

**AGENDA for a meeting of the CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Hertford on
WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2002 at 10.30 a.m.**

MEMBER MEETINGS (FOR MEMBERS ONLY)

Labour/Liberal Democrat	10 October 2002	2.00pm	Room 156
Conservative	14 October 2002	10.00am	Committee Room 'B'
Conservative	16 October 2002	9.30am	Committee Room 'B'
Labour	16 October 2002	9.15am	Room 106
Liberal Democrat	16 October 2002	9.30am	Room 111

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE - 22, QUORUM - 6

County Councillors (16)

T I Ambrose, D E Billing, P T J Channell, R S Clements (Vice-Chairman), A D Dodd,
B C Engel, A K Gray, F Guest, D W Hills, T G M Kent (Chairman), L R Kercher, B J Lamb,
M H O'Neill, S Quilty, R H Smith, J Taunton

Representative Members

Voting (6)

Parent Representatives (4)

P Cherry	North area
M W Thompson	South area
C Broadhurst	East area
T Douris	West area

Church Representatives (2)

J Reynolds	Education Board of the Diocese of St Albans
M Stothard	Archdiocese of Westminster Schools Commission

Non-voting (9)

Teacher Representatives (6)

C Brooks	Secondary Headteacher's Association
P Brooks	National Association of Governors and Managers
I Gibson	National Association of School Masters/ Union of Women Teachers
J Hayes	National Union of Teachers
G Rowlands	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
S Springett	National Association of Headteachers

Co-opted members from the Health and Voluntary Sectors (3)

J Linskill	Director of Nursing, Children's and Older People's Services, North Hert and Stevenage Primary Care Trust
L Wallace	Chairman of Hertfordshire Association for Young People (HAYP)
C Whittle	Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire MENCAP

AGENDA

AUDIO SYSTEM

The Council Chamber has an audio system to assist those with hearing impairment. Anyone who wishes to use this should contact main (front) reception.

PART 1 (PUBLIC) AGENDA

Meetings of the Committee are open to the public (this includes the press) and attendance is welcomed. However, there may be occasions when the public are excluded from the meeting for particular items of business. Any such items are taken at the end of the meeting and are listed under "Part II ('closed') business".

MINUTES [SC.8]

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 June 2002 (previously circulated).

PUBLIC PETITIONS [SC.11]

Any member of the public, (who is a resident in Hertfordshire or is on the electoral register for Hertfordshire) may present a petition to the Committee. An authorised representative of any Hertfordshire parish or town council subscribing to a parish charter approved by the County Council may also present a petition to the Committee in relation to matters within that parish. The subject of the petition must be appropriate for the Committee and must be signed by at least 100 residents or business ratepayers of Hertfordshire.

Notification of intent to present a petition must be given in writing to the County Secretary, (County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8DE) at least **fourteen clear days** before the meeting where an

item relating to the subject matter of the petition does not appear on the agenda for the meeting and at least **three clear days** before where the item is the subject of a report.

If you have any queries about the procedure please contact Julia Harries, on telephone no. (01992) 555563.

QUESTIONS [SC.9(4)]

Members are able to question the Executive Member(s) on matters which are not the subject of reports on the agenda. A member who wishes to ask a question shall give written notice of it to the County Secretary at least **five clear working days** (where a working day is Monday to Friday, 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m.) before the meeting, stating to whom the question is to be put. Written copies of the questions and answers shall be available at the meeting. Questions shall be answered orally at the meeting in the order in which notice has been received. The member asking the question may ask one supplementary question. The person responding may choose to answer such a supplementary question, or promise a written reply within seven days. The period of time allocated for questions shall not exceed **ten minutes**. Any questions remaining after that period has elapsed shall be answered in writing within seven days. The Chairman may, however, accept questions without notice if satisfied they are urgent. Such questions shall not count towards the allocated time limit of ten minutes and shall be answered orally at the meeting or in writing within seven days.

