



## AGENDA

### CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 25th March, 2008, at 10.00 am  
Darent Room - Sessions House

Ask for: Denise Fitch

Telephone (01622) 694269

#### Membership

- Conservative (11):** Mr C J Capon (Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr R B Burgess,  
Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr C Hibberd,  
Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr C J Law, Mr M J Northey,  
Ms B J Simpson and Mr R Tolputt
- Labour (4):** Mrs C Angell (Vice Chairman), Mr C Hart,  
Mr I T N Jones, DL and Mr W V Newman, DL
- Liberal Democrat (1):** Mr M J Vye
- Church Representatives (3):** Rupert Bristow, John Smith and Dilys Wadman
- Parent Governor (2):** Peter Hawthorne
- Teacher Advisers (6):** Trevor Desmoyers-Davies, Julie Huckstep, Rosemary  
Olivier, Robert Straker, Stephen Thompson and John  
Walder

#### **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

*(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)*

Item No	Timings	Page Number
<b>A. Committee Business</b>		
1.	Substitutes	
2.	Declaration of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting	
3.	Minutes of the meeting	1 - 10

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Champions Board (to follow)

#### **B. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. 10.00am Children Families and Education Budget Monitoring 2007/08 11 - 36  
-  
10.10am

2. Directors update (oral report)

#### **BREAK – 11.10 – 11.20AM**

3. SEN Transport and transport Policy 37 - 42

#### **BREAK 12.20 – 12.30**

4. Personal Social Health and Economic Education - Strategy to Support Schools and Settings 43 - 62

#### **BREAK 13:00 – 13:45**

5. Kent Admissions Arrangements for Entry to School 2009 63 - 64

6. 14 - 19 Developments 65 - 72

#### **BREAK – 14:45 – 14:55**

7. Surestart (to follow)

#### **C. SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

1. Select Committees update 73 - 74

#### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

*(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)*

Peter Sass  
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership  
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#### **Date Not Specified**

*Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.*



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**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION POLICY OVERVIEW  
COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 30 January 2008.

PRESENT: Mr C Capon (Chairman), Mrs C Angell (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Allen (substitute for Mr R Burgess), Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr M Harrison (substitute for Mr R Tolputt), Mr C Hart, Mr C Hibberd, Mr G A Horne, Mr C J Law, Mr T Maddison (substitute for Mr I Jones), Mr W V Newman, Mr M J Northey, and Mr M J Vye

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES: Mr R Bristow, Mr S Parr (substitute for Dr D A Wadham)

TEACHER ADVISERS: Mr Bilous (substitute for Mr J Walder), Mr T Desmoyers-Davis, Mrs J Huckstep,

OBSERVERS: Mr C Wells (Cabinet Member) and Mr M Dance (Cabinet Member) and Mr Sheridan (Archdiocese of Southwark).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education; Mrs M Hodges, Director Strategic Policy and Performance; Ms D Fitch, Assistant Democratic Services Manager (Policy Overview).

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

**83. Minutes**  
*(Item A2)*

(1) In response to a question on Minute 78 it was confirmed that the legislative responsibility for the Kent Children's Trust Board rested with the Director of Children's Services and Mr Wells as the Lead Cabinet Member.

(2) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

#### **84. CFE Budget Monitoring 2007/08**

*(Item B1 - Mr K Abbott, Director, Finance and Corporate Services and Mr G Ward, Director, Resources were present for this item)*

(1) Mr Abbott and Mr Ward answered questions from Members on the CFE Budget Monitoring report.

(2) Issues covered by Members included the following:-

- Page B1:5 – SEN Transport – in response to a question on how the survey of all users was undertaken, the Cabinet Member confirmed that all parents of SEN children had been written to directly explaining the options.
- In relation to the target in the budget of £870k for SEN transport an assurance was sought that access to schools for this vulnerable group would remain a high priority. The Cabinet Members confirmed that it was important to build in to the system as much flexibility as possible balanced with the needs of this vulnerable.
- In relation to the overspend of £104.6k for the out-of-hours service, Mr Abbott undertook to supply a written response to Mrs Angell.
- In response to a question on the Asylum Service and forecasted funding shortfall, Mr Abbott stated that there had been a seasonal variance in referrals. There were normally approximately 20 per month but in October this had increased to 70 a month and in January the figure was 67. This had created a pressure which looked like resulting in a £7m shortfall. Attempts were being made to secure government funding for this by working with other local authorities in a similar situation.
- Page B1:15 – Dartford Campus – in response to a question, Mr Ward stated that part of the challenge was that the scheme was the first of its type in Kent and had become more expensive than was first envisaged.
- Page B1:5 – In-house Residential Care overspend – Mr Abbott explained that part of the pressure related to secure accommodation and that 3 or 4 people in secure accommodation has stayed there all year which had led to this pressure.
- Regarding payments to BVI Providers for the free entitlement to 3 and 4 year olds funded from the DSG and the unallocated underspend, Mr Abbott confirmed that this would go back to the Schools Funding Forum and they would decide how it was to be redistributed.
- Page B1:3 – in relation to a question on Headship and ensuring that we had the best targeted approach, Mr Badman expressed concern regarding advertising costs in using the Times Education Supplement, of example this could result in a small primary school paying £5 to £10,000 for advertisements for Headteachers, other options were being considered. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that we had the best process for recruiting headteachers as leadership was key and was open to suggestions on how these processes might be improved.

- Page B1:18 – in response to a question on the delay in timescale for the processes to establish the Minster School (Academy), Mr Badman gave an explanation of the background to this slippage.
- In response to a question Mr Badman undertook to provide a written reply for Mrs Angell regarding the length of time that the Social Workers from Atlanta were required to stay.
- In response to a question on Looked after Children, Mr Badman confirmed that it was the ambition of the local authority to reduce the number of young people in its care and that the authority had been awarded a top rating for its adoption services.

(3) RESOLVED that Members of the Policy Overview Committee note the projected out-turn figures for the Directorate as at the second quarter.

**85. BUDGET 2008-09 AND MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2008-09 TO 2010-11**

*(Item B2 –Mr P Carter, Leader, Mr M Dance, Cabinet Member – Operations, Resources and Skills, Mr C Wells, Cabinet Member – Children, Families and Educational Achievement, Mr G Badman, Managing Director – Children, Families and Education, Mr K Abbott - Director, Finance and Corporate Services and Mr G Ward – Director, Resources were present for this item)*

1. The Committee considered the Children, Families and Education Directorate's Draft Budget proposals set out in the Draft Budget 2008-09 and the Draft Medium Term Plan 2008-2011 and also a report circulated with the agenda which specifically related to the key areas of these documents for Children, Families and Education Directorate.

2. Mr Carter, Mr Dance, Mr Wells, Mr Badman, Mr Abbott and Mr Ward answered questions from Members which included the following issues:-

(a) Income 2008-09

3. In a response to a question from Mr Law on why the income for the two portfolios had not grown in comparison with the gross figure for funding, Mr Abbott briefly explained that one of the key issues with the Dedicated Schools Grant was that the creation of academies reduced this figure. Mr Abbott undertook to supply a detailed response to this.

(b) Council Tax

5. In response to a question from Mr Law, Mr Abbott explained that the majority of funding for education came from the Dedicated School's Grant and therefore there was no top up from the Council Tax.

(c) Dedicated Schools Grant

6. In response to questions from Mr Vye, Mr Abbott confirmed that in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant for the next three years, officers had been advising schools for over a year that this round of funding would be challenging. He stated that the teachers pay award would probably mean a 3%-4% increase on the pay bill which may vary locally. Mr Abbott went on to explain that the Ministerial Priorities money would be directed to schools in line with DCSF aims. He expressed the view that the funding for schools would be tighter in 2009/10 than during 2008/09 and he anticipated the need to work with schools to make sure that they did not go into deficit in the second year.

7. Mr Dance stated that the Schools Funding Forum was still considering how funds were to be divided and he undertook to let Members have the information from the Forum when it was available. In relation to Ministerial Priorities, he stated that these were more flexible this year which was helpful.

8. Mr Badman expressed disappointment that the Ministerial Priorities funding was not hypothecated as it was an important tool to drive change.

(d) Strategic Management and Managing Directors Office and Democratic Services

9. In response to a question from Mr Hart, in relation to the figures for Strategic Management for 2008-09 of £1.8m on page 6 of the Budget Book and Managing Director's Office and Democratic Services of £1.949m on page 13 of the Budget Book, Mr Abbott explained that the Senior Management Team figure in the budget for Cabinet Members support, Occupational Health recharge to support schools. As part of the Revenue Budget Medium Term Plan process, officers were always looking for options for savings and as part of the normal monitoring process, these back office areas were particularly kept under review.

10. Mr Wells stated that Members had to bear in mind the size of the educational operation which was run and supported in Kent. He stated that he believed that in relation to the size of the budget, the figure for strategic management was not out of proportion.

(e) Development Opportunities

11. In response to a question from Mr Newman relating to how much of Capital Receipts arising from the sale of school land went to the school. Mr Ward explained that 100% of the money made from these sales (excluding fees and charges) went to the specific school to reinvest. He informed Members that in the past schools had the luxury of being able to borrow money from the local authority to enable them to replace facilities before the disposal of land took place. This was in effect an interest free loan to the school. There was now an expectation that if money needed to be borrowed in relation to the scheme, interest would be charged to the school or the local authority as relevant.

(f) Sponsorship of Academies

12. In response to a question from Mr Newman, Mr Ward referred Members to page 11 of the Budget Book which listed the different levels of sponsorship for the academies.

13. In response to a question from Mr Maddison on Dartford College Campus and the joint working between the Children, Families and Education Directorate and Communities Directorate in relation to the youth facility remaining on the site, Mr Carter confirmed that

the new school would be happy to share their facilities when they were completed. He stated that 100% of the capital receipt from the Youth Centre site would go to Communities Directorate. It had been difficult to find a solution for the Youth and Community Centre and therefore the development of the school had to go ahead without this being resolved.

(g) Broadband Connectivity

14. In response to a question from Mr Harrison, Mr Ward confirmed that the Government grant for Broadband Connectivity had changed and it was no longer necessary for matched funding to be provided. Funding had been made available to the authority to offer a core free broadband package to all schools. KCC had decided that to offer all schools a free core broadband service with the option to pay extra for more capacity. Therefore, to the school this level of service was provided free by KCC utilising a Government grant of approximately £5m per annum.

(h) Events Officer

15. In response to a question from Mr Harrison, on the dedicated events office support that the Directorate had rather than using the Corporate Events team, Mr Badman gave details of the level of conference's that the Directorate supported which required dedicated support.

(i) Academy Projects – Page 11 – Budget Book

16. In response to a question from Mr Desmoyers-Davis, Mrs Hodges replied that the process for establishing an academy was defined by the DCSF and no decision would be made on the establishment of any academy until the consultation and feasibility process had been carried out. There was no guarantee that the academy would be established until the Minister actually signed the funding agreement. Mr Ward stated that as the authority was aware of various proposals to establish academies that were going through their feasibility stage and therefore it was prudent to include provision for these in the budget.

(j) Portfolio Plans

17. In response to Mrs Angell, Mr Wells stated that he would look with his Cabinet colleague at ensuring that reference to the Every Child Matters outcomes, was reflected in both of the CF&E portfolio statements in the Medium Term Plan.

(k) Children Centres/Sure Start Funding

18. In response to a question from Mrs Angell relating to funding for the nine existing Sure Start Centres, Mr Wells stated that the original nine Sure Start Centres were well funded by Government and KCC was currently in a transition period of moving to a large number of children's centres which would not so generously funded as the original Centres. Mr Badman stated that as there were other children's centres in the area of the original Sure Start Centres, it was appropriate to spread the funding across all of the centres which would deliver integrated services including, for example, advice from the Department of Works and Pensions. Mr Badman mentioned that the Council had put £7m into the budget in addition to the Capital Grant received from Government to provide children's centres

19. RESOLVED

(1) that the Budget 2008-09 and Medium Term Plan 2008-09 to 2010-11 for the Children, Families and Education Directorate be noted along with the responses made to the questions from Members;

**86. Director's Update**  
*(Item B4)*

(1) Mr Badman gave a presentation and answered Members' questions on the following issues:-

- Poverty
- NEETS & Young Adult Unemployment
- Timetable for the development of Local Children's Services Partnership
- Kent Children' Trust – Governance
- 14 – 19 education
- Learning Skills Council

(2) RESOLVED that:

- (a) the presentation be noted; and
- (b) a Members Briefing on the Children's Plan be arranged.

**87. Half Yearly Monitoring**  
*(Item B3 – Miss K Mills, Policy Officer, Business Planning was present for this item)*

(1) Members considered a report which summarised the 2007/08 CFE Half Year Monitoring results for the KCC Annual Plan 2007-08, the Annual Business Unit Operating Plans, the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and included the Managing Director's summary of progress to date. Officers answered questions from Members.

(2) RESOLVED that the report and comments made by Members be noted;

**88. The Kent SACRE Annual Report 2006-2007**  
*(Item B5 – Ms P Draycott, Cross Phase Advisor, RE and Citizenship was present for this item)*

(1) Ms Draycott and Mr Bristow, Chairman of SACRE, answered questions on the work of Kent Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education and key developments in the field of religious education and collective worship.

(2) Members' questions covered issues such as:-

- collective worship in schools;
- the RE curriculum in Voluntary Aided Church Schools;
- the social, racial harmony and cohesion agenda;

(3) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Kent SACRE Annual Report 2006-2007 and the key developments being taken forward by the Kent SACRE be noted; and
- (b) the work of the Kent SACRE be endorsed.

**89. Kent Children's Trust – Draft Parent's Support Strategy**

*(Item B6 –Mrs M White, Head of Extended Services was present for this item)*

(1) Mrs White invited questions and comments from Members on the draft Parent's Support Strategy which had been developed on behalf of the Kent Children's Trust Board which sat under the Children and Young People's Plan. The draft was intended for professionals working with families and currently work was going on to produce an Executive Summary and a parent-friendly version.

(2) Members asked questions and made comments around the following areas:-

- Page B6:19 – attention was drawn to the welcomed expanded access of the parent's consortium but concern was expressed about the huge resource issue that this would create for a voluntary organisation and that support would be necessary.
- Page B6:20 –reference to "Free" Transport from the Freedom Pass", it should be made clear that there is a £50.00 administration fee.
- Page B6:32 – it was agreed that Members would be sent further information on the national development of 'Parent Know How' when it became available.
- Page B6:6 – the issues of ensuring that children could access an NHS dentist was mentioned.
- The emphasis on fathers within the document was welcomed.
- It was noted that the parent-friendly version would be brought back to the Policy Overview Committee.
- The issue of how effective scrutiny engagement would take place within the local Children's Service Partnership. It was noted that Mr Vye and Mr Hart were being invited to join the Kent Children's Trust.
- Page B6:23 – it was important to ensure that we could evidence base or provide examples for the statement in the final bullet point.
- Page B6:28 – it was pointed out that the diagram was difficult to read. It was noted that this diagram would not be appearing in the parent-friendly version.

(3) RESOLVED that:

- (a) the development of the draft strategy and the views put forward by Members to inform the final version be noted; and
- (b) that it be noted that the parent-friendly version of this document would be circulated to Policy Overview Committee Members.

**90. The Draft Strategy for Early Years Education and Child Care**

*(Item B7 – Dr I Craig, Director of Operations and Mrs L Miller, Policy Development Officer were present for this item*

(1) The Committee considered KCC's Draft Strategy for Early Years Education and Child Care as part of the consultation process. To inform its development, comments and views of Members were sought. The questions asked and views expressed by Members included the following:-

- B7:7 – concern was expressed that long hours spent in Early Years settings may not be good for children. It was important that childcare provided was good quality and sensitive to the needs of the child and that there was a balance between the amount of time a child spent in a childcare setting and helping parents to work to lift them out of poverty.
- It was confirmed that in general the same organisations were represented on the Kent Children's Board and the Kent Early Years, Childcare and extended Services Board (EYCESB). However the representatives on the Kent Children's Trust Board tended to be from Chief Executive level whereas the representatives on the EYCESB tended to be more operational.
- It was confirmed that the draft was currently out for three months' consultation and when all the comments were received, the final document would be produced and would be put forward to be formally adopted by the County Council during the Autumn of 2008.
- The importance of provision catering for diversity of children was emphasised.
- B7:43 – Mr Bristow requested a consultation question around "wants and need".
- It was confirmed that the final version would be brought back to Members later in the year.
- B7:1 – it was suggested that the start of the Strategy should include a brief summary of the aims of the Strategy.

