

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMMES 2009/10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17 September 2009

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2009-10 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priority of a Learning City.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme allows Members and Officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year. It can be developed throughout the year.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the Scrutiny Conference and the Scrutiny Committee meetings in June and July. A number of items are still to be scheduled and these are listed at the end of the work programme. The work programme will include:

Total Place

- 3.2 The work programme will include evaluation of the Total Place pilot. Total Place is designed to map the total public expenditure in the programme to identify significant efficiencies and savings and answer the simple question, "Can we do better for less?"
- 3.3 Sunderland is jointly one of 13 volunteer pilot areas which have each chosen a theme. The pilot will examine the totality of public spending in the service area with a view to cutting duplication, saving money and improving service delivery.

Partners: South Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland:
Theme: To deliver safer, stronger and healthier neighbourhoods
Aspiration: Services for children and young people, to target resources where there is greatest need, eliminate duplication and generate efficiency savings.

- 3.4 This is a very new pilot with the launch taking place over the summer. Work is just getting underway to refine the scope, implement project management

arrangements and allocate resources. When further detail is available about the project plan this will be listed in the Committees work programme.

Policy Review

- 3.4 The work programme includes the policy review agreed at the earlier meetings. The Machinery of Government changes: Review of managing the transfer, with particular focus on the Authority's regional / sub regional commissioning arrangements for 16-19 general further education provision from April 2010.
- 3.5 This will involve gathering evidence from Elected Members and Officers, Learners, Provider Network, 14-19 partnerships, Young People's Learning Agency, ONE, GONE, Skills Funding Agency, City Region Employment and Skills Board, Voluntary and Community Sector, Connexions hub, Schools and School Governors.
- 3.6 It is planned to have an additional Scrutiny Committee meeting towards the end of December to carry out a large part of this evidence gathering. Further information about the additional meeting will be circulated to the Committee in the next few weeks.

Article 4 Plans Working Group

- 3.7 At the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18 June it was agreed that an "Article Four Plan Working Group be established to assist in the development of the Article Four Plans within the Committee's remit"
- 3.8 Membership of the group will be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllr Bell, Cllr Francis and Mrs Butler.
- 3.9 A schedule of discussion topics for the Children and Young People's Plan has been set out by Children's Services and it is expected that the group will have its first meeting later this month.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.

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