

# **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY – SCOPING REPORT FOR POLICY REVIEW**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**9 JULY 2009**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To make proposals to the Scrutiny Committee for their forthcoming review of commissioning arrangements within the Children and Young People's Plan.

### **2. Background Information**

- 2.1 Commissioning is about determining need, procuring services, managing demand, delivering of desired outcomes and involving the public in each stage, thereby embedding value in the strategic process.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 18 June 2009 the Scrutiny Committee agreed to pursue a review of the strategic commissioning framework within which partners will work jointly to ensure delivery of services. The review will focus on a particular aspect of service delivery.

#### Policy Background

- 2.3 The Children's Trust plans to take a long-term approach to city-wide planning, through a 15 year commissioning strategy for children and young people. The Children and Young People's Plan will therefore run from 2010 to 2025, with a series of delivery plans for all partners.
- 2.4 Partners are working together to improve outcomes for children and young people in the city. In Sunderland there is:
  - (a) A Children's Trust, which acts as a Board
  - (b) A Children's Trust Strategic Partnership, which implements the policy and business of the Children's Trust, and
  - (c) A network of partnerships that are aligned to the Children's Trust
- 2.5 Each of these partnerships has developed a strategy, which aims to work towards the outcomes identified in the CYPP, as well as other linked areas identified by the partnership. These partnerships, known as *Aligned Partnerships* are:
  - (a) 14-19
  - (b) Early Years and Childcare
  - (c) Family and Parenting

- (d) Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- (e) Looked After Children
- (f) Learning Difficulty & Disability
- (g) Risk & Resilience (Teenage Pregnancy, Substance Misuse)
- (h) Youth Board
- (i) Youth Offending

### **3. The Scrutiny Review Process**

- 3.1 Scrutiny reviews will carry out a number of stages in undertaking and completing a review. The stages broadly are:

Stage 1 Scope	Identify the background, issues, potential outcomes, timetable and frame the review within specific terms.
Stage 2 Investigate	Gather evidence using a variety of techniques.
Stage 3 Analyse	Highlight key trends and issues from the evidence gathered.
Stage 4 Clarify	Identify the principal messages of the review.
Stage 5 Recommend	Formulate and agrees realistic recommendations from the principal messages identified.
Stage 6 Report	Draft and final reports are prepared based on the evidence, findings and recommendations.
Stage 7 Monitor	The Committee monitors recommendations on a regularly agreed basis.

### **4. Aim of the Review**

- 4.1 To involve Members, through the scrutiny function, in monitoring developments and decisions around commissioning at a strategic level.

### **5. Proposed Terms of Reference**

- 5.1 It is proposed the review will be within the following terms of reference:

- (a) To gain an understanding of the joint commissioning strategy ;
- (b) To monitor developments around the demand for services and the needs and aspirations of communities;
- (c) To consider the involvement of users and local communities in the discussion about commissioning options;

- (d) To assess the delivery of outcomes for identified vulnerable and disadvantaged group;
- (e) To monitor any additional pressures on services and alternative courses of action necessary to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn on service users.

## 6. Potential Areas of Enquiry and Sources of Evidence

- 6.1 The following table gives options intended to give a sharp focus to the review. Members are asked to choose one area for detailed investigation which will be a service new to the commissioning arrangements. In addition it is recommended to consider one service area which has already established service delivery within the commissioning model.

<b>A: New / Recent Commissioning</b>	<b>B: Mature Commissioning</b>
<b>16-19 and post 19 Education and Skills</b> – Raising Expectations for every 16 and 17 year-old to participate in education or training, and every adult to have the chance to improve their skills in order to find work or progress in their current employment	<b>Youth Services</b> – how the authority identifies the needs of its population of young people and plans and delivers services for them, from within its own resources or from a range of providers;
<b>Employability of young people</b> - the highest priority must be attached to ensuring that education and training is effective in delivering the skills needed for young people to secure and keep decent jobs	<b>Childcare</b> which is sufficient, flexible, sustainable and responsive to parents needs
<b>Preventative Services</b> – a set of services commissioned to meet earlier, the identified needs of children and families	<b>Family, Adult and Community Learning</b> - supports social and economic regeneration through learning
<b>Family and Parenting Support Services</b> - The local authority provides the support and resources to enable the PPS to provide an impartial and effective service and to be innovative and creative in doing so	

Table 1.