Questions relating to matters on the agenda shall be asked when that matter is discussed and may be addressed to the Chairman or to an officer, who may answer orally or may undertake to provide a written reply within seven days.

The following questions had been received at the time of agenda despatch:

A Nigel Agar will ask the Executive Member, **Robert Gordon**, the following question:

'What progress has the teacher recruitment team made to support schools in the employment of supply staff?'

B Tanis Kent will ask the Executive Member, **Robert Gordon**, the following questions:

1. *'The budget monitor presented to the cabinet in July showed a 297,000 or 44.1% overspend on respite for children with disabilities. Is more respite care being provided or is it simply becoming more expensive?'*
2. *'There appears to be a problem funding the Schools Speech Therapy project in the north quadrant. Health appear to be blaming HCC and HCC blaming Health, in the meantime a 5 year old in a Stevenage infant school who has needs classed as "severe" is not getting any speech therapy. What is the situation and what is being done to resolve it?'*

C Roma Mills will ask the Executive Member, **Robert Gordon**, the following question:

'In recent months a television programme publicised the work of the DDAT Centres with children and adults who are dyslexic. This programme suggested that significant improvements were being achieved with people who followed the exercise courses prescribed by the Centres, following assessment, in terms of concentration, reading and writing skills and general self-confidence. This has clearly offered hope to many parents of children described as dyslexic and certainly some Hertfordshire families have had their children assessed by DDAT and are following the exercise programme which the Centres provide. This is a costly commitment and may well involve parents in expenditure in the region of £1,000.

Can you advise me whether this approach to addressing the learning difficulties experienced by children and young people with dyslexia has been considered by the CSF department?'

D Tanis Kent will ask the Executive Member, **Robert Gordon**, the following questions:

1. *'How long on average are parents having to wait to be allocated a shared carer?'*

If as it appears we cannot find enough shared carers, why can't the shared care money be vired to other forms of respite care, such as playschemes or residential placements?'

2. *'When CSF was established, Members were told that cases would be allocated a key worker so that parents would have one point of contact with the new Service.*

Does this only apply to children who come to the attention of the social services side of CSF or should all disabled children have a key worker?'

3. *'Stevenage family centre was only able to offer half its usual hours of support for vulnerable families during the summer holiday in 2002. When I asked why, I was told that there was a review of family services going on and until it was completed a proper contract with the family centre couldn't be drawn up. When is this review going to be completed and the results reported to Members?'*

F Richard Smith will ask the Executive Member, **Robert Gordon**, the following question:

"Will the Executive Member please summarise the responses to the consultation on the six-term year and indicate what further action he proposes to take on the issue?"

G Seamus Quilty will ask the Executive Member, **Robert Gordon**, the following question:

"Will the Executive Member explain the current position with regard to LSC achievement and retention monies for Hertfordshire schools?"

All reports are reports of the Director of Children, Schools and Families unless stated otherwise.

The following reports are attached to this agenda: -

The Executive Member for these items is Robert Gordon.

CONSULTATION ISSUE:

1 THE CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SERVICE PLAN 2003/04

SCRUTINY ITEMS

2 SECONDARY CASUAL ADMISSIONS

to follow

3 INTERIM REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP ON PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

4 OPERATION COACHMAN 2002

5 MEETING THE PLACEMENT NEEDS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

to follow

6 MONITORING HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

ITEM FOR REPORT TO THE COUNCIL [SC.7(2)]

At a committee meeting the Leader of the Opposition or a spokesman nominated by that Leader may require one identified item to be reported from that meeting to the Council.

PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There are no items of Part II (Confidential) business on this agenda but if items are notified the Chairman will move: -

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) ... of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act."

Please note that full papers have been despatched to Committee members only. All other members have been sent the front sheets of each report.

If you require a copy of any of the reports mentioned above or require further information about this agenda please contact Julia Harries, Committee Services, County Secretary's Department, on telephone no. (01992) 555563 or fax. 01992 555518