



Scrutiny Management Committee

20 November 2006

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Update on Work of Education Scrutiny Committee

Summary

1. The Education Scrutiny Committee's final report on the Extended School service in York has already been considered by the Executive. Members of the Education Scrutiny Committee are now considering home-to-school transport contracts and how pupil safety can be maximised. They are also interested in the role and training of school governors and expect to carry out work in this area in 2007. The Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee will be attending the meeting to update Members on and answer any questions relating to the Committee's work.

Background

2. At their meeting on 12 September 2006 the Executive agreed the recommendations of the Education Scrutiny Committee in their final report on the Extended School Service in York. This concentrated on primary schools and the decisions will result in extended school provision being developed in accordance with community needs, community activities being supported in schools by the introduction of a more flexible lettings policy and support and training being delivered to update the knowledge and skills of staff and governors. Free provision for children may be extended and parenting support improved if the pathfinder bids that this report recommended Council applies for are successful.
3. The Committee are now reviewing the home-to-school transport service. This is concentrating on primary schools and will examine the implications of introducing seat belts onto all buses which transport pupils to primary schools in York. Discussions will take place with contractors and enquiries will be made of other local authorities as to how they introduced them, including the issue of how to ensure that children wear the safety belts when they are provided.
4. The Committee has an outstanding Scrutiny topic on the role of school governors. It is hoped that this will be progressed early in 2007 when the officers in Children's Services have more capacity to support it. Prior to this it is expected that information on changes to the role of school governors will soon be presented to a meeting of Children's Services EMAP.

Consultation

5. Members of the Education Scrutiny Committee have been in close consultation with the Early Years team in order to complete their successful scrutiny of the Extended Schools service. They are now working with the Education Access team to progress their review of school transport and will be consulting externally as detailed above.

Options

6. Members may receive this report and ask any relevant questions of the Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Analysis

7. The Education Scrutiny Committee is one of only two standing Scrutiny Committees and its work so far has resulted in decisions which will lead to improvements in community provision in schools and the services offered to primary age children. Members of this committee are managing their workload so that they can deliver clear and positive recommendations that can make measurable improvements in a short period of time.

Corporate Priorities

8. The report is relevant to Corporate Priority 5 – Increase people’s skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects and Corporate Priority 7 - Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.

Implications

9. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

10. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to receive the report on the progress of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Reason: in order to meet the delegated authority of Scrutiny Management Committee as defined in CYC’s constitution.

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Report Approved

Date

10.1106

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

None

Background Papers

None