

By: Overview and Scrutiny Manager

To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee –  
1 April 2008

Subject: **UPDATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members on future Select Committee work.

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### **Select Committee: Transitional Arrangements**

1. (1) This Select Committee will be reconvened in May 2008 to receive a report on progress against its recommendations, one year on from the publication of its report. The minutes of this meeting will be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

(2) The Informal Member Group convened to undertake a piece of focused work around some of the key issues raised by the Select Committee has been delayed in moving ahead with its work, and its progress will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

### **Select Committee: Autistic Spectrum Disorder**

2. (1) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC) met on 14 February 2008 to consider the Select Committee Topic Review work programme and bids for resources for various pieces of work. After considerable deliberation, the POCC decided that the next review to be carried out should be on Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which had been enthusiastically promoted by this Committee.

(2) During the discussion of this item, Mr Mills offered to meet reasonable costs for a professional adviser to the Select Committee. This person will be independent of the Directorate.

(3) The Membership of the SC is Mrs A D Allen, Mr G Cowan, Mrs E Green, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr M J Northey, Mr R A Pascoe, Dr T R Robinson and Mr J D Simmonds, with Mr Simmonds being the Chairman Designate. Work on this review will commence shortly.

## **Retrospective Monitoring of past Select Committee Recommendations**

3. (1) The POCC considered a report which set out the progress which had been made against all Select Committee recommendations since 2001. The Committee expressed its appreciation of this major piece of information gathering, and acknowledged that it had been prepared at very short notice. However, it expressed a desire to see more extensive monitoring of the topic reviews which were completed before the current monitoring arrangements were introduced, and resolved that these be systematically reviewed by the parent Policy Overview Committees.

(2) For this Committee, this means going back to the three major reviews of Nursing, Domiciliary and Residential Care, completed in February 2002, March 2003 and December 2003, respectively. The POCC appreciated that this work was undertaken several years ago, and much of what was recommended then has since been overtaken by more recent developments in policy and practice. The Committee was also mindful that retrospective monitoring will add a workload on top of the ongoing monitoring work. It did not impose a deadline but implied that it would like to see something coming to POCs in response to this request in the next few months or so.

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

4. (1) At the meeting of the POCC on 14 February, Members also received a report on building capacity of Policy Overview Committees. The comments made at that meeting will be referred to the Chief Officers Group and then to Cabinet for their consideration of how best to build capacity for POCs. Initial feedback from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment inspection recommended strengthening the Overview and Scrutiny function. All Policy Overview Committees and the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee will be kept informed as work progresses to improve the operation and effectiveness of the Policy Overview Committees.

### **Recommendations**

5. (1) Members are asked to note:-
- (a) that the Transitional Arrangements Select Committee will meet in May 2008 to review progress against its recommendations, one year on from the publication of its report;
  - (b) that a Select Committee Topic Review on Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) will commence shortly;
  - (c) that the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee has directed that topic reviews which were completed before the current monitoring arrangements were introduced be systematically reviewed by their parent Policy Overview Committees; and
  - (d) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee's views on Building Capacity for Policy Overview Committees, in response to the outcome of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

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Background Information: *Nil*

C1:3