

17<sup>th</sup> November 2008

## **THE SURREY IMPROVEMENT NOTICE AND IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

### **1. Introduction**

This report advises the Partnership on the Improvement Notice served upon the County Council by the Minister for Children and Families and the Governance arrangements to be established to oversee and monitor improvements to services to children and young people.

### **2. The Improvement Notice**

As reported to the last meeting of the Partnership the DCSF has decided not to make an intervention into local services to children and young people and has instead issued an Improvement Notice. Attached as appendix one to this report is a copy of the Improvement Notice served upon the Council as lead agency for the coordination of local services to children and young people.

The Improvement Notice sets out a series of requirements and measures that the Council, supported by local partners and in particular Surrey PCT, will need to achieve in order to avoid direct Government intervention. The notice covers the period to September 2010 by which time it will be expected that Surrey will have in place modern children's trust arrangements that deliver to a high standard.

Progress against the Improvement Notice will be closely monitored by GOSE and the SHA.

The requirements of this notice are very challenging and will inevitably dominate the work of the Partnership over the next two years.

It is proposed that progress against the Improvement Notice is reported to the CYPCP each quarter.

### **3. Governance Arrangements for Improvement**

As part of its arrangements for managing improvements proposed to the DCSF is that the Council will establish an independently chaired Improvement Board to advise on and oversee the necessary change programme. This proposal was very much welcomed by the DCSF and arrangements are now in place for the Board to come into being.

With the DCSF the Council has appointed Lucy de Groot as the independent chair of the Improvement Board. Lucy is a highly respected national figure in public sector management whose CV includes being Chief Executive for Bristol City Council and a senior official in HM Treasury. She is currently the Chief Executive of the Improvement and Development Agency for local government. Arrangements are being made for Lucy to meet CYPCP agencies and in particular front-line staff in the coming weeks and months.

The job profile for Chair of the Improvement Board and the Board's Terms of Reference, including membership, are attached to as appendices two and three to this report.

The Board will hold its first meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and will initially meet monthly thereafter.

The Improvement Board will be the main forum where progress against the Improvement Notice, including the JAR Action Plan, will be tracked and where proposals from the Council and Surrey PCT on developing services to meet be tested prior to implementation where appropriate come to the CYPCP for discussion and approval.

The Improvement Board will have a close relationship with the CYPCP through both monitoring the progress of the CYPCP on the Improvement Notice and JAR Action Plan and through advising the CYPCP on future arrangements to improve our services to children and young people.