

Select Committee on Children's Services – 23 January 2008

**Joint Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and
Director of Children's Services**

Respect Agenda

Purpose of Report

1. To respond to the request from members of this Select Committee to be updated on progress with regard to the Respect Agenda.

Background

2. Attached as Appendix A is a copy of the Cabinet Report of 31st October 2007. Reference is made particularly to sections 7, 8 and 9 which identify the 5 priorities that were agreed by Cabinet together with the respective Lead Officers. All activities within the 5 priority areas are intended to focus on innovative ways of encouraging people to make positive changes to their patterns of behaviour.
3. The Respect Agenda as framed in the Cabinet Report will be translated through to the Local Area Agreement to ensure that the high profile is retained in the Borough.
4. The Respect Agenda will be progressed and monitored in a number of ways.
 - a. A Respect Steering Group lead by the Authority's champions John Freeman (Director of Children's Services) and Linda Sanders (Director of Adult, Community & Housing Services)
 - b. The Safe & Sound Partnership.
 - c. As agreed by Cabinet through reporting arrangements through the respective Select Committees.
 - d. Cabinet to receive an evaluation report in 12 month's time.
5. Members are asked to note that the Respect Task Force based in the Home Office has been disbanded with the Respect Agenda being transferred to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (the Secretary of State being Ed Balls).

Although the full effect of this transfer has yet to be fully evaluated it is known that the emphasis will be on young people. It is intended that the Agenda will be less 'enforcement' based with a greater emphasis on supporting young people and changing patterns of behaviour through our communities. Even with this change of emphasis this Authority's 5 priority areas remain 'fit for purpose'.

Finance

6. The government is funding the post of the Senior Parenting Practitioner for 2007/08 to 2010/11 amounting to £50,000 per year.
7. There is no direct funding linked to the Respect Agenda or Action Plan. Projects and initiatives have to be funded from existing budgets.

Law

8. The Respect Agenda and Action Plan built on the Government's drive to tackle anti-social behaviour. Although not legislation in its own right it promotes the use of existing powers such as those contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

Equality Impact

9. "Respect is about Government, local agencies, local communities and ultimately every citizen working together to build a society in which we can respect on another – where anti-social behaviour is rare and tackled effectively, and communities can live in peace together" Respect website.
10. The outcome should impact on the more vulnerable in society and help Dudley become an even better place to live in.

Recommendation

11. Members are asked to note the comments of this report.



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John Freeman
Director of Children's Services



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Linda Sanders
Director of Adult, Community & Housing Services

Contact Officer: Diane Channings, Assistant Director (Housing Management)
Telephone: 01384 815063
Email: diane.channings@dudley.gov.uk