

## Topics for potential scrutiny

- NB - in 2005/06 there will be a focus on the organisation of the new Children's Services Department  
 - the Joint Area Review (inspection) will take place in 2007

Topic	Supported by	Officer comment	Recommended action and dates
Permanently excluded pupils - steps taken by the LEA to reduce numbers / provide alternative education (including behaviour management and support to schools?)	Sam Gregory Cllr Barnes BVPI project board	This has previously been identified as an area of concern and has been investigated by two BVPI project boards. They were satisfied with improvement plans but recommended ongoing monitoring of progress	Progress report to committee in Sept 05
Special educational needs	Cllr Gadd Sam Gregory	The service is currently under departmental review, with consultation results due in Summer 05. Scrutiny Committee should receive regular reports on findings and comment on proposed actions.	Progress report to committee in June 05
Anti-bullying strategy	Cllr Barnes	A new strategy was implemented in Jan 05. A scrutiny review was proposed in Spring 04 but delayed, with a recommendation to reconsider the strategy and its outcomes a year after implementation	Progress report to committee in March 06
6 term year evaluation		The organisation of the school year into 6 terms will begin in the academic year 05/06 (ie Sept 05). Committee agreed in Sept 05 to propose scrutiny of the process of evaluation and review of the pattern of the school year at an appropriate time in 2006	Evaluation report to committee in June 06

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Educational attainment / prospects of looked after children (LAC)	Sam Gregory	<p>This has previously been identified as an area of concern and has been investigated by a BVPI project board which was satisfied with improvement plans but recommended ongoing monitoring of progress by the Corporate Parenting Panel</p> <p>Attainment results for LAC will be available in Nov 05</p> <p>(A Best Value Review of Children in Public Care was completed in Dec 02)</p>	Progress and evaluation report to committee in March 06.
LEA support for schools: school inspection service, CfBT – role; support offered; value for money; impact etc.	Cllr Gadd Sarah Maynard	<p><i>Schools Improvement Service – improving standards for pupils</i> is currently included in the best value programme for 05-06.</p> <p>The current 5 year contract with CfBT will finish in June 07. The department monitors and evaluates the contract regularly.</p> <p>The best value review should complement the work of the dept in this area, not replicate it.</p>	This committee to be consulted at key stages of the best value review, with possible start date of Sept 05
Admission policies <i>(possibly combined with topic below)</i>	Cllr Gadd Cllr Barnes Sarah Maynard	<p>A countywide policy exists but has a varying impact in different localities – eg pressure on places in Eastbourne</p> <p>The Schools Admission Forum's terms of reference include considering effectiveness of admission arrangements</p>	The committee consider the focus of any scrutiny and how it would feed into current process
Forward planning for school places <i>(possibly combined with topic above)</i>		Particular problems were faced in Eastbourne regarding capacity. Planning processes have now been adjusted, but the committee may wish to satisfy themselves as to the adequacy of these processes. This review could be combined with the one above into admission policies	Position paper to committee in Nov 05
14-19 curriculum	Cllr Gadd Sam Gregory	A review could investigate the additional education (excluding the prescribed curriculum) provided to pupils and the outcomes for pupils in terms of attainment and prospects for continuing education	Position paper to committee in Sept 05

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Recruitment and retention of teachers - update on review completed in 2001	Cllr Gadd Sarah Maynard	A Scrutiny Review of Recruitment, Retention and Retirement of Teachers was completed in March 2001.	Progress report to committee in June 05
Implementing the peer review of libraries – implementation and evaluation of results	Cllr Field	The peer review was undertaken in June 04 and a 12 month action plan was developed. This committee has asked for progress reports	Progress is monitored half yearly by the committee
<i>Post 16 education in Hastings and Rother</i>			<i>After new arrangements have been implemented</i>