

## Agenda Item No: 7a

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee for Education**

Date: **23 July 2001**

Title of Report: [Review of Permanently Excluded Primary School Children and Looked After Children in the school year 1998-99](#)

By: **Director of Education**

Purpose of Report: **To report progress on the action plan**

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### **Recommendation:**

**The Scrutiny Committee for Education is recommended to note this report.**

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### **Supporting Information**

- 1 The Scrutiny Committee for Social Inclusion, prompted by concerns over the perceived increase in the permanent exclusion rate of primary-aged children, commissioned a Project Board to undertake a review of primary exclusions. The main areas of focus were the administrative arrangements employed by the Education Department; the measures carried out by the excluding schools prior to exclusion; and the relationship with other factors such as attendance, fixed term exclusions and involvement with other services. The Board's report was published in July 2000.
- 2 The Project Board made a number of recommendations. These were subsequently endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee for Social Inclusion. These recommendations and associated action plan are attached as Annex 1.
- 3 The action plan gives details of the progress made to date and the timetable for future actions. In summary:
  - 3.1 The Behaviour Support Officer was appointed in April 2001, using Standards Fund, to co-ordinate the Department's strategy for the management of challenging behaviour and to maintain the impetus for change.
  - 3.2 The Department has commissioned a new pupil database with a specialist exclusions module that will facilitate the tracking of pupils, will permit the efficient analysis of data and allow more effective targeting of resources.

- 3.3 Two Area Reintegration Officers have been appointed to offer expert advice and assistance to schools, both in the exclusion and reintegration processes, and to improve access to resources from the behaviour support services and other agencies. These appointments are from within the resources of New Horizons and Cuckmere House [which has, on an interim basis, taken management responsibility for the Behaviour Support Service and Pupil Referral Units in the West of the County (see Annex 2)].
- 3.4 The Behaviour Support Officer is formulating more transparent service level agreements with the behaviour support services with the aim of establishing a system that will permit the identification of expenditure across all services engaged in the exclusion process.
- 3.5 A programme of professional development for school staff has been piloted successfully in one area of the County and an enhanced programme for the whole County is to be introduced in September 2001.
- 4 The Scrutiny Committee for Social Inclusion also drew attention to the specific responsibilities of the County Council for children in public care. This is a matter that is considered elsewhere on this agenda.

DENISE STOKOE  
Director of Education

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**Background Papers:**

Report to the Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee: "Review of permanently excluded primary school children and Looked After Children in the school year 1998/99"..



