

By: Overview and Scrutiny Manager  
To: Communities Policy Overview Committee - 9 May 2007  
Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - UPDATE**  
Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

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**Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee: Select Committee Work Programme**

- (1) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee met on 15 February 2007 to consider the next phase of the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.
- (2) At this meeting, the Committee agreed that the Work Programme for Spring 2007 to the end of Autumn 2007 would be:-
  - Carers in Kent
  - Abuse of Alcohol

**Abuse of Alcohol**

- (3) Preparatory work for the Topic Review on the "Abuse of Alcohol" is already being undertaken including the preparation of the draft Terms of Reference, development of the Project Plan and a suggested witness list.
- (4) Abuse of Alcohol is a very broad cross-cutting subject in which a number of the Policy Overview Committees and the NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee have a legitimate interest. The membership of the Select Committee reflects these diverse interests.
- (5) Some initial discussions have taken place on the terms of reference for the review which it is proposed should focus on the public health aspects of the subject matter. The outcome of the review may well be that other focused pieces of work on other aspects of the "Abuse of Alcohol" will need to be put forward for inclusion in the future Topic Review Work Programme. It is my intention that the Terms of Reference will be shared informally with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Liberal Democrat spokesmen of this Committee, the Corporate Policy Overview Committee and the NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee and I seek the Committees delegated authority to do this.

- (6) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee will be meeting again on 7 June 2007 to consider an update report on previously suggested topics for Select Committee reviews and this will include the topic put forward by this Committee, "*Provision of the Activities for Young People*".
- (7) A further update report on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme will be submitted to the next meeting of this Policy Overview Committee.

### **Recommendations**

- (8) The Committee are asked to:-
- (a) Authorise the Overview and Scrutiny Manager to liaise with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Liberal Democrat spokesman of this Committee on the draft Terms of Reference for the Topic Review on the Abuse of Alcohol;
  - (b) Note the update on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme; and
  - (c) a further report on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme will be submitted to the next meeting of this Policy Overview Committee.

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Background Information: *None*