

By: Overview Scrutiny and Localism Manager
To: Communities Policy Overview Committee – 28 January 2008
Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**
Classification: Unrestricted

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

Select Committee: Alcohol Misuse

1. (1) The Chairmanship of this Select Committee transferred from Mr J B O Fullarton to Mr D A Hirst in the summer. Hearings for the Select Committee took place between mid June to the end of July and also in September 2007. As well as requesting written information for a variety of organisations the Select Committee also heard from representatives of the Alcohol industry representations, Academics, treatment providers, support organisations, colleagues in the Health Service and Education, representatives of the Kent Youth County Council, Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT) and other stakeholders.

(2) The issue of alcohol misuse is extremely complex and involves working with multi agencies which has led to a very challenging Select Committee process. The Select Committee and the agencies which have been involved in the process are determined that the recommendation of the Select Committee should add and improve outcomes for Kent residents. As a consequence the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 5 November 2007 agreed to allocate more time in the topic review work programme to enable this Select Committee to complete their report and present it to Cabinet on 17 March 2008.

Select Committee Work Programme

2. (1) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC) at its meeting on 5 November 2007 agreed that the following Select Committees should be established under the Committee indicated as soon as resources became available.

- (a) Accessing Democracy (Corporate POC);
- (b) Vulnerable Children (Children, Families and Education POC) ; and
- (c) Accessing Healthcare (Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

(2) The POCC agreed that the topic “**Provision of Activities for Young People**” proposed by this Policy Overview Committee in June 2006 should remain on the programme. Information to support this suggested review should be provided. Information to update this topic review proposal will be submitted to the meeting of the POCC on 14 February 2007.

Recommendations

3. The Committee are asked to note that :-
 - (a) the progress on the Select Committee for Alcohol Misuse be noted;
 - (b) an update on the topic “Provision of Activities for Young People” will be submitted to the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 14 February 2007: and
 - (c) the Committee are invited to put forward suggestions for inclusion in the Topic Review programme.

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Background Information: *Nil*