Agenda item no.

9

CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

UPDATE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2003/4

15 OCTOBER 2003

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO CABINET/EXECUTIVE MEMBER/CHIEF OFFICER AT THE LAST MEETING:

1. FUTURE OF LEAVESDEN GREEN, ALBAN WOOD INFANT AND ALBAN WOOD JUNIOR SCHOOLS

"Recommendation"

Comments to Cabinet on 13 October 2003:

The Committee recommended that the Cabinet should ensure that:

The standard of educational provision in this area should be the most important consideration in the decision to close any school.
This possible closure is to be looked at in the context of the wider area.
Consideration is be given to housing allocation in district plans as well as agreed developments
The effects on nursery education for three and four year olds is considered.

The views of the Committee were reported to Cabinet.

UPDATE ON PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE LAST MEETING [JUNE]:

Mark Greenberg presented a petition regarding the allocation of secondary school places for Year 6 children at Eastbury Farm JMI, in particular to Bushey hall School.

The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Director of Children, Schools and Families for consideration and report to the Local Member (Roy Clements) and group spokesman.

In addition the Committee requested that the Achievement Panel should review the action that is being taken to support achievement at Bushey Hall School.

Ray Shostak wrote to the parents who presented their petition on 9 July 2003 addressing their concerns, but pointing out most of the schools in the area were Foundation or Voluntary Aided schools responsible for their own admissions.

UPDATE ON PREVIOUS SCRUTINY ITEMS

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
1	Transitional Arrange-ments between CSF and ACS [joint scrutiny with Adult Care]	23 January 2002	The process of consultation for the draft protocol, which details the Statutory framework, and the roles and responsibilities of all of the partner agencies involved in the transition planning of a young person with disability, was held through June and July. As a result of this consultation, amendments were made to the draft document. The Transition Protocol was presented to CSF and ACS Boards. The requirements of Disabled Care Leavers will be encompassed within the final version of the Transition Protocol Document. The leaflet for parents about Transition has now been distributed. Transition will be the subject of a joint ACS/CSF presentation to ACS Scrutiny Committee on 23 October.	ongoing

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
2	Monitoring of Schools	19 June 2002	First year of differentiated monitoring visits was well evaluated by schools. This year includes further tailoring to more closely meet schools needs. The first outcome phase of mid-inspection review has taken place with high up-take from schools. Schools deemed to need a review but not signing up are followed up and invitations are sent to the chair of governors as well as the head. The leadership for improvement programme is now well under way with a target group of primary headteacher and a second course is being planned for 04/05. Some partnership work has been undertaken between schools in both phases but this is as yet an underdeveloped area which needs to be given higher priority. Topic Group set up in September 2003 [membership: David Billing, Tony Dodd, Derek Hills, Seamus Quilty, Ian Simpson, Maureen Thompson plus one vacancy]; first meeting being arranged and the Topic Group will report to the Scrutiny Committee in January 2004.	ongoing investigation
3	Operation Coachman	16 October 2002	Operation Coachman is on the agenda for the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 21 October 2003. The report will consider results from the current programme of Operation Coachman inspections and examine a number of issues associated with taxi licensing. Operation Coachman 2003/04 is currently under way. Report to CSF Scrutiny Committee in January 2004.	ongoing investigation

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
4	Effectiveness of Quadrants	22 January 2003	Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee on 18 June set up a Topic Group and agreed there should be a rolling programme of updates on quadrant performance and annual visits. A series of member visits to Quadrants took place over the summer; interim report to Scrutiny Committee on this agenda *(Note: Topic Group size 7 (4:3) Membership R H Smith, D E Lloyd, S Quilty, N K Brook, L R Kercher, T G M Kent, and I Simpson)*	ongoing investigation
5	Provision for Excluded Pupils in Welwyn Hatfield and Hertsmere and Education Support Centres	22 January 2003	The March 2003 Scrutiny Committee concluded that: "The Strategy [or appropriate] Panel would consider the detailed issues regarding Education Support Centres [ESCs], as part of the development of the Achievement and Behaviour Strategy." Further work has taken place with a view to upgrading and extending the existing premises at The Park. Allied to this, a review of ESC funding arrangements has been initiated to produce greater transparency and ensure that Centres can meet the revenue costs of any necessary further expansion. A report will be presented to the Achievement Panel in Autumn 2003 and also a report on ESC accommodation will be provided, as requested, to a future meeting of the Property Panel.	work outside scrutiny
6	CSF and Health	22 January 2003	Requested by David Billing. Member seminar 7 May. Possible CSF joint scrutiny with Adult Care and Health Services Scrutiny Committee.	ongoing investigation

