

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES PANEL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2004 AT 10 A.M.**

Agenda Item No.

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**CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES PANEL
FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 2004 AT 2.00 PM**

THE CSF PLAN 2005/08

(Note - The CSF Draft Plan will be circulated separately)

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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Executive Members: - Robert Gordon, Executive Member for Education
Jane Pitman, Executive Member for Children's
Services

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report sets out the draft strategic Plan for 2005/08 for Children, Schools and Families within the new planning framework.

2. Summary

2.1 The current planning framework for CSF has been revised in order to respond to national developments;

- Rationalising local authority planning: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).
- Children Bill and Every Child Matters: Next Steps.

2.2 The revised framework has moved to a three year strategic plan, which is outcome focused, with strategic areas and themes aligned to Hertfordshire and national priorities.

This report details the draft outcomes, priorities and actions which are the subject of consultation with all stakeholders.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to note the draft Strategic Plan, 2005/08 for CSF and identify issues for comment or future scrutiny as appropriate.

4. Background

Current Children, Schools and Families Planning Framework

- 4.1 On the establishment of Children, Schools and Families (CSF) three years ago a five year planning framework was agreed. Each year there has been extensive consultation with stakeholders on the CSF annual plan.
- 4.2 As an “excellent” authority Hertfordshire is exempt from the statutory planning regulations for local authorities. The CSF plan has, therefore, been the key plan for developments and improvements in education.
- 4.3 Every Child Matters (Next Steps) and the Children Bill set out clear expectations on local authorities and partner organisations which need to be reflected in their plans. These expectations are summarised below:
- Clear, shared outcomes for children and young people;
 - Importance of organising services around the child, young person or family;
 - Early intervention through information sharing, common assessment, multi-disciplinary teams, and co-location of services;
 - Clear accountability and better integration between all services;
 - Fewer but more coherent targets;
 - Simpler and more flexible use of resources;
 - Ensure children and young people’s voices are heard and they are involved in the design and delivery of services
- 4.4 The Children Bill sets out the five national outcomes for children and young people:
- Be healthy
 - Stay safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Achieve economic well-being
- 4.5 The planning framework should not only enable monitoring and evaluation of what an organisation is going to do, it should also be developmental. The current planning framework for CSF has served the first of the above well, but it now needs to provide a tool for the major development work of CSF.

5. The Revised Planning Framework

- 5.1 The revised framework enables the CSF plan to be more strategic and outward facing and focused on outcomes for children and young people. The plan is shorter and more focussed than the previous

planning format. There are four **strategic function areas** (rather than eight) which directly interface with children, young people, parents/carers and schools. There are four **core themes** running across the strategic function areas. This provides a matrix structure so that as well as reading down the strategic function areas one can also read across themes common to CSF as a whole. These strategic function areas and themes are listed below:

Strategic Function Areas	Core Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Effectiveness • Care and Safeguarding • Participation and Engagement • Family and Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and Management • Practice Development • Prevention, Early identification and intervention • Collaborative and integrated working

- 5.2 The plan is underpinned by **enablers** which are processes to support service delivery, resource management, commissioning and quality assurance and which promote collaborative and partnership working with staff, parents, children, communities, schools, and stakeholders.
- 5.3 The strategic function areas will be co-ordinated by the Deputy Directors for Learning and School Effectiveness and Social Care and Prevention. The enablers will be co-ordinated by the Deputy Director for Commissioning, Performance and Resources.
- 5.4. Each strategic function area has a limited number of outcomes, which can be mapped against the five national outcomes of Every Child Matters and progress assessed against high level performance measures. The strategic plan will be underpinned, as at present, by policy documents and a service/unit planning structure which will have the operational and delivery detail. The operational plan will give more detail on how the priorities will be achieved and will allow staff to identify their contributions to the key outcomes.
- 5.5 The revised planning framework will:
- better enable Members, senior officers and stakeholders to monitor and evaluate progress against high level outcomes;
 - provide a framework for scrutiny against clear outcomes;
 - align strategic, operational and financial planning.
- 5.6 The planning process and timetable remains similar to that at present, but with two changes:

- The strategic outcomes and actions has been developed on the basis of an evaluation of current progress. This evaluation has been shared and developed with stakeholders. The draft strategic plan is now subject to consultation (attached as Annexe 1) during the autumn, having already had stakeholder input into its development in the summer.
- Operational plans will be developed during the autumn but will cover an eighteen month period (rather than twelve at present) giving greater continuity.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The revised framework will better enable the planning and matching of resources to priorities and the evaluation of effective use of resources against outcomes for children, young people, schools and families.

7. Access to Service Implications

- 7.1 Access to high quality social care and educational provision which supports achievement and enhances life chances is fundamental to CSF. The plan proposes many actions to underpin this aim.

Background information referred to by the author:

CSF Plan 2003/2004

Children Bill

Every Child Matters; Next Steps (DfES)

Single Education Plan (ODPM)

Removing Barriers to Achievement (DfES)