

Select Committee on Children's Services – 26 March 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Update on Topical Issues

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of recent and forthcoming issues pertaining to the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

Background

2. **The Green Paper "Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver"**

The Green Paper was published on 17 March 2008 and opens a twelve week consultation on the arrangements for transferring responsibility of 16-19 education and training from the LSC to local authorities. Revenue funding of £7bn will be transferred to local authorities. The key elements of the consultation relates to collaborative arrangements between local authorities at a sub-regional and regional level.

3. **Building Schools for the Future**

Following correspondence with the DCSF and Partnerships for Schools, we are now preparing a "Readiness to Deliver" statement for 11 April 2008, with a view to early inclusion in the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

4. **Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme**

The LSC has extended the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme resource for September 2008. Dudley was asked to bid and have been informed by the LSC (some regional moderation remains to be undertaken) that we have been successful. Pending the moderation we should receive £225,000 for the academic year 2008/09 to support

the delivery of a programme for 150 Key Stage 4 learners from across the borough. The programme is designed to offer two day placements for learners at risk of disengagement. The funding will enable provision to be offered to schools at a discounted cost and allow central resource to manage the project.

Finance

5. There are no specific financial implications of this report.

Law

6. The Council's children's function is governed principally by the Education and Children's Acts.

Equality Impact

7. The matters raised in this report relate to services for children and young people. Later reports will consider the specific equality implications.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the report be noted.



.....
John Freeman
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: John Freeman

Telephone: 01384 814200

E-mail: john.freeman@dudley.gov.uk