

**CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**UPDATE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2004/05**

Agenda item  
no.

**8**

**23 JUNE 2004**

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO CABINET/EXECUTIVE MEMBERS/CHIEF OFFICER AT THE LAST MEETING ON 17 MARCH 2004:**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON POST-16 ACHIEVEMENT AND COLLABORATIVE WORKING**

The Committee raised a number of issues which they recommended the Director, the LSC and schools should work to address:

- Disappointment that it has taken so long to reach the current stage of collaborative arrangements in the County.
- The practical and administrative problems of students moving between schools.
- Recognising our commitment to meet the educational needs of all children; to continue to press for good provision in all areas, whether there is collaboration or not.
- Further examination of the relationships between collaboration, cohort size and individual school performance and how this impacts on how we can provide the best learning opportunities for all our children, through collaboration or other means.
- The importance of ensuring there is an appropriate range of learning opportunities, including non-school based ones, in all areas and that impartial advice is available to all young people to suggest the best learning option for the individual.

A further report will be provided to the Committee in January 2005 to include details of:

- Actions to promote further collaboration
- Good practice guidance for collaborative working
- Progress with the LSC's Strategic Area Review
- Further analysis of post-16 achievement, to include the outcomes of the 2004 examinations

## **2. UPDATE ON PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE LAST MEETING:**

Mrs Amanda De'Ath presented a petition on behalf of the parents of Mount Pleasant Lane School, Bricket Wood objecting to the current admission rules for secondary community single sex schools.

The Executive Member responded that any changes in the allocation of single sex places would require detailed modelling and this would be undertaken during the process of drawing up the school admission rules for 2006.

### 3. UPDATE ON PREVIOUS SCRUTINY ITEMS

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
1	Monitoring of Schools	19 June 2002	The Committee on 17 March noted that the issues raised by the Topic Group would be considered at the next meeting of the Achievement [now Education] Panel and that a further report would be brought to the Committee in October 2005. The Committee suggested that the actions in paragraphs 5.3 and 6 of the report be included in the CSF Action Plan.	Work outside scrutiny
2	Operation Coachman	16 October 2002	The Committee on 17 March noted that all 10 District Councils now used an 'enhanced check' on all taxi drivers and escorts on County Council contracts; it was agreed that the proper definition of 'enhanced check' should be included in the report to this meeting of the Committee.	investigation
3	Effectiveness of Quadrants	22 January 2003	The Committee on 17 March noted that the Topic Group was now 'on hold'; the work done by the Group so far would be incorporated into CSF's Growth and Change programme and members of the Group would be involved in the consideration of the draft report to the Children's Services Panel.	work outside scrutiny
4	Children and Young People's Preventative Strategy	18 June 2003	The Committee agreed to review progress in June 2004 – reported in CSF Members' Bulletin, April 2004.	monitoring

5	Proposals by West Herts College to Discontinue Certain Provision on the College's Dacorum Campus	18 June 2003	Final report of the Topic Group on this agenda.  [Update will be given in October 2004 to Scrutiny Committee]	investigation
6	Year 7 Children Out of School	15 October 2003	Regular update to be provided to Committee every October.	monitoring
7	Key Stage 2 Results/Review of Schools' Performance 2001-03	15 October 2003	<p>The Committee on 17 March welcomed a report on schools' performance and celebrated the high level of achievement of Hertfordshire schools, but noted some areas of significant concerns, in particular the gender gap in achievement; the Committee would receive more information on this area at future meetings.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to receive an annual report on school performance and progress, to include more detail on value added and floor targets. The timing of this report would allow the Committee's comments to inform budget considerations.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that a report should be brought to the June meeting on the performance of vulnerable children at all key stages to allow the Committee to decide if a Topic Group was needed to scrutinise this issue.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to set up a short term Topic Group to scrutinise Key Stage 2 Achievement. [membership – David Billing, Tony Dodd, Keith Emsall, Derek Hills, Seamus Quilty, Ian Simpson and Pat Cherry.] Proposed remit of the Topic Group: <i>'To review and scrutinise Key Stage 2 Achievement in Hertfordshire Schools in order to determine: -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• factors affecting schools which 'buck the trend' in terms of gender difference in English,</i></li> </ul>	<p>monitoring</p> <p>monitoring</p> <p>investigation</p> <p>investigation</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>why some schools have notably high performance within districts/free school meal bands where performance is otherwise lower,</i></li> <li>• <i>why some schools have improved significantly over the past three years (i.e. have not mirrored the 'static' trend,)</i></li> <li>• <i>why some schools have significant impact on particular groups of pupils, and</i></li> <li>• <i>any issues associated with the transition process.</i></li> <li>• <i>and to propose to the Children's, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee recommendations that the Committee may wish to draw to the attention of the Cabinet Member, Director or County Council.'</i></li> </ul> <p>The Group has agreed to progress this scrutiny by reviewing extra data and then listening to the experiences of teachers and managers in schools. Further meetings on 30 June and 7 July. Report to October meeting of Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The County Council on 18 May 2004 invited the Scrutiny Committee to consider the more sophisticated added value data available through the Fischer Family Trust as this becomes available.</p>	
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8	Processes and Member Involvement in School Reorganisations	21 January 2004	<p>David Billing raised the issue of the processes and member involvement in school reorganisations, and it was agreed that this would be added to the Scrutiny Update report so that the work of the Education Panel in this area could be reported to Members.</p> <p>At the meeting on 17 March, the Committee noted the reassurances given by the Executive Member and the Director that the protocols for consultation on school reorganisations were at the draft stage and members would be involved in their development.</p>	Work outside scrutiny
9	Family Support Centre Service for Under 10's	17 March 2004	<p>Requested by Tanis Kent.</p> <p>The Committee noted that this work would now be taken forward by the Children's Services Panel.</p>	Work outside scrutiny
10	Post-16 Achievement and Collaborative Working	17 March 2004	<p>The Committee requested that any proposals for 14-19 year-olds resulting from the LSC review should be brought to members for consideration.</p> <p>The Committee also raised a number of issues for the Director, the LSC and schools to address [see front page] Further report to January 2005 meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to include details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to promote further collaboration</li> <li>• Good practice guidance for collaborative working</li> <li>• Progress with the LSC's Strategic Area Review</li> <li>• Further analysis of post-16 achievement, to include the outcomes of the 2004 examinations</li> </ul>	Work outside scrutiny

11	Revenue and Capital Budget Monitor to 31 December 2003	17 March 2004	<p>The Committee noted the report and requested 2 briefing notes for members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The demand for nursery places and steps taken to promote uptake of places.</li> <li>• Capital slippage in South West Herts.</li> </ul> <p>These briefings notes have both been circulated to members of the Committee.</p>	Work outside scrutiny
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\* Status definitions:

- **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

#### 4. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	23/06/04	
1	Inspection of Child Protection Services		The Cabinet on 1 April 2004:  <i>'Invites the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee to: (a) consider the inspection report and make any recommendations for service improvement; (b) evaluate progress in responding to the findings from the inspection.'</i>
	<b>EDUCATION</b>	23/06/04	
2	Report on Petition from St. Joseph's RC Junior School, Waltham Cross		Petition to County Council on 18 May by David Balmer on behalf of parents concerned about the lack of places at a Catholic Secondary School for children from Waltham Cross; referred to the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee.
	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
	<b>EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	13/10/04	
1	CSF Service Plan 2005/06		To give members of the Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan, as part of the consultation process.
2	Growth and Change Programme		To give members of the Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to comment on the Programme, as part of the consultation process.
3	Annual Report on Complaints/Compliments		Report to inform members of levels of compliments and complaints received by the Department in 2003/04.

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	13/10/04	
4	SSI Inspection – Annual Review of Performance 2003/04		The report will set out the findings of the Annual Review by the SSI.
5	Youth Service		Requested by Tanis Kent.
	<b>EDUCATION</b>	13/10/04	
6	Report of Key Stage 2 Topic Group		Progress report of the Topic Group.
7	Update on Year 7 Children Out of School		Annual update giving information regarding the number of Year 7 children who did not attend school at the start of the autumn in September 2004.
8	Strategic Area Review [StAR]		Requested by members of the West Herts College Topic Group. All LSC's are required by the DfES to undertake a Strategic Area Review [StAR] of 16-19, and post-19, learning provision; formal consultation on Hertfordshire's review will commence in November 2004, with options being submitted to the DfES by March 2005. This report will give the Scrutiny Committee an opportunity to comment on the options as part of the consultation process.

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>C'TTEE DATE</b>	<b>SCRUTINY FOCUS</b>
	<b>EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	19/01/05	
1	Children, Schools and Families Proposed Resource Budget 2005/06-2008/09		
2	CSF Service Plan 2005/06		To give members of the Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan, as part of the consultation process.
	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	19/01/05	
	<b>EDUCATION</b>	19/01/05	
3	Progress Report on Post-16 Achievement and Collaborative Working		Report went to March 2004 meeting of Scrutiny Committee. This report will include details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to promote further collaboration</li> <li>• Good practice guidance for collaborative working</li> <li>• Progress with the LSC's Strategic Area Review</li> <li>• Further analysis of post-16 achievement, to include the outcomes of the 2004 examinations</li> </ul>

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>C'TTEE DATE</b>	<b>SCRUTINY FOCUS</b>
	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	16/03/05	
	<b>EDUCATION</b>	16/03/05	
1	A Review of Schools' Performance		The Committee [on 17 March 2004] agreed that it would be helpful to receive an annual report on school performance and progress, to include more detail on value added and floor targets. The timing of this report would allow the Committee's comments to inform budget considerations.
2	Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2006-2007		To give members of the Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to comment on the Admission Arrangements 2006-2007, as part of the consultation process.

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>C'TTEE DATE</b>	<b>SCRUTINY FOCUS</b>
	<b>EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	October 2005	
1	Annual Report on Complaints/Compliments		
	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	October 2005	
	<b>EDUCATION</b>	October 2005	
2	Monitoring of Schools Topic Group		The Committee on 17 March 2004 requested a further report in October 2005.
3	Update on Year 7 Children Out of School		Annual update giving information regarding the number of Year 7 children who did not attend school at the start of the autumn in September 2005.

