

# Scrutiny Sub-Committee Committee for Strong Healthy and Safe Communities

7 March 2005



## Scrutiny Development Session – 11 January 2005

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### Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny

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#### Purpose of Report

1. To explain the Development Session which took place at the Durham Leadership Centre at Spennymoor on 11 January 2005 and the issues of relevance for this Sub-Committee.

#### Background

2. Nineteen County Councillors and two co-opted members attended this Development Session. The purpose was to review last year's work and consider the work programme for next year. Northumbria University hosted the event and used the opportunity as part of their evaluation of the Scrutiny function.
3. Northumbria University will be producing an Evaluation Report about last year's performance of the Scrutiny function. This is expected to be available in March.

#### Future Work Programme

4. With the assistance of Audience Response Equipment kindly loaned by the Community Safety Unit, the Council's priority improvement areas for each Scrutiny Sub-Committee were considered. The purpose of the exercise was to give guidance to the Sub-Committee about those priority areas which could most beneficially be investigated to assist in improvement.
5. The 6 priorities for improvement in relation to Strong Healthy and Safe Communities Issues were ranked using the Audience Response Equipment. Children's Services – Improving Life Chances was seen as the highest priority. The next highest priority was Older People's Services – Improved Choice/Diversity. The full results are attached at the end of the report.
6. The decision about the future work programme will need to be taken by the Sub-Committee following the election in May. This exercise will, however, provide useful guidance about those priorities which were seen to be areas in which the Scrutiny function could provide the most effective contribution to improve services.

## Recommendation

7. You are asked to note this information which will be given further consideration as part of the determination of the future work programme.

## Background Papers

Documentation submitted to the Development Session.

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## Please rank (in order of priority to you) up to 4 of the Council's priorities for Strong, Healthy and Safe Communities

