

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

17 December 2008

SCRUTINY BOARD

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Scrutiny Board is due to meet on 9 December 2008 so this statement is being written ahead of that meeting.

Children and Young People's Service strategic issues

The Board will be welcoming County Councillors Caroline Patmore and John Watson and Cynthia Welbourn, Corporate Director of the Children and Young People's Service, to discuss the key strategic issues facing the directorate.

Scrutiny and Local Area Agreement Targets

The Board will be considering a report which will update the NYSP Executive on:

- Our Overview and Scrutiny Guidance including the information sheets for partners
- The North Yorkshire Scrutiny Network of scrutiny support officers which is now meeting regularly to share forward programmes and explore how overview and scrutiny can work better together across all eight councils
- Scrutiny of the outcomes of the Local Area Agreement (LAA)

There is strong support from all councils for using existing arrangements for scrutiny of LAA targets and so far as the County Council is concerned this involves:

- Quarterly Performance Monitoring meetings between Executive and Scrutiny Board which also includes performance data on LAA targets. (Reports are shared with District Councils and available on the NYCC website.)
- An annual 'Overview' report on the LAA to the Safe and Sustainable Overview and Scrutiny Committee to which District Councils will be invited.
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees monitor progress toward the LAA targets relevant to their remit, undertake in-depth reviews if required and invite participation from District Councils as appropriate.

A good example of this is the scrutiny review of flooding which is being co-ordinated by the County Council and involves Members from the County and each of the seven Districts.

Annual Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Each committee has produced a summary of its forward work programme for the year ahead. These set out the timescales for in depth scrutiny reviews and overview work. Together these form the full Overview and Scrutiny forward work programme for the County Council. This will be presented to the Executive at its next performance monitoring meeting with the Board on 17 February 2009. As ever, this should be seen a framework that can be amended as necessary to enable scrutiny to engage with emerging issues should they arise in the course of the year.

County Councillor Paul Richardson
Chairman of Scrutiny Board
8 December 2008