

# A G E N D A

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Friday, 16th December, 2005**

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Time: **10.00 a.m.**

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Place: **,The Council Chamber,  
Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,  
Hereford**

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Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of  
the meeting.

*For any further information please contact:*

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**County of Herefordshire  
District Council**



# AGENDA

## for the Meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

|            |                                    |   |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>To:</b> | <b>Councillor</b>                  | <b>B.F. Ashton (Chairman)</b>   |
|            | <b>Councillor</b>                  | <b>J.P. Thomas (Vice-Chairman)</b>  |
|            | <b>Councillors</b>                 | <b>N.J.J. Davies, G. Lucas, R.M. Manning, Mrs. J.E. Pemberton, Mrs. S.J. Robertson, D.C. Taylor, Ms. A.M. Toon and W.J. Walling</b> |
|            | <b>Church Members</b>              | <b>J.D. Griffin (Roman Catholic Church) and Revd. I. Terry (Church of England)</b>  |
|            | <b>Parent Governor Members</b>     | <b>Ms K. Fitch (Primary School Parent Governor Member) and Mrs. C. Woolley (Secondary School Parent Governors)</b>                  |
|            | <b>Teacher Representatives</b>     | <b>M. Carter (Special Education Sector Teachers) and C. Lewandowski (Secondary School teachers)</b>                                 |
|            | <b>Headteacher Representatives</b> | <b>A Marson (Secondary Headteachers) and Miss S. Peate (Primary Sector Headteachers)</b>  |

|  | <b>Pages</b> |
|--|--------------|
| <b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  |              |
| To receive apologies for absence.  |              |
| <b>2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES</b>  |              |
| To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee. |              |
| <b>3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>   |              |
| To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.                            |              |
| <b>4. MINUTES</b>  | 1 - 6        |
| To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October, 2005.  |              |
| <b>5. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY</b>                                   |              |
| To consider suggestions from members of the public on issues the Committee could scrutinise in the future.       |              |
| <b>6. CABINET MEMBER'S BRIEFING</b>  | 7 - 12       |
| To advise the Committee of issues within the Children's Services portfolio.                                      |              |

|           |   |         |
|-----------|---|---------|
| <b>7.</b> | <b>INTEGRATING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HEREFORDSHIRE</b>  | 13 - 32 |
|           | To seek views on the proposed framework outlined in the attached paper (Appendix 1).  |         |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>REVIEW OF STATUTORY AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE</b>  | 33 - 36 |
|           | To consider the principles under which a Foster Care representative and a Children's Social Care Social Worker representative are to serve the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and other arrangements. |         |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2006/7</b>  | 37 - 40 |
|           | To consider a new Committee work programme for 2006/7.  |         |

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The Council has established Scrutiny Committees for Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing, Childrens' Services, Community Services, Environment, and Health. A Strategic Monitoring Committee scrutinises corporate matters and co-ordinates the work of these Committees.

The purpose of the Committees is to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Council's decision making process.

The principal roles of Scrutiny Committees are to

- Help in developing Council policy
- Probe, investigate, test the options and ask the difficult questions before and after decisions are taken
- Look in more detail at areas of concern which may have been raised by the Cabinet itself, by other Councillors or by members of the public
- "call in" decisions - this is a statutory power which gives Scrutiny Committees the right to place a decision on hold pending further scrutiny.
- Review performance of the Council
- Conduct Best Value reviews
- Undertake external scrutiny work engaging partners and the public

Formal meetings of the Committees are held in public and information on your rights to attend meetings and access to information are set out overleaf

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **Public Involvement at Scrutiny Committee Meetings**

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There are also two other ways in which you can directly contribute at Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committee meetings.

#### **1. Identifying Areas for Scrutiny**

At the meeting the Chairman will ask the members of the public present if they have any issues which they would like the Scrutiny Committee to investigate, however, there will be no discussion of the issue at the time when the matter is raised. Councillors will research the issue and consider whether it should form part of the Committee's work programme when compared with other competing priorities.

Please note that the Committees can only scrutinise items which fall within their specific remit (see below). If a matter is raised which falls within the remit of another Scrutiny Committee then it will be noted and passed on to the relevant Chairman for their consideration.

#### **2. Questions from Members of the Public for Consideration at Scrutiny Committee Meetings and Participation at Meetings**

You can submit a question for consideration at a Scrutiny Committee meeting so long as the question you are asking is directly related to an item listed on the agenda. If you have a question you would like to ask then please submit it **no later than two working days before the meeting** to the Committee Officer. This will help to ensure that an answer can be provided at the meeting. Contact details for the Committee Officer can be found on the front page of this agenda.

Generally, members of the public will also be able to contribute to the discussion at the meeting. This will be at the Chairman's discretion.

(Please note that the Scrutiny Committees are not able to discuss questions relating to personal or confidential issues.)

