

## Scrutiny Panel – Children and Young People Annual Review and Work Programme – 2003/2004

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The City of Edinburgh Council

June 2003

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide the Council with a progress report on the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel in 2002/2003.
- 1.2 To recommend a work programme for 2003/2004.

### 2 Main report

- 2.1 On 21 February 2002, the Council requested that all Scrutiny Panels submit a report to the Council detailing the progress of their work and outlining a work programme on an annual basis.
- 2.2 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel's work programme for 2002/2003 was approved by the City of Edinburgh Council on 27 June 2002.
- 2.3 The Panel has met on seven occasions between 1 August 2002 and 30 January 2003.

#### Called-In Items

- 2.4 Over this period, the Panel has given consideration to seven called-in items. These were:
  - Annual Review of the Social Work Department – Client Services and Complaints (1 August 2002);
  - Annual Report of the Edinburgh and the Lothians Child Protection Committee (26.09.02);
  - Firrhill Campus Development – Oxfgangs, Graysmill and Willowpark (24.10.02);
  - ICT Study Tour – USA Trip (19.12.02);
  - Investing in Education – Public Private Partnership 2 (19.12.02);

- Social Work Department – Review of Operations (30.01.03);
- Investing in Education – Public Private Partnership – Howdenhall Secure Unit (30.01.03).

### **Work Programme: Commissioned Reviews**

2.5 Three of the commissioned reviews notified in the report to Council of 27 June 2002 have been completed:

- Services for Children with Special Educational Needs;
- Needs of Gifted Children (mini-review);
- Education System in Edinburgh (following the McCrone Report).

2.6 The review – Comprehensive Education in Edinburgh – due to commence in May 2003, is scheduled for completion by December 2003. The commencement was delayed by the local authority elections.

### **Services for Children with Special Educational Needs**

2.7 The Scrutiny Panel completed this review and produced a report in August 2002. The purpose of the review was:

- To ensure the Panel were informed about the special educational needs of children with learning difficulties, physical disabilities, and/or challenging behaviours.
- Be fully informed about the current services for children with special educational needs.
- Examine the efficacy of the partnerships existing – ie, partnerships with parents, the Health Board, the voluntary and private sectors.
- Be fully informed about the research evidence in the field of special education, including any evidence that suggests an alternative to the current approach taken.
- Hear the views of children with special educational needs and their families on the service they receive from the Council.

2.8 The Scrutiny Panel's report outlined six main conclusions, including commending the Council's revised draft policy for special educational needs as a "positive and balanced response to the key issues for the future of children with special educational needs in the City".

### **Education System in Edinburgh (following the McCrone Report)**

- 2.9 In May 2000, the report of the McCrone Inquiry into professional conditions of service for teachers was published. The Panel agreed to consider the implications of the McCrone Inquiry as part of its work programme for 2002/2003.
- 2.10 The Panel's consideration of this matter led to the Director of Education undertaking to include four matters in future reports to the Executive of the Council:
- The issue of guidance.
  - Progress on job sizing and parental involvement with the management structure of schools.
  - The trend with regard to professional development of teachers across the authority.
  - The impact of the non-teaching resources in schools.

### **Needs of Gifted Children (Mini-Review)**

- 2.11 In considering the review of children with special educational needs, the Panel agreed to identify one session for the purpose of a linked "mini-review" on the needs of gifted children. The Panel discussed this matter on 21 November 2002. Following the discussion, the Panel noted that the Director of Education agreed to include the following in future reports to the Executive of the Council:
- Evidence that the policy framework for gifted and talented pupils was being applied throughout schools in the City and that schools were being encouraged to participate.
  - That strategies were in place to support parents of a gifted child, particularly in deprived areas of the City.
  - Progress on the development of individual educational programmes for gifted children.

### **Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2003/2004**

- 2.12 Following the Council elections on 1 May 2003, the newly-convened Panel met on 5 June and agreed its work programme would include:
- A review of the implementation of the Edinburgh Inquiry;
  - A review of comprehensive Education in Edinburgh.

These reviews would be taken in the above order. The work programme will also incorporate any further reports that members of the Panel may wish to bring forward.

### **Previous Scrutiny Panel**

2.13 The work of the previous Scrutiny Panel was noted at the meeting on 5 June and particular thanks were expressed to the previous Convener, Councillor Elizabeth Maginnis.

### **3 Recommendations**

3.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- note the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel's work during 2002/2003;
- note that a full work programme for the coming year will be provided to the Council, once agreed by the newly-convened Scrutiny Panel.
- note the expression of thanks to the previous Convener, Councillor Maginnis.

**TOM PONTON**  
Convener

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<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Contact/tel</b>	Duncan Macaulay, Head of Operations, Social Work Department (Tel: 0131 553 8289)
<b>Wards affected</b>	City wide
<b>Background Papers</b>	None