

CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

UPDATE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2003/4

Agenda item
no.

6

21 JANUARY 2004

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

None

UPDATE ON PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE LAST MEETING:

None

UPDATE ON PREVIOUS SCRUTINY ITEMS

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
1	Transitional Arrangements between CSF and ACS [joint scrutiny with Adult Care]	23 January 2002	<p>Adult Care and Health Scrutiny Committee on 23 October 2003 considered a report on transition; members of the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee attended this meeting.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee was also attended by representatives of ACS and CSF teams, the transition team in the Development Division of CSF, a day centre, a local college and carer representation by Carers in Herts. Prior to the Scrutiny Committee meeting, 2 separate events had been organised so that learning disabled young people had the opportunity of expressing their views on the transition arrangements made for them. These events included a visit to Watling View School to evidence and take part in their own planning; and secondly, a tea party for pupils and college students to meet members at County Hall.</p> <p>Through the Scrutiny process, there was recognition of the considerable work which has taken place to develop a protocol, and engage partner agencies in working together. Future work will embed the protocol in operational practice, to help teams recognise the contributions of partner agencies to transition planning, and to develop capacity in the team s to deliver an improved service. To take this forward, an interagency training programme will be delivered through 4 Quadrant based workshops in Jan/Feb 2004. Delegates include professional staff from ACS and CSF teams, carers, health and education representatives, and other relevant professionals.</p> <p>Members have also requested that a parent's guide to the transition protocol is written. Carers in Herts have agreed to assist with the writing of this document.</p>	monitoring
	ITEM	C'TTEE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS*

		DATE		(see endnote)
2	Monitoring of Schools	19 June 2002	Topic Group met on 12 December 2003 [membership: David Billing, Tony Dodd, Derek Hills, Seamus Quilty, Ian Simpson, Maureen Thompson, Moyra O'Neill]; report of the Topic Group on this agenda	ongoing investigation
3	Operation Coachman	16 October 2002	<p>Operation Coachman was considered by the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 21 October 2003 [members of the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee were invited for this item]. The report outlined results from the current programme of Operation Coachman inspections and examined a number of issues associated with taxi licensing.</p> <p>[Operation Coachman 2003/04 is currently under way]</p> <p>A number of issues arose from the debate at the Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rationale for the numbers of inspections in Hertfordshire • The sustainability of taxis as school transport • The possibility of banning smoking in taxis • The clearance procedures used for taxi drivers transporting school children <p>Rob Smith agreed to clarify for members the District Council's clearance procedure as Licensing Authorities.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that child protection issues should be referred back to Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee.</p>	ongoing investigation

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
4	Effectiveness of Quadrants	22 January 2003	<p>Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee on 18 June 2003 set up a Topic Group (<i>R H Smith, D E Lloyd [Chairman], S Quilty, N K Brook, L R Kercher, T G M Kent, and I Simpson</i>)</p> <p>The Topic Group reported to this Committee on 15 October 2003, who noted the significant concerns of staff regarding staffing and location, and agreed that the next meeting of the Topic Group would set a timetabled work programme for continuation of this scrutiny, including the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation • Oracle – member seminar on 13 November 2003 • Multi-professional working, including learning from best practice • Dates for future meetings <p>There will be a further report of Topic Group to the March Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>There has been an SSI Inspection of Child Protection, full findings to be received in January 2004.</p> <p>There has been no further action on this item pending discussion between the Director, Executive Member and Chairman of the Topic Group on any future work for this group.</p>	ongoing investigation
5	Provision for Excluded Pupils in Welwyn Hatfield and Hertsmere and Education Support Centres	22 January 2003	<p>A report was presented to the Achievement Panel in Autumn 2003 and also a report on ESC accommodation was considered by the Property Panel in 13 November 2003.</p> <p>A review of practice in all ESCs is being undertaken as part of the Behaviour and Achievement and will be reported to the Achievement Panel in summer 2004.</p>	work outside scrutiny

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
6	Review of the Scrutiny of Services for Disabled Children	19 March 2003	<p>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) As a follow-up to this workshop, Operational managers have asked the disability managers to write an action plan to further develop the flexibility and responsiveness of disability services. This will take place at a meeting of Disability managers in February.</p> <p>Service developments in Direct payments, and the uptake of the outreach service established at the Mendip unit have contributed to the growing range of services available to families. Currently Direct payments have been agreed for 22 children.</p> <p>Recruitment to Occupational therapy posts has improved, with the appointment of 2 x 0.5 Senior practitioner posts, to assist the PO Occupational therapist to provide consultation and support to OT's, and to develop the service within CSF.</p> <p>A Joint CSF/ACS Scrutiny was held on 23Oct. (See Transition Item) Implementation of the Transition protocol, and training for all professionals will take place on 15 Jan, 21 Jan, 13 Feb, and 17 Feb.</p> <p>Further report to the Scrutiny Committee in March 2004.</p>	Monitoring

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
7	Provision for Children and Young People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder	19 March 2003	<p>A review of the work of the Specialist Advisory Service was presented to the Special Needs Panel at its meeting of 16 October 2003.</p> <p>Any further work will be taken forward by the Special Needs [or appropriate] Panel.</p> <p>Further report to review progress to Scrutiny Committee in March 2004.</p>	Work outside scrutiny
8	Primary School Places In St Albans	19 March 2003	<p>1) The admission limit at Garden Fields School has now been permanently increased from 45 to 60 per year group. The necessary building work is at the design stage and the works should start on site before the summer (there is money in the Capital Programme for this).</p> <p>2) Discussions are progressing with Oakwood JMI School on the proposal to raise the admission limit from 38 to 45. Feasibility works are in progress to establish how much work can be funded from the section 106, developers contribution, before governors give their final agreement to raise the admission limit (the decision should be made by Easter 2004).</p>	work outside scrutiny
9	Parent Partnership Service	18 June 2003	A survey has been developed on Inquisite (HertsDirect) for schools and other non-service users to collect data about the way they feel the parent partnership service should develop. Results of this survey should be available in September 2004.	work outside scrutiny
10	Placement needs of Looked After Children	18 June 2003	This item has been referred for detailed work to be undertaken in developing a revised Policy and Strategy for children at risk of becoming Looked After.	work outside scrutiny
	ITEM	C'TTEE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS*