## **Remits of Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committees**

### **Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing**

*Statutory functions for adult social services including:*

*Learning Disabilities*

*Strategic Housing*

*Supporting People*

*Public Health*

### **Children's Services**

*Provision of services relating to the well-being of children including education, health and social care.*

### **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

*Libraries*

*Cultural Services including heritage and tourism*

*Leisure Services*

*Parks and Countryside*

*Community Safety*

*Economic Development*

*Youth Services*

### **Health**

*Planning, provision and operation of health services affecting the area*

*Health Improvement*

*Services provided by the NHS*

### **Environment**

*Environmental Issues*

*Highways and Transportation*

### **Strategic Monitoring Committee**

*Corporate Strategy and Finance*

*Resources*

*Corporate and Customer Services*

***Human Resources***

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- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
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## **COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.**

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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday, 3rd October, 2005 at 10.00 a.m.**

|                 |                                    |  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Present:</b> | <b>Councillor</b>                  | <b>B.F. Ashton (Chairman)</b>  |
|                 | <b>Councillor</b>                  | <b>J.P. Thomas (Vice Chairman)</b>   |
|                 | <b>Councillors</b>                 | <b>G. Lucas, Mrs. J.E. Pemberton, Mrs. S.J. Robertson, D.C. Taylor, Ms. A.M. Toon and W.J. Walling</b> |
|                 | <b>Parent Governor Members</b>     | <b>Mrs. C. Woolley (Secondary School Parent Governors)</b>   |
|                 | <b>Teacher Representatives</b>     | <b>M. Carter (Special Education Sector Teachers) and C. Lewandowski (Secondary School teachers)</b>    |
|                 | <b>Headteacher Representatives</b> | <b>A Marson (Secondary Headteachers) and Miss S. Peate (Primary Sector Headteachers)</b>               |

**In attendance:** Councillors D.W. Rule MBE (Cabinet Member - Children's Services) and R.M. Wilson

**6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr J.D. Griffin and Councillors: N.J.J. Davies and R.M. Manning.

**7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**8. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**9. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY**

No suggestions for areas of Scrutiny were received from the public. Committee Members suggested the following issues for consideration as part of the future work programme:

- Extended Schools – a presentation was requested on the extended schools system.
- Connexions Service.
- School Transport issues.
- Sexually transmitted diseases & sex education.
- Council's strategy on dyslexia.
- Provision of Education, particularly of English, for children of immigrant workers.
- Restructuring of Herefordshire Schools.

**10. BRIEFING REPORT ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES - SCHOOL SUPPORT**

The Committee received a briefing on a number of key areas of work within Children's Services and debated issues around the key areas of attendance, attainment, behaviour, exclusions and drug education.

**Attendance**

The Head of Children's & Student's Services reported that Children's Services continued to work closely with schools to reduce truancy rates which locally continued to be below the national average. The Service embraced the Government's 'Penalty Notice' initiative as an alternative to prosecuting parents/carers. Herefordshire was one of the leading authorities using the initiative. During the 2004/05 academic year 204 Penalty Notice Warnings had been issued resulting in 43 full Penalty Notices. 'Truancy sweeps' continued to be carried out, however, the majority of young people stopped had legitimate reasons for being out of school.

The Committee noted that contact was made with the parent/guardian after 10 unauthorised absences and that, depending on circumstances, a Penalty Notice Warning may be issued after 20 unauthorised absences. Appropriate support was offered to the parent in an attempt to resolve the situation. The Committee felt that unfortunately there was still a minority of parents who didn't value education and for whom court action wouldn't make a difference. The Committee appreciated that despite the best efforts of the parents some pupils were still absent during the day. It was further noted that despite headteachers actively discouraging holiday absences during term time a number of such absences still occurred.

**Attainment**

The Head of School Effectiveness presented the provisional 2005 results for Herefordshire the details of which were set out in the report. He highlighted that past experience indicated that, due to re-marking of exam papers etc, the 2005 figures may be revised upwards by between 1% and 2%. He commented that in general, it looked like a 'steady' performance rather than one marked by very significant gains. The English performance at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 was good but it was disappointing that the mathematics results at level 4 (Key Stage 2) had not improved. In addition, the 5A\*-C figure at GCSE had apparently plateaued for a second year, although some individual schools had done well.

The Committee noted that the Service was working on getting an improvement in mathematics. However, at KS2 the two stumbling blocks seemed to be that the level of parental assistance/involvement declined and that some pupils had difficulties adjusting to the more complex use of mathematics.

**The New Ofsted Inspection System for Schools**

The Head of School Effectiveness reported that from September 2005 a new school inspection system was being introduced whereby every school would be inspected every three years. The new system would mean that schools would receive no more than one week's notice of inspection; there would be fewer inspectors, who would be in school for no more than 2 days, and schools must have an up-to-date self-evaluation form, together with appropriate performance data. A school's overall effectiveness and efficiency would be graded either: Outstanding; Good; Satisfactory or Inadequate. While outcomes could not be guaranteed, the Council had high expectations that no school should be graded inadequate.

The Committee noted that teachers had received training on the wide range of data available to schools to help identify trends and improve performance. It was

suggested that a seminar for the Committee and other members of the Council be arranged to explain the range of data and its uses.

### **Behaviour Support**

The Head of Children's & Student's Services reported upon the range of initiatives and support available to schools and parents, as set out in the report, who had to deal with children who presented unacceptable behaviour. Good links were maintained with other agencies, highlighted by the current Behaviour Support Plan, which was regularly monitored by the Behaviour Forum. Evidence of improvement in behaviour in schools generally was reflected in the gradual but steady decrease in permanent exclusions from 35 in the academic year 01-02, to 29 in 04-05.

The Committee debated issues or questions relating to: an alleged lack of parental involvement during pupil counselling; whether Government pressure on schools to reduce the number of pupil exclusions had resulted in the apparent reduced numbers; whether data was collected on instances of abuse directed towards teaching staff; while there had been no shortage of places at PRUs there had been pressure on the system due to staff shortages and what input the Youth Service could make on the issue.

The Head of School Effectiveness reported that a national report on pupil behaviour was expected later in the year and suggested that, in view of the range of issues involved the Committee may wish to discuss the subject further in a workshop setting.

### **Social Inclusion**

The Manager of Pupil, School and Parent Support reported that in most cases exclusion from school would be the last resort after a range of measures had been tried to improve pupils' behaviour. The report outlined the measures available to headteachers; the services available and the number of permanent exclusions over the last 6 years.

