

By: Overview and Scrutiny Manager

To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee –
16 November 2007

Subject: **UPDATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on current Select Committee activity and future work arising from it.

Select Committee: Carers in Kent

1. (1) The Select Committee held its evidence gathering hearings in July and August 2007 and considered the first draft of its report on 17 October. It will meet Cabinet and Directorate representatives to receive their comments on the report on 15 November, so an update can be given at the 16 November meeting of this Committee. The report will then be considered by the full Cabinet on 3 December and County Council on 13 December. Its reception at each can be reported to the January meeting of this Committee.

Select Committee: Transitional Arrangements

2. (1) When the Select Committee's final report and recommendations were considered by Cabinet on 14 May 2007, it was proposed by Mr K G Lynes that an Informal Member Group be convened to undertake a piece of focused work around some of the key issues raised by the Select Committee, reporting initially to Dr T R Robinson and himself, and its findings be included as part of the overall report on the issue to the full County Council in Autumn 2007. This proposal was supported by the Leader and agreed by the Cabinet. Unfortunately, the Group has been delayed in moving ahead with its work due to the illness of the Chairman.

(2) In addition to the establishment of the Informal Member Group, officers in the Kent Adult Social Services and Children, Families and Education Directorates have been enthusiastic in welcoming the report. The 2010 Transition Executive Group is well established. It is chaired by the Managing Director of KASS, with Director-level representatives from KASS, CFE, Connexions, NHS, the Learning and Skills Council and the Joint Director Learning Disabilities. A District Council Chief Executive has been invited to join the Group. The recommendations of the Select Committee have been brought together with the Group's work plan. Early outcomes have been a set of protocols which are being piloted before final sign-off, a user survey which will shortly be undertaken by the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent at Canterbury, and a guide for young people and their parents/carers, giving information on services and access.

(3) The progress of the Informal Member Group and Executive Group will be reported to future meetings of this Committee.

Select Committee: Gypsy and Traveller Sites

3. (1) The Select Committee met on 31 May 2007 to review progress on its recommendations, one year on from its publication. Members were pleased to note that much progress had been made to put in place what had been recommended by the Select Committee, but noted a few areas in which it had not been possible, through no fault of the County Council and its District and Borough partners, to make any progress on implementing some of the recommendations. It resolved to meet again in late November 2007 to review progress against these last few outstanding recommendations. This meeting will take place on 29 November and the outcome of it will be reported to the January meeting of this Committee.

Future Work Programme

4. (1) On 5 November, the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee met to agree the future work programme of Select Committee reviews. Although this Committee currently has no topics on the list, I would emphasise that planned work is always subject to change to respond to emerging issues, and any topic which the Committee wishes to put forward could still be added, to be considered alongside those already listed. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee will meet on 14 February 2008, so there is time for any proposal this Committee wishes to make to be worked up in time to be considered at this meeting.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note that:-

- (a) the Carers in Kent Select Committee shared its report with Cabinet Members and Directorate representatives on 15 November 2007, and the report will then go to the full Cabinet on 3 December and the County Council on 13 December 2007;
- (b) the work of the Transitional Arrangements Informal Member Group will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (c) the 2010 Transition Executive Group is well established, bringing together partner organisations, and is taking forward the Select Committee's recommendations in its work plan. Early outcomes include a set of protocols, a user survey and a guide to services for young people and their parents/carers;
- (d) the Select Committee on Gypsy and Traveller Sites will re-convene on 29 November 2007 to review progress against those few recommendations on which it has not been possible to make any progress thus far, and a report on the outcome of that meeting will be made to this Committee on 29 January 2008; and

- (e) any suggestions for future topic review work that the Committee wishes to put forward for inclusion in the work programme should be brought to the attention of the Overview and Scrutiny Team so a detailed proposal can be worked up to be put forward to the meeting of the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 14 February 2008.

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Background Information: *Nil*