

By: Grahame Ward, Director – Capital Programme & Infrastructure

To: CFE Resources & Infrastructure Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 20 July 2010

Subject: **SEN TRANSPORT – INFORMAL MEMBER GROUP**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: To update Members on the work of the IMG.

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1. The SEN Transport Informal Member Group was established by this POSC at its meeting on 18 September 2009, with a membership of the following:

Roland Tolputt  
Ian Chittenden  
Godfrey Horne  
Bryan Sweetland  
Sara Kemsley (now resigned)  
Mr Myers [Parent Governor]

2. The scope of the work was agreed by the Group at its first meeting.

3. The Group has met four times and during that time they have:

(i) **interviewed:**

- Kevin Harlock in respect of the SEN transport contracts that Commercial Services handle on behalf of CFE.
- Mr Myers as a parent (and Governor) of a pupil who attends Valence Special School.
- Mr Harrison in relation to transport appeals.

(ii) **considered papers produced by:**

- Colin Feltham (a paper which provided facts and figures).
- Jennifer Maiden on the “independence project” developed by Manchester City Council and the Council’s devolution of budgetary responsibilities for home-to-school transport to schools.

- Jennifer Maiden on the self management of the transport provision by Goldwyn Special School as a case study example.

4. The Group has to-date identified three areas they recommend that are progressed further. These are:

- (a) the concept of 'independence training' and how it could be applied to benefit some of the pupils within our special schools, it is suggested that an independence scheme could be developed and piloted in Kent, with tailoring to meet the requirements of locality and pupil need;
- (b) the devolution of transport budgets to schools could be investigated as a viable means of both reducing the future costs of SEN student home-to-school transport and improving the quality of the service to the young people; and
- (c) the reduction of statements and the subsequent transport requirements.

### **Recommendations**

5. Members of the Resources and Infrastructure Children Families and Education Policy & Scrutiny Overview Committee are asked to:

- (i) NOTE the work undertaken; and
- (i) AGREE that the recommendations from the IMG as detailed in 4(a) to (c); and
- (ii) CONSIDER what further work they wish the IMG to take forward

### **GRAHAME WARD**

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*Background Documents: None*

*Other Useful Information: None*