### **Drug education in schools**

The Manager of Pupil, School and Parent Support reported that Herefordshire had demonstrated its commitment to this important area of work in local schools by appointing a specialist Drugs Education Development Officer, who offered advice, guidance and support to schools, worked with various agencies and had been the key officer for developing local resources for schools as indicated in the report. In line with the latest research the Directorate took the approach of harm reduction rather than the less effective 'Just Say No' campaigns. In schools the Directorate encouraged lessons that were teacher led and focused on making decisions about personal risk and whether or not students understood all the consequences of their actions concerning particular drugs or substances.

The Committee noted a suggested link between drug use, particularly skunk, and the increase in mental health problems, particularly in younger people. It was also noted that a new package of training was available for KS1 pupils. The Committee were informed that while drug education was taken very seriously in schools the take up of resources was not always good due to the wide range of pressures already on schools. The Committee noted a comment that new teachers from teacher training colleges seemed to be inadequately trained in drug education issues. It was appreciated that a range of measures were needed to tackle the drug problem. Unfortunately some parents still had a very casual attitude towards alcohol and drugs.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the following member events be arranged:**

- **A seminar to explain the range of data available to schools and its use in improving school performance.**
- **A workshop on the range of issues concerning pupil behaviour in schools.**

#### **11. INSPECTION OF HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY FOSTERING SERVICE**

The Committee considered the action taken by the Children's Services Directorate in response to the requirements and recommendations of the Inspection of Herefordshire Local Authority Fostering Service undertaken by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

The Head of Social Care (Children) reported that inspectors had compiled the 2005 report, copies of which had been forwarded separately to Committee Members, after attending a meeting of the Fostering Panel, reviewing policy documents and case files on foster carers and children, and undertaking visits to a range of individuals and groups over a two-week period. In 2004, 31 of the 32 National Standards had been inspected. In 2005, Inspectors had been pleased to find that all the inspection shortfalls identified in 2004 had been addressed promptly, with systems reviewed and developed to ensure improvement. All 32 standards had been inspected. 28 were met in full and there were minor shortfalls in 4. An action plan indicating progress to date in response to the inspection findings was appended to the report.

The Committee congratulated the Fostering Service Team on the outcome of the inspection and noted the actions taken to address the limited number of issues arising from the inspection.

The Committee debated the staff vacancies in the Foster Care Service and noted that, while the issue was a national problem, the Service was working on various methods of filling vacancies. A previous suggestion that the local Ward Member be a contact point for support to Foster Carers in their area was being discussed with Carers. Headteacher representatives commented on the link between pupil attendance, attainment and having a stable domestic environment.

The Chairman suggested that a visit to the Service be arranged to enable Committee Members to see first hand what the work of the Fostering Service entailed.

**RESOLVED: That the Director of Children's Services convey to staff the congratulations of the Committee on the outcome of the 2005 Fostering Service inspection.**

#### **12. REVIEW OF STATUTORY AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the Statutory and co-opted membership on the Committee.

A report by the County Secretary and Solicitor set out the current statutory (Diocesan and Parent Governors) and co-opted (Teacher and Headteacher) membership of the Committee. The report sought to regularise a number of membership issues and highlighted a number of considerations in relation to the possible co-option of representatives to reflect the wider remit of the Committee.

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the input by the statutory and co-opted members of the Committee. In view of the wider remit of the Committee following

Every Child Matters and the Children Act 2004, they acknowledged the need for wider representation from, in particular, the Foster Carers and Children Social Care Social Worker sectors.

The Cabinet Member (Children's Services) commented upon the 'Youth Matters' Green Paper and in particular its possible effect upon the remit of the Committee.

**RESOLVED:****That**

- a) **The Diocesan Authority membership as set out in paragraphs 4-6 of the report be reaffirmed and the County Secretary and Solicitor request that the Authorities reconsider or reaffirm their nomination prior to Council elections;**
- b) **The Parent Governor membership and terms of office as set out in paragraphs 7-10 of the report be reaffirmed;**
- c) **With a view to reflecting the wider remit of the Committee the Director of Children's Services in consultation with Chairman and Vice-Chairman consider the appropriate sectors, number and term of office of the non-voting co-opted representatives on the Committee and report to a future meeting.**

The meeting ended at 12.03 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**





**CABINET MEMBER'S BRIEFING****Report By: Cabinet Member - Children's Services****Wards Affected**

County-wide

**Purpose**

1. To advise the Committee of issues within the Children's Services portfolio.

**Financial Implications**

2. Service changes will need to be delivered on a robust invest to save basis in order to manage down the high costs of placements for children with complex needs.

**Background**

3. The priorities for the Children & Young People's Plan in Herefordshire are currently being shaped and will be subject to consultation, as per guidance, before going to the Children's & Young People's Partnership Board in February for confirmation.
4. The Children's and Young People's plan is for the area so includes partners and has to be ready for April 2006. The Children's and Young People's Partnership Board membership is outlined in Appendix 1 attached.
5. The draft priorities are:-

|                     | <b>Children's &amp; Young People's Partnership Board Priorities</b>   | <b>Key Priorities based on Needs Analysis</b>  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| <b>Be Healthy</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving mental health outcomes.</li> <li>• Improving physical health outcomes.</li> <li>• Improving outcomes for children with LDD.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission more family support services, therapy support and a comprehensive CAMHS.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Staying Safe</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving outcomes for children Looked After.</li> <li>• Further implementation and adaptation of the Child Concern Model.</li> </ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission enhanced family support service (families with older children).</li> <li>• Integrating services for common assessment and improved performance management of the Child Concern Model.</li> </ul> |

