

CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 To notify the Committee about current government consultations and recent publications within the scope of the Review Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 The annual work programme provides flexibility to respond to new developments including government consultation documents and new publications, and these are reported to Committee as appropriate.

- 2.2 A synopsis of current consultations is provided at Appendix 1.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 This report is intended to keep the Committee apprised of new developments and provide background reading for items scheduled into the work programme.
- 3.2 There is also an opportunity to comment on live consultations. Members can respond individually to consultations documents or can:
- (a) Contribute a response by the closing date (via Children's Services)
 - (b) Seek guidance from Children's Services on current arrangements in Sunderland on the issues under consultation
 - (c) Have circulated the full consultation document for information
 - (d) Note the consultations and take no further action.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Committee is asked to note the information.

5. Background Papers

Full consultation documents.

6. Glossary

DCSF – Department for Children, Schools, Families
DH – Department of Health

LIVE CONSULTATIONS

A New Way of Handling Parents' Complaints about School Issues

The Children's Plan committed the Government to look at ways of improving the current arrangements for parents' complaints. The consultation invites comments on handling parents' complaints to their child's school affecting their child, including those which concern bullying. The DCSF is asking for views on ways to improve: handling of complaints at school level; the place of mediation services to resolve disagreements early on; and possible new arrangements to consider complaints that cannot be resolved at school level. Views from parents, parents' organisations, governing bodies and governors' organisations, local government, schools, teaching and support staff including professional bodies, and those with SEN interests are invited.

Launch Date: 26 Sep 2008

Closing Date: 21 Nov 2008

Consultation on a National Framework For Assessing Children and young people's Continuing care

DH Consultation document on proposals for a National Framework for assessing children and young people's continuing care. The Framework is intended to assist Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to apply a consistent and transparent approach to assessing the healthcare needs of children and young people and to work jointly with local authorities to provide services in the light of those needs. This Framework will apply in respect of children and young people under the age of 18 years.

Launch Date: 2 October 2008

Closing date: 31 December 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Delivering 14-19 Reform: Next Steps (Published 13 October 2008)

This is an update to the *14-19 Implementation Plan* published in 2005. It brings together all the changes, looks at progress since 2005, and sets out the next steps and timetable to 2015 to ensure that all young people have the right learning opportunities and support to continue in education or training until at least 18.

Real meals: Simple cooking that tastes great (Published 11 September 2008)

The Government has published a free cookbook for all 11-year-olds, to help them learn healthy versions of old favourites – from spaghetti bolognese, risotto, lamb hot pot and lamb rogan josh to apple crumble. The *Real meals: Simple cooking that tastes great* cookbook features 32 recipes and sauces nominated by the public as the basic dishes every child should learn how to cook and is endorsed by top chef Phil Vickery. The cookbook is available online and headteachers will be able to order copies for all their Year 7 pupils.