(2) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the development of the draft strategy and the comments made by Members be noted.

- (b) the amended strategy be circulated to members of the POC prior to its approval.
- (c) when more information on developing the flexibility of provision becomes available it would be brought to Members.

**91. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People's Health in Kent**

*(Item B8 –Ms J Wiles, Policy Officer was present for this item)*

(1) Ms Wiles presented a report which informed the Committee of the work undertaken jointly by KCC and Health on developing a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People's Health in Kent. The document would be used to support planning and commissioning at both County and locality level by the Kent Children's Trust and demonstrated a developing partnership between Health and KCC. Ms Wiles undertook to let Members have the web address for the document.

(2) RESOLVED that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment be noted and its use as a tool to support the development of the Kent Children's Trust, and the commissioning of locality based children's services be endorsed.

**92. Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Champions Board held on 5 December 2007**

*(Item A4)*

(1) Mrs Allen, Chairman of the Children's Champions Board presented the Minutes and reminded Members of their corporate parent responsibility. Mrs Allen highlighted an event that the Children's Champions Board had recently held with Looked After Children which gave them an opportunity to express their views of the system. Mrs Allen stated that it was hoped that there would be a presentation to full County Council on child pornography.

(2) It was agreed that Members would be supplied with information on the funding specifically targeted at Looked after Children as part of the pledge.

(3) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2007 be noted.

**93. Select Committee – Update**

(1) The Committee received a report which updated Members on the Select Committee Topic Review Programme.

(2) RESOLVED that:-

(a) the plans to monitor the recommendations of the PSHE Select Committee recommendations be noted; and

(b) the update on the topic review work programme be noted.

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By: Keith Abbott, Director – Finance & Corporate Services  
Grahame Ward, Director – Resources

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee – 25 March  
2008

Subject: Children, Families and Education Budget Monitoring 2007/08

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee on the projected outturn figures for the Directorate as at the third quarter.

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### **Introduction**

1. (1) This report is the third report to this Committee on the forecast outturn against budget for the CFE Directorate.

### **Quarterly monitoring report**

2. (1) Attached is the monitoring report for the third quarter for 2007/08. The main points to highlight are:-

a) Revenue:

- The Directorate is now projecting a balanced budget of which Pages 7 and 8 of Annex 1 details the main under and overspends; and
- £4.3m projected overspend in relation to support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

b) Capital:

- Detail on all the major projects are set out in the attached report. The causes of the forecast underspend are due to a number of project phasing issues and some under/overspends

### **Recommendations**

3. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to note the projected outturn figures for the directorate as at the third quarter.

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*Background documents:*

None

*Other useful information:*

None

## CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION DIRECTORATE SUMMARY JANUARY 2007-08 FULL MONITORING REPORT

### 1. FINANCE

#### 1.1 REVENUE

1.1.1 All changes to cash limits are in accordance with the virement rules contained within the constitution, with the exception of those cash limit adjustments which are considered "technical adjustments" ie where there is no change in policy, including:

- Allocation of grants and previously unallocated budgets where further information regarding allocations and spending plans has become available since the budget setting process.
- Cash limits have been adjusted since the last full monitoring report to reflect a number of technical adjustments to budget.

1.1.2 **Table 1** below details the revenue position by Service Unit:

Budget Book Heading	Cash Limit			Variance			Comment
	G	I	N	G	I	N	
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	
<b>OPERATIONS, RESOURCES &amp; SKILLS (CFE) portfolio</b>							
Delegated Budget:							
- Delegated Schools Budget	836,939	-80,517	756,422	15,000	0	15,000	Expected drawdown of reserves of up to £15m due to the balance control mechanism
- Standards Fund (incl SSG)	101,794	0	101,794	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL DELEGATED</b>	<b>938,733</b>	<b>-80,517</b>	<b>858,216</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
Non Delegated Budget:							
- Finance	3,384	-931	2,453	-19	0	-19	
- Awards	5,067	-1,000	4,067	-10	87	77	
- Grant income & contingency	4,771	-924,445	-919,674	-1,130	0	-1,130	Management action - one off pensions money, superannuation uplift, TRP funding
- Personnel & Development	15,799	-3,493	12,306	329	87	416	Pensions overspend £474k; redundancy overspend due to closed schools £225k; Savings on recruitment budget £195k and training £77k, employment tribunals £30k
- School Support Service	53	0	53	0	0	0	
- Capital Strategy	4,880	-3,284	1,596	1,284	-43	1,241	Costs previously charged to capital £970k; Revenue maintenance due to school closure and vandalism £250k
- Building Schools for the Future	693	-243	450	0	0	0	
- Client Services	6,810	-4,281	2,529	294	-223	71	Increase cost and take up of contracts balanced by increased income
- Business Management	2,760	-143	2,617	15	-10	5	
- ICT	13,512	-3,770	9,742	-5	0	-5	
- Health & Safety	434	-8	426	4	-12	-8	
- Strategic Management	2,395	-103	2,292	1	-1	0	
- Kent Music School	838	0	838	0	0	0	
- Extended Schools	5,931	-2,378	3,553	0	-16	-16	

Budget Book Heading	Cash Limit			Variance			Comment
	G	I	N	G	I	N	
-14-24 unit	1,690	-435	1,255	0	0	0	
- School Organisation	2,803	-141	2,662	-9	-7	-16	
- Mainstream HTST	15,432	-484	14,948	-175	104	-71	Less than expected numbers of children travelling. Reduction in tickets purchased
- SEN HTST	14,806	0	14,806	895	-2	893	Travel requirements of SEN children have increased and the service is unable to meet all of the savings targets of £989k
- Clusters	18,299	-2,654	15,645	-34	0	-34	
- Kent Children's Trusts	536	0	536	0	0	0	
- AEN & Resources	13,719	-3,917	9,802	202	0	202	Additional staffing costs
- Independent Sector Provision	9,719	-260	9,459	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL NON DELEGATED</b>	<b>144,331</b>	<b>-951,970</b>	<b>-807,639</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>-36</b>	<b>1,606</b>	
<b>OR&amp;S Assumed Mgmt Action</b>				<b>-1,606</b>		<b>-1,606</b>	
<b>OR&amp;S Non delegated forecast after Mgmt Action</b>				<b>36</b>	<b>-36</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total OR&amp;S incl delegated</b>	<b>1,083,064</b>	<b>-1,032,487</b>	<b>50,577</b>	<b>15,036</b>	<b>-36</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
<b>CHILDREN, FAMILIES &amp; EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT portfolio:</b>							
- Attendance & Behaviour Service	16,656	-5,359	11,297	21	-22	-1	
- Specialist Teaching Service	3,064	-337	2,727	0	0	0	
- Educational Psychology Service	3,721	-129	3,592	-123	34	-89	Staff vacancies
- Minority Community Achievement Service	1,850	-96	1,754	0	0	0	
- Children's Safeguard Service	763	-13	750	0	0	0	
- Joint Commissioning	1,716	-226	1,490	0	0	0	
- Commissioning General	646	0	646	0	0	0	
- In House Residential care	2,630	-25	2,605	-214	-6	-220	Savings from closure of Alderden £150k, income from internal trading additional £70k
- Ind sector residential care	3,424	-403	3,021	2,847	-757	2,090	Higher number of placements than budgeted for, plus 3 children in secure accommodation costing £750k in 07-08. Additional income for placements
- Residential care - not looked after children	649	-7	642	-160	-13	-173	Number of placements reduced
- KCC Family support	9,804	-960	8,844	-178	-113	-291	Staff vacancies; Various income for projects
- Family group conferencing	1,106	-241	865	-10	-21	-31	
- Fostering service	21,389	-97	21,292	1,606	-203	1,403	Increase in independent fostering allowances £1.2m and County fostering team £400k
- Adoption service	6,026	-22	6,004	213	-74	139	Adoption payments £150k, County adoption team £62k
- Independent Sector day care	885	0	885	-87	0	-87	
- Section 17	1,030	-5	1,025	-196	0	-196	Planned underspend
- Link placements	232	0	232	-32	0	-32	

Budget Book Heading	Cash Limit			Variance			Comment
	G	I	N	G	I	N	
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	
- Grants to voluntary organisations	7,166	-398	6,768	0	0	0	
- Direct payments	826	0	826	-166	0	-166	planned underspend
- Teenage pregnancy	616	0	616	0	0	0	
- Leaving care/16+	3,399	0	3,399	-359	-6	-365	Budget historically underspent - planned underspend
- Other services support	5,262	-824	4,438	652	-148	504	Legal costs, Out of Hours service increased costs & income
- Assessment and related	19,029	-16	19,013	497	-342	155	high social worker recruitment costs, various income
- Policy & Service Development	9,436	-2,363	7,073	-184	0	-184	Legal savings £100k, staff savings £84k
- Management Information	28,356	-35	28,321	-34	-12	-46	
- International Development	194	-100	94	115	-8	107	Additional staffing costs; health and safety expenditure
- Early Years & Childcare Operations unit	17,379	-234	17,145	31	-25	6	
- Advisory Service Kent (ASK) Secondary Team	3,577	-160	3,417	-11	1	-10	
- ASK Primary Team	4,455	-650	3,805	63	-17	46	
- ASK Early Years Team	6,564	-12	6,552	15	-10	5	
- ASK Improvement & Leadership	2,665	-150	2,515	72	-69	3	
- ASK Improvement Partnerships	3,975	0	3,975	129	-130	-1	Additional project costs balanced by increased income from schools
- ASK Professional Development	4,975	-2,262	2,713	658	-437	221	TRP costs; Additional training for schools expenditure and income
- Grant income & contingency	1,715	-75,390	-73,675	-2,144	0	-2,144	Management action - superannuation uplift, LAA roll forward
<b>Total CF&amp;EA</b>	<b>195,180</b>	<b>-90,514</b>	<b>104,666</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>-2,378</b>	<b>643</b>	
<b>CF&amp;EA Assumed Mgmt Action</b>				<b>-643</b>		<b>-643</b>	
<b>CF&amp;EA Forecast after Mgmt Action</b>	<b>195,180</b>	<b>-90,514</b>	<b>104,666</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>-2,378</b>	<b>0</b>	
- Asylum Seekers	13,200	-13,200	0	-1,122	5,477	4,355	grant shortfall offset by draw down from reserve
<b>Total CF&amp;EA incl. Asylum</b>	<b>208,380</b>	<b>-103,714</b>	<b>104,666</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>3,099</b>	<b>4,355</b>	
<b>SUMMARY:</b>							
<b>Total Delegated</b>	<b>938,733</b>	<b>-80,517</b>	<b>858,216</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
<b>Total Non Delegated (excl. Asylum)</b>	<b>339,511</b>	<b>-1,042,484</b>	<b>-702,973</b>	<b>4,663</b>	<b>-2,414</b>	<b>2,249</b>	
<b>Total Directorate Controllable (excl. Asylum)</b>	<b>1,278,244</b>	<b>-1,123,001</b>	<b>155,243</b>	<b>19,663</b>	<b>-2,414</b>	<b>17,249</b>	
<b>Directorate Assumed mgmt action</b>				<b>-2,249</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,249</b>	
<b>Total Directorate Controllable (excl. Asylum) after mgmt action</b>	<b>1,278,244</b>	<b>-1,123,001</b>	<b>155,243</b>	<b>17,414</b>	<b>-2,414</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
<b>Directorate Net Total (incl. Asylum) before mgmt action</b>	<b>1,291,444</b>	<b>-1,136,201</b>	<b>155,243</b>	<b>18,541</b>	<b>3,063</b>	<b>21,604</b>	
<b>Directorate Net Total (incl. Asylum) after mgmt action</b>	<b>1,291,444</b>	<b>-1,136,201</b>	<b>155,243</b>	<b>16,292</b>	<b>3,063</b>	<b>19,355</b>	

### 1.1.3 **Major Reasons for Variance:** *[provides an explanation of the 'headings' in table 2]*

Table 2, at the end of this section, details all forecast revenue variances over £100k. Each of these variances is explained further below:

#### **O,R&S (CFE) Portfolio**

##### 1.1.3.1 Grant Income and Contingency (Gross)

The following management action has been put into place to reduce the predicted pressure within the Operation, Resources and Skills Portfolio: holding back of superannuation and Technology Refresh Programme (TRP) budgets from managers (£463k and 132k respectively) and use of a one-off payment from the DCSF for prior year mandatory student awards (£535k). These are discussed further in section 1.1.4.

##### 1.1.3.2 Personnel and Development (Gross)

The Personnel and Development unit is projecting a £416k net pressure. The pensions budget is due to overspend by £474k, the majority of which is due to early retirements resulting from school closures and amalgamations. The remainder of the overspend is mainly attributed to the redundancy costs associated with closing schools (£225k) as a result of the implementation of the primary strategy and the transfer of 6 secondary schools to academies. The overspends have been partly offset by savings on the recruitment budget due to staff vacancies and reduced spending on advertising of £195k. The balance of the net pressure is made up of a number of small savings including employee tribunal and training budgets and additional Medway income.

There is a gross and income variance of £100k which represents a reduction in income compared to budget, associated with additional pensions contributions where teaching staff who have been incorrectly charged against the Kent pensions scheme, and the corresponding reduction in expenditure, compared to budget, as this money is passed on to the teachers pension agency.

##### 1.1.3.3 Capital Strategy (Gross)

Following the audit of the accounts and latest advice from the external auditors, £970k of items previously charged to capital will be processed through revenue. This includes tree safety costs of £270k and the costs of moving and hiring mobile classrooms estimated at £700k. This has been reported previously. The remainder of the overspend is largely attributed to the revenue maintenance costs associated mainly with the boarding up of closing schools and repairs caused by vandalism (£250k).

##### 1.1.3.4 Client Services (Gross and income)

The increased spend on cleaning and refuse collection contracts in schools and additional schools taking up the contract have led to a corresponding increase in income of £214k.

##### 1.1.3.5 Mainstream Home to School Transport (Gross and income)

The number of children travelling has been below affordable levels for much of the year, as reflected in the activity data in section 2.1, and this has resulted in a gross saving of £175k. There is a reduction in the anticipated income by £104k due to the number of vacant seat places purchased by parents being lower than anticipated

##### 1.1.3.6 SEN Transport (Gross)

As part of the 2007-10 MTP process the SEN transport budget was reduced by 10% over the period 2007-09 and the Directorate was asked to look at implementing purchase cards as a way of delivering part of that saving (£870k) and keeping price increases to under 5% (£119k). It is anticipated that the purchase card saving will not be fully realised this financial year and as a consequence a pressure of £470k has been created. The remaining pressure of £423k is due to the increasing number of children requiring transport to schools (as reflected in the activity data in section 2.1), renegotiating of contracts and increased fuel costs.

##### 1.1.3.7 AEN & Resources

A forecast overspend of £202k is due the costs of temporary staff providing sickness cover and the budget being unable to absorb the additional cost of increments.

## **CF&EA Portfolio:**

### **1.1.3.8 Educational Psychology Service (Gross)**

A forecast underspend of £123k is due to staff vacancies.

### **1.1.3.9 In House Residential Care (Gross)**

A part year saving of £150k is forecast as a result of the closure of the Alderden Centre and a saving of £70k from internal trading with the County Provider Unit.

### **1.1.3.10 Independent Sector Residential Care (Gross and Income)**

A pressure of £2,847k is forecast which is an increase of £141k due the particular needs of a small number of children and the difficulty in securing foster placements for them. Of the total, £750k has been previously reported resulting from 3 children being placed in high-cost secure placements. The remainder of the overspend is attributed to a 33% increase in the number of paid placement weeks compared to last year and an increase in the unit cost of these placements by 15%.

Additional funding of £757k from education and health is due for placements following agreement from the Joint Residential Assessment Panel for this financial year.

### **1.1.3.11 Residential Care – Non Looked after Children (Gross)**

A saving of £160k is forecast from a reduction of 2 placements; these children have been moved to looked after children residential care budget lines.

