

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met on 9 November 2010.

Present: Councillor Ensor (Chairman), Councillors Field, Kenward, Shing, St Pierre, Waite and Whetstone

Jeremy Alford (Health representative), David Sanders (RC Diocese), Mike Wilson (C of E Diocese) and Sam Gregory (Parent Governor)

1. Scrutiny Review of Attainment in Mathematics at Key Stage 2 – Final Report

1.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has completed its Review of Attainment in Mathematics at Key Stage 2. A copy of the Committee's report has previously been circulated to all Members and is available on request from Andy Cottell (Tel: 01273 481955).

1.2 At its meeting in September 2009, the Committee established a Scrutiny Review Board comprising of Councillor Michael Ensor (chairman), Councillor Rosalyn St Pierre, Councillor Francis Whetstone and Nerissa Parker, Parent Governor Representative (who was a member of the Review Board until May 2010).

1.3 An interim report, containing a summary of progress with the review together with the interim findings and recommendations of the Review Board, was presented to the Children's Services Committee in July 2010.

1.4 At its meeting on 27 July 2010 the Cabinet welcomed the interim report together with a report by the Director of Children's Services with observations on the Scrutiny Committee's report. The Cabinet agreed to recommend the County Council to welcome the recommendations set out in the report and to approve the response of the Director of Children's Services to the recommendations and their implementation.

1.5 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee of 9 November 2010 **recommends** to the County Council that –

1.5.1 Building upon the good practice employed by some schools, the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (0-11), in partnership with schools, to develop some low cost / no cost ideas for how a county wide programme can be developed that promotes and encourages a positive culture around mathematics in schools and at home.

1.5.2 The Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (0-11) to:

- a) explore the development of a training course for all newly qualified and recently qualified teachers working in primary schools in East Sussex to help them build their confidence in teaching mathematics; and;
- b) work in partnership with schools to develop and enhance the current training programme so that there is a range of courses available which provide continued professional development in mathematics for primary teachers at all levels in their career.

1.5.3 East Sussex County Council to work in partnership with education providers and other local authorities to ensure the continuation of the Mathematics Special Teacher programme and the Every Child Counts programme.

1.5.4 The Children's Services Department to provide advice and support to those primary schools that do not have a robust pupil monitoring system in place to help them develop such a system. Further support to be offered to all primary schools to ensure that they are using their monitoring system to effectively identify those pupils that are not progressing as expected and then putting measures in place to support these pupils.

1.5.5 The Children's Services Department to ensure that all headteachers have the necessary systems in place to promptly identify and support teachers who may require additional support and training in teaching mathematics.

1.5.6 The Personnel Services Advisory Team to increase the level of advice and support that is available to headteachers on handling personnel matters through regularly attending cluster meetings, holding training sessions and being proactive in their approach to following up issues with headteachers.

1.5.7 The Children's Services Department to make improvements to the governor data pack, as outlined at paragraph 40, so that the information contained within it can be easily interpreted by all governors when carrying out their role of monitoring performance in their school.

*NOTE: * Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 have already been presented to the Children's Services Department as part of the interim report and an action plan outlining how these are currently being taken forward by the department are listed at appendix 4 to the Committee report.*

[See also report of the Cabinet, paragraph 2, page 14]

MICHAEL ENSOR
Chairman

9 November 2010