

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health**

Date: 6 September 2001

Title of Report: Scrutiny reviews for 2001-02

By: Scrutiny Load Officer

Purpose of Report: To seek the views of members on whether they wish to:

- a. retain the programme of scrutiny reviews agreed by previous scrutiny committees for 2001-2002, or
- b. identify alternative areas for review

Recommendation:

For the committee to decide on a programme of scrutiny reviews from July 2001

1. Introduction and background information

1.1 During the life of the previous six cross-service scrutiny committees a number of possible scrutiny reviews were chosen to be undertaken during 2001/02. The identified reviews reflect the issues that were of particular concern to members at that time and are, in the main, reviews of some services provided by each of the five departments of the County Council.

1.2 For the purposes of this report, the reviews have been re-organised into the committee structure agreed by County Council on 19 June 2001 and are listed in Appendix One. This re-allocation shows the likely programme of scrutiny reviews should the committee decide to retain some or all of them.

1.3 With the change of structure to four scrutiny committees, in particular the move to committees which relate specifically to core services delivered by the County Council, members are asked to consider if the programme of reviews is still relevant and appropriate.

1.4 In coming to a decision on what the future scrutiny review programme should be members may wish to take into consideration:-

- ◆ The contribution of scrutiny to policy development;
- ◆ the key issues within the Social Services Department identified by the Lead Cabinet Member/Chief Officer earlier in this agenda;
- ◆ matters relating to the Forward Plan;
- ◆ the likely effects of call-in;
- ◆ individual member involvement in best value review project boards;
- ◆ the forward timescale appropriate for a pre-planned programme of reviews.
- ◆ The resources needed (both member and officer time) to carry out reviews.

1.5 The committee will want to find an appropriate balance between having some structure to the programme whilst retaining the flexibility to deal with the issues identified in paragraph 1.4 as they arise. To achieve this members may wish to identify one planned scrutiny review to be in the programme at any one time, though there is no obligation to do so. If this approach was to be

adopted a new scrutiny review could be added as the previous review drew to a conclusion. In this way a rolling programme of planned scrutiny reviews could be adopted which 'dove-tailed' with the other reactive and policy development work.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to discuss the identified programme of reviews taking into account the changed structure of scrutiny committees and other information available in order to decide;

- a) whether they wish to retain any or all of the current scrutiny reviews;
- b) whether to identify new areas for review;
- c) whether to adopt the proposal outlined in paragraph 1.5
- d) who should sit on the project board for any review/s agreed at this meeting.

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APPENDIX ONE

Relevant committee and title of scrutiny review ("S")	Key dates & "traffic light" indicator of progress towards completion by end March 2002	Members of Project Board (where appropriate)	Scrutiny Lead Officer (Initial contact) and Project Manager (where identified)
Social Services and Health			Roger Howarth
♦ Budgetary control procedures in Social Services Dept (S)	No preparatory work has begun on this review	To be appointed	<i>To be appointed</i> <i>Estimated 15 days project management</i>
♦ Recruitment and retention of staff (Corporate) (S)	No preparatory work has begun on this review	To be appointed	<i>To be appointed</i> <i>Estimated 15 days project management</i>
♦ Teenage Pregnancy (S)	No preparatory work has begun on this reviews	To be appointed	<i>To be appointed</i> <i>Project Management estimate: 15 days</i>
♦ "Bridging the Gap" (S)	No preparatory work has begun on this review	To be appointed	<i>To be appointed</i> <i>Project Management estimate: 15 days</i>