### **1.1.3.12 KCC Family Support (Gross and Income)**

A forecast underspend of £178k is due to the management of staff vacancies. A number of posts are being held vacant to help with pressures on other budget lines. The £113k income variance is due to funding received for Social Work Ready for Practice and Adolescent Resource Centres (ARC) projects.

### **1.1.3.13 Fostering Service (Gross and Income)**

The independent fostering allowances budget is forecasting an overspend of £1,232k. There have been growing difficulties placing difficult children with foster parents, along with resistance from both the Guardians and the children themselves from being moved to alternative placements. This has resulted in a net increase of 22 placements since April 2007. This is now only partly being offset by £37k savings on other fostering lines due to management action.

The County Fostering Team is due to overspend by £411k due to staffing. This is partly offset by an increase of £203k in training income from this team and income received from other local authorities for work with non Kent children.

### **1.1.3.14 Adoption service (Gross)**

An overspend of £213k is forecast due mainly to an increase in the number of allowances. There have been 44 new allowances approved since April 2007 at a cost of £150k. The County Adoption Team is due to overspend by £62k due to staffing.

### **1.1.3.15 Section 17 (Gross)**

An underspend of £196k is forecast due to the management of section 17 payments to help with the pressure on the Fostering service budget lines.

### **1.1.3.16 Direct Payments (Gross)**

An underspend of £166k is forecast due to managing a delay in introducing new clients to the direct payment scheme. This will result in a reduced take-up of direct payments for this financial year which will help with pressures on other children social services budget lines.

### **1.1.3.17 Leaving care/16+ (Gross)**

Expenditure against this service is being managed through revised contracts, in order to assist with pressures on other Children's Social Services budget lines, and is currently forecasting an underspend of £359k.

1.1.3.18 Other Services Support (Gross and Income)

There is a pressure of £549k forecast against the budget for Legal services due to higher than average monthly bills. This service line is currently under review with a view to identifying efficiencies. There is also a £148k overspend on the Out of Hours Service offset by equivalent increase in income.

1.1.3.19 Assessment and Related (Gross and Income)

The forecast pressure on the assessment and related gross budget line is down to a shortfall in achieving the staffing savings target for 07/08 plus the introduction of market premium for new front-line social work staff (£264k and £30k respectively). This has been further increased through a number of key front line posts that cannot be left vacant (£200k). Much of this has been offset by further income received from other projects mainly Education for Best Project £150k (Social Workers visiting schools to promote best behaviour), Support Service for Kids and Young People (SSKY) project and income from Swindon contract (£192k).

1.1.3.20 Policy and Service Development (Gross)

The budget for legal services (non children's social services) is forecast to underspend by £100k and there are forecast staff savings of £84k.

1.1.3.21 Advisory Service (ASK ) Improvement Partnerships

The forecast overspend of £129k for additional projects has been offset by £130k of income received from schools attending the projects.

1.1.3.22 Advisory Service (ASK) Professional Development

Professional Development is forecasting a net overspend of £221k. The training budget for training of school staff is forecast to overspend by £408k due to additional training courses. This is offset by income received from schools for attending courses of £437k.

There is a forecast overspend of £250k for additional computer related costs incurred during the Technology Refresh Programme (TRP) process.

1.1.3.23 Grant Income and Contingency (Gross)

The following management action has been put into place to reduce the predicted pressures within the Children, Families and Educational Achievement Portfolio: holding back of superannuation budget (£644k) and use of the remaining 2006-07 LAA Grant underspend totalling £1,500k. These are discussed further in section 1.1.4.

1.1.3.24 Asylum

The Asylum Service is now forecast to have a funding shortfall of £4,720k for the 2007-08 financial years, £4,220k of direct spending and £500k of indirect spending. This is mainly due to the fact that the unit costs claimable under the grant conditions set by the Home Office and Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) are significantly lower than the real unit costs of providing the service.

The forecast pressure on this budget has worsened by £202k since the last report. This is partly due to higher duty referrals which have an increased pressure of £102k; (section 2.10 of this report highlights the additional number of referrals). In January there were 80 referrals, which is the highest number of referrals for a single month in over 4 years and our forecast for the whole of the fourth quarter is 100. The remaining £100k is due to a change in the number of clients: lower client numbers (under 18) have resulted in £70k decreased spend and £145k decreased income, and higher client numbers (over 18) have resulted in £40k increased spend and increased income of £15k.

The outstanding special circumstances bids for 2006-07 currently stand at £2.4m from the Home Office and £2.1m from the DCSF. These have increased by £0.9m and £0.5m respectively since we closed the accounts for 2006-07, following the results of the ongoing data matching work with both departments. A number of clients which were rejected from the main claims due to data matching problems have been added to the special circumstances bids. If we continue to assume that we will be successful in receiving only part of this income then a further £757k will need to be found to fund the shortfall, therefore increasing the pressure on the Asylum budget this year. In addition, there is £0.7m outstanding from the DCSF relating to the Special Circumstances bid for 2005-06. There is no formal procedure for the DCSF SC bids and we are reliant on lobbying central government to meet these additional costs.

The overall funding shortfall is partly offset by the expected draw down of the remaining balance in the corporate asylum reserve of £1,122k, leaving a residual net pressure of £4,355k. However, if we receive less income than we have assumed from these SC bids, then this pressure will increase.

In conjunction with other local authorities, the 2006/07 and 2007/08 figures mentioned above have been subject to an independent audit by PWC which have confirmed these figures are sound. It was hoped there would be a meeting with the Home Office on 18<sup>th</sup> February to discuss this further. However, as the Leader reported at county Council on 19<sup>th</sup> February this meeting was cancelled. We are now working with other local authorities to identify the next course of action and a major part of this must be to establish a system for the future where all costs are re-imbursed.

### **Other Issues**

#### **1.1.3.25 Payments to PVI providers for the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (DSG)**

The latest forecast suggests an underspend of around £1.2m on payments to PVI providers for 3 and 4 year olds. This budget is funded entirely from DSG and therefore any surplus or deficit at the end of the year must be carried forward to the next financial year in accordance with the regulations, and cannot be used to offset over or underspends elsewhere in the directorate budget. Therefore, as any unspent Early Years funding has to be returned to schools, at year end any underspend will be transferred to the schools unallocated reserve for DSG and hence is not included in the overall directorate forecast in this report.

#### **1.1.3.26 Delegated Schools Budgets**

The December forecast from schools indicates a draw down of reserves this year of approximately £15m. Past experience indicates that this figure is overstated, but January 2007 saw the introduction of the 'balance control mechanism' which is a means of clawing back schools reserves over and above a specified level. We predict that this will start to have an impact on the level of reserves held by schools in this financial year, and we are therefore projecting a possible drawdown of reserves of £10m-15m as schools undertake the projects that formed part of their 'committed' balances in the previous year.

**Table 2: REVENUE VARIANCES OVER £100K IN SIZE ORDER**

Pressures (+)			Underspends (-)		
portfolio		£000's	portfolio		£000's
ORS	Schools delegated budgets - expected drawdown of reserves	+15,000	CFEA	use of remaining 2006-07 LAA grant - badge against qualifying expenditure within Children's Social Services budgets	-1,500
CFEA	Asylum - Shortfall in grant (income)	+4,720	CFEA	Asylum - draw down of residual balance in Corporate Asylum reserve	-1,122
CFEA	Independent Sector Residential Care - increased number and cost of placements (gross)	+2,097	CFEA	Independent sector residential care - funding from health and education (income)	-757
CFEA	Fostering Service - independent fostering allowances (gross)	+1,232	CFEA	Holding back of budget for superannuation increase from budget managers	-644
ORS	Capital Strategy - costs previously charged to capital (gross)	+970	ORS	one-off payment from DCSF for prior year mandatory student awards	-535
CFEA	Asylum - anticipated shortfall relating to increase in 2006-07 SC bids due to data matching exercise	+757	ORS	Holding back of budget for superannuation increase from budget managers	-463
CFEA	Independent Sector Residential Care - children in secure accommodation (gross)	+750	CFEA	Advisory Service Professional Development - Training courses income from schools	-437
CFEA	Other Services Support - Recharges from Legal services (gross)	+549	CFEA	Leaving care/16+ - managed underspend (gross)	-359

Pressures (+)			Underspends (-)		
portfolio		£000's	portfolio		£000's
ORS	Personnel and Development - Pensions budget (gross)	+474	ORS	Client Services - cleaning and refuse contract charges and increased take-up from schools (income)	-214
ORS	SEN Home to School Transport - savings targets linked to purchase cards	+470	CFEA	Fostering service - training income from county fostering team (income)	-203
ORS	SEN Home to School Transport - increased take-up and fuel costs (gross)	+423	CFEA	Section 17 - managed underspend (gross)	-196
CFEA	Fostering Service -County Fostering team staffing costs (gross)	+411	ORS	Personnel and Development - Recruitment team vacancies and advertising savings (gross)	-195
CFEA	Advisory Service Professional Development - Training courses for schools	+408	CFEA	Assessment & Related - additional income for SSKY project and Swindon Contract (income)	-192
CFEA	Assessment & Related - delay in achieving staffing savings target (gross)	+264	CFEA	KCC Family Support - management of staff vacancies (gross)	-178
ORS	Capital Strategy - closing schools revenue maintenance (gross)	+250	ORS	Mainstream Home to School Transport - less take-up (gross)	-175
CFEA	Advisory Service Professional Development - TRP costs	+250	CFEA	Direct payments - managed underspend	-166
ORS	Personnel and Development - closing schools redundancy costs (gross)	+225	CFEA	Residential care - Non Looked after children - reduction in placements (gross)	-160
ORS	Client Services - cleaning and refuse contract charges and increased take-up from schools (gross). Offset by income	+214	CFEA	In-house residential care - closure of Alderden House (gross)	-150
ORS	AEN & resources - staff related costs (gross)	+202	CFEA	Assessment & Related - additional income for Education for best project (income)	-150
CFEA	Assessment & Related - recruitment to frontline posts (gross)	+200	CFEA	Other Services Support - Out of hours service covered by additional income (income)	-148
CFEA	Adoption - allowance costs (gross)	+150	ORS	Holding back of TRP budgets from managers	-132
CFEA	Other Services Support - Out of hours service costs covered by additional income	+148	CFEA	Advisory Service Improvement Partnership - project income	-130
CFEA	Advisory Service Improvement Partnership - project costs (gross)	+129	ORS	Educational Psychology - staffing vacancies (gross)	-123
ORS	Mainstream Home to School Transport - reduction in income	+104	CFEA	KCC Family Support - income from projects	-113
ORS	Personnel and Development - reduction in income from incorrectly placing staff on pension schemes	+100	CFEA	Policy - Legal costs (Gross)	-100
			ORS	Personnel and Development - reduction in expenditure from incorrectly placing staff on pension	-100
		+30,497			-8,642

#### 1.1.4 Actions required to achieve this position:

The above position can only be achieved as a result of a number of management actions which are now in place and reflected within the grant income & contingency forecasts shown in table 1:

- Use of £535k one-off payment from the DCSF for prior year mandatory student awards, which had not been accrued for in the accounts in the interests of prudence, as the debt dated back to 2002-03. This has resulted in an opportunity cost of the funding not being able to be used elsewhere.

- Use of this year's superannuation uplift of £1,107k (ORS £463k, CFEA £644k) and the budget for the costs of the technology refresh programme (£132k). This may impact on service delivery and running costs of services as managers have been required to cover any cost increases associated with superannuation and TRP from within existing budgets so that these funds could be used to offset other pressures identified this year.
- Use of the directorate underspent LAA grant in 2006-07. This is one-off money which was rolled forward as a receipt in advance in accordance with the grant rules. The remaining £1,500k has been used to badge against qualifying expenditure within the Children's Social Services budgets in order to fund some of the overspends in the current financial year.

The balance control mechanism is designed to discourage schools from holding excessive reserves for future years and instead to spend their budgets for the benefit of the pupils in school today. The £15m "pressure" above represents an anticipated drawdown of reserves which would not be achievable without such a scheme being in place.

The pressure on the directorate budget would be significantly greater without the management action which has been put in place within the Children's Social Services budget lines. A number of vacancies are being held and various other budgets are being managed in order to assist with the difficulties within the residential care and fostering lines.

#### 1.1.5 **Implications for MTFP:**

Some of these ongoing pressures have been addressed in the 2008-11 MTP, such as fostering and covering the costs of services previously funded from capital. We are expecting to manage the remaining pressures downwards on an ongoing and sustainable basis, however if this is not fully achieved we may need to develop further actions to address these pressures and this will be on top of what has already been an extremely difficult 2008-11 MTP.

#### 1.1.6 **Details of re-phasing of revenue projects:**

None

#### 1.1.7 **Details & impact of proposals for residual variance:**

The Directorate intends to balance the 2007-08 budget using the proposals listed below:

- The majority of the pensions and redundancy overspends relate to school staff and following a recent change there are now specific limited circumstances under which these costs can be charged to the DSG. The redundancy costs associated with closing schools may also be chargeable to DSG. This would be subject to proving an overall saving in the schools budget, such as that arising from a school closure under the Primary Strategy. In addition to this condition, it would also require school funding forum approval. Therefore we are currently investigating the possibility of using one-off DSG underspend from the previous financial year, to fund this £699k pressure.

This will leave a pressure of £1,550k and the directorate is currently exploring a variety of options to cover this shortfall including further managing the pressures downwards and identifying possible eligible expenditure that could be re-badged against any underspends on specific grant where current commitments have had to be re-phased. The directorate is confident they will achieve a balanced position at the end of the year.

Although these measures will cover this year's overspend, there will still be an underlying significant pressure in the base budget, as most of the actions detailed above and in paragraph 1.1.4 are using one-off monies. This will amount to over £4m. Some of this has been addressed within the 2008-11 MTP but this will still leave the directorate with substantial additional pressures to manage in the new financial year.

## 1.2 CAPITAL

1.2.1 All changes to cash limits are in accordance with the virement rules contained within the constitution and have received the appropriate approval via the Leader or relevant delegated authority.

Cash limits have been adjusted since the last full monitoring report to reflect the following adjustments:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Future Years
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<u>Operations, Resources &amp; Skills (CFE) portfolio:</u>				
▪ Marsh Academy Sponsorship	750			
▪ DCSF grant for Academies	850			
▪ DCSF grant for Implementation of Primary Strategy	1,015			
▪ Re-phasing per the 2008-11 MTP	-41,532	9,118	51,118	105,762
<u>- Devolved Capital to Schools:</u>				
▪ Re-phasing per the 2008-11 MTP		-1,534	-1,584	22,921
<u>Children, Families &amp; Educational Achievement portfolio:</u>				
▪ East Kent Resource Centre – external contribution from East Kent Coastal PCT	10			
▪ Re-phasing per the 2008-11 MTP	-1,159	188	896	250
▪ Reversal of previous virement from KASS portfolio in respect of Improving Information Management grant	-40			

1.2.2 **Table 3** below provides a portfolio overview of the latest capital monitoring position.

	Prev Yrs Exp	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Future Yrs	TOTAL
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Operations, Resources &amp; Skills (CFE) portfolio</b>						
Revised Budget per Dec Cabinet	94,490	148,675	96,077	53,180	53,863	446,285
Adjustments :						
- Marsh Academy Sponsorship		750				750
- DCSF Grant for Academies		850				850
- Implementation of Primary Strategy		1,015				1,015
- re-phasing per 2008-11 MTP		-41,532	9,118	51,118	105,762	124,466
Revised Budget	94,490	109,758	105,195	104,298	159,625	573,366
Variance		-4,698	+4,399	+1,024	0	+725
<b>split:</b>						
- real variance		+658	+99	-32	0	+725
- re-phasing		-5,356	+4,300	+1,056	0	0
<b>Children &amp; Family &amp; Educational Achievement portfolio</b>						
Revised Budget per Dec Cabinet	5,627	6,627	300	350	500	13,404
Adjustments :						
- East Kent Resources Centre		10				10
- re-phasing per 2008-11 MTP		-1,159	188	896	250	175
- Virement to KASS portfolio		-40				-40
Revised Budget	5,627	5,438	488	1,246	750	13,549
Variance		-557	+553	0	0	-4
<b>split:</b>						
- real variance		-4	0	0	0	-4
- re-phasing		-553	+553	0	0	0
<b>Directorate Total</b>						
Revised Budget	100,117	115,196	105,683	105,544	160,375	586,915
Variance	0	-5,255	4,952	1,024	0	721
<b>Operations, Resources &amp; Skills (CFE) portfolio</b>						
<b>Devolved Capital to Schools</b>						
Revised Budget per Dec Cabinet		39,701	27,673	27,673	55,346	150,393
Adjustments :						
- re-phasing per 2008-11 MTP			-1,534	-1,584	22,921	19,803
Revised Budget	0	39,701	26,139	26,089	78,267	170,196
Variance		-46	0	0	0	-46
<b>split:</b>						
- real variance		-46	0	0	0	-46
- re-phasing		0	0	0	0	0
<b>Real Variance</b>						
		<b>+608</b>	<b>+99</b>	<b>-32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+675</b>
<b>Re-phasing</b>						
		<b>-5,909</b>	<b>+4,853</b>	<b>+1,056</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### 1.2.3 Main Reasons for Variance

Table 4 below, details all forecast capital variances over £250k in 2007-08 and identifies these between projects which are:

- part of our year on year rolling programmes e.g. maintenance and modernisation;
- projects which have received approval to spend and are underway;
- projects which are only at the approval to plan stage and
- projects at preliminary planning stage.