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Councillor Don Rule, (Cabinet Member Children's Services) on 01531 633703

|                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Staying Safe (cont.)</b>  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission enhanced foster carer capacity sub-regional resource for children with complex needs.</li> <li>Commission enhanced shared care service.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Enjoy and Achieve</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extending services in Early Years/Sure Start.</li> <li>Improving standards in schools.</li> <li>Improving outcomes for underachieving groups.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission 6 "children's centres" and extended schools</li> <li>Improved educational achievement for under performing groups.</li> <li>Improved access/transport for recreation/learning.</li> </ul>                                     |
| <b>Positive Contribution</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving learning and recreation opportunities.</li> <li>Reducing anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herefordshire Youth Council and LAC reference group given a structured voice on the C&amp;YP Partnership board.</li> <li>Ensuring joined up support services to improve the reduction of offending and anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Economic Well-Being</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving opportunities for economic well-being.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission more supported housing for young people, including those leaving care.</li> <li>Improve transition planning.</li> </ul>   |

- These priorities have been based on needs analysis and anticipated outcomes from the Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection.
- The Council's contribution to these priorities is significant.

### Current Challenges

- The resources in 2005-06 are stretched in relation to:-
- Children's social care - end of September monitoring showed £382,000. potential overcommitment although we are actively working to reduce this to a minimum.
- This is largely due to out of area placements, secure orders and payments for bed and breakfast for homeless young people leaving care.

11. Out of area placements for specialist education resources are also high cost and this is showing a projected overspend of £427,000. Further placements will be required before the year-end resulting in greater budget pressures in future years.
12. The inclusion policy in the school sector is supported by a banding policy for additional needs resources in schools. This is an important policy to support but the funding is stretched. The current position is that the budget is projecting a small overspend of up to £20,000 for primary schools which is likely to be offset by a similar underspend in banding for high schools.

### **Improvement Priorities**

13. It is also anticipated that the "Staying Safe" systems will require improvement following the JAR assessment. Key Stage 4 outcomes for underachieving groups will require more focus. In addition, the Council will need, in partnership with the LSC, to ensure the 14-19 provision action plan is delivered, alongside improving supported housing, particularly for young people leaving care. The integration of services for children with disabilities will need significant attention. These areas for improvement are already integrated into the Children & Young People's Partnership Board priorities.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Children's Services Scrutiny Committee note the Cabinet Member's report.**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.



**MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

- Councillor Don Rule, Cabinet Member – Children's Services
- Sue Fiennes, Director of Children's Services
- Henry Lewis, Head of Social Care (Children)
- Anne Heath, Head of Children's and Students' Services
- Alan Curless, Chief Executive, Learning and Skills Council
- Detective Superintendent John Molloy, Head of Crime and Disorder, West Mercia Constabulary
- Detective Chief Inspector Ivan Powell, Crime Manager, West Mercia Constabulary
- Simon Hairsnape, Deputy Chief Executive, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust
- Dr. Ian Tait, General Practitioner and Chair of PEC, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust
- Joanna Bruce, Non-Executive, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust
- Helen Horton, Chief Executive, The Alliance
- Jill Hiscox, Home Start, c/o The Alliance
- Pam Pimpernell, West Mercia Probation
- Roger Little, Chief Executive, Connexions
- Andy McConnochie, Head of Youth Offending Services, Worcestershire and Herefordshire Youth Offending Service
- Euan McGilp, Head Teacher, St. Martin's Primary School
- Sian Bailey, Head Teacher, Blackmarston School
- John Sheppard, Head Teacher, Haywood High School
- In support the Change Team – Lorna Selfe and Alan Blundell



## **INTEGRATING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

**Report By: Director Of Children's Services**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To seek views on the proposed framework outlined in the attached paper (Appendix 1).

### **Financial Implications**

2. These will be assessed as part of the further development.

### **Background**

3. The paper has been considered by all partners in Herefordshire. Its direction will form part of the Children's and Young People's plan for the Herefordshire area.
4. The detail of how this direction will be achieved is still to be worked through on a partnership basis and the Children's & Young People's Partnership Board will take a decision in February 2006 on how far the area can develop on this basis over the next three years.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Scrutiny Committee offer comments to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to take forward into Partnership Board discussions.**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.





# Consultation Paper

## INTEGRATING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HEREFORDSHIRE

### Context

This consultation paper is written in the belief that, as evidenced by the JAR self- evaluation document, the vast majority of children and young people are developing well and flourishing within Herefordshire. However, continued improvement is both necessary and possible. The move towards the greater integration of services is a significant driver for achieving further improvements in the outcomes for all children and young people within the County.

This proposed strategy will be based on the aspirations in the Herefordshire Plan, the priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan, "Herefordshire Thinks Rural" and the Council's ICT Strategy.

It is part of the planning for the future in relation to building prosperity in Herefordshire, education performance and improvement, and the Children's and Young People's Plan for Herefordshire.

### Introduction

There is statistical data to show that differentials in the life chances of children remain significant. The Change for Children Agenda aims to meet the concerns that arise from this. This will involve changes in the ways in which we operate, but lead to the achievement of better outcomes for all children and for vulnerable children in particular.

