

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2003 AT 10.30 AM

Agenda Item No.

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CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SERVICE PLAN 2003/04

Report of the County Secretary considered by the Cabinet on 27 January 2003

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Executive Member:- Robert Gordon

1. Purpose of report

To seek approval to the Children, Schools and Families Service Plan for 2003/2004, which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework.

2. Background

The Plan (circulated with this agenda) is designed to incorporate all of the key strategic developments arising from the 35 different plans required for the Children, Schools and Families Service, and in particular the:

- Education Development Plan
- Quality Protects Management Action Plan
- Early Years Development and Childcare Plan
- Youth Justice Plan
- Adult and Community Learning Plan

The CSF Service Plan, which also includes the performance measures for the service has been through an extensive consultation process.

An initial Stakeholder Conference was held in May 2002; a draft Plan was then issued in September 2002, and there followed an extensive series of conferences and workshops. The Plan was next considered at a meeting of the CSF Scrutiny Committee in October 2002 and at CSF Member Panels and Partnership Group meetings.

A large number of responses were received during that consultation process, not only indicating broad support for the Plan, but also offering a number of suggestions for improvement. A file containing all of those responses is currently available in the members' room.

The Plan was considered in detail at the meeting of the Strategy Panel held on December 17 2002, and their comments, along with recommendations from

the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee, who considered the Plan again at their meeting on 22 January, were presented to the Cabinet on 27 January 2003.

The Cabinet, at that meeting, agreed that the Director and Children, Schools and Families, in consultation with the Executive Member, be authorised to make changes to the draft plan to reflect:

- *the revision of performance measures regarding school exclusions to reflect new developments arising from the review of behaviour and achievement*
- *completion and revision of performance data*
- *the views of the Scrutiny Committee*
- *final budgetary decisions*
- *final proof-reading*

and that, subject to those changes being made, the Plan be recommended to the Council for approval.

3. Conclusion

Further changes may become necessary before the final version is printed, so the Council is invited to authorise the Director of Children, Schools and Families to make such further changes as are needed, in consultation with the Executive Member.