The variances are also identified as being either a real variance i.e. real under or overspending which has resourcing implications, or a phasing issue i.e. simply down to a difference in timing compared to the budget assumption.

Each of the variances in excess of £1m which is due to phasing of the project, excluding those projects identified as only being at the preliminary planning stage, is explained further in section 1.2.4 below.

All real variances are explained in section 1.2.5, together with the resourcing implications.

**Table 4: CAPITAL VARIANCES OVER £250K IN SIZE ORDER**

portfolio	Project	real/ phasing	Project Status			
			Rolling Programme	Approval to Spend	Approval to Plan	Preliminary Planning Stage
			£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
<b>Overspends/Projects ahead of schedule</b>						
	None					
			<b>+0</b>	<b>+0</b>	<b>+0</b>	<b>+0</b>
<b>Underspends/Projects behind schedule</b>						
OR&S	Childrens Centres - Swanscombe PS	Phasing		-628		
OR&S	Dev Opps - Darford Campus	Phasing		-494		
OR&S	Kennington Juniors	Phasing	-402			
OR&S	Childrens Centres - Knockhall PS	Phasing		-295		
OR&S	Childrens Centres - Broadwater Down PS	Phasing		-280		
OR&S	Childrens Centres - East Stour PS or its replacement	Phasing		-267		
CF&EA	Management & Modernisation of Assets	Phasing	-265			
OR&S	Specialist Schools 2007/08	Phasing	-250			
			<b>-917</b>	<b>-1,964</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>-917</b>	<b>-1,964</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

#### 1.2.4 Projects re-phasing by over £1m:

None

#### 1.2.4 Projects with real variances

The overall variance over the lifetime of the recently updated Medium Term Plan indicates an overspend of £0.675m (OR&S portfolio +£0.725m, CF&EA portfolio -£0.004m & Schools - £0.046m).

The main contributing factors to the £0.675m overspend over the lifetime of the MTFP are as follows:

- Crockham Hill Primary School (+£0.233m). This project is part of the 2006/07/08 Modernisation Programme. This overspend has arisen because tender costs were higher than the resources that had been earmarked for the project.
- Develop Opportunities Consultancy (+£0.120m) - additional costs incurred in supporting the New Line Learning project.

- St James the Great Primary School (+£0.108m). A development opportunities project where the overspend has occurred because additional works have been required, at the request of English Heritage, to secure planning permission.
- Catering Equipment (+£0.054m) - additional costs required to renew equipment to meet current Health and Safety guidelines
- Site Acquisitions (+£0.050m) - additional stamp duty & consultancy fees on the Clarendon House land swap project.
- There is also a residual balance of +£0.110m on a number of more minor projects.

The additional expenditure of £0.675m will be funded by a mixture of: Developer Contributions (£0.636m), Revenue Contributions (£0.043m) and External Funding (£0.008m) offset by a small saving on prudential borrowing (-£0.012m).

## 1.2.6 General Overview of capital programme:

### (a) Risks

The major risk remains those that were associated with the programme when it was approved, namely that a number of projects are wholly or partly dependant on capital receipts and/or external funding and if this funding is not achieved the projects will not proceed. This is particularly relevant to The Bridge Development at Dartford which is to be fully funded by development contributions. In the event that the developer contribution is insufficient to cover the costs of the project the capital programme will either need to be reduced to compensate or additional resources will need to be found.

### (b) Details of action being taken to alleviate risks

If external funding/capital receipts are not realised and this shortfall cannot be managed within the capital programme, then Members would be asked to consider the cancellation of projects.

## 1.2.7 PFI projects

### • Schools PFI

The £92.4m investment in the Schools PFI project represents investment by a third party. No payment is made by KCC for the new/refurbished assets until the assets are ready for use and this is by way of a unitary charge which is charged to the revenue budget through an equalisation reserve and supported by grant.

	Previous Years	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
<b>Budget</b>	89,709	2,701	0	0	92,410
<b>Actual/Forecast</b>	85,735	6,675	0	0	92,410
<b>Variance</b>	-3,974	3,974	0	0	0

### (a) Progress and details of whether costings are still as planned (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> party)

It is envisaged that the third party contractor will have incurred some additional costs beyond the capital expenditure originally priced as a result of the delays. This is a risk that is borne entirely by the third party contractor and is not reported to the Authority.

### (b) Implications for KCC of details reported in (a) ie could an increase in the cost result in a change to the unitary charge ?

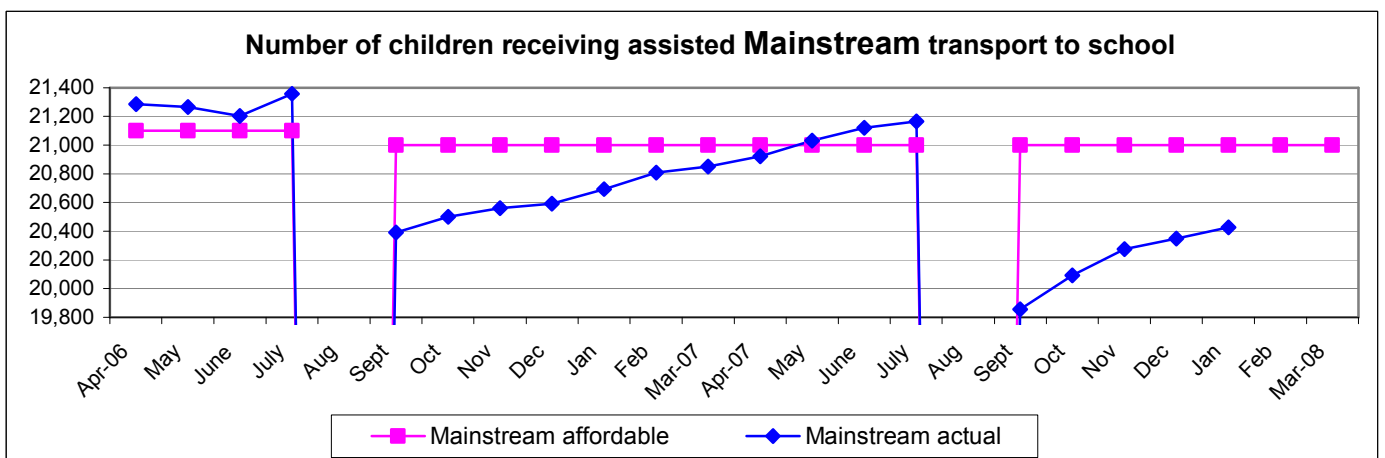
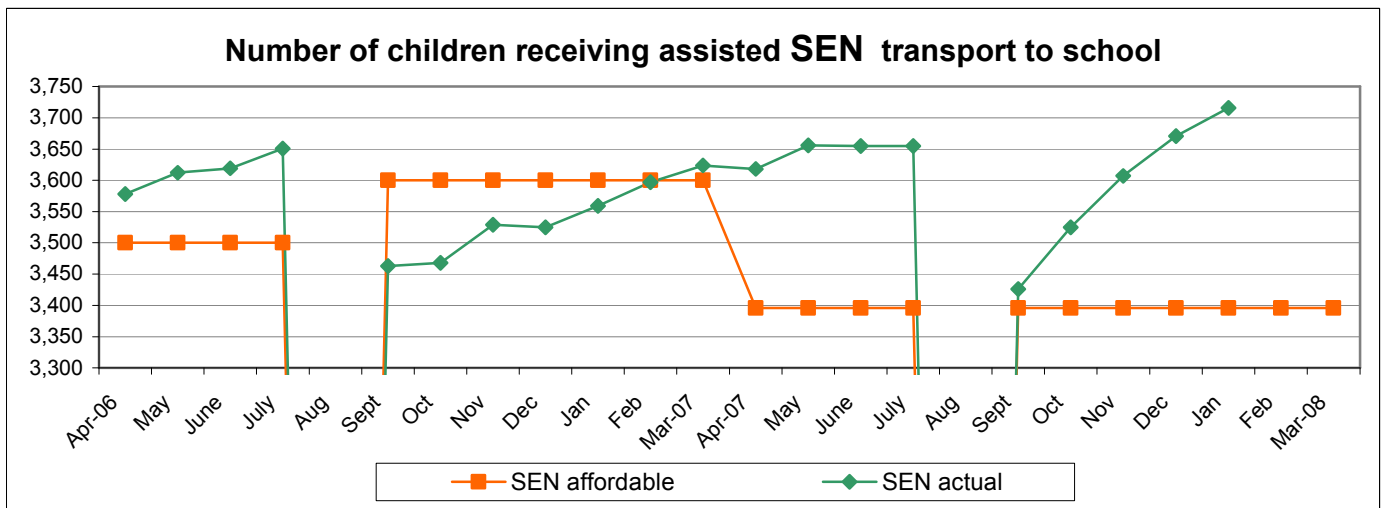
The delays to the construction programme do not impact on the level of the unitary charge that is payable by KCC to the contractor as any delays, unless caused by the Authority, are at the risk of the third party contractor. The unitary charge (as a percentage for each school) does not become payable until the relevant school (or phase) has been completed and is ready for occupation. As a consequence, the unitary charge that is met from the equalisation reserve for 2007/08 is less than originally anticipated.

Overall, there will be no net effect on the forecast revenue position for the current year as payments will continue to be made into the equalisation reserve to meet future expenditure.

## 2. KEY ACTIVITY INDICATORS AND BUDGET RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING

### 2.1 Numbers of children receiving assisted SEN and Mainstream transport to school:

	2006-07				2007-08			
	SEN		Mainstream		SEN		Mainstream	
	planned	actual	planned	actual	affordable	actual	Affordable	actual
April	3,500	3,578	21,100	21,285	3,396	3,618	21,000	20,923
May	3,500	3,612	21,100	21,264	3,396	3,656	21,000	21,032
June	3,500	3,619	21,100	21,202	3,396	3,655	21,000	21,121
July	3,500	3,651	21,100	21,358	3,396	3,655	21,000	21,164
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	3,600	3,463	21,000	20,392	3,396	3,426	21,000	19,855
October	3,600	3,468	21,000	20,501	3,396	3,525	21,000	20,093
November	3,600	3,529	21,000	20,561	3,396	3,607	21,000	20,276
December	3,600	3,525	21,000	20,591	3,396	3,671	21,000	20,349
January	3,600	3,559	21,000	20,694	3,396	3,716	21,000	20,426
February	3,600	3,597	21,000	20,810	3,396		21,000	
March	3,600	3,624	21,000	20,852	3,396		21,000	



Comments:

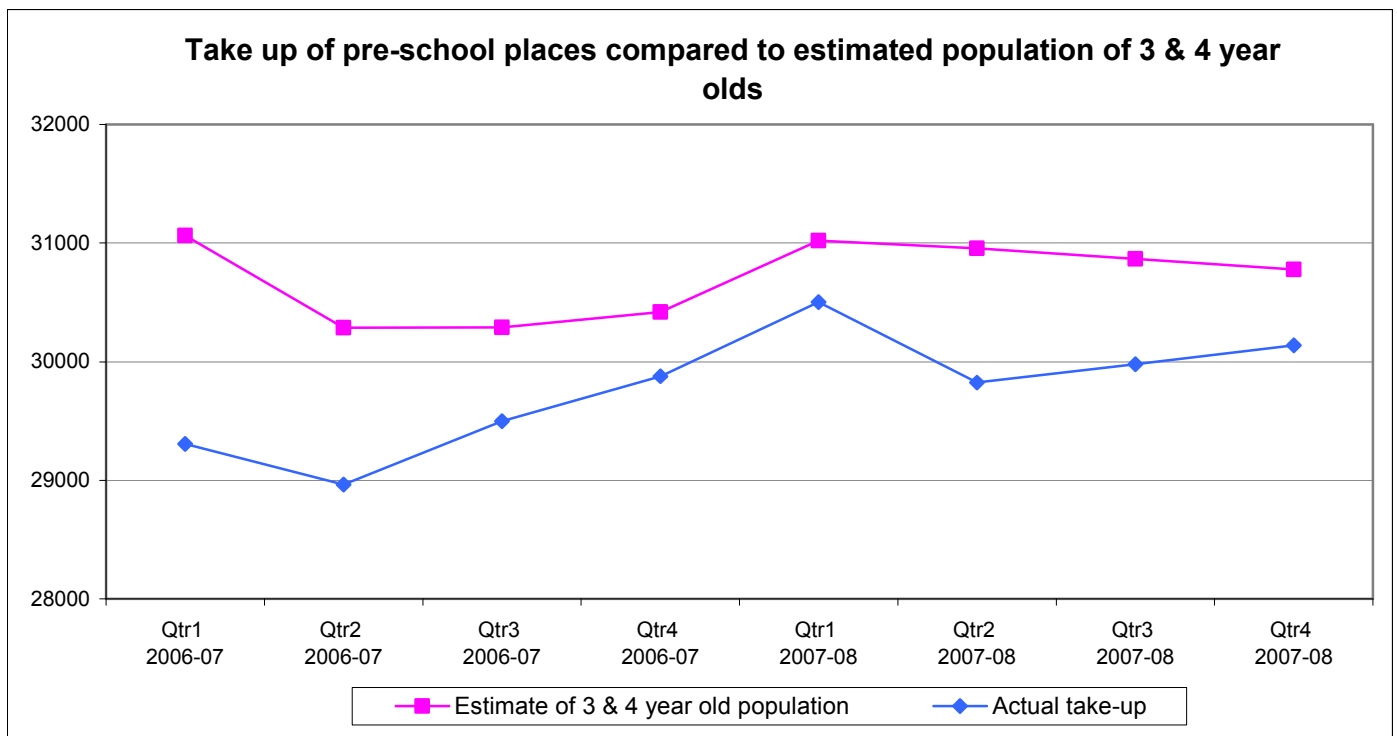
- **SEN HTST** - The significant gap between the actual and affordable assisted SEN transport to school relates to the savings targets which have significantly reduced the affordable level from last year, and the fact that the service is currently unable to achieve these savings in full as reported in section

1.1.3.6 of this annex. The affordable level has been calculated by dividing the 2007/08 budget (after it has been reduced for the savings target) by the current average cost per child.

- **Mainstream HTST** - There is a slight decrease in the actual number of children receiving assisted mainstream transport to schools and this is reflected by the £175k gross saving shown in table 1 above.

