

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee – 25 March 2008

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

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

Select Committee: PSHE (Physical, Social and Health Education)

1. This Select Committee is being reconvened in April/May 2008 to receive a report on progress with the recommendations one year after the report was submitted to Cabinet. The Minutes of this meeting will be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy Overview Committee.

Select Committee Topic Review Programme

2. (1) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC) met on 14 February 2007 to consider the Select Committee Topic Review Programme. At this meeting it was agreed that the proposed topic review on Vulnerable Children would be withdrawn from the Topic Review Programme. The proposer had indicated that, as considerable work had been undertaken in the Children's Families and Education Directorate, he was satisfied that a review at this time would not be appropriate and he was happy for this to be withdrawn from the Programme.

(2) There were currently resources available for one review to start shortly and two potential topics had been identified. These were Provision of Activities for Young People and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (proposed by the Director for Adult Social Services). After considerable deliberation, the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee decided that the next review to be carried out should be Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), but that the review on Provision of Activities for Young People should be the next review to be undertaken once resources became available.

Building Capacity for Policy Overview Committees

3. At the meeting of the POCC on 14 February, Members also received a report to aid discussion around building capacity for POC's especially this Committee. The comments made by Members of POCC will be submitted to Chief Officers Group and ultimately Cabinet for their consideration of how to best build capacity for Policy Overview Committees. Initial feedback from the CPA inspection identified strengthening the Overview and Scrutiny function. I will be keeping all the Policy Overview Committees and the Policy Overview Co Ordinating Committee informed

C1:1

as collectively work is undertaken to continual improve the operation and effectiveness of the Policy Overview Committees

Recommendation

4. Recommended that the update be noted.

Denise Fitch
Assistant Democratic Services Manager (Policy Overview)
01622 694269
denise.fitch@kent.gov.uk

Background Information: *Nil*