

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

11th September 2009

Overview and Scrutiny Guiding Principles for joint working between the councils in North Yorkshire, Councillor Calls for Action and Scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.

Purpose of Report

1. This report asks the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note:
 - a. The information in this report
 - b. The Scrutiny Guiding Principles attached as APPENDIX 1.
 - c. The Councillor Call for Action checklist and form attached as APPENDIX 2 .

Background

2. In June 2008 the lead scrutiny Members from the District, Borough and County Councils took part in an event to look at the enhanced powers for scrutiny and in particular the scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement. Members agreed that the best way forward was to develop a common sense approach to overview and scrutiny between the Councils. There was a clear message that Members did not want to see additional bureaucracy but the better sharing of information, learning and expertise between our councils. This led to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the development of the North Yorkshire Scrutiny Officer Network and the commitment to a partnership approach towards the implementation of the enhanced powers for scrutiny that the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 bring.

In an attempt to make the enhanced powers for scrutiny as easy to understand as possible the criteria and checklists included in the Guiding Principles document have been developed by the Scrutiny Officer Network and are proposed for use across the District, Borough and County Councils. Through working together and coordinating requests for information it is hoped that those partners subject to the new duty to co-operate will not feel overburdened but will welcome the opportunity to engage with the scrutiny process.

Scrutiny Guiding Principles

1. The Scrutiny Guiding Principles document attached at APPENDIX 1 is divided into 4 sections:

→ **Joint working**

Outlining the Councils' commitment to joint working based on good communication and sharing information and resources where possible.

→ **Criteria for Councillor Call for Action**

Providing a list of criteria, based upon those suggested by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, to be considered when a Councillor Call for Action is put forward for scrutiny.

→ **Scrutiny of crime and disorder matters**

It will be a proposal to full council that the committee designated to consider crime and disorder matters at the County Council will be the Safe and Sustainable Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and that a representative of the Police Authority will be co-opted onto that Committee.

→ **Joint Scrutiny Task Groups**

Offering guidelines for scrutiny task groups set up jointly between the District, Borough and/or County Councils.

Councillor Call for Action checklist and form

4. The checklist is designed to act as an aide memoir for Councillors when dealing with an issue brought to them by a member of the public. It may also be helpful in supporting (and providing background information for) any request for the issue to be taken forward as a Councillor Call for Action for consideration by an overview and scrutiny committee.

Scrutiny Board

5. When the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees met as the Scrutiny Board on 8th July 2009 Members agreed to support the use of the Scrutiny Guiding Principles by the County Council.

Recommendations

6. The Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
- a. note the information in this report
 - b. note the Scrutiny Guiding Principles attached as APPENDIX 1.
 - c. Note the Councillor Call for Action checklist and form attached as APPENDIX 2.

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Background Documents: None

APPENDICES: APPENDIX 1 Scrutiny Guiding Principles
APPENDIX 2 Checklist & form