

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SELECT COMMITTEES - Progress Report: 2009 - 2010**

**SELECT COMMITTEE: Children & Young People**

**SUMMARY OF PRE SCRUTINY / SCRUTINY WORK**

| Pre scrutiny / scrutiny areas of investigation and influence                                      | Action/s  | Outcome/s  | Estimated impact / influence  |
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| <p><b>1. Scrutinising the work of the Executive and the County Council as an organisation</b></p> | <p>Completion of in-depth scrutiny reviews, begun in 2008/09:</p> <p>a) Recruitment and retention of high quality teachers and head teachers</p> <p>b) School exclusions review</p> <p>In-depth scrutiny review begun in 2009/10</p> <p>c) Joint scrutiny of therapy services for disabled children</p> | <p>a) Response from Executive Member for Children’s Services in July 2009.</p> <p>b) The Review contributed to a renewed focus on identifying promoting and supporting strategies to tackle factors leading to, and arising from school exclusions.</p> <p>c) Report is in final draft. Lead for this review is with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> | <p>a) The report prompted a written response from the key decision maker (Executive Member) which provided specific responses to the Committee’s main recommendations.</p> <p>b) Rate of exclusion – there has been a downward trend in some areas. Ofsted reported that ‘Education Centre’ provision for pupils was good and that schools were making good local provision. Work with partners, such as Districts to reduce exclusions and improve outcomes increased.</p> <p>c) Pending formal responses to the recommendations from this report, it is not possible to predict resulting outcomes, or opportunities for both</p> |

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|  |  | Recommendations related to Children’s Services will be monitored by the Children and Young People Select Committee | committees to add practical value. However significant potential exists for improvements in partnership working and much improved outcomes. |
| <b>2. Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern</b>      | There has been consideration of various topics at the quarterly Select Committee meetings, eg. safeguarding, transfer of responsibility to the local authority for 16-19 year olds (see details in table below)  | Various, eg.<br>- Overview and `real-time' scrutiny<br>- No further action<br><br>See details in table below       | See details in table below  |
| <b>3. Monitoring the strategic management of performance</b>           | Monitoring of the following areas:<br>- Children’s Services performance issues, relating these to budgetary issues<br>- LAA Indicators   | See details in table below   | See detail in table below   |
| <b>4. Pre-scrutinising recommendations from the Decision Programme</b> | Consideration of decision lists relating to Children’s Services prior to each quarterly meeting. Chairman’s attendance at Children’s Services Executive Member meetings when possible. Certain proposals for decisions have been scrutinised by the Committee: eg.<br>- Capital Programme and Revenue budget (mid year 2008/09, and proposals for 2009/10 and 2010/11)<br>- Hampshire Young Carers’ Strategy | See details in table below   | See detail in table below   |

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| <p><b>5. Monitoring the impact of external agencies on the people of Hampshire</b></p> | <p>Ofsted assessment regime and consideration of its assessment of the Authority</p> | <p>- The Committee considered the Ofsted assessment and the Department's response to it.</p> | <p>- Provides additional (independent) performance information about the Department, providing opportunity for Members to ask better informed and relevant questions.</p> |
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**DETAIL OF SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

| <b>SELECT COMMITTEE role</b>   | <b>Type of activity and date</b>   | <b>Outcome, including action/s</b>   | <b>Impact/Influence</b>   |
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| <p><b>Scrutinising the work of the Executive and the County Council as an organisation</b></p> | <p>Completion of in-depth scrutiny reviews, begun in 2008/09:</p> <p>a) Recruitment and retention of high quality teachers and head teachers</p> <p>b) School exclusions review</p> <p>c) Joint scrutiny of therapy services for disabled children</p> | <p>a) Response from Executive Member for Children's Services in July 2009.</p> <p>b) The Review contributed to a renewed focus on identifying promoting and supporting strategies to tackle factors leading to, and arising from school exclusions.</p> <p>c) Report is in final draft. Lead for this review is with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> | <p>a) The report prompted a written response from the key decision maker (Executive Member) which provided specific responses to the Committee's main recommendations.</p> <p>b) Rate of exclusion – there has been a downward trend in some areas. Ofsted reported that 'Education Centre' provision for pupils was good and that schools were making good local provision. Work with partners, such as Districts to reduce exclusions and improve outcomes increased.</p> <p>c) Pending formal responses to the recommendations from this report, it is not possible to predict resulting outcomes, or opportunities for both</p> |