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
7	Review of the Scrutiny of Services for Disabled Children	19 March 2003	A meeting was arranged for the Topic Group to meet with parents on 17 June, with contact with parents being facilitated by Carers in Hertfordshire. Carers in Herts contacted 108 parents. Of these, 12 replied to Carers in Herts, and one parent wished to attend the Topic Group. Carers in Herts presented a report collating the 12 responses received. There was recognition that a great deal of work had been done, and that for many of the issues raised there is an identified route for working on the issue, or resolving the particular problem. There was recognition that the new service development of Direct Payments and the Outreach service were providing new ways of offering support to families. Areas of further work include: A workshop was arranged on 10 July for disability managers [Local Services] to share learning from various initiatives taken in Local Services. (see Review of Scrutiny of Services for Disabled Children, para. 3.4) OT issues have been discussed by Local Services Managers and a way forward agreed. The Principal Officer [OTs] came into post at the beginning of September and is addressing these issues within her work. The salaried shared carers scheme will be reviewed in 6 months and will include the response to the recent recruitment campaign and the progress made in placing disabled children with complex needs for respite within this scheme. An item on this will be included in the CSF Members' Bulletin in due course.	ongoing investigation work outside scrutiny work outside scrutiny

			Report to Special Needs Panel [date to be arranged] and further report to the Scrutiny Committee in March 2004.	
8	Provision for Children and Young People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder	19 March 2003	The Committee agreed that a more user-friendly version of the report would be produced and distributed widely. A draft has been produced and is now in its final editorial stages. Additional funding has been allocated to special schools to provide extra places in the 2003/04 school year. Additional pupils have been admitted to specialist bases in September and place planning for 2004/05 has started. The additional teaching and welfare budget for Statements has been increased by £200,000 to take account of increasing referral rates of younger children. Discussions are underway with PHEAT to regularise pre-school arrangements. Work is underway to identify and agree appropriate sites for 2 primary and 1 secondary mainstream support units Guidance has been produced on primary-secondary transition and used in 10 schools. A training programme for teaching and support staff is now underway. Joint planning continues with parent representative groups CSF has joined a regional research project managed by University College London to evaluate the effectiveness of different methods of intervention Further discussion with Health Trusts and the Learning and Skills Council is planned for November. A review of the work of the Specialist Advisory Service is being presented to the Special Needs Panel at its meeting of 16 October 2003. Any further work would be taken forward by the Special Needs [or appropriate] Panel.	work outside scrutiny work outside scrutiny work outside scrutiny
9	Primary	19 March	Discussions are actively taking place with schools and as soon as a clear	work outside

	School Places In St Albans	2003	proposal is formulated then this will be reported to the Resources Panel in the usual way.	scrutiny
10	Budget Monitor for Children, Schools and Families – April 2002 to February 2003	18 June 2003	The overall revenue position will appear in the monitoring report to this meeting.	ongoing investigation
11	Children and Young People's Preventative Strategy	18 June 2003	The Committee agreed to review progress in June 2004.	ongoing investigation
12	Future of Leavesden Green, Alban Wood Infant and Alban Wood Junior Schools	18 June 2003	The Committee made comments to be reported to Cabinet on 15 October 2003 [shown on page 1]	ongoing investigation
13	Proposals by West Herts College to	18 June 2003	The Committee agreed to establish a Topic Group of members to engage with the College, Learning and Skills Council and schools and consider: The implementation of the current proposals	ongoing investigation

	Discontinue Certain Provision on the College's Dacorum Campus		The future provision for 16 to 19 year olds The phased withdrawal of recreational courses (Note: The size of the topic group is 9 (5:4) membership: F Guest, P T J Channell, D E Lloyd, J Taunton, R H Smith, D Billing, E Singam, Ivor Ambrose and Terry Douris) The Topic Group met on 11 July 2003 at Dacorum Campus and reported to County Council on 15 July 2003. Next meeting on 22 October with Alan Gray, Chair of HASSH, and Anne Smithers, Astley Cooper, attending. Report to January meeting of CSF Scrutiny Committee	

* Status definitions:

- **Ongoing Investigation** – The scrutiny committee has commissioned work, which could be from a topic group, officers, consultants or other parties which is not yet complete but will report to the main committee in the future.
- **Work outside scrutiny** – an item which has been raised by the scrutiny committee where work is being taken forward through another mechanism in response to the item being raised by scrutiny– a panel, external body or officer mechanism for example.
- **Monitoring** – Items which the scrutiny committee has scrutinised in the past where it has asked for occasional or regular updates. This update could be a planned report, in which case the dates should be given, or monitoring through the update report. Items where there is work outside scrutiny can also be monitoring items.
- **Awaiting Action** – Items the committee wishes to scrutinise or review where the timing is unclear due to awaiting events or the outcome of other investigations. E.g. government guidance

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
1.	CSF Plan 2004/05	15/10/03	To give members of the Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan, as part of the consultation process.
2.	County Council Revenue and Capital Budget Monitor	15/10/03	Referred by resources Scrutiny Committee on 19 June 2003.
3.	A/AS Level Achievement	15/10/03	To show HCC trends and compare to national results and statistical neighbours, including schools in collaborative groups and those not in collaborative groups.
4.	Effectiveness of Quadrants	15/10/03	Originally requested by David Billing in January 2003. Topic Group set up by June Committee. Member visits to Quadrants over the summer. Interim report of the Topic Group on this agenda.
5.	Update on Year 7 Children Out of School	15/10/03	Annual update requested by Tanis Kent.
6.	Annual Review of Performance in 2002/03 by the Social Services Inspectorate	15/10/03	The report will present the findings of the SSI Annual Review Letter.
7.	Traffic Light Monitor	15/10/03	To receive regular report
8.	Budget Monitor	15/10/03	To receive regular report

