

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Children, Families and Education Policy and Overview Committee Medium Term Plan (MTP) Informal Member Group

NOTES of a meeting held on Thursday, 20 November, 2008 at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone.

PRESENT: Mr M J Northey (Chairman), Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr MJ Vye and Mr C T Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K Abbott, Director Finance and Corporate Services, Mr A Wood, Head of Financial Management, Mr B Smith, Finance Manager and Mrs C A Singh Democratic Services Officer

Apology: Mr Brazier

1. Medium Term Plan (MTP) – 2009-10 TO 2011-12

(1) Mr Abbott gave Members a detailed update on the current budget position and pressures in the MTP report circulated at the Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee meeting held on 13 November 2008 (Item B2).

(2) Members asked questions on specific items within the budget and then put forward their views on priorities and areas where possible savings and further considerations could be made.

(3) The Chairman asked each of the Members present to highlight what they felt should be given priority and where savings may be considered. The suggestions were as follows:

- Consider more competitive costs for legal services in light of the recent increase by KCC Legal Services.
- Priorities are Looked after Children, SEN and vulnerable children.
- Need to look at areas where funding can be deferred
- Need to reconsider carrying out work that we are not legally obliged to do.
- Advise Members of the outcome of meetings with Commercial Services on possible savings.
- Look at any reasonable savings that can be made in ASK .
- Members requested the breakdown of Looked after Children Pledge, those children placed in Kent by other Local Authorities and consider the impact of the recent London Borough Waltham Forest v Staffordshire County Council Judgement 2007.
- Members requested that a check on the Independent Fostering figures and how this affected the budget.
- A request was made to look at Family Conferencing which had been out of action for the past 3 months.
- Members requested more information on the funding of the Children Missing Education Officer.
- There was a suggestion that there should be alignment of the Children's teams and Adult Social Services teams