**2.2.1 Take up of pre-school places against the estimate of 3 & 4 year old population, split between Private Voluntary and Independent Sector (PVI) places and School places:**

	2006-07			2007-08				
	Total places taken up	Estimate of 3 & 4 year old population	% take up	PVI places taken up	School places taken up	Total places taken up	Estimate of 3 & 4 year old population	% take up
April - June	29,307	31,062	94%	21,027	9,475	30,502	31,019	98%
July - Sept	28,963	30,287	96%	20,323	9,496	29,823	30,956	97%
Oct - Dec	29,498	30,289	97%	14,691	15,290	29,981	30,867	97%
Jan - March	29,878	30,419	98%	17,772	12,366	30,138	30,778	98%



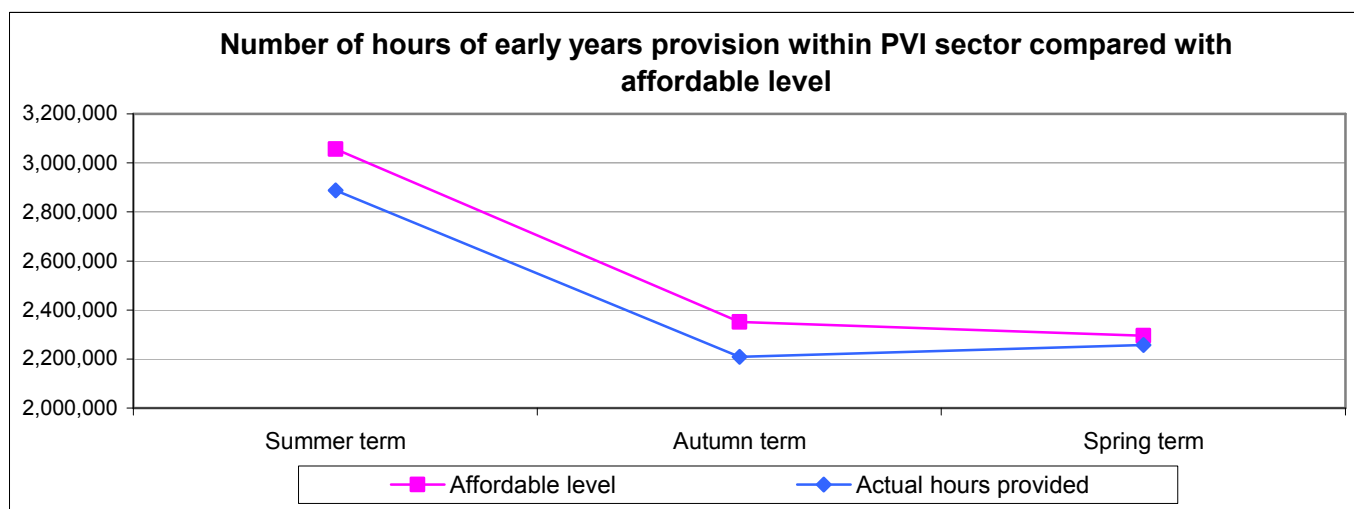
**Comments:**

- Please note the total places taken-up for January to March is an estimate and may change marginally once the reconciliation process is complete. This estimate is based on the take-up at the beginning of the term but is subject to a large number of adjustments as parents are allowed to alter their take-up and the provider used mid term rather than at the end of term.
- This graph shows that currently 98% of the estimated population of 3 and 4 year olds are receiving some level of early years provision, whether this be one session per week for 33 weeks or the maximum of five sessions per week for the full 38 weeks. This activity indicator is based on headcount and provides a snapshot position at a point in time, whereas the activity data in 2.2.2 below provides details of the number of hours provided in the Private, Voluntary & Independent sector, and will correlate with the variance on the Early Years budget within the Management Information Unit. However as this budget is funded entirely from DSG, any surplus or deficit at the end of the year must be carried forward to the next financial year in accordance with the regulations, and cannot be used to offset over or underspends elsewhere in the directorate budget. Therefore, as any unspent Early Years funding has to be returned to schools, at year end any underspend will be transferred to the schools unallocated reserve for DSG and hence is not included in the overall directorate forecast shown in table 1, but is reported in the narrative in section 1.1.3.25 of this annex.

- The split between PVI and school places is weighted more heavily to school places in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter as 4 year olds move into reception classes in mainstream schools at the start of the autumn term. This gradually balances back out again as more 3 year olds take-up PVI places throughout the remainder of the year. The number of school places taken up reduces in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as some of the children turn 5 and are no longer included in the count.

**2.2.2 Number of hours of early years provision provided to 3 & 4 year olds within the Private, Voluntary & Independent Sector compared with the affordable level:**

	2007-08	
	Affordable number of hours	Actual hours provided
Summer term	3,056,554	2,887,134
Autumn term	2,352,089	2,209,303
Spring term	2,294,845	2,257,051
	<b>7,703,488</b>	<b>7,353,488</b>



**Comments:**

- Please note the total number of hours of early provision within the PVI sector for January to March is an estimate and may change marginally once the reconciliation process is complete. This is due to the large number of adjustments that now take place as parents are allowed to alter the number of hours taken up and the provider used mid term rather than at the end of term.
- The affordable number of hours per term is based on an assumed level of take-up and the assumed number of weeks the providers are open. The variation between the terms is due to two reasons: firstly, the movement of 4 year olds at the start of the Autumn term into reception year in mainstream schools; and secondly, the terms do not have the same number of weeks.
- The current activity suggests an underspend on this budget which has been mentioned in section 1.1.3.25 of this annex.
- It should be noted that not all parents currently take up their full entitlement and this can change during the year.

**2.3 Number of schools with deficit budgets compared with the total number of schools:**

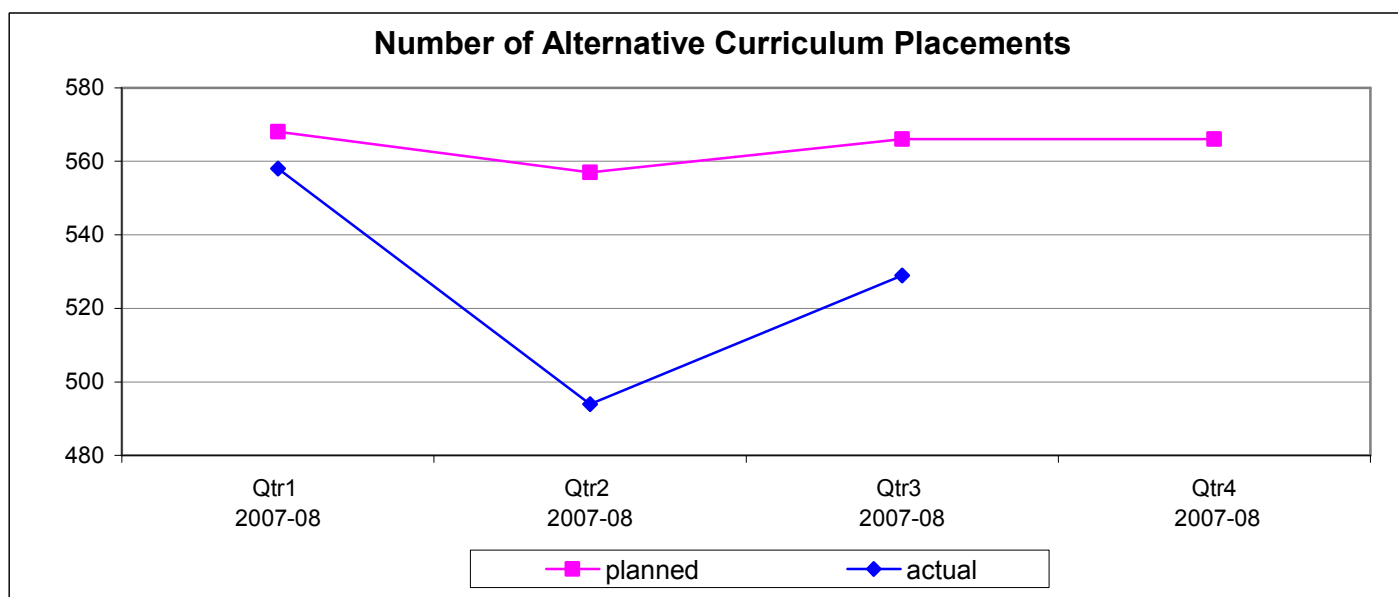
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	as at 31-3-06	as at 31-3-07	Projection
Total number of schools	600	596	575
Total value of school revenue reserves	£70,657k	£74,376k	£59,376k
Number of deficit schools	9	15	16
Total value of deficits	£947k	£1,426k	£1,150k

Comments:

- We are currently forecasting that schools will drawdown up to £15m of their reserves this year in response to the introduction of the balance control mechanism, which is a means of clawing back schools reserves over and above a specified level.
- KCC now has a “no deficit” policy for schools, which means that schools cannot plan for a deficit budget at the start of the year. Unplanned deficits will need to be addressed in the following year’s budget plan, and schools that incur unplanned deficits in successive years will be subject to intervention by the LA, which could ultimately mean suspending delegation.
- The CFE Deficit and Compliance team are working with all schools currently reporting a deficit with the aim of returning the schools to a balanced budget position as soon as possible. This involves agreeing a management action plan with each school.

2.4 Number of Alternative Curriculum Placements:

	2007-08	
	planned	actual
April - June	568	558
July - September	557	494
October - December	566	529
January - March	566	

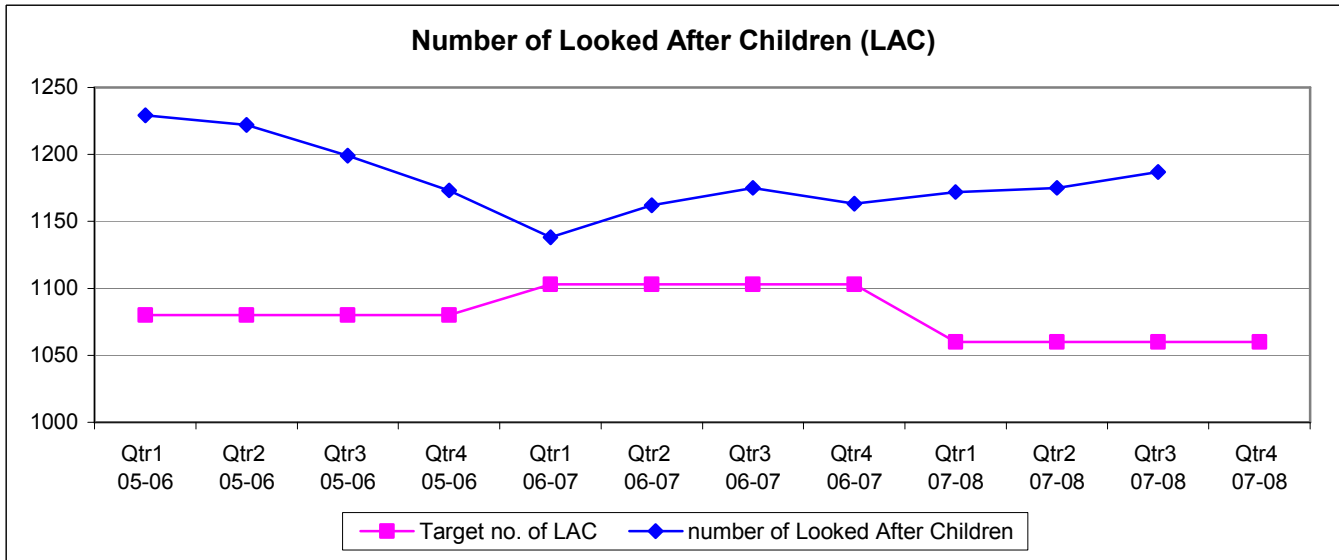


Comments:

- Full time alternative curriculum places need to be purchased 6 months in advance in order to secure them. From September 2007, Government guidelines required excluded pupils to be placed in full-time education within 6 days of being excluded. This target is now being met in the vast majority of cases.
- Please note that spare capacity is expected at this stage in the school year and is essential to cope with predicted demand throughout the school year.

2.5 Numbers of Looked After Children (LAC):

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Target	number of Looked After Children	Target	number of Looked After Children	Target	number of Looked After Children
Apr – Jun	1,080	1,229	1,103	1,138	1,060	1,172
Jul – Sep	1,080	1,222	1,103	1,162	1,060	1,175
Oct – Dec	1,080	1,199	1,103	1,175	1,060	1,187
Jan – Mar	1,080	1,173	1,103	1,163	1,060	

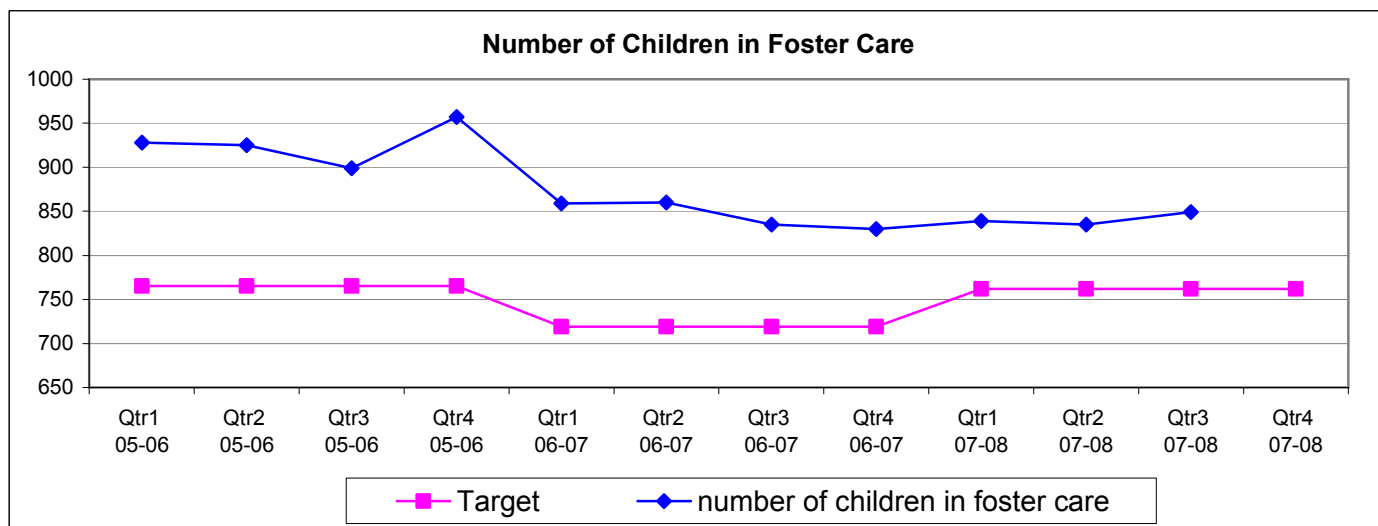


Comments:

- The current number of looked after children compared to the targeted level is of cause for concern.
- The target number of children does not represent the affordable level, but the position which the county is aiming to achieve.
- The financial implications of the current level of looked after children has been reported in section 1.1.3 and steps have been taken in the MTP to help address some of these pressures however further actions may need to be developed.

2.6 Number of Children in KCC Foster Care placements:

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Target	number of children in foster care	Target	number of children in foster care	Target	number of children in foster care
Apr - Jun	765	928	719	859	762	839
Jul - Sep	765	925	719	860	762	835
Oct - Dec	765	899	719	835	762	849
Jan - Mar	765	957	719	830	762	



Comments:

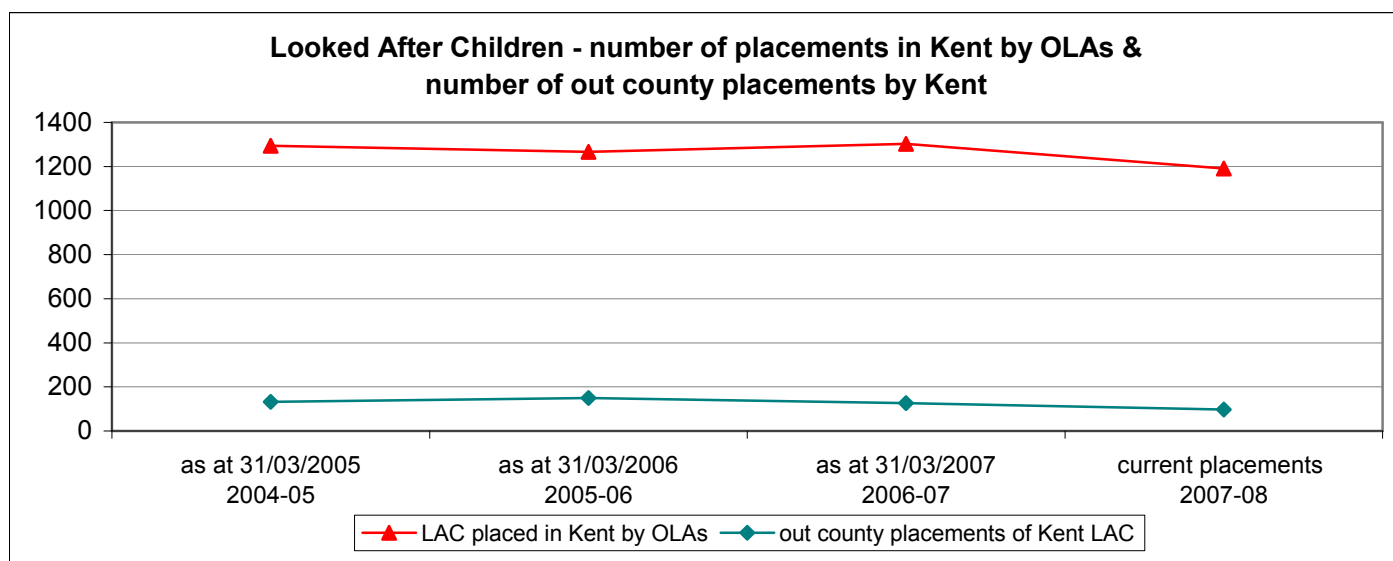
- The number of children in foster care represents the number of children placed in KCC placements. It excludes foster placements in the independent sector.
- The current number of children in foster care compared to the target is of cause for concern.
- The target number of children does not represent the affordable level, but the position which the county is aiming to achieve. There are expected to be no financial implications, as although we are above the target number of children in foster care provided by KCC, we are within affordable levels. (The budget pressure reported in section 1.1.3.13 relates to independent sector foster care placements. We will look to include this activity indicator in the monitoring for 2008-09).

