

REPORT TO: SMARTER STRATEGIC GROUP – 12 MARCH 2009

SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ROLE & REMIT OF THE SMARTER GROUP – CO-ORDINATING 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 '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.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **It is recommended that the Smarter Group agrees the Terms of Reference, Role and Remit set out in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of this report for the Co-ordinating Group.**

2.2 **Further the Smarter Group notes the progress made in rationalising commissioned groups associated with the Smarter theme as described in Sections 3.5 and 3.6.**

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, confident 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 – with reference to the 8 wellbeing themes (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included) ensure that children and young people receive the help they need when they need it (with particular emphasis on 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, educational opportunities and reduction of the number of working age people with severe literacy and numeracy problems.
 - 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.
 - Graduate employment – increase the percentage of local graduates in positive destinations.
- 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 ensure plans and strategies take full cognisance of service users experiences in their development and review.
 - to collect and review performance data relating to the four National Outcomes and Integrated Children’s Services Plan and recommend actions to improve performance.
 - to identify areas for specific assessment relating to improving outcomes and then consider evidence and make suitable recommendations.
 - establish an annual cycle of performance reporting to the SMARTER Theme Group and meet the requirements of Moray Performs.
 - raise issues with other Theme Groups to promote the four National Outcomes and make defined contributions to the achievement of other National and Local Outcomes within the SOA.
- 3.5 The Co-ordinating Group has considered the rationalisation of groups that currently work to promote the four national outcomes. The draft list of proposed commissioned groups in **Table 1** are based on the following three criteria:-

- they contribute to achieving the SMARTER Theme Group National and Local Outcomes;
- that interagency collaboration is required to achieve these outcomes; and
- the groups have a strategic function.

3.6 **Table 1** also makes reference to other theme groups for cross-cutting issues.

Proposed Commissioned Groups	SMARTER National Outcomes	Relationship to other Theme Groups
Lifelong Learning Forum	NO3	Safer & Stronger Wealthier & Fairer
Community Learning & Development Strategy Group	NO3	Safer & Stronger Wealthier & Fairer
Adult Literacy Partnership	NO3	Safer & Stronger Wealthier & Fairer
Moray Chief Officers Group for Child Protection	NO8	
Early Years Strategy	NOs 5 & 8	Wealthier & Fairer
Corporate Parenting	NOs 4, 5 & 8	All other theme groups
Transitions	NOs 3 & 4	Safer & Stronger
Health & Wellbeing in Schools	Nos 5 & 6	Healthier

3.7 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
 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 has sought representation from HIE Moray to strengthen capacity regarding National Outcome 3.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Smarter Theme Group is asked to note the work of the Co-ordinating Group and consider the recommendations in this report.

ITEM:

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Background Papers: with author
Ref: