

BRIEFING NOTE

Agenda Item 7

TO: Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel
DATE: 24 July 2008

RE: AGREEMENT OF WORKING GROUPS FOR 2008/09

Purpose

This briefing note sets out the details of the two working groups run by the Panel during the 2007/08 Municipal year. Members are asked to recommend whether the working groups should continue during 2008/09 and the Membership of each group.

Working Groups

During the 2007/08 Municipal year, the Panel ran two working groups, Positive Activities and Property Services. Details of the working groups are given below:

Positive Activities Working Group

Membership included Councillor's Chambers, Hughes and Martin

The Positive Activities Working Group was formed during the 2007/08 municipal year in response to the Council motion of 8 January 2007 to consider the duty to secure access for young people to positive activities and to investigate the provision for positive activities available to different age groups

The focus of the working group is as follows:

- The existing youth offer
- Mindful of the engagement of vulnerable groups LAC, C&YP with learning and physical disabilities
- Current compliance with legislation (Education Act 2006, 10 year Aiming High strategy, Youth Task Force)

The outcome from this group will be a response to the original council motion following a thorough investigation into the current youth offer. This response will be completed by December 2009 and will be presented to the full panel within this timescale.

Property Services Working Group

Membership included Councillor's Cassidy, Bird and E.E. Pitt

The Property Services Working Group was formed in the 2007/08 municipal year, as Members felt that it should be ensured that the Council was achieving value for money (VFM) in its investments. The remit of the working group is to consider property services, and buildings within education premises, and children's services. The objectives of the working group are as follows:

- To ensure that the Council has a process in place that ensures that the council achieves value for money in the procurement of building work for children's services
- An independent quantity surveyor ensures that the bidding process is fair and equal for all bidders.
- To ensure that processes are in place to allow major work to be done during the school closure period

- To improve communication between the estates and asset management office and elected members
- To receive update on capital programmes for major works in schools

At the meeting of the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 17 April 2008, Members of the working group stated that they wished to carry the working group over into the 2008/09 municipal year. Members agreed that they would like to look at Joseph Leckie School as part of the groups work programme for next year and to continue to receive updates on the project register and capital programmes.

Recommendations

That:

- 1) Members agree the working groups to operate during the 2008/09 municipal year
- 2) Members agree the membership of the working groups

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