

Report to: **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **14 March 2007**

By: **Director of Law & Personnel**

Title of report: **Scrutiny Committee 2007 Work Programme and future visits**

Purpose of report: **To inform members of the future work programme for the committee and outline visits to Children's Centres and Community Special Schools**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **note the dates for future visits to Children's Centres and Community Special Schools; and**
  2. **agree the future work programme.**
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**1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 All financial costs for visits will be met from the Scrutiny budget.

**2. Visits to Children's Centres and Community Special Schools**

2.1 Members previously requested visits to particular children related services across the county so that they can gain a better understanding of these areas.

2.2 With this in mind the following visits to Children's Centres and Community Special Schools have been arranged:

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

9.30am - Southdowns Community Special School (East site), Eastbourne

11.00am - Lindfield School, Eastbourne

12.30pm - Shinewater Children's Centre, Eastbourne

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

9.30am - Egerton Park Children's Centre, Bexhill

10.30am - Glyne Gap School, Bexhill

11.30/12.00 noon – Robsack Children's Centre, Hollington

2.3 Given the fact that some of these sites are dealing with young vulnerable children it is suggested that each visit is limited to only three members. Naturally not all members will be able to attend one of these visits, but further visits can be arranged in the autumn if there is enough interest.

**3. Future Work Programme**

3.1 The future work programme for the committee is attached at appendix 1 and views on future items are sought.

**Andrew Ogden**  
**Director of Law & Personnel**

**Contact Officer:** Gillian Mauger (01273) 481796, Gillian.mauger@eastsussex.gov.uk

Local Members: All

Background documents: None

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Future programme**

<b>Standing Items</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>When</b>
Announcements	Update, for information, on any matter of significant public or member concern not on the agenda elsewhere.	All meetings
Quarterly Performance Monitoring report	<p>These reports provide an update on how performance measures in the Council Plan (relevant to this committee) have performed in a particular quarter. The performance measures are reported in the following ways:</p> <p>Amber - where there is concern about the likelihood of the performance measure achieving its target by the end of the year, together with recommendations for action.</p> <p>Red - where the performance measure is assessed as inappropriate or unachievable by the end of the year.</p> <p>At the November 2006 meeting it was agreed that a summary of all performance targets currently green be provided in these reports so members can put in context the number of performance measures amber and red at that moment in time.</p>	All meetings (except September)
Forward Plan	<p>The Council's Forward Plan is appended to each committee agenda. The purpose of this is to enable members to identify and highlight relevant issues for scrutiny. Options for dealing with items identified include:</p> <p>Request a briefing paper to be sent to some or all committee members.</p> <p>Request an item on a future scrutiny committee agenda to address specific questions raised by committee members.</p> <p>Suggest that the item or elements of it be considered for a more in-depth scrutiny review.</p>	All meetings

Subject / title of report	Key issues	Contact
<b>June 2007</b>		
Children's Centre	Look at the development of these centres, the services that they provide and how successful they have been to date <i>(requested at March 2006 meeting)</i>	Penny Gaunt
Youth Development Service	Update on the impact that the restructure has had on this service <i>(requested at June 2006 meeting)</i>	
Scrutiny Review - Home to School Transport	Update on the home to school transport element of the Best Value Review of Passenger Transport (which the findings of this scrutiny review fed into)	Geoff Evans
Scrutiny Review - School Admissions	Twelve month update on the Action Plan from the review	Geoff Evans
Scrutiny Review – School Improvement Service	Twelve month update on the Action Plan from the review	Penny Gaunt
<b>September 2007</b>		
SEN annual report	Update on the progress made by the initiatives that were developed following on from the SEN review <i>(requested at September 2006 meeting)</i>	
Complaints report	Annual report on the number of complaints received by the department, the stage at which they were rectified, common themes identified from the complaints and the action being taken as a result of them	Caryl Sequeira
Local Safeguarding Children Board - annual report, business plan and update report	Update on work of the Board during the past year <i>(requested at September 2006 meeting)</i>	Fiona Johnson

<b>Future items to consider including in the programme at a later date</b>		
<b>Subject / title of report</b>	<b>Key issues</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Extended schools	<i>Requested at March 2006 meeting</i>	
14 – 19 strategy	Strategy revised (mid 2006) with publication in Nov/Dec 2006. Consider this once the 2007 exam results are known	Penny Gaunt
Provision of education for young learners outside of Sure Start	Consider whether they are meeting the needs of the children <i>(requested at March 2006 meeting)</i>	
Review of Behaviour Support	Update on initiatives that came out of this review <i>(went to lead member in September 2006)</i>	Bernadine Bacon