		DATE		(see endnote)
11	PAF Target C18	18 June 2003	The Committee requested that the Director provide statistics on this area of performance in the CSF member bulletin on a regular basis.	monitoring
12	School Attendance	18 June 2003	Arising from the Traffic Light monitor report, the Committee requested that the Director report on the work on school attendance for looked after children in the CSF member bulletin.	monitoring
13	Budget Monitor for CSF – April 2002 to February 2003	18 June 2003	The Committee noted the theme of overspends on transport and suggested that this might be an area for the Director to review.	monitoring
14	Children and Young People's Preventative Strategy	18 June 2003	The Committee agreed to review progress in June 2004.	monitoring

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
15	Future of Leavesden Green, Alban Wood Infant and Alban Wood Junior Schools	18 June 2003	A report on the result of the consultation will be considered by the Schools Resources Panel on 14 January and Cabinet 26 January 2004 to decide on the publication of Statutory Notices.	Work outside scrutiny
16	Proposals by West Herts College to Discontinue Certain Provision on the College's Dacorum Campus	18 June 2003	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a Topic Group of members to engage with the College, Learning and Skills Council and schools and consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the current proposals The future provision for 16 to 19 year olds The phased withdrawal of recreational courses <p>(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)</p> <p>The Topic Group met on 11 July 2003 at Dacorum Campus and reported to County Council on 15 July 2003. Further meetings on 22 October and 7 January 2004.</p> <p>Report of the Topic Group on this agenda.</p>	ongoing investigation

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
17	Children, Schools and Families Budget Monitoring and Reporting in 2002/03	15 October 2003	The Committee requested a report to the January 2004 Scrutiny Committee meeting setting out the amended strategy for looked after children and the associated proposals for controlling other areas of significant overspending. Copy of this report to be sent to members of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.	Ongoing investigation
18	A/AS Level Achievement	15 October 2003	The Committee requested a further report to the March 2004 meeting on the effectiveness of the whole 16-19 Strategy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational courses • Further statistical analysis of value added data and a comparison with our statistical neighbours • The relationship with colleges • Transport needs generated by collaboration and how these are met • Curriculum analysis and choices offered to students 	Ongoing investigation
19	Year 7 Children Out of School	15 October 2003	Regular update to be provided to Committee every October	monitoring
20	Key Stage 2 results	15 October 2003	Arising from discussion of the traffic light monitor, the Committee agreed that Key Stage 2 results should be the subject of further scrutiny, date of meeting to be decided.	Awaiting action
21	Dyslexia	15 October 2003	Requested by Derek Hills on 15 October 2003	Awaiting action

* 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 Andrew Wellington	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 Budget Monitoring and Reporting in 2002/03 and Budget Monitor Lesley Brockington	21/01/04	The Committee requested a report to the January 2004 Scrutiny Committee meeting setting out the amended strategy for looked after children and the associated proposals for controlling other areas of significant overspending. Copy of this report to be sent to members of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.
3.	Children, Schools and Families Proposed Resource Budget 2004/05 – 2007/08 Lesley Brockinton	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
4.	Monitoring of Schools Gill Jones	21/01/04	Progress report of the Topic Group.
5.	Development at West Herts College	21/01/04	Progress report of the Topic Group.

	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 Alan Sapsford	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 of Services for Disabled Children Cheryl Hopkins	17/03/04	Last reported to Committee in March 2003 – this report will detail developments over the past year.
6	Nursery Provision in Radlett and Use of Wall Hall Money Jim Dalton	17/03/04	Requested by Tanis Kent on 4 September 2003

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
7	A/AS Level Achievement Gill Jones	17/03/04	The Committee considered this on 15 October 2003 and requested a further report to the March 2004 meeting on the effectiveness of the whole 16-19 Strategy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational courses • Further statistical analysis of value added data and a comparison with our statistical neighbours • The relationship with colleges • Transport needs generated by collaboration and how these are met • Curriculum analysis and choices offered to students • Heads. Co-ordinators etc to be invited to this meeting
8	Effectiveness of Quadrants Cheryl Hopkins	17/03/04	Further report of the Topic Group set up in June 2003.
9	Monitoring of Schools	17/03/04	Final report of the Topic Group
10	Traffic Light Monitor Geoff Brown	17/03/04	To receive regular report
11	Budget Monitor Lesley Brockington	17/03/04	To receive regular report

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
1	The Effectiveness of Hertfordshire's Implementation of the CSF Direct Payments Scheme Ken Harvey	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's Preventative Strategy Andrew Wellington	23/06/04	First reported to Committee on 18 June 2003; Committee agreed to review progress in June 2004.
3	West Herts College	23/06/04	Final report of the Topic Group
4	Traffic Light Monitor Geoff Brown	23/06/04	To receive regular report
5	Budget Monitor Lesley Brockington	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 CSF Scrutiny Committee agreed there should be a rolling programme of updates on quadrant performance and annual visits

Annual Review of Performance by the Social Services Inspectorate

January cycle

CSF Plan
Resource Budget

March cycle

Admissions Rules