This consultation paper sets out some of the key arguments and reasons for change and provides some ideas for how this can be achieved in Herefordshire. There are 10 sections and each has a series of paragraphs which have been numbered for ease of discussion:

1. Why integrate?
2. Quality, efficiency and effectiveness of services
3. Organisational issues
4. The national framework for integration
5. The government's key messages
6. The local integration agenda
7. The local context-needs and resources
8. Children's Centres
9. A map of the proposed sites for Children's Centres
10. Future possible developments
11. Conclusions
12. Appendices

### 1.0 Why integrate?

- 1.1 At the heart of the debate about integrating services to children and facilities is recognition that better outcomes in education attainment, health and safety, require the combined action of a number of agencies. The focus of Every Child Matters (ECM) is on vulnerable children and young people, especially for those who are in danger of social exclusion. But this is not simply about children with the most complex needs, but about focusing on the needs of **all** children and recognising that outcomes are

linked. For example, ill health in children (or their parents) can lead to under-performance at school, followed by truancy and involvement in crime.

- 1.2 Integration is not, therefore, just about combining services, but about achieving successful outcomes for all children and ensuring that they are well integrated into the local community and wider society. This is often referred to as 'inclusion', and can mean ensuring that children with complex needs are helped to develop their potential as fully as other children. It also means that children of families living in poverty receive the same level and quality of services as those who are not socially excluded. The ECM agenda was clearly driven by government concerns about communication and integration of children's services and the need for improvements in safeguarding arising from the Laming Inquiry Report (2003). The focus is to ensure equal opportunity and social justice.
- 1.3 Another impetus for change is discernible in a report from the Social Inclusion Unit (2001) on life chances in Britain. This showed that vulnerable children and young people were subject to much poorer outcomes than their European counterparts.

The U.K. has:

- One of the highest illiteracy rates in Europe
- The highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe
- One of the highest rates of alcoholism in young men aged 18-25 in Europe
- One of the highest proportions of young men in prison in Europe
- 41% of the prison population had been children from the care system
- Drug abuse among UK children is the highest in Europe

Social Inclusion Unit, 2002

- 1.4 Poor outcomes impact on society generally; no one wants to live in a society in which city centres are unsafe at night; crime rates are rising; unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases are increasing. Finally, the integration of services and co-location allows disadvantaged families easier access to help and support services. It has been claimed that ECM is an urban agenda, but the need for local provisions is even more acute in rural situations, where transport and access are sometimes insuperable barriers.

'Social isolation and difficulty in accessing facilities are particular dangers for many: most parts of the county fall within the 10% most deprived nationally in terms of access to services, including GP surgeries, Post Offices, primary schools and supermarkets (IMD), 18% live in households without a car'. (2001 Census). Herefordshire Council CPA Self Assessment, July 2005

## 2.0 Quality, efficiency and effectiveness of services

In addition to improving outcomes, there are three main groups of drivers for service integration: service user experience, organisational efficiency and national policy that drive improvement, particularly school improvement.

### 2.1 Service user experience (from the Office for Public Management-Integrating children's services: issues and practice, 2003)

Not only must services be better at producing their intended outcomes but they should also be easier to use and more responsive. Therefore integration should be aimed at developing and improving services and opportunities for children and their families.

### 2.2 Developing responsive mainstream services. Mainstream services must be able to respond to a wide range of need relating to individual children or families. Some schools and GP practices, for instance, may only provide a narrow response to

children's problems with a knock-on effect in terms of inappropriate referrals of children to specialist services.

- 2.3 **Improved access to specialist services.** The Audit Commission report on 'statementing' (Audit Commission, 2002), graphically illustrates the difficulty that can arise when accessing specialist services. Obtaining co-ordinated services across education, health and social care can be very difficult for service users.
- 2.4 **Avoiding multiple assessments.** Multiple assessments are part of the co-ordination problem. Each professional group attempts to do its best for the child and the family by conducting its own assessment. This undermines the service to users who have to answer the same questions many times. Having been told that many of these assessments are 'holistic', they frequently report that communication between the professions is only partial. It is the users themselves who often end up having to make sure effective co-ordination occurs. This is perhaps the most persuasive reason for establishing multidisciplinary teams and developing forms of integrated assessment.
- 2.5 **Reducing waiting time.** Multiple assessments require separate appointments to be booked with different professionals. Each takes time to arrange. Some professionals are so overloaded that children can wait many months or longer, and they may wait just as long again for services to commence after assessment. For all children, delay means disruption of development and loss of opportunity. It has been claimed that endless protracted assessments can be used to delay effective, but costly, intervention.
- 2.6 **Empowering children and their families.** Where mainstream services are not well geared to their needs and specialist services are in short supply, parents and children often report a lack of support in helping them to obtain appropriate services and information on effective forms of self-care. Consequently there is a demand for information and advocacy services that can operate across the boundaries of all the relevant sectors.
- 2.7 **School effectiveness.** Children's development and ultimate success at school is often significantly improved by well-co-ordinated and effectively targeted early intervention and transition programmes led by professionals, from different disciplines, working together
- 2.8 **Building flexibility and choice.** Where our endeavours build a more responsive, integrated system across the whole of Herefordshire, access to provision can be organised on a flexible basis and meet more individual need. Bringing both statutory and independent/voluntary sectors together will assist in focusing on the child and securing local support for families, thereby enabling more children to say in their local communities and achieve.

### 3.0 Organisational issues

- 3.1 Any difficulties that service users experience in navigating the maze of services or the frustrations arising from duplicated effort, also impact upon organisational morale. Life can become difficult for front-line staff and scarce resources can sometimes be used more productively. Therefore, integration should be aimed at:
- 3.2 **Clarifying staff roles and responsibilities.** Making it easy for front-line staff to find out who does what in each sector, and the processes they use and the response times, if any, to which they work.
- 3.3 **Improving communication.** Contacting people when they are needed. For example, speaking to teachers in the classroom or to community nurses when they are out visiting patients is often difficult. There is also need to agree a common language for describing the requirements of children and their families that both professionals and service users can readily understand.

