

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2001, AT 2 P.M.**

Agenda Item No.

5

REMIT OF PANELS

Report of the Director of Children Schools and Families

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1. Purpose of this Report

To respond to the Children Schools and Families Select Committee resolution of 19 June 2001 (minute 4 ii):

“That a Special Needs Panel also be established and the remit and membership of the Panel be considered in a report to the next meeting of the Select Committee.”

2. Summary of the Report

- 2.1. The report proposes the establishment of a sixth panel to deal with matters relating to the support given to children with special educational, social and medical needs and their families.
- 2.2. All panels will need to work closely with one another to ensure that they take an integrated view when exercising their remit. The report proposes that the Special Needs Panel should work particularly closely with the Pupil Achievement and School Standards Panel.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Appendix 1 shows the remit and size of the proposed six CSF panels:
 - a) Strategic Management
 - b) Corporate Parenting
 - c) Pupil Achievement and School Standards
 - d) Special Needs Panel
 - e) Resources
 - f) School Places, Admissions and Commissioning
- 3.2. The sections set out in bold in Appendix 1 show the changes from the five panel structure considered previously by the Select Committee.

1. Background

- 1.1. It was noted in the report which went to the Select Committee on 19 June 2001 that Children Schools and Families was established to bring together the work of the former Education Department and the Children's Section of Social Services in order to respond, in an integrated way, to the needs of the child.
- 1.2. The five panel structure was developed to cover the full range of CSF work and to allow service issues to be considered in the round rather than on an individual basis.
- 1.3. The establishment of a sixth and Special Needs Panel has been undertaken in a way that will maintain the above approach.
- 1.4. The Special Needs Panel will deal with matters relating to the support given by CSF to children with special educational, social and medical needs and the support to their families. The Panel will work very closely with the Pupil Achievement and School Standards Panel which may consider similar groups of children but from the perspective of their achievement in school. All panels will need to work closely together but particular emphasis is given in Appendix 1 to the relationship between special needs and pupil achievement.