



REPORT TO: SMARTER STRATEGIC GROUP – 4th SEPTEMBER, 2008

SUBJECT: ROLE & REMIT OF THE SMARTER STRATEGIC GROUP

BY: MORAY COUNCIL, CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Smarter Strategic Group is asked to agree the role and remit for this group.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Smarter Strategic Group is asked to agree the role and remit for this group.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Smarter theme covers the following key areas of activity – early years' development, support for vulnerable young people, educational attainment and achievement and lifelong learning.

3.2 The previous Community Planning Theme Group, the Children and Young People's Partnership, covered all of these areas, with the exception of lifelong learning, which came under Building Stronger Communities. There are also a range of strategies currently being taken forward, including the Integrated Service Plan for Children and Young People, Lifelong Learning Strategy, Youth Strategy, Youth Justice Strategy and the Parenting Strategy.

3.3 In addition, the Group will be working within the context of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA), which is outlined below.

3.4 Following the Community Planning Board meeting on 29 May 2008, it was agreed that the Smarter Strategic Group delivers the following national outcomes from the SOA. The outcomes are:

3. *We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.*
4. *Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.*
5. *Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.*
8. *We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.*

3.5 The relevant SOA outcomes are attached **(Appendix 1)**.

3.6 Role of the Smarter Strategic Group

3.6.1 SOA – to deliver and monitor the actions within the four SOA outcomes remitted to this Group.

3.6.2 Skills Development - to address skills development and work-based training opportunities, as detailed in the Lifelong Learning Strategy.

3.6.3 Attainment and Achievement – to focus on increasing educational attainment and achievement as set out in the Curriculum for Excellence.

3.6.4 Early Years' Development – to address issues around early years' development, as detailed in the Government's Early Years Strategy.

3.6.5 Active Citizenship – to focus on promoting active citizenship as set out in the Curriculum for Excellence and the Youth Strategy.

3.6.6 Support for Vulnerable Children and Young People – to address issues around support for vulnerable children and young people, as set out in the Integrated Service Plan for Children and Young People, Child Protection Business Plan (2008/09), Parenting Strategy and Youth Justice Strategy.

3.6.7 Overall - to address the cross-cutting issues, shared priorities and actions to support the individual strategies, listed in 3.2.

3.6.8 General – to promote good practice within the areas covered by this theme.

3.6.9 General – to approach problem solving through thinking and working laterally.

3.7 Remit of the Smarter Theme Groups

The remit of the Groups, which is common to all the Community Planning Theme Groups is as follows:

Strategic

- Identify the theme groups' focus and priorities, referenced to the Community Planning Partnership strategic priorities, outlining the steps to meeting these priorities and committing the necessary resources
- Evaluate performance, holding each other to account and supporting problem solving with the Partnership
- Complete strategic assessment for theme – review annually

Co-ordinating

- Target resources effectively to deliver priorities
- Ensure overall delivery and monitoring of the priorities target intervention and actions based on evidence based data
- Evaluate impact of intervention of action based on evidence
- Compile focused assessments to consider specific problems relating to agreed priorities including any specific changes and predictions for the next period identify any new issues; progress made in relation to the current problem solving activity; and identify any potential resource requirement

Operational

- Management meetings – cross partner
- Topic based group – to deliver specifically against on of the activities or issues identified by the Co-ordinating Group

3.8 In respect of the membership of the Coordinating Group, it is proposed that this comprises the previous members of the Children and Young People's Partnership (CHYP) Implementation Group and that additional members are invited to join the Group, once the strategic priorities for the Smarter theme have been identified. The Working Framework of the ChYPP is attached (Appendix 2) for reference.

3.9 In respect of Operational Groups, it is proposed that this Group gives authority to the Coordinating Group to set up appropriate mechanisms to deliver the theme priorities.

3.10 Reporting mechanisms for this Strategic Group will be through the Community Planning Board and the respective partners' meetings. For the Council, this will be the Children and Young People's Committee.

Author of Report:

Background Papers:

1. **SOA National Outcomes 3,4,5 and 8**
2. **ChYPP Working Framework**

Ref: