



REPORT TO: SMARTER STRATEGIC GROUP – 27 NOVEMBER 2008.

SUBJECT: SMARTER STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT - 2007/08.

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report present the first Strategic Assessment for the Smarter Theme, which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner organisations and to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **The Smarter Strategic Group is asked to note the current Strategic Assessment for the Smarter Theme, which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner organisations and to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The new concordat with the Scottish Government saw a change in how the Community Planning Partnership would be funded and consequently a shift towards new governance and accountability within the Partnership. Community Planning is now undertaking a new business model approach.

3.2 Based on evidence gathered from all agencies Moray and Grampian wide, it was designed to support strategic decision making in relation to managing risks, setting priorities and allocating resources. It aims to assist in not only setting but also achieving the outcomes and objectives of the Strategic Group, The Moray Council Administration and the Scottish Government. The document will detail the current picture in Moray highlighting any emerging pictures and trends.

- 3.3 The Strategic Assessment is focused on four main areas:-
- i) We are better educated, more skilled and more successful learners
 - ii) Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
 - iii) Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
 - iv) We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk
- 3.4 The Strategic Assessment will form the basis of a wider consultation to develop strategic priorities for action. These will need to consider:-
- i) Morays working age population is generally less qualified than the rest of Scotland
 - ii) An increasing number of school leavers in Moray go on to employment rather than higher education
 - iii) A higher than average unauthorised absence at secondary level
 - iv) Addressing underachievement in attainment in S5 / S6
 - v) Reviewing system, which recognises wider achievement
 - vi) Developing the involvement of pupils in environmental and cultural initiatives
 - vii) Reducing further the level of child poverty in Moray
 - viii) Reviewing youth intervention initiatives
 - ix) Reducing the number of out of area placements
 - x) Looked after children leaving school have significantly higher attainment than the national average

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

The “Smarter” theme group of the Community Planning Partnership covers a wide range of issues, which includes Education, Adult Learning, Research and Children and Families.

The Corporate Development Plan of The Moray Council, The Moray College Development Plan, HIE Strategy all have actions which support some of the recommendations in the Strategic Assessment.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Moray Council has a statutory obligation to work with the Community in planning its future educational development. It also has a legal obligation to ensure education is provided for all children in the community.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

The level of financial, staff and risks will be assessed as part of the development process of the Strategic Assessment.

(d) Consultations

Lead officers and council officers will be consulted in the preparation of the Strategic Assessment.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Smarter Strategic Group is asked to note the first stage of the preparation of a Strategic Assessment for the Smarter Theme, which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner organisations and to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.**

Author of Report: Louise Marshall, Research and Information Officer

Background Papers: Held by author