

By: Head of Democratic Services

To: Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 28 September 2011

Subject: **UPDATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on current and future Select Committee work and invites suggestions for future Select Committee Topic Reviews.

Current Select Committee Review Work

1. The following reviews are underway:-

Dementia - The Select Committee, Chaired by Mrs T Dean, has received the first draft of its report, which is now being amended for consultation with stakeholders and contributors. The Select Committee will take into account comments made before it agrees the final version of the report. It is intended that the final report will be submitted to Cabinet on 5 December and County Council on 15 December 2011.

The contacts in Democratic Services for this Select Committee are: Research Officer Sue Frampton (01622 694993) and Democratic Services Officer Christine Singh (01622 694334).

Educational Attainment at Key Stage 2 - The Select Committee, Chaired by Mr C T Wells, is looking at the reasons for variations in Key Stage 2 performance within Kent Schools, with a focus on schools in areas of deprivation.

During June and July, the Select Committee had briefing sessions from Heads of Service and officers from Districts for the schools selected for the focus group, in preparation for visits. The Select Committee is planning to visit ten schools in September and October 2011. Work is also being carried out to gather insights from pupils and parents and this is being facilitated by colleagues in the Directorates.

The Committee is expected to meet in November or early December 2011 to discuss feedback from visits, hold final hearings and consider areas for recommendation. It is expected that its final report will go to Cabinet in April 2012 and then to the next available meeting of the County Council.

The contacts in Democratic Services for this Select Committee are: Research Officer Pippa Cracknell (01622 694178) and Assistant Democratic Services Manager Denise Fitch (01622 694269).

The Student Journey - This review, Chaired by Mr K Smith, cuts across Regeneration and Economic Development POSC, Customer and Communities POSC and Education, Learning and Skills POSC. An extensive programme of evidence-gathering hearings with key stakeholders, including representatives from business and education, took place in June and July, and further evidence gathering from young people, with visits to schools and colleges, will continue through September and October. Recommendations will then be drafted in November. It is intended that the Select Committee will submit its final report to Cabinet in April 2012 and to County Council in May 2012.

The contacts in Democratic Services for this Select Committee are: Research Officer Gaetano Romagnuolo (01622 694292) and Democratic Services Officer Theresa Grayell (01622 694277).

Suggestions for future Select Committee work

2. A review on Domestic Abuse has been suggested, arising from the Customer and Communities POSC in July 2011, meeting as the Crime and Disorder Committee. This review relates to several areas of work, including family cohesion and avoiding children going into care, adult services and public health and communities. A formal proposal is currently being prepared for consideration by the Scrutiny Board at its meeting on 2 November.

3. If Members have any suggestions of topics they would like to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future topic review work programme, they should contact the Democratic Services Officer for this Committee.

Recommendation:-

4. Members are asked to note the review work currently underway, and future work suggested, and advise the Democratic Services Officer of any topics which they would like to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

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Background Information: *Nil*

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