



REPORT TO: SMARTER STRATEGIC GROUP – 27 NOVEMBER 2008

SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ROLE & REMIT OF THE SMARTER GROUP

BY: JOHN CARNEY, HEAD OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 At the Smarter Group meeting on 4 September 2008 the role and remit of the Group was discussed. It was agreed that for the November meeting 'more detail and clarification of the role and topics' would be provided. This report addresses this issue following discussion at the Smarter Co-ordinating Group on 12 November 2008.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Group notes the progress made by the Co-ordination Group in seeking to describe more clearly the Terms of Reference, Role and Remit of the Smarter Theme Group and the Co-ordination Group itself.
- 2.2 Further the Group is asked to consider recommendations made by the Co-ordinating Group regarding the composition of the Smarter Strategic Group.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Work was undertaken in refining details presented in two reports to the 4 September 2008 Smarter Group meeting entitled 'Partnership Agreement' and 'Role and Remit of the Smarter Strategic Group'.
- 3.2 The Co-ordinating Group noted that the terms of reference of the Smarter Theme Group is to assume responsibility for four national outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and to make a contribution to the achievement of other national and local outcomes within the SOA that impact on its role and remit.

The four National Outcomes are:-

National Outcome 3 – We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.

National Outcome 4 – Our young people are successful learners, confidential individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

National Outcome 5 – Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

National Outcome 8 – We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

- 3.3 The Co-ordinating Group suggests consolidating the remit of the Smarter Group into the following headings:-
- Getting it Right for Every Child – children and young people to receive the help they need when they need it (with particular reference to early intervention).
 - Early years development – as detailed in the Government's Early Years Strategy.
 - Child Protection – to ensure that everyone is involved in the protection of children.
 - Curriculum for Excellence – the development of children in line with the four capacities and focusing on attainment and achievement.
 - Transition – through key childhood stages and to adulthood.
 - Youth Strategy – including the focus on active citizenship.
 - More Choices More Chances – to improve outcomes for more disadvantaged young people.
 - Lifelong Learning Strategy, including Community Learning & Development Strategy – skills development, work based training and educational opportunities.
 - Parenting Strategy – to promote positive parenting, including corporate parenting of looked-after children.
 - Development of research and development – to focus on growth sectors and areas of strength in Moray.
- 3.4 The Co-ordinating Group then considered its role in relation to the areas of activity outline above. It's suggestion is as follows:-
- to review plans and strategies listed above in relation to the four National Outcomes and seek to strengthen them and ensure their positive contribution to outcome indicators. This may include recommendation on the more effective targeting of resources.
 - to identify areas for specific assessment relating to improving outcomes and then consider evidence and make suitable recommendations.
 - to ensure plans and strategies take full cognisance of service users experiences in their development and review.
 - to make defined contributions to the achievement of other National and Local Outcomes within the SOA.
- 3.5 The Co-ordinating Group will consider (at its next meeting) the relationship with the Theme Group and the role of commissioned groups in progressing the remit.

3.6 The Co-ordination Group has the following membership:-

John Carney, Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services
Richard Donald, Acting Head of Educational Support Services
John Ferguson, Community Planning & Development
Doug Mackenzie, Grampian Police
Chris Wiles, Rowan Centre
Anne Lindsay, Moray College
John Hammond, Reporter
April Charlesworth, Moray Carers
Ian Wood, Aberlour Child Care Trust
Sean Coady, NHS
Susan Chalmers, Skills Development Scotland [Careers Scotland]
Graham Jarvis, Community Development
Wendy Jamieson, Local Community Network Manager

It intends to seek representation from HIE Moray to strengthen capacity regarding National Outcome 3.

3.7 The Co-ordinating Group also recommended strengthening representation at the Smarter Theme Group to include:-

- a voluntary sector representative given their particular contribution made to children and young people's services.
- a representative from Grampian Health Board to offer both Moray and Grampian Health representation.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Smarter Theme Group is asked to note the work of the Co-ordinating Group on role and remit and consider recommendations on representation at Group meetings.

Author of Report: John Carney
Background Papers: with author
Ref: HB522894

Signature: _____

Date : 14 December 2008

Designation: Head of Children & Families
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