

**Select Committee on Children's Services – 23 January 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 Children's Plan**

In December, the DCSF published the Children's Plan, which is a major document setting out government's priorities for children and young people for the next ten years. The Children's Plan gives a great deal of detail, and a summary will be circulated when available.

3. **The Black Country Challenge**

The Black Country Challenge is due to start fully on 1 April, and preparations are well underway. Significant work is being funded in preparation for the main programme. A full update will be circulated when available.

4. **The Children and Young Person's Bill**

This Bill is presently before Parliament and is concerned with giving legislative force to 'Care Matters', which focused on improving outcomes for children in care.

5. **The Learning and Skills Bill**

This Bill is presently before Parliament and is concerned with a range of measures to increase participation and improve outcomes for

learners after the age of 16. The compulsory participation age will be raised to 17 in 2011 and 18 in 2013.

**Finance**

- 6. There are no specific financial implications of this report.

**Law**

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

**Equality Impact**

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

**Recommendation**

- 9. It is recommended that the report be noted.



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