Report of Children Services Bodies
Held 1 November 2007 to 31 December 2007

COUNCIL **Date 17 January 2008**

Purpose

- To report issues considered by Children Services Bodies held 1 November 2007 to 31 December 2007.

1. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD

1.1 Meeting of 29 November 2007:

a) Policy on Positive Handling and the Use of Reasonable Force
Members commented and proposed small revisions to the proposed policy and recommended the Council to adopt the revised version.

b) The Annual Report of the Youth Service
The Board was pleased to note the significant improvements that had taken place and congratulated all those involved with the Youth Service on their achievements.

c) School Balances 2006-07
This report had previously been submitted to the Schools Forum and members noted the Forum's recommendation that schools holding surplus balances may retain those balances for the purposes reported to the Local Authority prior to the commencement of the financial year.

d) Annual Performance Assessment
Details of Ofsted's overall scores for Children Services were provided and the Board noted the inconsistency in the results. It thanked all staff for their work throughout the year as it was acknowledged that the results did not reflect the improvements made.

2. SCHOOLS FORUM

2.1 Meeting of 1 November 2007:

(a) Appointment of Chair
Lauren Connor (Primary Headteacher) was appointed Chair of the Forum following the resignation of Peter Wells.

(b) Primary School Places
The changes to the arrangements for admission to reception, where the parent decides to defer admission until Term 5 were noted. It was also agreed that the Admissions Manager would contact all headteachers to further the consultation on admissions for September 2009.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from
Sarah Lawrence, Committee and Member Services on Direct Dial No. 463603 or Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk or Helen Harris, Committee and Member Services on Direct Dial No. 463604 or Email hharris@swindon.gov.uk

(c) Consultation on Possible Changes to Discretionary School Transport in West Swindon
Following a discussion of the proposals and the consultation process, the Forum agreed to support the proposal to withdraw the discretionary free transport to The Ridgeway and Bradon Forest Schools for pupils in West Swindon, to be effective for new pupils from September 2009.

(d) Swindon Schools Asset Management Plan Project
Councillor Nick Martin attended for this item to hear that the Forum considered that maintenance of the SScAMP database should be funded by the Council, as the landlord, and not from the schools' budget. SScAMP was a significant improvement on the previous system used and in view of the money invested in it so far, there was an urgent need to ensure that it was maintained and updated. Councillor Martin noted the Forum's views and agreed to feed them in to the review of the Council's asset management systems that was currently being undertaken.

(e) Schools' Devolved Formula Capital - Approval Process - Proposed Changes from 2008/09
The Forum endorsed the proposed new arrangements for the use of schools' Devolved Formula Capital to be introduced from 2008/09.

(f) School Balances 2006-07
Members agreed that schools holding surplus balances could retain those balances, to be used for the purposes reported to the Local Authority prior to the start of the financial year.

(g) Schools Block Budget Monitoring 2007/8
The latest budget monitoring information was noted and the Group Director was requested to continue rigorous monitoring of the Schools Block budget and to submit further monitoring reports to future meetings.

(h) Schools Block Contingency 2007-08
Members considered submissions for additional funding from Abbey Meads, Haydon Wick and Bridlewood Primary Schools and decided that none of the applications should be approved. It was agreed that the Forum sub-group would meet with officers to investigate ways of introducing suitable mechanisms to ensure that schools received appropriate funding during periods of both expansion and contraction in pupil numbers.

(i) School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding 2008-2011
The Forum considered the sub-group's proposals regarding amendments to the Swindon Scheme of Delegation, Finance Regulations for Schools and the Swindon Funding Formula 2008-2011. All but two of the recommendations were agreed and the sub-group was asked to reconsider certain aspects of

these two proposals. The sub-group was also requested to carry out a review of the Forum's membership in the light of new regulations, with the revised membership to be in place from 1 April 2008.

(j) Early years Update
Karen Murray (Finance Manager Children Services) informed members that a full report would be submitted to the January meeting on the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) provision of funding for an additional two and a half hours early years provision.

(k) Next Meeting
Steve Flavin (Secondary Headteacher) requested that an item on the crisis surrounding Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks come to the next meeting, which was on 22 January 2008.

3. CHILDREN'S JOINT COMMISSIONING BOARD
3.1 Meeting of 21 November 2007

a) Appointment of Co-optees
It was agreed that the Director of Strategy and Commissioning (Children Services) would approach the Local Area Agreement Strategic Board to seek representation from each partnership.

b) Monitoring of the Local Area Agreement and Children and Young People's Plan
The Board considered management actions in relation to areas identified as red/amber in the Children and Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement.

c) Developing Priorities for the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 and Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011
The Director of Strategy and Commissioning (Children Services) was authorised to take priorities identified by the Board for the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 and Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 to the Children's Trust Performance Review Group in negotiation with the Government Office of the South West.

d) Delivering Better Health and Better Services – National Health Services Act 2006 Section 75 Agreements
The Board received a report on the detailed arrangements of the development of a Section 75 Agreement under the National Health Services Act 2006 in relation to the joint commissioning of services between Swindon Borough Council and Swindon Primary Care Trust.

- Reports for all Children and Young People Committees and the related Minutes are available in full on the Committee and Member Information Pages of the

Council's Intranet and Website (www.swindon.gov.uk) or on request from Committee and Member Services.

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