3.4 **Making best use of innovations in customer contact.** Many children and their families or carers require advice, guidance or reassurance. They need it when they can make most use of it and preferably without having to book an appointment. To do this effectively, requires the better integration of local services.

#### 4.0 **The national framework for integration;**

4.1 The Children Act, 2004, gave force to a programme of changes in children's services where the over-riding objective is to integrate front-line services for children and young people into Children's Trusts. Children's Trust arrangements have four essential components:

4.2 Professionals enabled and encouraged to work together in more integrated front-line services.

4.3 Common processes that are designed to create and underpin joint working.

4.4 A planning and commissioning framework that brings together agencies planning supported by the pooling of resources

4.5 Strong interagency governance arrangements in which shared ownership is coupled with clear accountability

4.6 The government want to see 'personalised, high quality, integrated, universal services'. The LA should engage with schools and preschool settings to ensure that **all children are effectively supported**. Universal services will work with specialist services for children with additional needs. The government suggested the concept of a 'service hub' where all services for children can be co-located and school sites are an obvious location. Children with additional needs should have access to;

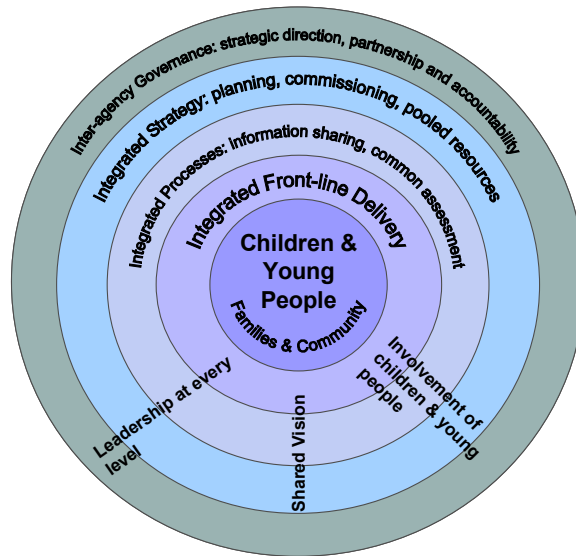
- High quality, multi-agency assessment
- A wide range of specialist services close to home
- Effective case management by a lead professional working as part of a multi-professional team

4.7 All of this can be accomplished through;

- Co-location and multi-disciplinary teams
- Lead professional acting as a first point of contact
- Integrated workforce planning
- Common assessment framework
- Information sharing and one database
- Clear lines of accountability

4.8 The government expect local areas to produce plans to show how they intend to move towards children's trust arrangements via the integration 'onion', and it is argued that integrated frontline delivery is core to this.

4.9 The integration 'onion'- This concept places children and their families at the centre of services, strategy and governance:



**5.0 The Government’s key messages (ECM – Change for Children, 2004)**

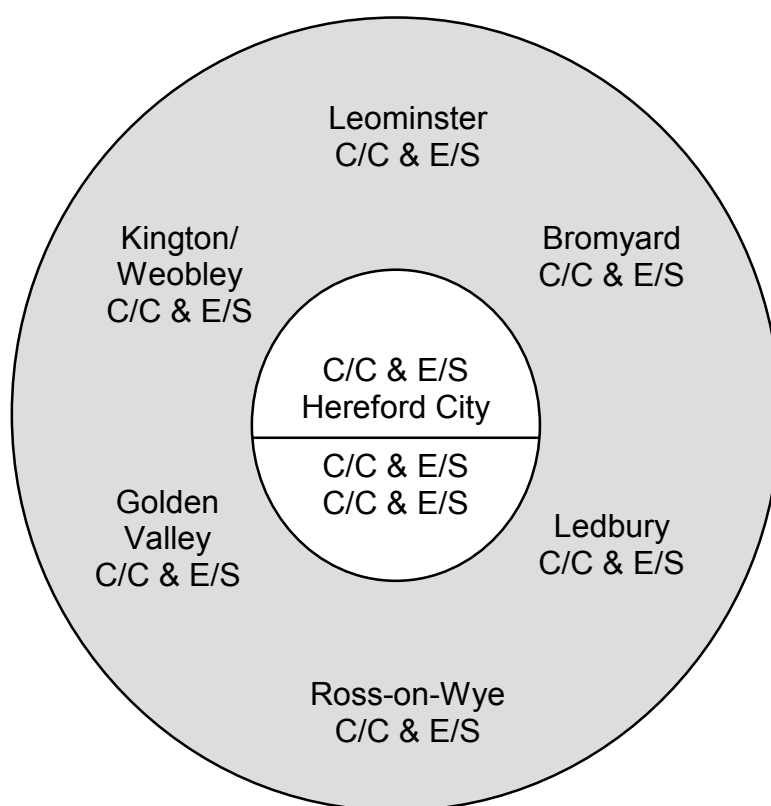
- 5.1 More integrated children’s services will mean all children and young people will:
  - Be safeguarded from harm;
  - Have better opportunities to develop and reach their full potential;
  - Receive effective support earlier if they experience difficulties; and
  - Be better able to access targeted services faster and with fewer stigmas as a result of closer links between these targeted services and universal services.
- 5.2 Parents and carers from whatever background will:
  - Have more and better information, advice and support; and
  - Have access to targeted support when needed.
- 5.3 Every Child Matters proposed a new outcomes framework for children and young people: be healthy; be safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being. Every Child Matters “Next Steps” recognised that the realisation of better outcomes for all children required radical change in the whole system.
- 5.4 Every Child Matters “Change for Children” proposed that:

**6.0** ‘The reconfiguration of services around the child and family in one place, for example, children’s centre, extended schools and the bringing together of professionals in multi-disciplinary teams in service hubs’  
 6.1 ECM Change for children

- Information sharing
  - The common assessment framework
  - Core skills and knowledge
  - Lead professional role
- 6.2 It is difficult to envisage how the delivery of these changes can be achieved without the integration of services into co-located multi-agency teams and virtual service hubs.
  - 6.3 The Herefordshire area is well placed to press ahead with this agenda, led by Herefordshire Council. Locally there is good partnership working allied to coterminous

boundaries and new structures in place such as the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, and the Children's Services Directorate. Rural sparsity and a pattern of small market towns with problems of distance and access also argue for co-located multi-professional teams, which are community based service hubs. Developments in Children's Centre and in Extended Schools are already proceeding and this work will inform and shape the location of service hubs.

