

By: Overview and Scrutiny Manager  
To: Communities Policy Overview Committee – 2 April 2008  
Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**  
Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members on the progress of the Select Committee on Alcohol Misuse and the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

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### **Select Committee: Alcohol Misuse**

1. The Alcohol Misuse Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Hirst has now completed its work and the report was submitted to Cabinet on 17 March 2008. Members will be updated on how this was received by Cabinet and a copy of the Executive Summary is attached to this report as Appendix A. If Members would like a full copy of the report could they contact [angela.evans@kent.gov.uk](mailto:angela.evans@kent.gov.uk) or on 01622 221876.

### **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 At this meeting it was agreed that the proposed topic review on Vulnerable Children would be withdrawn from the Topic Review Programme.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Directorate, he was satisfied that a review at this time would not be appropriate and he was happy for this to be withdrawn from the Programme.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 (proposed by Mr Rowe, Member of this Committee) 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.

### **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 POCs. 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 Coordinating Committee informed as collectively work is undertaken to continually improve the operation and effectiveness of the Policy Overview Committees

## **Recommendations**

4. The Committee is asked to:
  - (a) note the progress on the Select Committee for Alcohol Abuse;
  - (b) note the update on the new Select Committee Topic Review Programme;  
and
  - (c) note the update from the Policy Overview Coordinating Committee.

Christine Singh  
01622 694334  
[christine.singh@kent.gov.uk](mailto:christine.singh@kent.gov.uk)

Background Information: *Nil*