2.7 **Number of Placements in Kent of LAC by other Authorities:**

2004-05 as at 31/03/2005	2005-06 as at 31/03/2006	2006-07 as at 31/03/2007	2007-08 Current placements
1,294	1,266	1,303	1,191

2.8 **Number of Out County Placements of LAC by Kent:**

2004-05 as at 31/03/2005	2005-06 as at 31/03/2006	2006-07 As at 31/03/2007	2007-08 Current placements
132	149	127	97

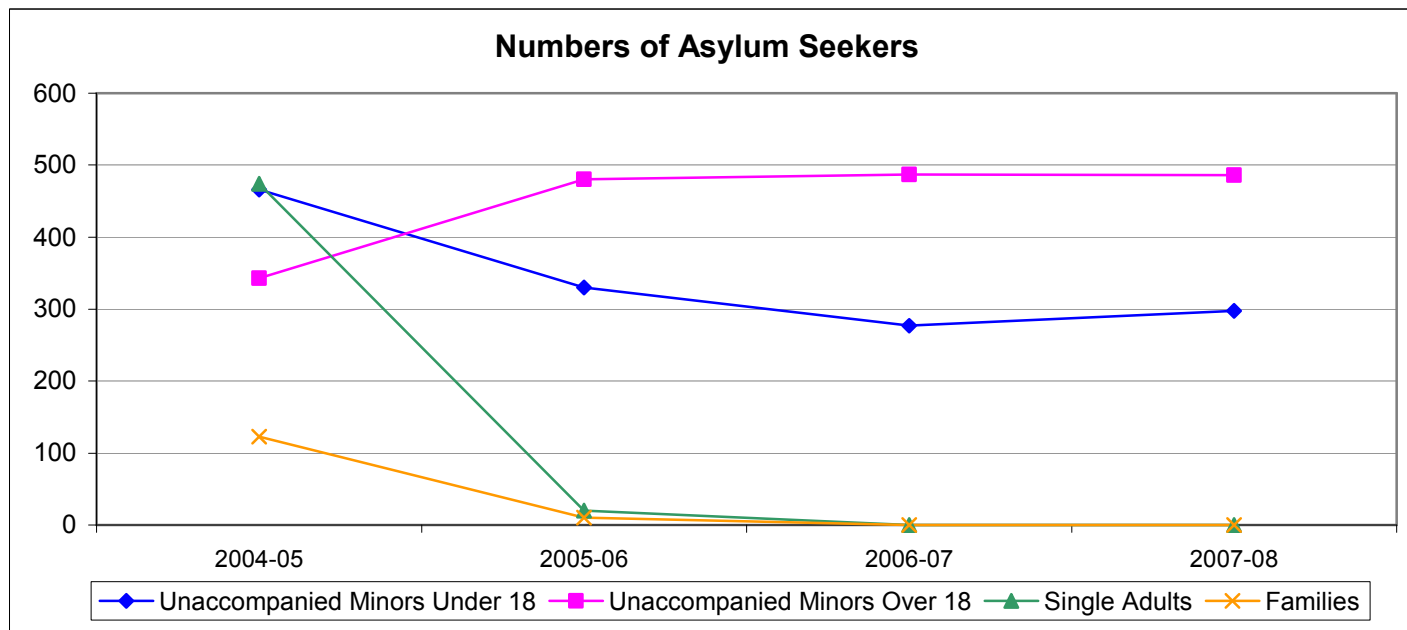


**Comment:**

- Children Looked After by KCC may on occasion be placed out of the County, which is undertaken using practice protocols that ensure that all long-distance placements are justified and in the interests of the child. All Looked After Children are subject to regular statutory reviews (at least twice a year), which ensures that a regular review of the child's care plan is undertaken. The majority (over 99%) of Looked After Children placed out of the Authority are either in adoptive placements, placed with a relative, specialist residential provision not available in Kent or living with KCC foster carers based in Medway.

2.9 Numbers of Asylum Seekers (by category):

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	31-03-05	31-03-06	31-03-07	31-01-08
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Unaccompanied Minors Under 18	466	330	277	298
Unaccompanied Minors Over 18	343	480	487	486
Single Adults	474	20	0	0
Families	123	10	0	0



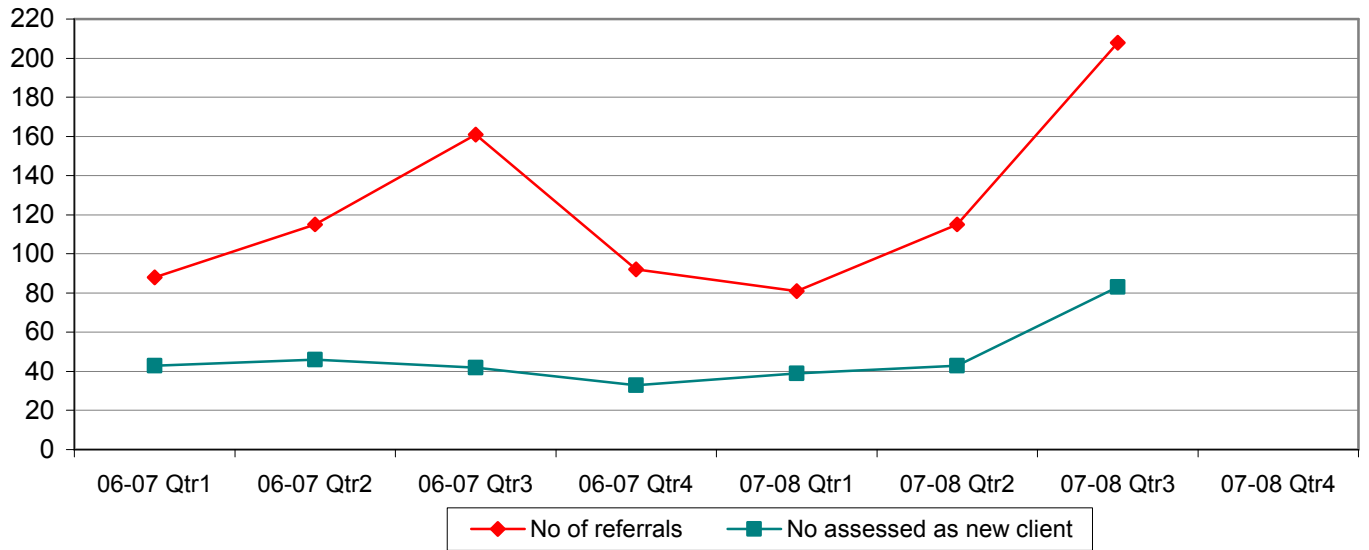
Comment:

- The numbers above refer to clients who have been assessed as qualifying for asylum. The numbers are slightly lower than originally forecast. This is a result of the numbers leaving the Service being higher than we originally anticipated.

2.10 Numbers of Asylum Seeker referrals compared with the number assessed as qualifying for on-going support from Service for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (SUASC) ie new clients:

	2006-07			2007-08		
	No. of referrals	No. assessed as new client	%	No. of referrals	No. assessed as new client	%
April - June	88	43	49%	81	39	48%
July - Sept	115	46	40%	115	43	37%
Oct - Dec	161	42	26%	208	83	40%
Jan - March	92	33	36%	80 (January only)		

### Number of SUASC referrals compared to those assessed as receiving on-going support



**Comments:**

- The number of referrals in the third quarter is significantly higher than the forecast of 140 and is greater than the total for the two previous quarters.
- The percentage of referrals that become on-going referrals remains below the forecast level of 50%. As a result the number of on-going new referrals is in line with the original forecast of 165 by the end of December. The forecast to the end of the financial year is 215, but based on the number of referrals this quarter to date, we anticipate that we may exceed this forecast.
- In January we had 80 referrals, our forecast for the whole of the fourth quarter is 100. This is the highest number of referrals in a single month for over 4 years.

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By: Managing Director Children Families and Education

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee –  
25 March 2008

Subject: SEN TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT POLICY

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: Advises and provides information to Members relating to SEN Transport and the review of Transport Policy following amendments to the legal framework included in the Education & Inspections Act 2006, identifying issues, inviting Members to endorse and support a new single Kent Policy on Transport for Children Families and Education.

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## Introduction

1. (1) The legal framework for home to school and college transport for children and young people of statutory school age are set out in Sections 508, 509 and Schedule 35B of the Education Act 1996, as amended by the Education & Inspections Act (EIA) 2006.

(2) EIA 2006 inserted new sections 508B and 508C into the Act. These sections place a duty on local authorities to ensure that suitable travel arrangements are made, where necessary to facilitate a child's attendance at school (defined as the 'relevant educational establishment' in relation to the child).

(3) The duty applies to "home to school" travel arrangements at the start of the day, and "school to home" travel arrangements at the end of the day. It does not relate to travel between educational institutions during the school day.

(4) Section 508B deals with the duty on local authorities to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for "eligible children".

(5) Schedule 35B defines "eligible children" – those categories of children in an authority's area for who travel arrangements will always be required. A condition of each category is that they are of compulsory school age. Under section 508B, every feature of these arrangements must be provided free of charge.

(6) Section 508C of the Act provides local authorities with the discretionary powers to make arrangements for those children not covered by Section 508B.

(7) A Local Authority can “opt out” of the new statutory provisions by making a “school travel scheme” but these must be approved by the Secretary of State. If LA makes a school travel scheme arrangements for “protected children” must be free of charge. Protected children are children with special educational needs, disability or mobility problems and/or children from low-income families.

### **Mainstream and College Transport**

2. (1) Currently around 20,400 CYP of statutory school age (under 16) have free transport to mainstream schools and provisions. A further 2,900 post 16 young people have transport assistance to schools and college with around 1,900 making a contribution to costs. Current net costs are around £14.6m for mainstream transport and around £1.0m for college transport.

### **Special Educational Needs, Disability or Mobility**

3. (1) The LA is expected to arrange transport for those children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school as a result of their disability, mobility problems or special educational needs, where even being accompanied by parent/carer, they or others cannot reasonably be protected from risk/harm. Currently this type of transport is discretionary but there is now a mandatory obligation to provide it. There is also an obligation to arrange transport for children without statements with disability or mobility and it covers children who have a temporary mobility problem or less severe medical condition which is not a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

(2) Currently over 3,700 children and young people (CYP) with Statements of special educational need (SEN) receive free home to school transport. The majority of these CYP travel in hired transport such as taxi's and mini-buses. Cash allowances are paid to 210 parents/carers who transport their children to school. A relatively small number of CYP with SEN travel on public transport buses and trains. The total cost of SEN Transport is around £15m pa.

(3) Section 509(1) requires Local Authorities to make arrangements for the provision of transport and otherwise. The phrase “and otherwise” is intended to cover the provision of escorts and supervision of travel arrangements where necessary for individual or groups of children.

(4) Travel arrangements must be suitable, i.e. to enable the child to reach school without stress, strain or difficulty.

(5) To illustrate the individual nature of transport issues it is important to note that for CYP with disability, mobility or special educational needs the issue of suitable “safe” transport can go beyond the particular transport mode chosen: it can also inform selection of placement. In an appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) the Tribunal accepted that a five year old child with complex learning difficulties arising out of a severe developmental delay, would not be able to cope with any form of vehicle transport to school. SENDIST upheld the parents’ appeal for the child to be educated in an independent special school a few hundred yards from their home rather than the LA’s special school six miles away.

### **Low Income Families**

4. (1) The Act introduces a new category of “eligible children”. These are children from low-income families, i.e. a child who is entitled to free school meals or if their parents receive Working Tax Credit at the maximum rate applicable.

(2) Children eleven years or older are eligible for school transport even if the school they attend is not the nearest suitable school, providing there are not three or more suitable schools nearer to their home – i.e. if a child of a low income family attends one of the three nearest secondary schools within a six mile radius of the home they are eligible for free school transport.

(3) Children from low income families who attend a school over two miles but under fifteen miles away from home are entitled to free school transport if their parent has expressed a wish for them to be educated at that school based on the parent’s religion or belief and there is no nearer suitable school. In this respect “belief” includes any religious or philosophical belief and includes lack of religion or belief.

(4) In respect of 8 to 10 year old children from low income families they will become eligible for free school transport if they live more than two miles from their nearest suitable school.

### **Kent Freedom Pass - Pilot Areas**

5. (1) In recognition of the needs and vulnerability of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities, the Local Authority has decided to extend access to transport to escorts where they are needed to enable young people to travel safely as part of the Kent Freedom Pass pilot scheme. The majority of young people will already have been assessed as needing escorts when attending school or other educational provision. However, further assessments of needs may be required because:

- Some young people on a vehicle they share with others travelling to school may be able to travel by bus without an escort
- The needs of some young people are such that they could not travel on a bus, even with an escort e.g.: young people with very severe disabilities or who are severely Autistic

- There may be some disabled young people who do not currently have an escort when travelling by taxi but who would need an escort on a bus.

In many cases, the escort will be the young person's relative.

(2) There are around 700 CYP with SSEN in the pilot area. Over 480 have free home to school transport of which 210 have escorts. 10 of these children have a Kent Freedom Pass

(3) A survey will be undertaken with parents via Partnership with Parents and/or the Parent's Consortium to determine if there are any other aspects of the proposed "escort pass" that need to be considered.

### **Children's Social Services and Health Transport**

6. (1) Children receiving overnight respite in SSD & Health Respite units continue to attend educational facilities throughout their stays. This is planned/commissioned by SSD/Health directly with Passenger Transport Services. The annual cost to SSD is £132k.

### **Resources**

7. (1) The revenue resource implications of policy options related to a new single Kent Policy will be calculated in respect of policy options identified to comply with the new duties on the Local Authority. The affordability of policy options will be reported to CFE SMT and Cabinet Members.

### **Conclusion**

8. (1) The new duty placed on Local Authorities by the EIA 2006 (together with new categories of eligible children) has served effectively to call into question the previous distinction between "SEN Transport" and "Mainstream Transport". Individual eligibility for free transport now relates to a set of circumstances and not simply distance and whether there is a Statement of SEN or not.

(2) Given these new duties it is appropriate to develop a new all encompassing Kent Policy on Transport for Children, Families and Education to encompass all children and young people of all age ranges and individual circumstances attending settings, schools and colleges.

## **Recommendations**

9. (1) Members are asked to note the new duties on Local Authorities and to endorse and support the proposal to draw up a new single Kent Transport Policy for Children, Families and Education.

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*Background documents:*

None

*Other useful information:*

None

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By: Graham Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee – 25 March 2008

Subject: Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education Strategy to Support Schools and Settings

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report seeks to consult Members on the PSHE Strategy to support schools and settings. This Strategy aims to ensure high quality PSHE for all children and young people. It is a result of the 2007 PSHE/Children's Health Select Committee and is currently subject to wide consultation.

