

## EXECUTIVE, 13 OCTOBER 2009

### RESPONSE OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 6 OCTOBER 2009 TO:

#### Item 10 **Strategic Commissioning Framework for Children in Central Bedfordshire**

- 1.1 At its meeting of 6 October 2009, the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CFL OSC) considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning, which sought Members comments on the draft Strategic Commissioning Framework for Central Bedfordshire as part of the Children's Trust arrangements prior to submission to the Executive.
- 1.2 Members of the Committee supported the draft Strategic Commissioning Framework as a vehicle for delivering the Children and Young People's Plan but raised concerns regarding the objectivity of the Commissioning Executive. It was suggested that the use of external experts and independent researchers, such as academics, might be an appropriate way of increasing the objectivity of the Commissioning Executive.
- 1.3 The Committee commented on the importance of ensuring that appropriate local data was made available to ensure that services were commissioned in an appropriate way relative to local demand. The Council should ensure that research, which had been carried out by other council services and partners was used to inform the policies that we develop locally.
- 1.4 It was also suggested that information needed to be shared across all Council services so that previous experience of procuring services from a provider could be used to inform future decisions regarding the commissioning of services.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Executive be recommended to approve the Strategic Commissioning Framework for Children in Central Bedfordshire subject to the comments above and the following recommendations:-

- (i) **That specific references be added to the Strategic Commissioning Framework regarding services for gifted and talented children and young people.**
- (ii) **That the terminology used throughout the Strategic Commissioning Framework be reviewed to ensure that it is written in plain-English and that on each occasion it is clear who is being referred to as the 'Executive'.**
- (iii) **That the Membership of the Commissioning Executive be reviewed to ensure that it is able to function objectively.**

- (iv) That it be ensured appropriate local data is made available across Council services, including previous experience of procurement, to inform decisions regarding the commissioning of services in Central Bedfordshire.**