

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services**  
Date: **16 June 2005**  
By: **Director Children's Services**  
Title of report: **Progress report on action following the Best Value Review of Attendance in Schools, May 2004**  
Purpose of report: **To inform the Scrutiny Committee of progress on the action points and recommendations made within the report.**

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**RECOMMENDATION - the Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the progress of the action being taken following the Best Value Review which reported in March 2004**

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## **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 There have been no financial implications in implementing the recommendations emerging from the Best Value Review of Attendance in Schools. The development of a comprehensive Education Welfare database has been made possible through small project funding from CRD – ICT Services.

## **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 The Education Scrutiny Committee commissioned a scrutiny review which commenced in June 2003, to look at the effectiveness of the strategies used by the Education Welfare Service to combat poor attendance and to reduce unauthorised absences. The Review was undertaken by Councillors Murphy (Chairman), McPherson and Kramer.

2.2 The scope of the Review covered three areas:

- the strategies for improving attendance and their sustainability;
- the cost effectiveness of the Education Welfare Service;
- the impact of the Service.

2.3 The Review Board reported to the Scrutiny Committee for Education and Libraries in March 2004 which endorsed the recommendations made by the Review.

2.4 That report was presented to East Sussex Cabinet in April 2004 with an accompanying response from the Director of Education and Libraries, and Action Plan (see Appendix 1) developed to address the action points and recommendations identified by the Scrutiny Review. Cabinet welcomed the report and agreed the response of the Director of Education and Libraries to the recommendations and their implementation.

2.5 Progress against each action was reported in November 2004 and current progress (to June 2005) is reported in attached Appendix 2.

## **3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 The Scrutiny Review report was seen as a useful document providing a framework for continued improvement in the area of school attendance. This progress report identifies what is being done in response to the Review's recommendations.

3.2 The Scrutiny Committee are recommended to note the progress made on implementing the recommendations.

DENISE STOKOE  
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Penny Lavan (Tel: 01424 458093)