- 6.2 In selecting a focus for the review, Members are asked to consider areas which are priority outcomes for the city including those that are challenges for the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The above reviews would support the following priorities and challenges described in the LAA :

*‘Everyone in Sunderland will have the knowledge and skills needed to play their part in the city’s economic growth and to achieve individual prosperity’*

*‘Increase the number of adults who have qualifications in numeracy and relevant workplace skills ‘*

*‘Ensure that everyone has the knowledge and skills needed to play their role in economic growth to achieve individual prosperity.’<sup>1</sup>*

### **Priority Improvement Indicators**

**NI 161** Learners achieving a level 1 qualification in literacy,

**NI 162** Learners achieving an entry level 3 qualification in numeracy,

**NI 164** Working age population qualified to level 3 or higher,

**NI 117** 16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (Mandatory Indicator)

**NI 106** Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education (Mandatory Indicator)

- 6.3 Whichever topic is selected, the review will be framed around good commissioning which is about focusing a service around the needs of the user. To do this effectively, the service deliverer needs to establish what the likely demand for services is going to be; in other words, to understand the needs and aspirations of communities. Currently in Sunderland, within Children’s Services a comprehensive assessment of need is currently being prepared through analysis of demographic information and consultation with stakeholders. The written assessment of need is expected to be published in July 2009.
- 6.4 Members of the Committee can request a range of evidence and comparative information throughout the scrutiny review.
- 6.5 The Committee can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-

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<sup>1</sup> Sunderland Local Area Agreement 2008-11

- (a) Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning City, Executive Director and Heads of Service to ascertain how the Council's policies, strategies and procedures are currently used to establish need and meet demand;
- (b) Local residents;
- (c) Children, young people and family interest groups;
- (d) Partner organisations.

## **7. Proposed Timetable and Approach to Review**

7.1 It is proposed that the review be taken in two parts. Part 1 will be an investigation of a service with new or recently adopted commissioning arrangements. Part 2 will consider a more mature commissioning framework.

7.2 The following scheduled meetings will include evidence gathering for the review :

Setting the Scene	15 October 2009
Evidence Gathering – Part 1	12 November 2009
Evidence Gathering – Part 1	10 December 2009
Evidence Gathering – Part 1	11 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> or 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 (Extra Meeting TBC)
Evidence Gathering – Part 2	15 January 2010
Evidence Gathering – Part 2	12 February 2010
Consideration of Draft Final Report	12 March 2010
Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Committee	9 April 2010
Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet/Council (tentative date)	June 2010

7.3 Additional working group meetings may be necessary to complete the evidence gathering.

## **8. Scrutiny Budget**

8.1 The Scrutiny Committee has a delegated budget of £10,000 which can assist Members in key aspects of their policy review work. The budget allows the Committee to go on site visits, conduct surveys, commission research, call expert witnesses and hold public events as part of the ongoing evidence gathering process of the policy review. Consideration will need to be given, throughout the policy review, to any potential funding implications required to aid Members in their enquiry.

## **9. Community Engagement / Diversity and Equality**

- 9.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and paragraph 6.5 details who the Committee could involve. However, thought will need to be given to the structure in the way that the Committee wishes to encourage those views.
- 9.2 In addition, equality and diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this review under the Equality Standards for Local Government. As such the views of local diversity groups will be sought throughout the inquiry where felt appropriate and time allows.

## **10. Recommendation**

- 10.1 Members are recommended to
- (a) Select one service area from Column A, Table 1
  - (b) Select one service area from Column B, Table 1
  - (c) Agree to the proposed arrangements to conduct the review.

## **11. Background Papers**

Children and Young People's Plan 2009/10  
Sunderland Local Area Agreement 2008/11

## **12. Key Terms**

Commissioning – *'Commissioning is the cycle of assessing the needs of people in an area, designing and then securing appropriate services'* – Cabinet Office 2006

Prevention – *'Everyone working together to build the capacity of children, young people and their families, as well as their communities. This will be achieved through early intervention and accessible support, which will build resilience and their ability to manage the risks and take control of their lives.'*

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