

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2002 AT 10.30 AM

Agenda Item No:

4

**CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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Executive Member: Robert Gordon

1. Purpose of report

To give an update on all current scrutiny items [previously chosen by the Select Committee and referred to Panels] that are not on the agenda for this meeting, and suggest ways of dealing with each item in the light of recent changes to the Constitution creating the Scrutiny Committee and giving Cabinet Panels a policy development function.

2. Summary

The new constitution, adopted by the County Council on 27 November 2001, allocates the overview and scrutiny of decisions to Scrutiny Committees and policy development to the Executive; the latter may set up Cabinet Panels to assist in drawing up proposals for policy development. On 17 December 2001, the Cabinet considered a report on Cabinet Panels and recommended setting up three Children, Schools and Families Cabinet Panels.

3. Conclusion

The Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider how to deal with outstanding scrutiny items as detailed in the report.

4. Background

The ongoing scrutiny issues formerly considered in Panels are as follows:

(i) **DISABLED CHILDREN**

The Select Committee in July 2001 chose to scrutinise services to disabled children in the county and this has been carried out by a series of visits by a member Topic Group set up by the Special Needs Panel, and reports to the Panel. This programme of visits is ongoing.

It is suggested that the existing member Topic Group continues with the same membership [Tanis Kent, Richard Smith, Derek Hills, Susan Jones and Barbara Lamb], to continue the visits and report back to the Committee on **20 March 2002**, when the scrutiny work will be finished.

(ii) **ATTAINMENT OF PUPILS AND ACHIEVEMENT AT A/AS LEVEL**

This item was chosen for scrutiny by the Select Committee in October 2000 and a series of reports have gone to the Pupil Achievement and Schools Standards Panel on Key Stage 3 results and the attainment of boys in all Key Stages.

It is suggested that this be completed by the Achievement Panel.

Background Papers

Constitution adopted by the County Council on 27 November 2001

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 17 December 2001

[If you require any additional information regarding the issues raised in this report, please contact Julian Edwards, Tel: 01992 555941]