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
1	Effective Reporting of the % of SEN Children in Schools	?	Requested by Tanis Kent.
2	Schools Library Service/ Homework Clubs	?	Both these issues were raised by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 22 March 2004, minute follows:  <i>'The Community Services Scrutiny Committee requested that officers follow up whether or not Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee wish to undertake joint scrutiny of the Schools' Library Service and raise with CSF Scrutiny Committee the issue of homework clubs.'</i>
3	Numbers of Year 9, 10 and 11 Children Out of School	?	Information requested by Tanis Kent.  The Children out of School survey is carried out three times a year and takes place at each half term. Information is recorded on all children who have been out of school for 50% or more of the time during the survey period. The survey covers the period from the beginning of term until the start of half term. Included in the survey are children who have been out of school for legitimate reasons and whose absence is authorised by the school.  The information records, which school the child, should be attending. If the child is not on the roll of a school the information indicates which alternative education provision the child is attending. The future plans for the child's education is also recorded. The child's name will only be removed from the survey when they are attending school regularly.  <u>Survey Information</u>  The attached table provide information on the last seven 'Children out of School' surveys. Table 1 provides information on the total number of children recorded as out of school during the survey period. Table 2 records the number of children who have attended school less than 50% during the survey and children who are not on the roll of a school. Table 3 indicates where those children who are not on the roll of a school are receiving their education. There are a number of children where legal proceedings are being taken and it would not be appropriate to provide alternative provision. Table 4 provides information by key stage and table 5 provides information on children absent from school in years 9, 10 and 11 as requested.

			<p>The comparable surveys of Spring 2002 - 2003 and Summer 2002 - 2003 indicates that there has been a reduction in the total number of children recorded as out of school. There has been a slight increase in this figure from Spring 2003 to Spring 2004.</p> <p>Progress continues to be made in reducing the number of children who are not on the roll of a school.</p> <p>We continue to ensure that those children whose attendance at mainstream or special school is disrupted are out of school for the shortest possible time. The small number of children for whom attendance at school is no longer appropriate will be accessed to alternative educational provision as soon as possible and supported to attend regularly.</p>
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### 1. Children out of School Survey

	Spring 2002	Summer 2002	Autumn 2002	Spring 2003	Summer 2004	Autumn 2003	Spring 2004
Total number of children recorded in the survey	1844	1672	1064	1479	1401	1151	1678

### 2. Information recorded

	Spring 2002	Summer 2002	Autumn 2002	Spring 2003	Summer 2003	Autumn 2003	Spring 2004
Number of children recorded as attending school less than 50%.	1522	1374	894	1234	1168	967	1461
Number of children not on the roll of a school.	322	298	170	245	233	184	217

### 3. Children not on the roll of a school who are attending alternative education provision

	Spring 2002	Summer 2002	Autumn 2002	Spring 2003	Summer 2003	Autumn 2003	Spring 2004
Children on the roll of an Education Support Centre	135	117	72	91	77	65	64
Children on the roll of Youth Programmes Alternative Education Provision	112	116	63	112	95	69	72
Children on the roll of a college	12	6	4	12	8	10	16
Children receiving home tuition	13	11	6	4	4	3	7
Children where provision is being arranged	26	29	15	11	31	21	34
Children where provision would not be appropriate	24	19	10	15	18	16	24

### 4. Children out of school by Key Stage

Key Stage 1 and 2	Spring 2002	Summer 2002	Autumn 2002	Spring 2003	Summer 2003	Autumn 2003	Spring 2004
	186	154	107	177	113	107	171

Key Stage 3	Spring 2002	Summer 2002	Autumn 2002	Spring 2003	Summer 2003	Autumn 2003	Spring 2004
	577	548	326	431	535	323	470

Key Stage 4	Spring 2002	Summer 2002	Autumn 2002	Spring 2003	Summer 2003	Autumn 2003	Spring 2004
	1081	970	631	871	753	721	1037

### 5. Children out of school by Year Groups 9, 10 and 11.

<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Spring 2002</b>	<b>Summer 2002</b>	<b>Autumn 2002</b>	<b>Spring 2003</b>	<b>Summer 2003</b>	<b>Autumn 2003</b>	<b>Spring 2004</b>
	283	263	169	218	248	167	202

<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Spring 2002</b>	<b>Summer 2002</b>	<b>Autumn 2002</b>	<b>Spring 2003</b>	<b>Summer 2003</b>	<b>Autumn 2003</b>	<b>Spring 2004</b>
	379	385	250	331	419	253	399

<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Spring 2002</b>	<b>Summer 2002</b>	<b>Autumn 2002</b>	<b>Spring 2003</b>	<b>Summer 2003</b>	<b>Autumn 2003</b>	<b>Spring 2004</b>
	702	585	382	540	333	468	638

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; also Traffic Light Monitor [except January cycle] and Budget Monitor to each meeting.