

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

Date: **17 March 2005**

Report by: **Director of Law and Performance Management**

Title: **Programme of potential scrutiny topics**

Purpose: **To develop a programme of topics for potential scrutiny by the new committee following the elections.**

RECOMMENDATION - the Committee consider and agree the attached programme of topics for potential scrutiny for consideration by the new committee following the elections.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 In order to assist the new scrutiny committee(s) following the elections, the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees asked the Scrutiny Lead Officers (SLOs) to draw up lists of topics for potential scrutiny.

1.2 A draft of the topics for education and libraries has already been circulated to members, who were asked for their views on the topics. The SLO has consulted with committee members and officers and drawn up the attached programme for consideration by this committee. The programme includes the area of scrutiny; which members support the topic; and comment by officers. For each topic the SLO recommends the date of the committee meeting at which the service would present a position report. Members can then decide whether further scrutiny is necessary, and what form this might take.

1.3 The programme is not exclusive and will not prevent other topics being considered at future meetings.

1.4 Members should note that the structure of scrutiny committees may change after the election. This decision will be made at the first County Council meeting on 24 May. However, a programme of topics for potential scrutiny will assist the relevant committees, whatever structures are adopted for scrutiny.

ANDREW OGDEN
Director of Law and Performance Management

Contact Officer: Mary Hayler, Scrutiny Lead Officer (Tel: 01273 481796)

Topics for potential scrutiny

Topic	Supported by	Officer comment	Recommended action and dates
Attainment / prospects of looked after children		The focus is on attainment and therefore more appropriately steered by Education Scrutiny Committee (a Best Value Review of Children in Public Care was completed in Dec 2002)	Recommend to Education Scrutiny Committee
The impact of electronic social care records (ESCR) on clients		Piloting of ESCR has just started by a small number of teams	Evaluation report to committee in June 06
Social Care Direct (Contact centres)		The first contact centres are due to be launched in Oct 05	Evaluation report to committee in March 06
Flexible working – impact on the council, staff, clients		This relates to internal organisation and would therefore have an internal focus – it may therefore not be suitable for scrutiny	None
Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES)	Cllr Webb	The new ICES arrangement started in October 2004	Evaluation report to committee in Sept 05.
Grants to voluntary organisations		Criteria have just been reviewed; first applications under new criteria will be considered in Nov 2005 for distribution in 2006/07 financial year.	Evaluation report to committee in June 06

Topic	Supported by	Officer comment	Recommended action and dates
Appropriateness, suitability and acceptability of respite services	Cllr Webb	<p>Work is being commissioned by the department into respite need – to report in September and lead to new commissioning strategy</p> <p>HOSC has recommended that the respite strategy be updated urgently and that current services be mapped and monitored to identify need</p>	Progress report to committee in Sept 05
Intermediate care	Cllr Webb	Examination of the effectiveness of the service and that provided jointly with health	Evaluation report to committee in Nov 05
The planning for and support to clients, parents and carers during transition	Cllr Webb	The steps being taken to ensure reorganisation of departments into adults and children's services does not have a negative impact on clients, parents and carers	Evaluation report to committee in Nov 05
Western Road – possible closure of mental health day centre and reprovisioning of service.	Cllr Webb	<p>Consultation ongoing, with report to lead cabinet member on 20 June</p> <p>Scrutiny could be into the involvement of clients etc in consultation</p>	Report on consultation and proposed way forward to committee in June 05
Move of clients over 65 with LD in group homes to independent sector (older people's homes) and replace with high cost out of county clients	Cllr McPherson	<p>Saving identified in budget papers (Cabinet, 1 Feb p 115).</p> <p>Letter from George Mills, Mencap, and Keith Hinkley's response.</p>	Report to committee in June 05

Topic	Supported by	Officer comment	Recommended action and dates
Supported housing	Cllr Webb	<p>How the council is maximising the potential of supported housing to meet strategic aims and individuals' needs.</p> <p>The Supporting People programme to review all services to vulnerable people ends on 31 March 06.</p>	Report to committee in March 06
BVPIs	Cllr Webb	The board currently meets twice a year – in July to examine the previous year's performance and in February to scrutinise targets for the following year.	Project board meets in early Nov to consider BVPIs causing concern and report back to Nov committee