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Your Ref
Our Ref SR/POL/GH/AL
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TO: DISTRICT ECM LEAD OFFICERS

Dear Colleague

SCRUTINY OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN DELIVERING EVERY CHILD MATTERS OUTCOMES

I have been advised that the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny for Children and Young People intends to consider how partnership working is helping to deliver the outcomes of Every Child Matters (ECM). Specifically, it would like to focus on partnership working between the County Council and District Councils as laid out in last year's Audit Commission study. In being able to properly understand how those partnerships for ECM are operating in Lancashire, the Committee would welcome some active input from Districts to give their perspectives.

The approach the Committee would like to take is as follows:

1. To have brief presentations from the County Council on the overall approach to ECM (basically the model we have adopted and how we are working with districts on CTA etc).
2. Two equally brief presentations from a district perspective, looking in a little more detail on how the agenda is being taken forward.
3. An opportunity then for the Committee to ask questions and invite further comment from contributors. David Ledsham and I have discussed this approach with Claire Evans who has responsibility for this aspect of Overview and Scrutiny with the County Council. Claire would be happy to talk with you in more detail regarding what the Committee is seeking to do and what they would like to come out of it (telephone 01772 3532422 or 07917 836700).

The position is as follows:

- The O&S session will take place on the morning of the 28 August, venue to be confirmed, although it will be outside of County Hall in an appropriate community setting. It will last for no more than two hours.

Geoff Hiscox, Policy Development Team
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- If your District authority would like to take part, we would suggest that the presentations will be given by the lead member and lead officer for each council. In our case we expect Pat Jefferson will want to have David in attendance as the common thread for all three presentations. You will need to take a view regarding appropriate attendance. For those Districts that do not take part, we shall keep you fully up to speed with any outcomes. Clare will also make sure that her Scrutiny colleagues around the County are kept informed.
- The Committee would like to stress their intention to take a constructive approach in considering this topic. The Chair of the Committee, County Councillor Pat Case (also Chorley Borough Council) says that the aim is to create an opportunity for councillors to identify and discuss the challenges and opportunities that exist in Lancashire in this area of ECM work. The Committee hopes in the future to develop its joint working with Districts in scrutinising Children's Services as the ECM Agenda and Children's Trusts develop.
- We have no definitive views on the choice of districts. In part this will be dictated by the availability of the key players but clearly there may be other issues – one of which is CC Case's expectation that Chorley will be one of the districts involved.

David and I are keen to emphasise that we are all on the same journey but starting from different positions. There is no 'right' answer that we could share with O&S.

What are your thoughts?

- We need to agree contributions as soon as possible as Claire will need to liaise with her peers in your councils over the arrangements. Claire agreed that it would make sense if the initial contact came from the ECM perspective.

We can give further detail if required but the immediate task is:

- to gain your support in the exercise and agree two Districts to take part.

Sorry about the timing with this. Ideally we would have liked to discuss it at our joint meeting but diaries didn't quite work. Given our less than glorious attendance on Wednesday it probably didn't matter after all.

Looking forward to your assistance.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Hiscox
Head of Policy Development