

By: Head of Democratic Services

To: Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 November 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:-

Educational Attainment at Key Stage 2 - The Select Committee, under the Chairmanship of 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 with officers from those Districts from which schools had been selected for the focus group. Visits to seven Schools were undertaken during October and early November. 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 will meet on 9 November 2011 to discuss feedback from the visits, and will hold final hearings and consider areas for recommendation in late November and early December 2011. It is expected that the report will go to Cabinet in April 2012 and will then be submitted 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 - The Select Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr K Smith, has now completed its evidence gathering sessions with key stakeholders, including representatives from business and education, and from young people. A number of visits were undertaken.

The Committee met on 1 September 2011 to identify areas for possible recommendation. The potential recommendations were met with widespread agreement by the key KCC officers who will be responsible for the implementation of most of them. The Committee will meet on 24 November to formulate its final recommendations before the report is

written. It is intended that the Select Committee will submit its final report to the 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).

Dementia - The Select Committee on Dementia, under the Chairmanship of Mrs T Dean, received its first draft report in September. The report was then shared with a number of stakeholders and contributors, who had the opportunity to comment and suggest changes, fulfilling a commitment made by the Chairman at the outset. Having agreed a final draft report, the Select Committee has now agreed to combine a number of the recommendations made in order to gain maximum benefit from its work. It is intended that the final report will be submitted to Cabinet on 5 December and to 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).

Suggestions for future Select Committee work

2. A review on Domestic Abuse has been suggested by the Customer and Communities POSC, meeting as the Crime and Disorder Committee, in July 2011. This review relates to the work of several portfolio areas; specialist children's services, adult services and public health, and communities. A formal proposal was welcomed and approved by the Scrutiny Board on 2 November, and the review will commence in the New Year.

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 POSC.

Recommendation:-

4. Members are asked to note the review work currently coming to fruition, and future work soon to commence, 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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