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|  |  | Recommendations related to Children’s Services will be monitored by the Children and Young People Select Committee  | committees to add practical value.  |
| <b>Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern</b> | <p>Consideration of topics at quarterly Select Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Development of integrated youth service</li> <li>b) Not in Education, Employment of Training (NEETs)</li> <li>c) Hampshire young carers’ strategy</li> <li>d) ‘Aiming High for Disabled Children’</li> <li>e) Safeguarding</li> </ul> | <p>Various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Members concerned to know that staff had been appointed and that appropriate links with agencies such as Connexions had been established.</li> <li>b) Members continued to monitor this persistently difficult issue. They were assured that better information now being produced, and increased funding should have a beneficial impact.</li> <li>c) Real time scrutiny: This ‘hard to reach’ group of children need support. Members heard a wide range of stakeholders had been consulted, however responses from schools were few and disappointing. However a lead for this has been appointed.</li> <li>d) To inform Members of progress being made in addressing issues identified in the May workshop.</li> <li>e) Following from concerns arising at the ‘baby P’ inquiry. Members concerned to know that HCC has used knowledge gained to</li> </ul> | <p>Various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Opportunity to question officers and inform from knowledge of own constituencies.</li> <li>b) A concern, particularly for some areas in the county. Opportunity to provide officers with knowledge from Members’ own constituencies.</li> <li>c) Opportunity for Members to inform / contribute to final strategy.</li> <li>d) The Committee provided opportunity in the May workshop to monitor progress and inform developments in this work.</li> <li>e) A critical and difficult responsibility for the Authority. Opportunity for the Committee to support and challenge.</li> </ul> |

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|   | g) Transfer of responsibility of 16-19 year olds to LAs  | inform its own services.<br>f) Members want to monitor progress in readying the County for taking on responsibility for this important age group.  | f) Of particular interest for Members in relation to their own constituencies. Monitoring role.  |
| <b>Monitoring the strategic management of performance</b>           | Monitoring of the following areas:<br>a) Children’s Services performance issues: performance considered twice during the year - mid-year and end of year - linked to budgetary information<br>b) Identification of LAA areas of priority<br>c) Monitoring of Ofsted inspections  | General observations:<br><br>- Receipt of information, scrutiny of issues and clarification where needed.<br>- Identified areas that required further real-time/in-depth scrutiny.<br>- Support and encouragement to officers, where appropriate | General observations:<br><br>- Members exercised their role as challengers through questioning plans for improving on areas of weakness.<br>- LAA areas of priority to be formalised.<br>- Understanding of the role, strengths and weaknesses of the inspection regime. |
| <b>Pre-scrutinising recommendations from the Decision Programme</b> | a) Consideration of decision lists relating to Children’s Services Department prior to each quarterly meeting.<br>b) Chairman attendance at Environment Executive Member meetings when possible.<br>c) Certain proposals for decisions have been scrutinised by the Committee: eg.<br>- Capital Programme and Revenue budget (mid year 2009/10, and proposals for 2010/11 and 2011/12) | General observation<br><br>- Exercise of Committee's duty to pre-scrutinise decisions at quarterly meetings, and at other specially focused meetings in between.   | General observation<br><br>- Challenge to decisions to be made, through real-time scrutiny   |

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| <p><b>Monitoring impact of external agencies on the people of Hampshire</b></p> | <p>a) Integral to the scrutiny review and monitoring of outcomes processes and outcomes for both children’s social care and education.</p>   | <p>a) Ofsted inspections provide evidence for the Committee, but doubtful if it would be influenced by Committee recommendations</p>   | <p>a) Valuable additional information for scrutiny purposes, treated with care.</p>   |
| <p><b>Dealing with other topics</b></p>   | <p>a) Members have attended the Project Integra Annual Conference to represent scrutiny in Hampshire County Council.<br/>                 b) Helped to identify areas for whole Council Member Briefings.<br/>                 c) Represented Hampshire County Council at Scrutiny of Flooding Learning Network.</p> | <p>a) Represented Hampshire County Council and Scrutiny.<br/>                 b) Topics added to briefing Agendas.<br/>                 c) Provided examples of Best Practice to other Local Authorities in England.</p> | <p>a) Scrutiny highlighted, information taken back to Select Committee.<br/>                 b) Helped to keep Full Council informed of current affairs within department.<br/>                 c) Showed Hampshire County Council to be a lead on the scrutiny of Flooding. Received praise from other attendees for strength of knowledge in field.</p> |