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## Introduction

1. (1) The PSHE Strategy to support schools and settings was launched for consultation on the 30th January at a conference for key stakeholders. The conference and the Strategy deliver on recommendations of the 2007 PSHE/Children's Health Select Committee. The draft strategy is attached at appendix one.

(2) The Strategy was developed by a Multi-Agency PSHE Strategy Group in conjunction with the PSHE Member Advisory Group.

## What the Strategy Sets Out to Achieve

2. (1) PSHE Education is crucial to ensuring children and young people's wellbeing, resilience and opportunities to flourish. It also provides them with the knowledge and skills to enjoy childhood and to prepare for adult life.

(2) This strategy has been written with the aim of enabling excellent practice across the County and ensuring that schools and settings have the resources and support necessary to deliver high quality PSHE to all children and young people.

(3) The Strategy sets out the national and local context for PSHE and then sets out the actions that are proposed under four core strands:-

- Support to Schools and Settings
- Resources and Best Practice
- Capacity Building
- Partnership Working

## How the Strategy will be taken forward

3. (1) Consultation on the Strategy ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and the Strategy will then be revised to reflect the consultation feedback.

(2) The Strategy will be implemented from the start of the 2008/09 academic year.

(3) There is no new funding attached to this Strategy, so it will be delivered, as far as possible, within existing resources.

### Recommendations

4. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to:-

- (a) Note the development of a PSHE Strategy to support schools and settings;
- (b) Comment on the content of the Strategy;
- (c) Consider how they might engage their local schools and communities in the consultation and with the implementation of the Strategy; and
- (d) Support officers and partners with the implementation of the Strategy.

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#### *Background Documents:*

None

#### *Other Useful Information:*

None

***Personal, Social,  
Health and  
Economic  
(PSHE) Education  
Strategy***

***to support schools and settings***

***2008-2012***

Consultation Draft  
22/02/2008

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## **Foreword**

**By Chris Wells, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Standards, Kent County Council**

To be inserted following consultation

## **Aim of this Strategy**

High quality Personal Social and Health and Economic Education (PSHE) is crucial to ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people and meeting the five Every Child Matters outcomes. However it can be challenging for schools and settings to deliver PSHE effectively.

The delivery of high quality PSHE is essential if schools are to meet the aims of the National Curriculum enabling young people to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. As one of the four core themes, this Strategy also aims to support schools in engaging with Kent's successful Healthy Schools Programme. From September 2007, new statutory duties were placed on schools to promote children's wellbeing and community cohesion. Again, PSHE has a vital role to play.

Non mainstream settings contain a higher proportion of particularly vulnerable young people with high levels of substance and alcohol abuse, early sexual experience and criminal activity. The PSHE Education Strategy recognises the importance of targeting support and resources at such settings in order to ensure that disengagement from mainstream education does not also lead to social disengagement.

There are examples of excellent practice within Kent. The aim of this Strategy is to ensure that excellent practice is uniform across the County and that schools and settings have the resources and support necessary to deliver high quality PSHE to all young people.

## **National Context**

The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures, 2007, outlined how the Department for Children, Schools and Families planned to improve outcomes for children and young people. This plan referred to both the forthcoming National Drugs Strategy and Young People's Alcohol Strategy, both of which are expected to have implications for the delivery of PSHE in schools and settings.

Effective delivery of PSHE contributes to all five of the Every Child Matters outcomes:

### **Staying Safe , Being Healthy , Making a Positive Contribution , Enjoy and Achieve , Achieving Economic Wellbeing**

The new Secondary Curriculum is being implemented for Year 7 students from September 2008. This curriculum recognises the statutory elements of PSHE, the statutory status of sex education, careers education and work-related learning. The curriculum also recognises cross-curriculum dimensions including "Identity and Cultural Diversity" and "Healthy Lifestyles" which provide important unifying areas of learning that help young people make sense of the world and give education relevance and authenticity. These reflect the major ideas and challenges that face individuals and society and PSHE is a crucial aspect of the delivery and exploration of these messages.

A review in 2005 of the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy identified the provision of SRE in schools as the most important source of information about sex for young people (TPSE 2005). However, only about 30% of young people felt it currently met their needs, being too biological and too late, with issues such as peer pressure and confidentiality inadequately covered.

## **Statutory Requirements**

Schools are required to provide drug, alcohol and tobacco education, and sex and relationship education. Although all these statutory requirements could be delivered within the science curriculum, this would miss the incremental and holistic approach of PSHE, which places relationships as central to wellbeing. Effective teaching of these sometimes sensitive subjects is necessary to ensure successful outcomes.

From September 2007, new statutory duties were placed on schools to promote children's wellbeing and to promote community cohesion. PSHE is a key vehicle for the delivery of these duties.

## **Local Context**

Members of the Kent Youth County Council identified PSHE as a priority area for development and research commissioned by Kent County Council found that young people would like more information on aspects of wellbeing, including relationships and personal safety.

Kent's Children and Young People Plan commits Kent to:

*"Implement a PSHE strategy to improve the delivery of PSHE and build resilience in children and young people to deal with stress, bullying, domestic violence and other pressures in their lives."*

A KCC Select Committee on PSHE and Children's Health reported in 2007 and the development of a PSHE Strategy was one of this Committee's key recommendations for improving children's health. Select Committees on Carers and Alcohol Use also made recommendations relevant to this Strategy.

Research commissioned by Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership over 2004/5/6 identified similar findings to the national research outlined in the "National Context" section, however it indicated over 35% of under 16s were sexually active, higher than the national figure of approximately 30%. It also found young people were undertaking risky sexual activity leaving them open to infection and conception. Although many felt there was some information on sex education there was felt to be an absence of information on relationships and negotiating sex, leaving some without essential skills to delay sexual activity.

## **What is PSHE?**

The Qualification and Curriculum Authority (QCA) which provides the frameworks for PSHE at key stages 1-4 describes PSHE as helping to:

*“give children and young people the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives.”*

The QCA goes on to say that PSHE aims to help children and young people:

*“understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.”*

Subjects covered by PSHE include sex and relationship education (SRE), drugs education (including alcohol and tobacco education), careers education and guidance, personal financial capability, emotional health and well-being, and personal safety. PSHE can also cover subjects such as healthy eating and physical activity.

## **The role of PSHE in meeting the needs of vulnerable children**

PSHE is a valuable means of addressing the needs of vulnerable children and young people, tackling inequalities and discussing specific issues that may be pertinent to some communities. In particular, it should provide opportunities for encouraging understanding of different lifestyles and the impact of circumstances upon the actions and experiences of peers. Particular issues that can be explored through PSHE in a supportive environment include the experiences of Looked After Children, young carers, children who have experienced bereavement, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people, children with disabilities and many other experiences of childhood and adolescence. Support for children and young people from all backgrounds should be implicit in the culture and ethos of the school, however PSHE can and should provide an opportunity for sensitively addressing these issues and building understanding.

## **The importance of personal wellbeing**

Personal wellbeing enables young people to embrace change, feel positive about themselves and enjoy healthy, safe, responsible and fulfilled lives. Through active learning opportunities pupils recognise and manage risk, take increasing responsibility for themselves, their choices and behaviours, and make positive contributions to their families, schools and communities. As pupils learn to recognise, develop and communicate their qualities, skills and attitudes, they build knowledge, confidence and self-esteem so they are able to make the most of their abilities. As they explore similarities and differences between people, and discuss social and moral dilemmas, they learn to deal with challenges and accommodate diversity in all its forms. The world is full of complex and sometimes conflicting values. Personal wellbeing helps pupils explore this complexity and reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes. They identify and articulate feelings and emotions, learn to manage new or difficult situations positively and form and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of people.

## **The importance of economic wellbeing and financial capability**

Teaching pupils economic wellbeing and financial capability aims to equip them with the knowledge, skills and attributes to make the most of changing opportunities in learning and work. It enables young people to develop as questioning and informed consumers and learn to manage their money and finances effectively.

Learning about economic wellbeing and financial capability improves motivation and progression by helping pupils see the relevance of what they learn in school to their future lives. It expands their horizons by challenging stereotyping, discrimination and other cultural and social barriers to choice. It helps pupils to aim high. Pupils build a positive and realistic view of their needs and capabilities so that they can make effective learning plans, decisions and transitions. They become aware of changing career opportunities and develop the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about which learning programmes to take.

Pupils learn to be enterprising. They develop the ability to handle uncertainty, respond positively to change, and create and implement new ideas and ways of doing things. They learn how to make and act on reasonable risk/reward assessments and develop a 'can-do' attitude and the drive to make ideas happen.

## **The importance of citizenship**

PSHE is often taught alongside citizenship and the two subjects are complementary. Education for citizenship equips young people with the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in public life. It encourages them to take an interest in topical and controversial issues and to engage in discussion and debate. Pupils learn about their rights, responsibilities, duties and freedoms and about laws, justice and democracy. They learn to take part in decision-making and different forms of action. They play an active role in the life of their schools, neighbourhoods, communities and wider society as active citizens.

Citizenship encourages respect for different national, religious and ethnic identities. It equips pupils to engage critically with and explore diverse ideas, beliefs, cultures and identities and the values we share as citizens in the UK. Pupils begin to understand how society has changed and is changing in the UK, Europe and the wider world.

Citizenship addresses issues relating to social justice, human rights, community cohesion and global interdependence, and encourages pupils to challenge injustice, inequalities and discrimination. Citizenship equips pupils with the knowledge and skills needed for effective and democratic participation. It helps pupils to become informed, critical, active citizens who have the confidence and conviction to work collaboratively, take action and try to make a difference in their communities and the wider world.

## **Remit**

This Strategy applies to Kent County Council, Primary Care Trusts, and to all maintained schools and settings within the Kent Local Authority. It is also relevant to youth settings, alternative curriculum provision, other out-of-school settings and extra-curricular activities.

## **Core Strands**

There are four core strands to Kent's PSHE Strategy:

- **Support to Schools and Settings**
- **Resources and Best Practice**
- **Capacity Building**
- **Partnership Working**

The delivery of these four strands will ensure high quality and sufficient quantity PSHE in all Kent schools and settings.

## **Support to Schools and Settings**

The Strategy recognises that all schools and settings will at some time require support and guidance in the delivery of PSHE. This may involve support with setting up a new curriculum, in delivering a certain aspect of PSHE, or in interpreting the curriculum guidance in a way that is suitable for the ethos of a particular school or setting.

In order to ensure sufficient support to schools and settings we will:

- Support schools and settings in liaising with parents and carers on all issues of PSHE, including ensuring expert professionals are available to present at Parents Evenings and Parent Information Sessions wherever possible
- Provide guidance for schools and settings on progression and assessment of learning in PSHE in order to ensure that children and young people are benefiting from improvements in knowledge and skills
- Provide support for schools and settings in identifying children and young people most at risk and those in need of targeted or extra support
- Maximise the use of web-based guidance and support materials for those designing and delivering PSHE
- Promote and encourage teachers and school nurses (particularly those working in secondary settings) to take part in the National PSHE Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme
- Share a self-evaluation process to enable schools and settings to identify areas of strength and further development in order to ensure quality of PSHE provision
- Support schools to enhance curriculum provision and enhance interactive teaching and learning in all aspects of PSHE through the Kent School Improvement Strategy
- Signpost to schools and settings opportunities for supporting the development of PSHE, through Clusters and other networking opportunities
- Provide access to up-to-date information regarding advice and services available to young people on a range of issues relating to PSHE
- Provide support to staff on modelling excellent emotional, behavioural and social skills and in establishing good relationships with pupils

**Case Study to illustrate best practice example  
of “Support to Schools and Settings”**

**To be inserted following completion of  
consultation**

**If you have examples that might be suitable for  
a case study then please email using the  
consultation response process**

## **Resources and Best Practice**

Excellent resources to aid teachers, school nurses and all those involved in the delivery of PSHE are crucial. It is essential that resources provided as a result of this Strategy are clear, evidence based, comprehensive and consistent.

To ensure the provision of high quality PSHE resources we will:

- Compile, disseminate and promote a comprehensive training package across all strands of PSHE
- Ensure that a system is in place for identifying and disseminating PSHE resources as they are developed
- Identify, disseminate and develop as necessary resources on relationships, self-esteem and resilience, in response to needs identified by young people
- Ensure Kent websites on all aspects of PSHE are updated regularly and promoted to all relevant practitioners
- Roll-out both primary and secondary SEAL programmes and signpost to complementary programmes to enhance emotional intelligence, resilience and healthy relationships
- Ensure there are a range of resources available to schools and settings that meet the needs of all children and young people from all backgrounds and of all levels of need
- Provide access to a range of web-based self-supported Continuing Professional Development materials
- Ensure that schools and settings are provided with access to current curriculum, statutory and non-statutory guidance relevant to planning and delivering high quality PSHE

## **CASE STUDY**

### **KENT YOUTH SERVICE Alternative Curriculum Programme (ACP)**

Dartford ACP recently designed a 2-year PSHE programme, which will shortly be followed by all the other Youth Service ACP Networks. In designing this programme the priority was to ensure that the total package met the needs of young people excluded from mainstream educational provision. In year ten and year eleven the programme is delivered in two one hour sessions per week.

#### **Programme content: Year 10**

- Exploration of personal qualities/skills and how to use them effectively.
- Positive influences of peers and adults.
- Issues important to young people such as relationships and sexuality.
- Personal care and personal hygiene, healthy eating and fitness drug/alcohol awareness, the criminal justice system,
- Home management.
- Community involvement.

An entry level qualification (WJEC Entry Level Personal and Social Skills) can be achieved at the end of Year 10. The Year 10 programme is built around a series of specially designed activities which lead students to produce work that meets all the criteria of this portfolio based course. Additional PSHE material of relevance to the students but not within the WJEC syllabus is seamlessly woven into the programme.

#### **Programme content: Year 11**

- Positive assertiveness and anger management.
- Personal care, sexual health, safety.
- The law.
- Personal finance, including wages, payment methods, saving opportunities, benefits.
- Independent living, budgeting, housing services, homelessness, ,
- Employment skills, career planning, job applications, interview techniques, employer expectations, work experience.

The year eleven programme features input from expert speakers from outside agencies and community organisations and allows students to engage in project work. The work produced is accredited through Asdan Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) Level 1 or 2.

## **Capacity Building**

Building capacity in the design and delivery of PSHE will ensure that there is sufficient time and expertise available to enable all children and young people to receive sufficient high quality PSHE.

To build capacity we will:

- Invest resources, through the Kent Healthy Schools Programme and the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership, to enable Local Children's Trusts (LCT) in target areas to release PSHE accredited teachers to build capacity across their LCT
- Support the continued roll-out of matched funding for Cluster School/Public Health Nurses to enhance the delivery of PSHE and capacity build for provision in schools and settings
- Identify opportunities for locally-based support through Clusters and Local Learning Networks
- Disseminate examples of best practice in aspects of PSHE through web-based resources
- Provide opportunities for ongoing training and continuing professional development (CPD) for lead PSHE staff from a wide range of agencies
- Provide, in collaboration with Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership, Healthy Schools teams and other agencies, including the School Drugs Education Advisors, a comprehensive CPD training programme designed to meet the needs of teachers and other professionals delivering aspects of PSHE to children and young people
- Explore the development of a County-wide database and team of PSHE providers
- Through the School Drugs Education Advisors, pilot innovative methods of drug education and roll-out, if evaluation proves successful, in order to build capacity in drug education.

Case Study to illustrate best practice example of  
“Capacity Building”

To be inserted following completion of  
consultation

If you have examples that might be suitable for a  
case study then please email using the  
consultation response process

## **Partnership Working**

PSHE is most effective when delivered as a holistic approach in conjunction with partners from key agencies that work towards the wellbeing of children and young people. Partnership working enables children and young people to benefit from the very best expertise and experience.

