at conclusions and recommendations which are intended to improve services. There are no alternatives to be considered.

Impacts analysed;

Equality Non Privacy Non Sustainability Non Crime and Disorder Yes

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes

Scrutiny Committee:

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – POLICY REVIEW FINAL REPORTS

Report of the Scrutiny Committee and the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Directors for Children’s Services

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee following its scrutiny policy reviews into Reducing Re-offending; the Tell Us Once for Bereavement Service and Improvement, Admissions and Planning : Implementation of the Education Act 2011.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 The Cabinet is requested to consider the Scrutiny Committee’s three policy review final reports and endorse the recommendations contained within the reports.
- 2.2 To assist the Cabinet in its consideration of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee, a proposed Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations has been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holders.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 7 June 2012, the Scrutiny Committee identified a number of policy review topics based on issues highlighted by the Council’s Annual Scrutiny Conference. Each of the Committee’s six Scrutiny Panels were commissioned to undertake two short policy reviews during the municipal year
- 3.2 Six of these reviews have now been completed and were agreed by the Scrutiny Committee on 17 January 2013.

4 Current Position

- 4.1 In order to balance the workload of the Cabinet, three of the reviews are submitted to this meeting for consideration and approval. The three reports, together with an Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations, are attached as an appendix as follows:-
 - (a) Reducing Re-offending Scrutiny Policy Review (**Appendix 1a and 1b**);
 - (b) Tell Us Once for Bereavement Service Scrutiny Policy Review (**Appendix 2a and 2b**); and
 - (c) Improvement, Admissions and Planning: Implementation of the Education Act 2011 Scrutiny Policy Review (**Appendix 3a and 3b**)
- 4.2 The outcome of a further three scrutiny policy reviews in relation to Mental Health Pathways; the Operation of the Work Programme in Sunderland and the Role of the Local Authority in Health Issues will be submitted to the March Cabinet meeting.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 The recommendations are intended to support the future development of policy and practice by the Cabinet.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Committee and its Scrutiny Panels have gathered detailed evidence and arrived at conclusions and recommendations which are intended to develop policy within the Council. There are no alternatives to be considered.

7 Impact Analysis

Equalities

- 7.1 Equality issues were addressed during the evidence gathering process and this is reflected in the focused recommendations.

Privacy Impact Assessment

- 7.2 The proposals have no immediate additional implications for the protection of privacy of the public. Any privacy issues which arise will be addressed through the delivery of the action planning process.

Sustainability

- 7.3 The proposals have no immediate implications for sustainability. Sustainability issues will be considered and addressed as part of the delivery of the action plan by Members and officers.

Reduction of Crime & Disorder – Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion

- 7.4 Any crime and disorder issues will be addressed as part of the delivery of the action plan by Members and officers.

8. Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- 8.1 The findings in the report are the result of consultation and evidence gathering by the Scrutiny Committee.

9. Background Papers

Final reports of the Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel, City Services Scrutiny Panel and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel.