

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

15 OCTOBER 2009

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND/OR DISABILITIES (LDD): A STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMATION 2009-2025**

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

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

- 1.1 This draft strategy is presented to Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee to inform them of the ongoing work to develop the Strategy for Children and Young People with Learning Difficulties and or Disabilities. The draft strategy has previously been presented to the Sunderland Children Trust in July and October 2009.
- 1.2 Members are asked to consider the strategy and to make any comments, which will be passed to the report author.

#### **2. Introduction/background**

- 2.1 The purpose of the strategy is to improve outcomes for children and young people who have a learning difficulty and/or disability (LDD) by setting out the strategic imperatives and identifying governance arrangements in order to transform services.
- 2.2 The draft strategy was open to consultation for four months during which time responses were received from numerous statutory and voluntary agencies and also from parent/carers groups and groups of children and young people.
- 2.3 The draft strategy has been extensively revised taking these consultation responses into account. This has particularly involved strengthening the content in relation to education and learning and the governance arrangements for the implementation of the strategy. A revised final draft has been produced which has been shortened by removing some of the detail, particularly in the appendices, so as to make the objectives clearer and more prominent.
- 2.4 In view of this substantial revision, the final draft has been re-circulated to partner agencies and parent groups for further comments, with a closing date of 31 October 2009.

### **3. Next steps**

- 3.1 Following the receipt of any further comments from partner agencies and parent groups the strategy will be finalised.
- 3.2 Arrangements are being put in place to implement the new governance arrangements and to produce an implementation plan for the strategy.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the strategy and make any comments which will be passed to the report author.

### **5. Appendices**

- 5.1 Appendix 1: The LDD Strategy “Children and Young people with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities: A Strategy for transformation 2009-2025”

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