

22 November 2006

Dear Colleague

NEW ADVICE NOTE ON ENGAGING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

Please find enclosed a copy of a new Community Planning Advice Note, developed by the Community Planning Team with help and advice from a wide range of stakeholders. Involving children and young people in Community Planning was discussed during the passage of the Local Government in Scotland Act in 2003 and has remained a current issue for Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) and voluntary sector bodies working in the area, in particular with the appointment of Scotland's first Commissioner for Children and Young People and the continuing focus on the citizenship agenda.

In developing the advice note, we have seen evidence of significant commitment to improving engagement and we recognise that many CPPs are putting substantial effort into developing and coordinating community engagement, in particular working towards achieving the National Standards for Community Engagement.

This Note sits alongside existing advice under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the National Standards and other advice on community engagement from Communities Scotland. The note explores the underlying reasons for and principles of effective engagement rather than setting out rigid parameters and includes illustrations of practice, information on various toolkits and contacts for relevant organisations. It also includes a framework for thinking through how engagement is planned at a CPP level, based on the National Standards for Community Engagement, which CPPs may find useful in evaluating overall progress.

The key points we would like you to bear in mind in looking at the Advice Note are:

- All partners and services have a role to play in engaging children and young people, not just those traditionally recognised as being responsible for community engagement or youth work. In particular, we hope the advice note will provide a good starting point for those who do not have a detailed knowledge of community engagement. **With this in mind, we hope that you will highlight the note to people in your organisation who would not naturally have access to it by other means.**
- We are keen to support the exchange of practice between CPPs and organisations so, **if you know of an example of successful engagement work with children and/or young people that you would be happy to share, please contact us and we will make arrangements for it to be put on the Community Planning website.**

Please let us know if you would find further copies of the Advice Note useful. We will be distributing the note by email as well, so that it can easily be sent on to others. In the meantime, electronic copies are available in the document library on the Community Planning website at <http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/community-planning/> alongside related material including further links and, in due course, good practice examples.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Robb', is centered below the closing. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

David Robb
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