

To: Headteachers, Principals and Chairs of
Governors

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Date: 19 November 2012

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Dear Colleague

I am writing to you to let you know some of the plans that Norfolk County Council has for a forthcoming review of its work that will inform planning for 2014 to 2017. The theme of the review is 'Enterprising Norfolk'.

The success of the work of the County Council is dependent upon our strong and robust relationships with our partners. Indeed, the step changes that we seek towards an 'Enterprising Norfolk' will undoubtedly require much discussion and engagement with our partners. This is why I wanted to write to you at this early stage.

The County Council as a whole intends to take a detailed but pacy look at how we should shape ourselves to face the challenges ahead. The most significant challenge comes from the inevitable and much anticipated reduction of income from traditional sources such as government grant. We therefore must determine how we can become more enterprising in how we fund the services the citizens of Norfolk need. We must also continue the drive to ensure that we operate in the most effective way we can so that every public penny is spent to good effect in improving life in Norfolk for every citizen.

In Children's Services we have proved our capacity and capability to meet challenges like this with energy and creativity. The re-shaping we have done over the last couple of years and the innovation we have brought to many areas of commissioning and service delivery are very much in tune with the ideas at the heart of 'Enterprising Norfolk'.

As we plan ahead, we want to find the best ways in which we can fulfil our role as champion of all of Norfolk's children, young people and families through ensuring good places of child care, education and training for all. We also want to be sure that high quality services exist for these settings, schools and colleges. We will be keen to offer a diverse range of 'services to schools' ourselves, some of which we will offer collaboratively.

Other providers will also offer particular services and we will work to make sure that schools and colleges have a range of services to commission that will benefit Norfolk's children and young people.

Norfolk County Council's vision is that Norfolk will be 'an inspirational place with a vibrant, strong and sustainable economy and aspirational people'. The Council's core role in bringing this vision to reality is

- Speaking up for Norfolk
- Assessing and commissioning
- Supporting economic infrastructure
- Safety net for vulnerable people
- Signposting to services
- Enabling communities.

This is our starting point and over the coming months we will be considering how we need to adapt in readiness for 2014 to 2017.

I will be keen to discuss the emerging ideas with you and to gain your input as the process unfolds.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Lisa Christensen
Director of Children's Services