- 6.4 Local developments will be based around schools as envisaged by government in their Every Child Matters agenda and in the Children's Centres and Extended Schools' initiatives. There are currently 14 school partnerships. Based on an analysis of need and considerations of efficiency and effectiveness, seven partnerships are proposed.
- 6.5 At this stage the Council is proposing 7 local **Children's Services Improvement Partnerships** as follows: Children's Centres (C/C) and Extended Schools (E/S)



- 6.6 Support for School Improvement (led by the School Improvement Service) is currently organised around the existing 14 school partnerships. This support for all pupils is based upon national and local priorities, and will continue to be delivered through the 7 Children's Services Improvement Partnerships. The current organisation and location of schools across the County is well established and remains appropriate even at a time of falling pupil numbers. However, the impact of falling school rolls will be moderated by the development of integrated services, shared resources and partnership working. In addition, the 7 Children's Services Improvement Partnerships areas have a geographical relationship to the 3 current PCT localities.
- 6.7 These partnerships will be based around Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye, Golden Valley, Kington and Weobley, Leominster and Hereford City. The Council will need to take account of the JAR neighbourhood studies in Kington and South Wye, the social/deprivation factor in the Lea area, and the needs of the 2 voluntary aided high schools, in deciding where service centres should be and how the models should vary in size and shape across Herefordshire. The development of Extended School and

Children's Centre provision should be linked and co-ordinated in these partnership localities, and access/transport considerations planned ahead. Broadly, this would meet requirements for Extended Schools and Children's Centres for Herefordshire.

6.8 These 7 partnerships would also have a multi-agency locality team providing a range of support and advice services to individual children, young people and their families and schools. Initial thinking would suggest bringing together a number of professionals, including:

- Contact Inspectors (SIP – School Improvement Partner)
- Education Welfare Officers
- School Nurses
- Educational Psychologists
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service professionals
- Social Workers
- Teaching Support Services
- Family Support Workers
- Early Years Development staff
- Area Special Needs Co-ordinators
- Police Officers
- Youth Offending
- Youth Workers

6.9 Schools in the 7 partnership areas would need to consider establishing area Extended School Co-ordinators, and where appropriate Learning Mentors.

6.10 The partnerships would require a Herefordshire information sharing agreement, systems development based on the common assessment framework and leadership/co-ordination with clear lines of accountability to the Director of Children's Services and the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. The Partnership Board will develop into a Children's Trust for Herefordshire by 2008. Children's Services and The Children's Trust will commission the service hubs and ensure that plans are in place for:

- Administrative support
- Continuous professional development and staff training
- Evaluation, monitoring and review arrangements
- The consideration of investment in key professional areas.

## **7.0 The local context – needs and resources**

7.1 The partnership areas would need to include developments in both Children's Centres and in Extended Schools. These are already aligning themselves in the pattern described above. The Children's Centre developments have followed a robust and coherent needs analysis based on government directives and using the Index of Multiple Deprivation. They are one of the cornerstones of the Government drive to cut child poverty and social exclusion. Its philosophy is based on the evidence of the very successful Sure Start programmes across the country and is now a central plank in the Change Agenda.

'We want to see strong links between extended schools and Children's Centres. Children's Centres provide holistic services including access to integrated early learning and care, health and family support for children under five and their families... Schools, especially primary schools, may wish to consider co-locating with a children's centre and offering joint services... Funding for children's centres, including capital funds, can be linked with that available for extended school services.

Our plans for a joined-up programme to draw together capital for children's centres, extended services, primary schools and children's social services will help services respond flexibly to local needs'.

Extended Schools: A Prospectus, 2005

Sure Start Children's Centres will provide a range of services depending on local need and parental choice. The aim is for a network of centres across the country, offering information, advice and support to parents/carers, as well as early years provision (i.e. integrated childcare and early learning), health services, family support, parental outreach and employment advice for disadvantaged families. Services offered will not be the same everywhere, because needs and communities vary greatly, but the greatest resource for children's centres will go to those children most in need. The intention is that children's centres services become permanent mainstream community services, which are developed and delivered with the active involvement of parents/carers and the local community.

The Government recognises that children's centres operating in rural areas are likely to need greater flexibility than those that operate in urban areas. Given the nature of rural areas - dispersed communities often with small numbers of children under five years old - the same services may need to be replicated for small groups of families in convenient local venues. Full use should be made of community facilities such as school premises, parish churches and community centres. Local authorities will be expected to develop more flexible models of childcare for centres in rural areas which meet the needs of local communities.

