

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Meeting

Thursday 15 July 2010



What has happened already

- Freeze on all DfE, GO and field force budgets
- Queen's Speech - education reform at centre
- Children's trusts: partnership encouraged but legislation to be repealed
- CAA abolished
- National Indicator Set abolished
- £6.2 bn in year reductions
- DfE considering its options for its activities in the regions via new approach to "Whitehall's Front Desk"

What has happened already cont'd

14 – 19 policy emerging:

- Objectives of improving participation, progression and attainment supported
- More market-driven approach to qualifications
- £150m growth in apprenticeships

The schools agenda

- Significant premium for disadvantaged pupils (LD)
- New independent schools in the state sector (Con)
- “Outstanding” schools free to become academies (Con)
- “Our shared goals are improved literacy, raising pupil attainment, extending parental choice, freeing teachers from bureaucracy, improving discipline, closing the widening gap between the richest and the poorest.” MG
- Slimmed down Nat Curriculum (Con LD)
- Rose Primary Review not to be implemented
- SEN – more inclusion and co-location of mainstream/special schools (LD) – or – less closure of special schools (Con)?

Where policy has yet to emerge

- Children's services model
- Capital streams
- Sure Start - level of continuation beyond 10/11
- Safeguarding -Prof Eileen Munro review commissioned, Loughton interview refers to SCRs, ISA etc
- Intervention and role of OfSTED long-term
- Health partnerships - DoH role
- Extended services

The impact for children's services

- Less resource – revenue, capital, people
- More potential contradictions

BUT

- Greater autonomy - less central direction and control

Assessing the implications

- Re-assess current priorities
- Commission/de-commission radically to reduce the cost base where possible
- Capacity building civic sector – seedcorn > sustainability
- Strategic partnering - school improvement