

EXECUTIVE MEMBER'S BRIEFING NOTES

for the Young Peoples' Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held Thursday 15th February 2007

Issues considered over the last annual quarter include:-

Joint Area Review an action plan to address the issues around Performance Indicators etc. has now been drawn up. Officers, managers and myself attended a excellent training day in January to start this process and address and understand these issues.

Government's Green Paper on Children Looked After. Consultation has taken place with all stakeholders, officers and young people and two comprehensive responses has been returned to the DfES, one from officers etc. and a second response from our LAC Group. I was pleased to attend the group just after Christmas to actually hear what they had to say and to meet the artist who helped to illustrate their findings. As usual it was an experience in itself.

North East Education Conference. Your chairman, spokesperson and I attended this conference in Preston in early January. Personally I found this very poor with one exception - the workshop on Looked After Children. As most authorities have now joined-up all their services for young people it would be helpful for a single conference to be held to inform us on the latest information on the delivery of all Children's needs, rather than requiring members and officers to attend a second conference only informing on care needs of children and adults.

Youth Offending Team. A mini local conference was held for all the partners involved. Not only was it a chance to get to know all the various people helping to improve and deliver this service in our County, but it was an excellent day to learn. Particularly outstanding was a presentation on Restorative Practice given by Sharon Inglis, an independent Consultation.

NY Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Board Meeting. The quarterly meeting took place last month and the purpose of the meeting was to bring all partners up to date with the various improvement plans etc. required after the JAR inspection and the YOT inspection. These were received by the Board.

Safeguarding Children's Board. This Board is made up of all our partner organisations, but it is a professional body. Nevertheless it falls within my portfolio so I have agreed that there will be an annual report which will be presented by the Executive Member responsible and also, with your Chairman's, agreement brought to this O/S Committee to enable you to monitor the work carried out within the year and make any comments.

Youth Service Plan 2006-2009. A report was presented to C&YPS Executive on the roll out of this service and a further report has been taken to

all the seven County Area Committees. It is too early to make any judgement on this service but the Directorate will continue to monitor it very closely.

Children & Young Peoples Plan. This is being continually updated and monitored.

SEN. A new leaflet has been circulated by Andrew Terry Assistant Director, informing all parents and carers of a new support service for young people with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD). This has been circulated around all schools and is available on demand. The SEN Review is now underway and I have requested that I am kept informed as the working is rolled out.

Transformation Agenda. This continues to exercise the minds of the directorate and is linked very much with the **Budget** and the pain the Directorate is going to have to suffer along with all others to enable NYCC to meet its targets next year. It is also very much at the forefront of the improvements we need to make in communication and information sharing.

Caroline Patmore 05.02.07