

EVERY CHILD MATTERS – TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE – SCRUTINY REVIEW

**Report By: Director of Children's Services and Director of
Adult and Community Services**

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider and agree an approach to a short Scrutiny exercise to look at the Council's approach to transition issues for looked after children with support needs from childhood into adult life.

Background

2. In considering the future work programme for Scrutiny Committees, the Strategic Monitoring Committee considered a discussion paper at its meeting on 26th June, 2006 outlining a number of possible items for the scrutiny programme over the next year.
3. One of the areas identified for further Scrutiny was the issue of Every Child Matters and in particular the transition from leaving care to adult life. It was suggested that the Scrutiny Review would look at the exchange of information between schools and Social Workers, to consider whether plans had been put in place with the Council's partners, how those would work in practice and to confirm that the Council was fulfilling its Corporate Parent role.
4. It was agreed that the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee would lead on this piece of work, working with Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. This Committee incorporated this work into its work programme on 26th July 2006.

Considerations

5. There are a whole range of potential outcomes for looked after children, some of whom will continue to have a special need or support needs but for many there are a whole range of other outcomes that would be appropriate. Issues that need to be considered include suitable housing, suitable individual person centred plans which consider employment and training and a whole range of other options which provide a full range of life opportunities for those individuals.
6. There is a useful guide to the education of looked after children and the role of Scrutiny Committees which has been produced by the Improvement and Development Agency. This provides some guidance on useful questions that might be used as part of the Scrutiny process.

7. In order to take this piece of work forward it is suggested that three Members are nominated from the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee to work alongside three nominated Members from the Children's Scrutiny Committee. The Sub-Committee formed should use the guidance from the IDEA as a framework for its work.
8. It is suggested that a short Scrutiny exercise could be conducted, focusing on one meeting where key partners are invited to give evidence. Support for this process will be provided by Shaun McLurg, Head of Safeguarding & Assessment Services, Children's & Young People's Directorate.

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (a) the Committee endorses the approach to the Scrutiny review set out in this report;**
- and**
- (b) three Members be nominated to serve on the Review Group.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None