

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

Legislating for Sure Start Children's Centres

The Government is consulting on proposals to give Sure Start Children's Centres (SSCCs) a specific statutory legal basis, as part of the forthcoming Education and Skills Bill. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to establish SSCCs as a legally recognised part of the universal infrastructure for children's services, so their provision becomes a long term statutory commitment and part of the established landscape of early years provision. The proposed new duties reflect current good practice as reflected in existing guidance issued from DCSF, rather than creating any new requirements on local authorities or other service providers.

Launch Date: 11 Sep 2008

Closing Date: 06 Nov 2008

Local Authority Performance Targets for Under Achieving Pupil Groups

This consultation is on a new model for LA statutory targets for under-achieving pupil groups. It would replace the current model based on all 17 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups, some of which outperform the overall cohort; but includes for the first time Free School Meals (FSM) pupils. The proposal would substantially reduce the performance management burden on LAs and provide a more robust process to drive up standards by encouraging the setting of meaningful targets.

Launch Date: 26 Aug 2008

Closing Date: 06 Oct 2008

Revised Statutory Guidance for local authorities in England to identify children not receiving a suitable education

This draft revised guidance aims to provide practitioners across all relevant agencies and the voluntary and community sector with information about how to implement the duty placed on local authorities by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to identify those children not receiving a suitable education. It will replace the current version of statutory guidance which was issued in 2007.

Launch Date: 07 Aug 2008

Closing Date: 24 Oct 2008