

## CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

### REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

#### Strategic Priorities: Learning City

#### **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

#### **Safeguarding Children from Sexual Exploitation**

This draft guidance aims to provide practitioners across all relevant agencies and the voluntary and community sector with information about different forms of sexual exploitation to help them identify and safeguard children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation, or who are being sexually exploited. It will replace the current guidance, Children Involved in Prostitution, issued in 2000 and will be supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children (HMG 2006).

**Launch Date:** 18 Jul 2008

**Closing Date:** 10 Oct 2008

#### **Draft Apprenticeships Bill**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) published the draft Apprenticeship Bill on 16 July. The draft Bill will establish a statutory basis for the Apprenticeships programme, to set out the relationship between different parts of the Apprenticeship system and ensure employers and apprentices can be confident that an Apprenticeship offers a high quality route to acquiring skills. The Bill will, for the first time, place duties on the Learning and Skills Council to secure sufficient and appropriate Apprenticeship places to fulfil the entitlement for each suitably qualified young person who wants one. The Bill describes the functions of the new National Apprenticeship Service and also includes a provision to ensure that young people in schools are fully informed about high quality vocational training opportunities. Both DCSF and DIUS Select Committees will scrutinise the Draft Apprenticeships Bill.

**Launch Date:** 17 Jul 2008

**Closing Date:** 08 Oct 2008

#### **Zero Carbon School Buildings**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has set out its ambition for new school buildings to be zero carbon from 2016, and has appointed a Task Force to advise on how this might be achieved. We are undertaking this Call for Evidence to gather ideas, information and experiences to inform the Task Force's early work.

**Launch Date:** 10 Jul 2008

**Closing Date:** 06 Oct 2008

#### **Delivering the Children's Plan - Strengthening Children's Trusts: legislative options**

Following on from the recent consultation on the Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts on the Duty to Cooperate, which closed on 26 June, this is a further call for views and advice from partners. This discussion document now proposes a number of changes to the current framework for Children's Trusts. This includes requiring all areas to have a Children and Young People's Plan, with extended ownership of the plan to all statutory partners; proposals to strengthen the statutory framework for Children and Young People's Plans through secondary legislation and further clarifying the required content of plans; extending the 'duty to cooperate' to other key partners; and establishing a stronger basis for Children's Trusts Boards.

**Launch Date:** 03 Jul 2008

**Closing Date:** 25 Sep 2008

### **Proposals for Revisions to Legislation for Schools Causing Concern**

This consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the legislation on schools causing concern. This consultation runs until 25 September 2008.

**Launch Date:** 03 Jul 2008

**Closing Date:** 25 Sep 2008

### **Schools' Role in Promoting Pupil Well-being - Draft Guidance for Consultation**

The 2006 Education and Inspections Act laid a duty on the governing bodies of maintained schools, primary, secondary, special and Pupil Referral Units, in discharging their functions relating to the conduct of the school, to promote the well-being of pupils at the school. The duty came in to effect in September 2007. Since that date, an equivalent requirement has been placed on new academies through their funding agreements. This consultation draft offers guidance on schools' role in promoting well-being and on the support they can expect from their local authority and other partners in the Children's Trust.

**Launch Date:** 03 Jul 2008

**Closing Date:** 25 Sep 2008

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **White Boys from Low-income Backgrounds: Good practice in schools**

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills  
Research Document – Published 22 July 2008

### **Carbon Emissions from Schools: Where they arise and how to reduce them**

Sustainable Development Commission  
Research Document Published 16 July 2008

This report quantifies for the first time the contribution of English schools to greenhouse gas emissions, and also offers scenarios for how these may change in the future.

### **Impact of Programme-led Apprenticeships**

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills  
Information Report published 18 July 2008

This survey report evaluates programme-led apprenticeships and their impact on improving participation and achievement. Programme-led apprenticeships provide an important alternative to the more traditional employer-led apprenticeship route for young people who have found it difficult to gain employment or for those who require an initial period of planned training before taking up employment.

### **Intensive Intervention Projects for Young People: Information and bidding guidance**

Department for Children, Schools and Families  
Information report published 18 July 2008

This document gives information and bidding guidance for intensive intervention projects, which target 1,000 of the most challenging young people every year using the 'triple track' approach and applying lessons from family intervention projects.