

## POLICY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

### REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

Strategic Priorities: CI03

#### **1. Why has this report come to the Committee?**

- 1.1 For the Review Committee to review previous policy review recommendations and outcomes arising from major research projects undertaken by the Committee.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 At the start of each Council year, Members of each Committee can choose a policy topic to look at in detail, maybe taking up to a year to evaluate service delivery and make recommendations. Policy review is one of the overarching purposes of scrutiny - to examine, to question and to evaluate in order to lead to improvement.
- 2.2 The in-depth investigation of particular areas of service delivery and talking to service users has been central to the role of members involved in scrutiny in Sunderland.

#### **3. Current position**

- 3.1 Policy review is the process of maintaining an overview of council policies and will usually examine whether the Council's intended policy outcomes have been achieved. The process will also explore issues such as the service user's perspective.
- 3.2 Policy reviews are project planned with appropriate methodology applied to investigate the chosen topic. This may include meetings, site visits, surveys, public meetings or analysis of comparative practice in other local authorities. For the review of multi-agency approaches to youth disorder carried out last year evidence was gathered at two specially convened evidence gathering sessions with a selection of witnesses at each session. Young people were also involved through semi-structured questioning by youth workers.
- 3.3 Other reviews carried out by this Committee have included school exclusion, boys' attainment, out of school hours learning, and community use of school buildings. All previous reviews are available at  
[www.sunderland.gov.uk/Public/editable/Themes/CityCouncil/corporate/review/reviewcommittees](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/Public/editable/Themes/CityCouncil/corporate/review/reviewcommittees)

- 3.4 The topic chosen for this year is Improving the Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health of Children & Young People. Draft terms of reference for the review are set out elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.6 The attached appendix includes every recommendation produced through policy review since the start of the work of the Review Committee in 2002.
- 3.7 All policy review recommendations as set out in the attached appendix were endorsed by Cabinet. The Review Committee monitored each set of recommendations for a time, usually for a year through six-monthly follow up reports.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Review Committee is asked to consider the previous policy review work of the Committee and assess the contribution to delivery of the Council's strategic policy objectives in these areas.

#### **5. Background Papers**

All Education Review Committee and Children's Services Review Committee Policy Review Final Reports.

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