

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services**

Date: **16 June 2005**

Title of Report: **Remit of Committee**

By: **Director of Law and Performance Management**

Purpose of Report: **To inform the Scrutiny Committee as to its remit and details as to membership**

RECOMMENDATION - that the Scrutiny Committee notes the report

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

2. Remit of Committee

2.1 The matters within the scope of this scrutiny committee are those matters dealt with by the Children's Services Department. The functions of the Children Services Department are in four areas:

- (a) education services – the County Council's functions in its capacity as local education authority (excluding certain local education authority functions related to adults);
- (b) social services - the County Council's social services functions insofar as they relate to children, and the County Council's functions for children and young people leaving care';
- (c) health services - functions exercised by the County Council on behalf of an NHS body insofar as they relate to children; and
- (d) inter-agency co-operation - the new functions in the Children Act 2004 to build and lead the arrangements for interagency co-operation.

2.2 The Lead Cabinet Member for Children's and Adult Services has a strategic overview of 'Learning and School Effectiveness' and Children and Families', and Adult Social Care'. There is also a Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness, whose responsibilities include raising education standards, improved access to education, supporting schools and improving the quality of leadership, and management and governance; and a Lead Member for Children and Families, whose responsibilities will include ensuring safe and stable lives for children, improving the attainment of vulnerable children, and children's needs through integrated services.

3. Membership

3.1 There are 16 members of this committee, comprised of 9 county councillors, 2 church representatives, 2 parent governor representatives, and 3 co-opted members (one representing the District and Borough Councils, one representing Health, and one representing the Sussex Police).

3.2 The County Council is required under legislation to make provision for representatives of parent governors at maintained schools, and representatives of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church to be included in the Committee dealing with the overview and scrutiny of education matters. The church and the parent governor representatives will have a vote, when the decision relates wholly or partly to any education functions, but not in relation to other matters.

3.3 The co-opted members will not have a vote, as this is not currently permitted under the legislation. However they will have an important role in inputting the views of the partners which they represent to the committee. We are currently approaching bodies which are representative of these partners to each put forward the name of a suitable person willing to take up this role.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 This is a new committee, and the information in this report is intended to assist members as to the remit, membership and workings of the committee.

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