

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
To: Scrutiny Board – 27 April 2011
Subject: **Select Committee Work Programme**

Summary: To receive an update on the current Topic Review Programme and the resources available to deliver the programme.

1. Resources to Deliver the Select Committee Work Programme

(1) There are currently two and a half FTE Research officers supporting the Select Committee topic review programme. On 4 April 2011 the line management of these officers was transferred to the Business Strategy Division of the Business Strategy and Support Directorate. They are continuing to work on their respective Select Committee. They are supported by three Democratic Services Officers from the Overview and Scrutiny team who also support the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In addition I have one Research Officer who is dedicated entirely to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a Research Officer to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Research Officer, who in addition to supporting the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee also carries out a number of specific projects to support the development of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

2. Select Committees that have completed their work

Renewable Energy and Extended Services Select Committee

(1) In accordance with the monitoring process agreed by the County Council, an action plan for the recommendations from Renewable Energy Select Committee was submitted to the Environment, Highways and Waste POSC on 8 April 2011. The Select Committee will be re-convened at the end of 2011 to receive a report on progress with their recommendations.

(2) The action plan for the Extended Services Select Committee recommendations will be submitted to the 8 July meeting of Customer and Communities POSC and 19 July Education, Learning and Skills POSC. This was postponed from the April cycle of meetings as a process of informal and formal consultation on the future resources and structure for extended services was being carried out.

3. Select Committee – Topic Review Programme

Educational Attainment Select Committee

(1) The Select Committee which is looking at the reasons for variations in Ks2 performance within Kent Schools, with a focus on schools in areas of deprivation held its inaugural meeting on 3 February 2011, Mr C Wells was elected Chairman. They also held an informal briefing session on 17 March

2011 where they selected 46 Schools which would form the study groups for the review.

(2) The current timetable for the review is to hold Informal Briefing, hearings and Visits etc during June and late September/October 2011. It is unlikely that this review will be completed in time to report to Cabinet in November and County Council in December. A revised timetable will be reported to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Board for approval.

Select Committee: Dementia

(3) The Select Committee on Dementia under the Chairmanship of Mrs Dean is continuing with its work. Throughout February they have carried out a number of visits to day centres, care homes, dementia cafes, peer support groups, carer support groups, meeting people with dementia, being shown around the venues and talking to people involved in care and support. The Select Committee have approved their Terms of Reference (copy attached as **Appendix 1**). Hearings with carers and other key stakeholders have been held throughout March and early April 2011.

(4) The Research officer has been approached by several carers, who are quite elderly but keen to take part. With Mrs Dean's agreement it is intended that officers will go out and interview people, possibly on video, in their homes in order to share this with Select Committee Members and provide an opportunity for the voices of possibly the most marginalised people, to be heard.

(5) There has been a great response to our call for involvement in the review and in fact the greatest challenge has been to manage the volume of information received and involve people appropriately.

(6) The Select Committee will be meeting in early June to discuss evidence and recommendations and the Focus Group of Professionals will meet shortly afterwards to give their input, and identify any further evidence required at that point, prior to production of a draft report in the summer. The timetable for the review is challenging but it is still intended for the report to be submitted to Cabinet in November and to County Council on 15 December 2011.

Select Committee - The Student Journey

(5) Mr Kit Smith is the Chairman designate for this review and the Membership of the Committee is currently being established. It is anticipated that the inaugural meeting for this Select Committee will be held on 27 April 2011 which will agree the Terms of Reference and scope for this review.

(6) The timetable for this review is still under discussion and it is unlikely that it will report to County Council in December 2011. Approval will be sought for the timescale for this review at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Board, once the terms of reference and scope of the review have been approved.

<p>4. Recommendations that the progress of the Select Committees on Educational Attainment, Dementia and the Student Journey be noted.</p>

Peter Sass
Tel No: 01622 694002
e-mail: peter.sass@kent.gov.uk

Background Papers – Nil

Dementia Select Committee

Terms of Reference

1. To examine issues around the '9 Steps' of 'Quality Outcomes' for people with dementia and their carers in Kent.

The 9 Steps¹: Draft synthesis of outcomes desired by people with dementia and their carers

By 2014, all people living with dementia in England should be able to say:

I was diagnosed early

I understand, so I make good decisions and provide for future decision making

I get the treatment and support which are best for my dementia, and my life

Those around me and looking after me are well supported

I am treated with dignity and respect

I know what I can do to help myself and who else can help me

I can enjoy life

I feel part of a community and I'm inspired to give something back

I am confident my end of life wishes will be respected. I can expect a good death.

2. To identify good practice and innovation in Kent and elsewhere, that could contribute to achievement of the '9 steps'.
3. To identify factors militating against achievement of the '9 steps' and make recommendations for improvements.

Scope

(Carers contributing to the review had the opportunity to comment on the scope in February/early March)

Engage with people with dementia and carers and with older people through district forums.

Address:

Stigma – what are the effects/impacts and how can it be reduced? What can be done to promote awareness among younger people and encourage inter-generational support? What do older people think about the stigma around dementia and how to address it? What groups of people might suffer additional stigma for cultural/other reasons and how could this be addressed?

Awareness-raising among professionals – what training is currently undertaken by professionals in different settings? Is it compulsory/linked to progression? What accreditation is in place? How successful is the training that takes place?

¹ DH (2009) Quality outcomes for people with dementia: Building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy

Inclusiveness of training, care and support – how well are cultural needs of ethnic minorities understood and catered for? What are the issues affecting people with learning difficulties that have dementia? Does having a particular sexual orientation mean that different factors should be taken into account? What issues affect people with dementia who have co-morbidities in relation to accessing support? What services and support are there for people with early onset dementia?

Early diagnosis - what is already known about factors preventing early diagnosis? What is happening across Kent and what best practice has been identified? What are the issues for GPs and other professionals? How could things be done differently? Is diagnosis always necessary? What are the processes for referral?

Post-diagnosis support - how are people with dementia supported post-diagnosis? What services are already in place? What best practice examples are there? Where are the gaps in the provision of support? How can the role of the voluntary sector be maximised?

Carers – what can carers expect as they take on the caring role? How is the partnership between a carer/carers and the person they care for supported?

Technology - what is the role of technology including Telecare in maintaining peoples' independence and supporting carers? What ethical issues need to be considered?

Information, advice and guidance - can people with dementia (including those who may not be diagnosed) and carers access the information they need including signposting to support, at the right time, in the right places and in the right formats?

Decision-making - Mental capacity: how and by whom is this assessed – what are the issues? What are the implications of Lasting Power of Attorney and how are people enabled to make decisions about their future? What are the issues around deprivation of liberty and how is this applied?

Personalisation – What are the issues around personalised budgets and direct payments for people with dementia? What are the issues for carers?

Person-centred care – how can joint commissioning contribute to person centred care? What opportunities are there for pooling budgets for care and support from different sources in order to provide more personalised services?

Exclusions

It is proposed 'end of life care', other than from the perspective of decision-making, is not included, it being more suited to investigation by a separate, full and focussed select committee review.