

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee –
15 January 2009

Subject: **UPDATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the progress of current Select Committee work, the monitoring of past work and the process for identifying future projects.

Select Committee: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

1. (1) This Committee has completed its report and recommendations and shared these with the Cabinet Member and Managing Director. The report will be considered by the Cabinet in the spring of 2009. In the meantime, the Committee is liaising with the Department of Public Health and the Adult Social Services Directorate to prepare the way for its recommendations to be implemented.

Select Committee: Carers in Kent

2. (1) This Select Committee will be reconvened on 30 January 2009 to receive a report on progress against its recommendations, one year on from the publication of its report. The outcome of that meeting will be reported to this Committee on 1 April 2009.

Suggestions for future Select Committee Topic Reviews

3. (1) The current Select Committee topic review programme is coming to an end and there is not sufficient time to commence any more reviews prior to the Elections in June 2009. However, it is important that topics are available to be considered early in the new Council so that a work programme can be approved and reviews started as soon as possible.

(2) Members are therefore requested to consider if there are any potential topics which fall within the remit of this Policy Overview Committee, which they would like to put forward for consideration by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC) at its meeting on 28 April 2009. At that meeting, the POCC will be asked to indicate which potential topics could be included in a future work programme and identify a priority order. Initial work will then be carried out to scope these potential reviews before a final decision is taken on the work programme at a meeting of the POCC in July 2009.

(3) This Committee is reminded of the recent decision of the County Council that, once a topic review has been included in the Work Programme, as agreed by the POCC, the detailed terms of reference for that review will be developed by a cross party Member Group (one from each Group) for approval by the whole Select Committee.

(4) One proposal has been received – for a review of Safeguarding and Adult Protection. This Committee will be kept informed of any other proposed topics which are within its remit.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to:-
 - (a) Note the progress of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Select Committee, and the arrangements for the 'one-year-on' monitoring of the outcomes of the Carers in Kent Select Committee, on 30 January 2009; and
 - (b) Put forward suggestions for potential Select Committee topic reviews for consideration by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 28 April 2009

Theresa Grayell
Democratic Services Officer

Tel No: 01622 694277
e-mail: theresa.grayell@kent.gov.uk

Background Information: *Nil*

ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

(* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic)

*Subject of Proposed Review:-
*Reason for the Review:- (see note 1 below)
*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-
*Scope of the review:-
*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-
Proposer of the review

To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2009/10?
(see note 2 below)

How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?

Will the review support the achievement of PSA or LAA targets? If yes, please identify targets:-

Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:-

How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?

How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?

Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Strategic Director:-

Portfolio Holder's Signature:-

Strategic Director's Signature:-

Contact Officer:-

Date:-

Notes

Note 1 - Possible reasons for the review

1. Key public issue, identified by
 - Focus groups/citizens panels
 - Member contact with constituents/member surgeries
 - Contact with key representative bodies/forums
 - Media coverage – Public interest issue covered in local media
2. Issue highlighted via POC activities or previous reviews
3. Issue recommended to POC by another body e.g. another POC, Cabinet Scrutiny, Directorate, Cabinet or an external body.
4. Poor performing service i.e.:-
 - High level of complaints/dissatisfaction with service
 - Performance standards poor/below target – (evidence from PI's or benchmarking)
 - Identified through external review/inspection (OFSTED/Audit/ CPA etc)
 - Budgetary overspends
5. Key reports or new evidence published
6. County Council priority
7. Central Government priority/New Government guidance or legislation published

Note 2 - Possible reasons why a review should not be put into the next years/ next two years work

1. Issue being examined by
 - Cabinet
 - Cabinet Scrutiny
 - Officer Group
 - another internal body
 - an external body
2. It has been the subject of a topic review by other Councils from which details of best practice can be obtained.
3. New legislation or guidance expected.
4. **NB:** Before suggesting that a review should not be included in the work programme the following should be considered:-

Could consideration of this issue 'add value' without causing unnecessary duplication, for instance by:

- i) Looking at this issue in conjunction with another group,
- ii) Through appropriate timing of the topic review,
- iii) Through considering another group's findings rather than duplicating the same/or similar activity.