

Briefing Paper for the Performance Scrutiny Committee

Children and Young Person`s Champion 1st Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

Following my appointment as Children and Younger People's Champion by Annual Council in May 2006, the first task was to draw up a role description in discussions with the Leader and officers.

My appointment coincided with the introduction of a duty on District Councils to contribute to the Every Child Matters Agenda

Four areas of work were identified. The role has no formal powers or budget but has the ability to be involved with/ lead on :-

CELEBRATION

CONTRIBUTION

CHALLENGE

CONSULTATION

CELEBRATION

Actions

- encouraging press to promote Children and Young People (C&YP) achievements
- congratulating positive contributions of C&YP to community, councillors and council
- promoting youth issues in the wider community eg Youth Matters
- promoting extended school services, children centres, our forty-four schools
- celebrating healthy school status

CONTRIBUTION

Actions

- meet with Every Child Matters(ECM) lead officer, at first bi-monthly , now monthly and with the Chief Executive on a six- monthly basis
- full membership of Education theme group LSP
 - C&YP Issues Network
 - Youth Housing Support Group
 - Youth Strategy Steering Group
 - Maden Children`s Centre

- involvement with the Rossendale`s C&YP Strategy
- contribution to Lancashire Local working group on school attendance
- contribution to Lancashire Local working group on ECM priorities for Rossendale
- contribution to RBC response to Children`s Trust arrangements
- meeting with Audit Commission on ECM issues
- co-ordinating with other Champions in the Lancashire Districts
- civic pride – eg Mini Mayor competition
- play and open spaces strategy for RBC

CHALLENGE

Actions

- ongoing challenge to RBC – every service now contributes to the Every Child Matters Agenda and is contained in all business plans
- ongoing challenge to county to provide the best services for Rossendale Children and Younger People
- ongoing challenge to young people
 - involvement in activities, behaviour, recycling, school attendance, community work etc
- challenge to Leisure Trust and Greenvale Homes to provide a rich range of facilities and activities for C&YP

CONSULTATION

Actions

- listening to young people
- involvement with Youth Council
- development of Democracy Week
- question time with sixth formers

PRIORITIES for 2007/8

- Contribution towards a democratic offer to schools by RBC
- Monitoring the introduction of Children`s Trust arrangements for Rossendale
- Moving towards greater input of young people in the work of RBC
- Celebrating the enormous contribution of C&YP to life in Rossendale

PROGRESS

Congratulations to RBC for its contribution to the Every Child Matters which was judged to be `good` and an exemplar to the other District Councils by the Audit Commission earlier this year.

THANKS

I wish to place on record my thanks to members and officers of RBC for their support during the past year. Thanks must also be extended to the young people of Rossendale for their honest views and continued challenge for me to do my best.

Councillor Brian Essex