

**SCRUTINY POLICY REVIEWS 2012/13:
RESPONSE FROM CABINET – 19 JUNE 2013**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the Cabinet meeting held on 19 June 2013, regarding two of the second round of scrutiny policy reviews undertaken by scrutiny in 2012/13.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is responsible for considering feedback from relevant portfolio holders on Cabinet’s consideration of the policy reviews undertaken by the scrutiny panels and how it intends to deliver the recommendations of each panel.

2.2 Cabinet considered the Final Reports on 19 June as follows:-

Scrutiny Panel	Policy Review	Responsible Portfolio Holder
Responsive Services and Customer Care	Domestic Violence (Appendix 1)	Cllr Harry Trueman (Deputy Leader)
Children’s Services	Increasing Young People’s Involvement in Service Design and Delivery (Appendix 2)	Cllr Pat Smith (Children’s Services)

2.3 This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holders following Cabinet’s consideration of, and decisions in relation to, each of the scrutiny panels’ recommendations.

2.4 Following the Scrutiny Committee’s consideration of feedback from Cabinet on each of the Policy Reviews of 2012/13, progress towards completion of the actions contained within each Action Plan will be monitored on an annual basis by the Committee.

3. RESPONSE FROM CABINET TO THE POLICY REVIEW

3.1 Following consideration of the Final Reports, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of the Policy Review recommendations and proposed actions to be taken are provided in the Action Plans attached at **appendices 1 and 2**.

3.2 Cabinet thanked the Scrutiny Lead Members, Scrutiny Panels and its officers for undertaking the policy review and additional work.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That the Committee:-

- (a) Notes the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plans appended to this report (**Appendices 1 and 2**) and seeks clarification on content where felt appropriate; and
- (b) Refers each of the action plans to the relevant panels for further consideration.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Cabinet Agenda; 19 June 2013.

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Appendix 1

Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel; Domestic Violence: Policy Review recommendations 2012/13

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
	That the Council:-				
(a)	Undertakes to work with partners to consider the way in which the approach to domestic violence is coordinated strategically across the city	Meet key individual partners to reclarify policy and strategic co-ordination arrangements engage with the Specialist Domestic Violence Court to identify if support for performance improvement is required	Stuart Douglass	Sept 2013	To be provided as part of the Annual Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations
(b)	Considers how it can raise the awareness of frontline staff and ward councillors across the city to improve signposting to domestic violence services for victims	Produce frontline staff and member briefing note Promote the online training facility Make available training/seminar for members	Stuart Douglass	Nov 2013	As above
	That the Safer Sunderland Partnership:-				
(c)	Reviews how domestic violence crime is reported to ward councillors and local people in community forums	Statistics and performance data to be made available at area level Written report to be made available at area level every 6 months	Stuart Douglass	July 2013 From September 2013	As above
(d)	Delivers the improvement activities detailed within the Safer Sunderland Partnership Delivery Plan within the specified timescales as follows:-				As above

(i)	<p>Improve information sharing between healthcare services and domestic violence providers by raising awareness of domestic violence amongst a range of health professionals and strengthening the linkages between health and domestic violence</p>	<p>Review current arrangements and develop improvement plan</p>	<p>Stuart Douglass</p>	<p>September 2013</p>	
(ii)	<p>Engages with schools and young peoples services to improve young people's awareness of the warning signs around abuse in teenage relationships and the support available;</p>	<p>(ii) Pilot the 'I have the right' film and resource pack in each area of the city, evaluate the pilot and amend the resource pack; then roll out the resource pack to all schools in the city and relevant non-school settings; and promote the resource widely to a variety of key audiences within Sunderland and the wider region</p>	<p>Kelly Henderson and Julie Smith</p>	<p>By end of September 2013</p>	
(iii)	<p>Utilises the findings of the Health Needs Assessment undertaken by the PCT to enhance its understanding of domestic violence in the city, map current provision and inform future service planning and commissioning intentions, having particular regard to the needs of BME victims</p>	<p>Consider the Health Needs Assessment when complete and ensure findings are considered by the Safer Sunderland Partnership Board and incorporated into the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2013.</p>	<p>Stuart Douglass</p>	<p>December 2013</p>	

Appendix 2

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel; Increasing Young People's Involvement in Service Design and Delivery: Policy Review recommendations 2012/13

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	That Children's Services explore the potential for an information sharing support mechanism between schools to share examples of best practice in relation to the operation and performance of school councils and also look at the development of links between school governing bodies and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update provided to all schools at Headteacher Termly meetings in June regarding progress on the participation agenda. Seek nominations from schools to be involved in best practice review. Encourage governing bodies to consider how they involve children and young people representatives in governance matters. A report to be included in the next Termly Agenda Booklet. Invite Governor representatives to future meeting of the Children's Trust Advisory Network (CTAN) to seek their views as to how young people would wish to be engaged by Governing Bodies. 	B Scanlon	June 2013	To be provided as part of the Annual Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations
			B Scanlon	June 2013	
			A Rowntree	Sept 2013	
			A Rowntree	Sept 2013	
(b)	That Scrutiny Members consider the possibility of the Scrutiny Committee or representative Scrutiny Panel being actively involved in Takeover Day 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation and Engagement Officer to ensure that an invitation is forwarded to Scrutiny Committee to participate in Takeover Day 2013 	J Wheeler / J Peuch	November 2013	As above
(c)	That consideration is given, by the Communications Team, to the appointment of a Participation and Engagement Champion to promote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Affairs and Communications to provide a comms rep. Name tbc once comms team reorganised under 	S Meredith	November 2013	As above

	and support the work of participation and engagement within the Communications Team;	People, Place, Economy.			
(d)	To explore how the views of young people can be best represented in the statutory governance arrangements of the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board and the Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite representatives of both Boards to work with CTAN to develop links to ensure that their views can be taken into account when decisions are being made. • Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board to work with Young Inspectors to assess the effectiveness of their processes. 	J Peuch J Peuch	Dec 2013 June 2013	As above