

JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW: TRANSITION FROM LEAVING CARE TO ADULT LIFE

Report By: Head of Safeguarding and Assessment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider participating in a joint scrutiny review into the Transition from Leaving Care to Adult Life and consider its appointments to the Review Group.

Background

2. The issue was identified under "Every Child Matters". In its co-ordination role Strategic Monitoring Committee agreed that the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Committee would take the lead in undertaking a short piece of work, working with Members of this Committee, on the theme of: the exchange of information between schools and social workers, are the plans being put in place with the Council's partners working well in practice and is the Council fulfilling its Corporate Parenting role?
3. In October 2006 Children's Services Scrutiny Committee appointed Councillors G Lucas and JE Pemberton and Mrs D Strutt (Headteacher representative) to serve on the Review Group. The Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee appointed Councillors PA Andrews, J Hope MBE, JG Jarvis and Mr R Kelly (Voluntary Sector representative). Councillor JE Pemberton was appointed to Chair the review.
4. The initial theme was developed into a Scoping Statement for the review, which was reported to and agreed by both Committees in December 2006 as part of the work programme. The Scoping Statement identified the terms of reference as: to review the Council's approach to transition issues for looked after children with support needs from childhood to adult life; to investigate how improvements can be made to the transition process and following the review to advise the appropriate Cabinet Member(s) of the best policy to put in place to implement the improvements identified.
5. Both the Committees in March 2007 received a report setting out the membership of the Review Group, its terms of reference, desired outcomes and a report of its first meeting. A copy of the report by the Chairman of the Review Group (Councillor Mrs JE Pemberton) is attached at appendix 1. The report also highlighted a number of key themes for further exploration by the Review Group, which were noted by the Committees.
6. Both the Committees decided to note the report and agreed that the joint review be taken forward into the 2007/08 work programme. It was also agreed that it remain a joint review between the two Scrutiny Committees under the wider leadership of the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee and that a new Review Group be

established comprising membership from both Scrutiny Committees following 2007 Annual Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (a) the Committee notes the work undertaken so far and agree that the Scrutiny Review of Transition from Leaving Care to Adult Life continue under the leadership of the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee be the lead Committee;**
- (b) the Committee consider its appointments to the Review Group;**
- and**
- (c) the Chairman of the review be appointed following agreement between the Chairman of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and the Chairman of Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.