In order to ensure effective partnership working we will:

- Establish a multi-agency PSHE Strategy Group to oversee and monitor the delivery of the PSHE Strategy
- Provide details of organisations and services that may be able to work in partnership with schools and settings in the delivery of PSHE
- Develop guidance for schools and settings on how to quality assure external providers of PSHE
- Provide opportunities for multi-agency collaboration through regular participation at key strategic group meetings, with reference to the strategic direction set by the Kent Children's Trust
- Work with the Local Children's Services Partnerships to ensure that all partner agencies work collaboratively and that consistent messages are being shared with schools and settings
- Encourage a holistic approach to PSHE through the engagement of children and young people in curriculum, policy and assessment development for PSHE
- Provide advice to schools on ensuring the active participation of students in order to ensure a whole-school approach and that PSHE reflects the needs of students

Case Study to illustrate best practice example of  
“Partnership Working”

To be inserted following completion of  
consultation

If you have examples that might be suitable for a  
case study then please email using the  
consultation response process

## **Key Contacts for Schools and Settings**

**Advisory Service Kent** (for support in implementing PSHE initiatives):

*Oxford Road  
Shepway  
Maidstone  
ME15 8AW*

*Tel. 01622 203800*

<http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/ask/curr-pshe.html>

### **Alternative Provision Monitoring Team**

*Sessions House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
ME14 1XQ*

*Tel: 01622 696643*

**Children, Families and Education Policy Unit** (for all policy queries):

*Sessions House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
ME14 1XQ*

*Tel. 01622 694716*

### **Local Education Officers**

Information on the Local Education Officer for your area can be found on Clusterweb in the "Clusters and Contacts" section

### **Useful Hyperlinks**

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/pshe/> (for practical advice)

[www.kenthealthyschools.org.uk](http://www.kenthealthyschools.org.uk) (the PSHE section contains useful advice and resources)

[http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_7897.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_7897.aspx) (for key stage relevant information)

<http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/ask/curr-pshe.html> (for information on local initiatives and to access Kent policies)

<http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/drugs.cfm> (for Kent information on drugs education and the work of the School Drugs Education Advisors)

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By: Ian Craig – Director of Operations

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee – 25 March 2008

Subject: Kent Admissions Arrangements For Entry To School 2009

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: On 6 February 2008 Cabinet determined the Admissions Arrangements to Primary and secondary schools for 2009 entry.

Some Admissions Authorities within Kent objected to the proposed admissions arrangements and as a result we do not have agreement on coordination. In these circumstances it falls to the Secretary of State to impose a scheme and the DCSF are presently conducting a consultation with a view to taking a decision on the scheme by the end of May.

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## Introduction

1. (1) In the Admissions paper presented to Cabinet by Graham Badman recommendations were made to adopt a secondary scheme that introduced testing before preference. This is a new recommendation in the Admissions Code which came into effect from February 2007 has resulted in Kent having to move the test back to September in order to meet these requirements.

(2) The Cabinet Paper including appendices which provided details of feedback from the Formal Consultation which was undertaken as part of the statutory duty to consult admissions authorities in and around Kent is attached for information.

## Outcome of Consultation

2. (1) The consultation between admissions authorities for the primary admission scheme was agreed by all those who responded and Cabinet have determined these arrangements for implementation in 2009.

(2) The consultation on the secondary admission scheme was not agreed by all admissions authorities in Kent. 22 either failed to respond or objected to the arrangements. The governing bodies of these schools were written to, to establish if they were prepared to change their position, 3 responded positively and 19 remained opposed.

(3) Because it is a requirement of a coordinated scheme to have agreement from all admissions authorities within the scheme and there are a number of authorities that have refused it must now fall to the Secretary of State to impose a scheme.

(4) The DCSF have now been passed information regarding the proposed schemes and the determined arrangements. The DCSF acting on the authority of the Secretary of State will now undertake to re-consult with admissions authorities before

deciding on the scheme that will be imposed in Kent. We expect that a decision will be taken before the end of May.

### **Recommendations**

3. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

- (a) Note the developing situation in relation to the admission arrangements in Kent.
- (b) Use this as an opportunity to raise questions with the Cabinet Members for Operations, Resources and Skills and Children, Families and Educational Achievement.

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#### *Background Documents:*

Admissions Paper to Cabinet 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008

#### *Other Useful Information:*

None

By: Ian Craig – Director of Operations

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee – 25 March 2008

Subject: 14-19 DEVELOPMENTS

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report provides members with an update on significant 14-19 developments across the county. This includes the continuing expansion of the 14-16 vocational programme, 14-19 diploma roll out, apprenticeships and Information, Advice & Guidance and Careers Education

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## Introduction

1. (1) The range and complexities of national 14-19 developments for schools, colleges and work based learning providers is significant. Alongside these national 14-19 developments there are a number of major developments initiated in response to the Kent 2010 targets. The main areas of focus for these activities are:

- Expanding the 14-16 vocational offer across the county in new curriculum areas;
- Implementing new diplomas in 17 curriculum areas by 2013;
- Giving all 13-19 year olds the very best careers advice and guidance;
- Introducing the new quality standards in Information, Advice & Guidance and providing a Master Class programme for 14-19 year olds;
- Expanding the number of apprenticeships at 14 and 16+;
- Building strong business education partnerships that benefit both employers and schools;
- Working with vulnerable groups including young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

(2) These developments are in the main being co-ordinated by the 14-24 Innovation Unit in partnership with Connexions Kent & Medway, Learning & Skills Council, FE colleges, Kent University and Employers

(3) The 14-24 Innovation Unit was established in September 2007. The Unit was established to provide strategic co-ordination and an innovative approach to developing an extensive universal education and skills programme, high quality information, advice & guidance, Careers Education and appropriate employer engagement.

(4) The 14-24 Innovation Unit will strive to develop learning opportunities which meet the needs of all young people maximising the potential of all 14-24 year olds in Kent.

## **Progress to Date**

### **2. (1) Expansion of the 14-16 Vocational Programme**

There are over 4,600 learners aged 14-16 currently involved in the vocational & applied learning programme. Ten curriculum areas are on offer, ranging from Entry Level to Level II qualifications. The first year of Kent Young Apprentices (14-16) within the vocational programme started in September 07.

The expansion and success of the vocational programme continues. In some localities there has been a significant reduction in NEET's mainly in Whitstable & Maidstone. In a number of vocational centres facilities and workshops are already up to capacity and learner demand outstrips the number of specialist places available.

Eight subject specialist networks to support curriculum delivery & development are in place. Continued curriculum development is required to ensure that these programmes meet the needs of industry and the skills sector councils.

Termly briefings and workshops are run by the 14-24 Innovation Unit to ensure that schools' senior leaders and vocational managers are informed of new developments, funding opportunities and good practice, which are shared across the County.

Two National Skills Academies are currently being bid for in Construction & Nuclear industries. These Academies will provide a range of employer led training opportunities across the County. It is hoped that these Academies will (from entry level to Masters degrees) provide appropriate progression routes for of 16+ learners from the vocational programme.

### **(2) Careers, Advice & Guidance**

A detailed implementation plan has been drawn up between KCC & Connexions to ensure that learners receive high quality impartial advice & guidance. This plan will mean that all secondary schools will undertake an Information, Advice & Guidance health check. This is a self evaluation audit which highlights the strengths & weaknesses of guidance within the schools & other 14-19 providers. A major professional development programme has been planned to improve and raise the profile of careers education in schools.

Ten new information leaflets relating to the 14-16 vocational programme have been produced and will be available for all Year 10 learners this term. The September Guarantee was successfully implemented last year. This means that all Year 11 leavers will have the offer of employment or training via Connexions or schools. Those young people who have not received an offer will access additional support.

A major evaluation of Information, Advice & Guidance by Warwick University has been completed. The outcome of this research will be used to plan further developments to meet the 2010 target.

### **(3) Master Classes**

Five subject specialist master classes which link to the 14-16 vocational programme were delivered for over 300 learners. The feedback by learners from these events shows 90% of participants rated the session good or excellent.

Kent Works has successfully delivered three 'generic' Master Classes to raise learners' aspirations and ensure learners' knowledge of the working world. Partners include The Royal Ballet and the Fifteen Foundation.

### **(4) Apprenticeships**

Kent Success, the KCC Apprenticeship Programme, began in October 2006 following on from a pilot project that had been running within KCC. The programme is aimed at 16 to 19 year olds who would like to start their career within KCC - the target being to provide at least 250 Apprenticeship opportunities within KCC itself and 750 in other public and private sector organisations. As part of this target, the Young Apprenticeship Programme is also being developed through the 14-24 Innovation Unit.

Within KCC, placements are being offered across all directorates including Legal and Democratic Services, Waste Management, the Youth Service, and Adult Social Services as well as placements within KCC schools and nurseries. Young people are undertaking Apprenticeships in childcare, health and social care, customer service and business and administration. KEY Training Services is currently delivering the Kent Success Programme within KCC.

There are currently 63 Apprentices on the Kent Success Programme from a variety of backgrounds. Some have just finished school and come straight onto the programme, others have worked in a different job for a while but decided that this is a more positive route for them. So far, there have been 20 young people who have completed their Apprenticeship, and 16 of those have moved in to longer term employment either within KCC or other organisations. A further eight young people have left the programme for either personal reasons or because an Apprenticeship was not the right route for them.

### **(5) 14-19 Diplomas**

The 14-19 Implementation plan promotes collaboration between schools, colleges and work based training providers to deliver 17 new 'curriculum' areas through the new diplomas. These new qualifications are still in the pilot phase and will be rolled out over the next five years.

If schools and other providers wish to deliver diplomas they have to undertake a diploma gateway process which identifies a partnership's preparedness to deliver these new qualifications. In Kent the partnerships are organised into nine 14-19 planning forums which cover the Kent area.

The Gateway 1 process was undertaken in 2006. Therefore, from September 2008, 4 planning forums will be delivering across two diploma subject lines: Construction and the Built Environment in Dover, Deal and Sandwich and Thanet

and Society, Health and Development in Gravesham and Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley.

For Gateway 2 which started in December 2007, eight of the nine Kent Planning Forums submitted applications to deliver Diploma lines from 2009 (see Appendix 1). Of the ten lines of learning available at this stage, Kent consortia have applied to deliver nine (the exception being Manufacturing and Product Design).

Not all the applicants in Gateway 1 were successful and these eight planning forums had to resubmit their Gateway applications. We will be notified of the outcomes of these reviews in March 2008, but it seems likely that the majority will be given approval to deliver from 2009.

### **Priorities for 08/09**

3. (1) A major focus for the 14-24 Innovation Unit for next year will be working directly with the nine 14-19 planning forums to develop a diverse area curriculum offer for all learners, with appropriate progression routes.

(2) As the programme and curriculum offer widens and diversifies for all 14-19 learners, the need for high quality information advice and careers education becomes essential. In partnership with Connexions a major professional development programme will be delivered on careers education and information and guidance for all Kent schools over the next year.

(3) Priority will be given to working much more closely with employers to identify solutions for more effective and meaningful relationships between industry, employers and schools. An employer engagement strategy will be developed to assist and support the implementation of a more radical and innovative approach to working with employers.

(4) The number of Apprenticeships will be significantly increased to meet learner demand and the 2010 target of 1,000 Kent apprenticeships.

### **Resources**

4. (1) Revenue funding for the 14-19 programme is via a direct support grant entitled Practical Learning Monies. This is an additional revenue stream which recognises the additional cost of vocational programmes. The DCSF will also be providing additional revenue funding for those planning forums delivering diplomas from September 2008.

(2) 2010 monies will be used mainly to provide new specialist equipment in priority areas, mainly Dover, Shepway, Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling. It is expected that any major capital costs of new specialist facilities and workshops will be delivered through the Building Schools of the Future programme.

(3) There is no KCC or DCSF additional funding for Transport for learners moving from their 'home' school to specialist provision off site either at another school, skills studio or college. Currently most schools use their Direct Support Grant monies to cover these additional costs.

## Conclusion

5. 14-19 initiatives will continue to develop. Current Government reforms and more 'local' innovative approaches represent a radical and long term strategy that will transform the skills of generations to come. Kent is well placed to continue to raise levels of participation in learning by ensuring that there are appropriate progression routes and robust partnerships are in place to meet all learners' needs.

## Recommendations

6. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

Note the progress and priorities for 14-19 developments including expansion of the vocational programme and 14-19 diploma delivery by the 14-24 Innovation Unit.

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### *Background Documents:*

None

### *Other Useful Information:*

None

## GATEWAY 2

<b><u>Planning Forum Consortium</u></b>	<b><u>Diploma Lines</u></b>	<b><u>Student Numbers</u></b>
<b>Ashford</b>	Construction and the Built Environment	145
	Society, Health and Development	105
	Environmental and Land Based Studies	N/K
	Hospitality and Catering	221
	Hair and Beauty	205
	Gateway 1: Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	170
<b>Canterbury</b>	Environmental and Land Based Studies	60
	Hospitality and Catering	175
	Hair and Beauty	200
	Gateway 1: Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	300
<b>Dover, Deal and Sandwich</b>	IT	120
	Creative and Media	135
	Gateway 1: SH&D (C2, 2008)	155 (320)
	Construction (C3) Not proceeding	100
<b>Kent Thameside</b>	Hospitality and Catering	154
	Hair and Beauty	75
<b>Gravesham</b>	Business Administration and Finance	105
	Society Health and Development	75
	Gateway 1: Construction (C2, 2008)	155 (155)
	Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	160
	Engineering (C3, 2009)	150
<b>Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley</b>	Business Administration and Finance	91
	Gateway 1: Construction (C2, 2008)	100 (100)
	Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	94
	Engineering (C3, 2009)	45
	IT (C3, 2009)	180
<b>Maidstone and Malling</b>	Business Administration and Finance	152
	Gateway 1: Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	50
<b>Shepway</b>	Construction and the Built Environment	N/K
	Gateway 1: Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	
<b>Sittingbourne and Sheppey</b>	Business Administration and Finance	N/K
	Creative and Media	N/K
	Construction and the Built Environment	N/K
	Engineering	N/K
<b>Thanet</b>	Business Administration and Finance	150
	Hospitality and Catering	N/K
	Engineering	75
	Gateway 1: SH&D (C2, 2008)	230 (470)
	Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	205
	IT (C3, 2009)	260

<b>West Kent</b>	Not applying in 2007	N/A
	Gateway 1: Construction (C3, 2009)	180
	Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	330
	SHD (C3, 2009)	220

By Diploma Line:

Business Administration and Finance	Gravesham Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley Maidstone and Malling Sittingbourne and Sheppey Thanet
Creative and Media	Dover, Deal and Sandwich Sittingbourne and Sheppey
Hospitality and Catering	Ashford Canterbury Kent Thameside Thanet
Engineering	Thanet Sittingbourne and Sheppey
Society, Health and Development	Ashford Gravesham
Environmental and land Based Studies	Ashford Canterbury
Hair and Beauty	Ashford Kent Thameside
IT	Dover, Deal and Sandwich
Construction and Built Environment	Ashford Shepway Sittingbourne and Sheppey
Manufacturing	

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**Item C1**

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee – 25 March 2008

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the Select Committee Topic Review programme.

### **Select Committee: PSHE (Physical, Social and Health Education)**

1. This Select Committee is being reconvened in April/May 2008 to receive a report on progress with the recommendations one year after the report was submitted to Cabinet. The Minutes of this meeting will be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy Overview Committee.

### **Select Committee Topic Review Programme**

2. (1) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC) met on 14 February 2007 to consider the Select Committee Topic Review Programme. At this meeting it was agreed that the proposed topic review on Vulnerable Children would be withdrawn from the Topic Review Programme. The proposer had indicated that, as considerable work had been undertaken in the Children's Families and Education Directorate, he was satisfied that a review at this time would not be appropriate and he was happy for this to be withdrawn from the Programme.

(2) There were currently resources available for one review to start shortly and two potential topics had been identified. These were Provision of Activities for Young People and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (proposed by the Director for Adult Social Services). After considerable deliberation, the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee decided that the next review to be carried out should be Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), but that the review on Provision of Activities for Young People should be the next review to be undertaken once resources became available.

### **Building Capacity for Policy Overview Committees**

3. At the meeting of the POCC on 14 February, Members also received a report to aid discussion around building capacity for POC's especially this Committee. The comments made by Members of POCC will be submitted to Chief Officers Group and ultimately Cabinet for their consideration of how to best build capacity for Policy Overview Committees. Initial feedback from the CPA inspection identified strengthening the Overview and Scrutiny function. I will be keeping all the Policy Overview Committees and the Policy Overview Co Ordinating Committee informed

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as collectively work is undertaken to continual improve the operation and effectiveness of the Policy Overview Committees

**Recommendation**

4. Recommended that the update be noted.

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Background Information: *Nil*