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
1.	CSF Plan 2004/05	21/01/04	To incorporate results of the consultation on the draft Plan and give the Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to comment to Cabinet on 26 January 2004.
2.	Children, Schools and Families Proposed Resource Budget 2004/05 – 2007/08	21/01/04	The Scrutiny Committee will be invited to comment on the budget proposals put forward by Cabinet; Cabinet will consider these comments on 9 February 2004 before making recommendations to the full County Council on 12 February 2004
3.	Monitoring of Schools	21/01/04	Originally requested by Ivor Ambrose in June 2002. Reported to CSF Scrutiny Committee in October 2002 and Topic Group set up in September 2003. This report will give the findings and recommendations of the Topic Group.
4.	Transitional Arrangements between CSF and ACS	21/01/04	Originally requested by Fiona Guest in January 2002. Joint scrutiny with Adult Care and Health Scrutiny Committee at October meeting of Adult Care and Health Scrutiny Committee meeting, to which all members of CSF Scrutiny Committee will be invited. This report will summarise work so far.
5.	Operation Coachman	21/01/04	Originally requested by Cliff Broadhurst in October 2002 and referred to Environment Scrutiny Committee for further scrutiny and possible setting up of a Topic Group.
6.	Effectiveness of Quadrants	21/01/04	Further report of the Topic Group set up in June 2003.
7.	CSF and Health	21/01/04	Originally requested by David Billing in January 2003. Committee agreed to a Members' briefing held on 7 May 2003. Possible joint scrutiny with Adult Care and Health Services Scrutiny Committee.
8.	LEA/ Schools Code of Practice	21/01/04	The Code of Practice governs the relationship between schools and the LEA and details the protocols for how advisers interact with school leaders and governors. The DfES reviewed the National CoP in Autumn 2003.
9.	Development at West Herts College	21/01/04	Topic Group set up by June meeting of the Committee – this report will set out the findings of the Group
10	Nursery Provision in Radlett and Use of Wall Hall Money	21/01/04 or 17/03/04	Requested by Tanis Kent
	ITEM	C'TTEE	SCRUTINY FOCUS

		DATE	
11	Traffic Light Monitor	21/01/04	To receive regular report
12	Budget Monitor	21/01/04	To receive regular report

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
1	Statutory Consultation on Admission Rules for Community and Voluntary Controlled Nursery, Infant, Junior and Primary Schools	17/03/04	To enable the Scrutiny Committee to comment on the statutory consultation proposals and consider responses received to the statutory consultation proposals for community and voluntary controlled primary schools. Rules to be approved by County Council on 30 March 2004.
2	Statutory Consultation on Admission Rules for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools	17/03/04	To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to comment on the proposed rules for community and voluntary controlled secondary schools and the scheme of co-ordination as part of the consultation and consider responses received to the consultation. Rules to be approved by County Council on 30 March 2004
3	Admission Rules for Sixth Forms of Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools	17/03/04	To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to comment on the proposed rules for sixth forms of community and voluntary controlled secondary schools Rules to be approved by County Council on 30 March 2004
4	Review of the Provision of Services for Children and Young People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder	17/03/04	To report on the developments in provision of services for children with autistic spectrum disorders since the Topic Group reported in March 2003.
5	Further Review of Provision Services for Disabled Children	17/03/04	Last reported to Committee in March 2003 – this report will detail developments over the past year.
9	Nursery Provision in Radlett and Use of Wall Hall Money	21/01/04 or 17/03/04	Requested by Tanis Kent
6	Traffic Light Monitor	17/03/04	To receive regular report
7	Budget Monitor	17/03/04	To receive regular report

	ITEM	C'TTEE	SCRUTINY FOCUS

		DATE	
1	The Effectiveness of Hertfordshire's Implementation of the CSF Direct Payments Scheme	23/06/04	The Direct Payments Policy sets out the commitment that the County Council makes to those with a parental responsibility for a disabled child and young disabled people aged 16/17 following the implementation of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000.
2	Children and Young People' Preventative Strategy	23/06/04	First reported to Committee on 18 June 2003; Committee agreed to review progress in June 2004.
3	Traffic Light Monitor	23/06/04	To receive regular report
4	Budget Monitor	23/06/04	To receive regular report

Note: there will also be an Update & Work Programme Report to each meeting on all new and live scrutiny items and the work programme for forthcoming meetings.

Regular reports to Committee:

October cycle

CSF Plan

Update on Year 7 Children Out of School

Effectiveness of Quadrants – June 2003 CSFScrutiny Committee agreed there should be a rolling programme of updates on quadrant performance and annual visits

January cycle

CSF Plan

Resource Budget

March cycle

Admissions Rules