

By: Head of Democratic Services

To: Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 January 2012

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 in or nearing their closing stages:-

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.

After briefing sessions through the summer, successful visits to seven schools were undertaken during October and early November, and work undertaken by Directorates to gather insights from pupils and parents. Both have been well supported by schools. Feedback from this work and the visits was reported to the Select Committee in early December, and the Committee then discussed key issues and its areas of recommendation. The report will be written in the New Year, to go to Cabinet in April 2012 and then to the next available 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 and drafted its recommendations. The report is currently being written and will be shared with the relevant Cabinet Members in March. The final report will be considered by Cabinet and 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).

2. The Select Committee on **Dementia**, under the Chairmanship of Mrs T Dean, submitted its final report to the County Council on 15 December 2011, where the report and its recommendations were welcomed and endorsed.

Future Select Committee work

3. A review on **Domestic Abuse** was suggested by the Customer and Communities POSC, meeting as the Crime and Disorder Committee in July 2011, and this proposal was welcomed and approved by the Scrutiny Board on 2 November. Preliminary research is underway and the review will commence in the New Year.

4. 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:-

5. 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.

Theresa Grayell
Democratic Services Officer

Background Information: *Nil*

telephone: 01622 694277
e-mail: theresa.grayell@kent.gov.uk