

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
DWP – Department of Work and Pensions

LIVE CONSULTATIONS

School Admissions Consultation 2008

In the Children's Plan, published in December 2007, Ministers committed to review the school application and allocation process. The Department consultation outlines proposed changes to make the admissions process for parents as fair, transparent and straightforward as possible. The full consultation and supporting documents can be viewed on the DCSF Consultation website.

Launch Date: 12 Jun 2008

Closing Date: 02 Oct 2008

Children and Adoption Act 2006 - Children Act 1989 Contact Activity Directions and Conditions (Financial Assistance) (England) Regulations 2008

This consultation seeks views on the proposed subsidy arrangements to support individuals with the cost of contact activities directed or ordered by the courts. This consultation will run for 8 weeks to allow for the implementation of the regulations by December 2008.

Launch Date: 04 Jun 2008

Closing Date: 30 Jul 2008

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Byron Review Action Plan (Published 24 June 2008)

This cross-Government action plan sets out how the recommendations of the Byron Review will be implemented to improve children's safety when they use the internet or play video games.

Young Runaways Action Plan (Published 16 June 2008)

The Department wants to kick-start long-term improvements to services for young runaways. The commitments in this action plan represent the ongoing work across Government to ensure that the needs of young people who run away from home or care are met.

The National Challenge – a toolkit for schools and local authorities (Published 10 June 2008)

The National Challenge will support schools with the lowest GCSE results, so that by 2011 in every secondary school at least 30 per cent of students will achieve five or more GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics. The National Challenge will focus greater attention, help and resources on schools that are currently below this benchmark. A School Improvement Strategy, *Promoting excellence for all*, is published alongside the toolkit.

Preventing violent extremism: A strategy for delivery (Published 3 June 2008)

This short booklet explains the Government's plans for countering violent extremism to protect the security of the UK in the long term.

Full details of all documents listed can be found at "<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/> or <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations>