

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

Youth Alcohol Action Plan

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families; the Secretary of State for Health and the Home Secretary have launched a Youth Alcohol Action Plan. It outlines action on five fronts: (i) to stop young people drinking in public places; (ii) to take action with industry; (iii) to build a national consensus on young people and alcohol; (iv) to build a partnership with parents; and (v) to influence young people themselves. Views are sought on the proposals.

Launch Date: 02 Jun 2008

Closing Date: 07 Jul 2008

Fair Play - a consultation on the play strategy. A commitment in The Children's Plan

Proposals in the strategy aim to create strong communities which have a variety of places for children to play and in which they have a stake through their active involvement in design and decision making. Proposals will make public space more child-friendly through a variety of actions including placing a stronger focus on spaces for play in the planning system; training for people who design and manage public space; supporting local community ownership of space suitable for play; and supporting more positive relationships between adults and children in public space.

Launch Date: 03 Apr 2008

Closing Date: 18 Jul 2008

Launch Date: 20 May 2008

Closing Date: 18 Aug 2008

Consultation on proposals relating to the commencement of section 37 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 - staffing at foundation and voluntary schools with a religious character

This consultation seeks views on Government proposals relating to the commencement of section 37 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which relates to the staffing of faith schools. Responses are sought on the proposed draft amendments to the existing staffing guidance issued under sections 35(8) and 36(8) of the Education Act 2002 to reflect the above legislative changes.

Launch Date: 02 May 2008

Closing Date: 11 Jul 2008

Consultation on introducing provisional registration with the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) for trainee teachers, unqualified teachers and instructors

Qualified teachers in maintained schools in England undertaking specified work, which covers the activities they carry out in their teaching capacity like the planning

of lessons for pupils, are required to be registered with the GTCE. However, others carrying out specified work in schools or training as teachers are not required to be registered because they are not qualified teachers. This document sets out proposals to extend registration with the GTCE to these other groups, which includes trainee teachers, Overseas Trained Teachers not working towards Qualified Teacher Status and instructors. This would enable the Council to assess applicants for provisional registration for their eligibility and suitability to be teachers before registering them and they would also be subject to a code laying down standards of professional conduct and practice expected of teachers. This should enhance the professionalism of the wider teaching profession.

Launch Date: 02 May 2008

Closing Date: 27 Jun 2008

The CAMHS Review - Next Steps to Improving the Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health of Children and Young People. Call for Evidence

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Health have asked Jo Davidson (Chair) and Bob Jezzard (Vice-Chair) to lead an independent Review of CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). The Review will investigate how universal, targeted and specialist services can be improved to meet the needs of children and young people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, mental health problems. This consultation calls for evidence from all individuals, organisations and groups.

Launch Date: 14 Apr 2008

Closing Date: 07 Jul 2008

The Management of Building Schools for the Future waves 7 to 15

This consultation seeks views on a range of proposals for how waves 7 to 15 of Building Schools for the Future are managed, taking account of developments in government policy since the programme was first launched, and also the lessons learned from the early waves.

Launch Date: 09 Apr 2008

Closing Date: 04 Jul 2008

Assessing the Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing - A Call for Evidence (Interested parties version)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Culture Secretary have asked Professor David Buckingham to carry out an assessment of the impact of the commercial world on children's wellbeing. Academics, industry, NGOs and other stakeholders are invited to provide evidence to Professor David Buckingham.

Launch Date: 07 Apr 2008

Closing Date: 30 Jun 2008

Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts on the Duty to Cooperate

Statutory guidance for Children's Trusts on inter-agency cooperation to improve the well-being of children, young people, and their families.

Launch Date: 03 Apr 2008

Closing Date: 26 Jun 2008

The Future of Tobacco Control

The Cancer Reform Strategy 2007 announced the Government's intention to consult on the next steps in tobacco control and the further regulation of tobacco products, and to consult with stakeholders on measures to reduce the significant harm to health caused by smoking for those who are addicted to nicotine and not able to quit altogether. This consultation is the first step in developing a new national tobacco control strategy and covers four main areas including the protection of children and young people from smoking: reducing young people's access to tobacco, reducing exposure to tobacco promotion, and protecting children from secondhand smoke to prevent future generations suffering poor health caused by tobacco.

Launch date: 31 May 2008

Closing date: 8 September 2008

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Joint Birth Registration: Recording Responsibility (Published 2 June 2008)

DCSF and DWP jointly published the White Paper Joint Birth Registration: Recording Responsibility. It proposes changes to birth registration for unmarried parents to ensure that, wherever possible, both parents are named on a child's birth certificate.

Back on Track: A Strategy for modernising alternative provision for young people (Published May 2008)

This White Paper builds on the proposals in the Children's Plan, setting out a new strategy for transforming the quality of alternative provision for young people excluded from or unable to attend mainstream school.

Departmental Report 2008 (Published May 2008)

The DCSF's annual report sets out the Department's achievements in meeting its strategic objectives in 2007-08, and gives full expenditure details based on the resources allocated in the Spending Reviews.

Promoting achievement, valuing success: a strategy for 14–19 qualifications (Published March 2008)

Proposed curriculum and qualification reform to education provision for 14-19 year olds.

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