Sure Start Planning Guidance 2005

7.2 The intention is to deliver services to children and their families including:

1. Early education
2. Childcare
3. Health
4. Family support
5. Support into training/employment.

7.3 Herefordshire received notification of an allocation of £337,209 capital and £148,664 (2004-06) during the summer of 2003 to reach 1044 children and create 50 new childcare places. The decision was taken by October 2003 to create 3 Children's Centres at:

Leominster  
Greencroft  
Hurderton / Hollybush

7.4 These Children's Centres targeted 8 out of the top 10 areas of disadvantage in Herefordshire. This was decided using the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation information and the 2005 Super Output Areas. The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a



very important tool developed by government for assessing relative deprivation and is based on those factors well known to correlate highly with child poverty and poorer outcomes, as follows:

#### 7.5 Table Showing Index of Multiple Deprivation Domains

| <b>Index of Multiple Deprivation Domains</b> | <b>Summary of Indicators relating to children</b>   |
|--|---|
| Income Deprivation                           | Children in Income Support households<br>Children in Income Based Job Seekers Allowance households<br>Children in Family Credit households<br>Children in Disability working Allowance households   |
| Employment Deprivation                       | Unemployment claimant counts<br>People aged 18-24 on New Deal options<br>Incapacity Benefit recipients<br>Severe Disablement Allowance claimants  |
| Health Deprivation and Disability            | Comparative mortality rates for men and women<br>Proportion of people receiving Attendance Allowance<br>Proportion in receipt of Incapacity Benefit<br>Limiting Long term Illness<br>Proportion of births of low birth weight   |
| Education, Skills and Training               | Working age adults with no qualifications<br>Children aged 16yrs and over who are not in full-time education<br>Proportion of 17-19yrs who have not successfully applied for H>E><br>Key Stage 2 primary School Performance data<br>Primary School children with English as a second language<br>All absenteeism at primary level |
| Barriers to Housing and Services             | Access to a Post Office<br>Access to food shops<br>Access to a GP<br>Access to a primary school.  |
| Living Environment and Deprivation           | Homeless Households<br>Household overcrowding<br>Poor private sector housing  |
| Crime Deprivation                            | The rate of burglary<br>The rate of theft<br>Criminal damage<br>Violence  |

**8.0 Resources available**  
**Children's Centre: Phase 2 allocations 2006-08**  
**Extended Schools: 2005-2006**

When planning Children's Centres local authorities should consider the opportunities for schools, particularly primary schools, to co-locate with children's centres and offer integrated services for children and parents/carers from one place. In many primary schools childcare and other provision is already developing on site. Primary schools also provide a natural focus for local communities and parents are already familiar with them. Co-location could result in improved transition arrangements for children starting formal education, both for the children and their families.

A SureStart Children's Centre for Every Community 2005

- 8.1 There has been a change of emphasis by Government and Herefordshire is now being asked, "to develop a minimum number of Children's Centre to reach the rest of the children in the disadvantaged areas and beyond".
- 8.2 The Government suggest an average of 800 children for each Children's Centre subject to local circumstances.
- 8.3 Total money assigned £940,360 capital, £1,027,314 revenue, total £1,967,674 to develop six Children's Centres.
- 8.4 SureStart has conducted studies to determine the best locations for the proposed Children's Centres. Interestingly, the areas of relative deprivation coincide, in the main, with the centres of market towns.
- 8.5 The SureStart analysis has recommended the following geographical locations, which correspond neatly to the proposed school, based locality partnerships, described above.
- 8.6 In 2005-2006 The Extended School Grant of £279,149 is being used to develop full service provision in the South Wye and Weobley areas and to support rural developments in Ledbury and the Golden Valley. The grant allocation for 2006 onwards is not yet known but will be used to support work in the proposed 7 Children's Services Improvement Partnerships.
- 8.7 Lastly, the government are introducing a new scheme of Local Area Agreements (LAAs), which are designed to align and eventually amalgamate various funding streams including those for services for Children and Young People. Developing the plans for children and young people will be one "pillar" of this agreement. The LAA has to be congruent with the Children and Young People's Plan, which will encapsulate the vision described above. It is, therefore, clear that the government is driving the agenda for change and that future funding and operational structures will be based on how local services have been integrated.

## **9.0 The proposed 7 Children's Services Improvement Partnerships Areas**

Appendix 1 attached to this document shows how it is proposed to serve all areas of the County, based upon the catchment areas of High Schools. The circles represent the 9 Children's Centres at which, or from which, many of the services will be delivered.

## **10.0 Future Possible Developments for Children's Centres (Notes from SureStart Proposals)**

- 10.1 Bromyard already has a mini Sure Start project that has been operating for two years. Their funding is due to finish in March 2006. They have already indicated that they wish to be considered for Children's Centre status. There are 309 children aged 0-4 in the ward and an additional 318 in the wards of Frome and Bringsty.
- 10.2 Existing Hereford City Children's Centres will be stretched unless there are additional centres created. There are 3271 children aged 0-4 in the city. One possibility would be expand Hunderton/Hollybush Children's Centre and to create one north of the river based around the wards of Three Elms, Central, part of Aylestone and part of St Nicholas approximately 600 children. (Waiting exact number from the research team).
- 10.3 Kington has been working with Leominster Sure Start for some time to create a centre. Inevitably in the rural areas there are fewer children. Kington Town has 165 and the two surroundings wards Castle 125 children and Pembridge 131 children giving a total of 303.
- 10.4 Other possibilities include Ross on Wye and the wards to the southeast with a total of 856 children, 15<sup>th</sup> on the IMD. Ledbury and Hope End ward with a total of 824, 33<sup>rd</sup> on the IMD and the very rural area to the South West including the wards of Golden Valley North and South plus Vallets, 455 children – this could take in the SOA Allenschurch which is 20<sup>th</sup> on the IMD.

## **11.0 Conclusions**

- 11.1 It can be seen from the information provided that the concept of developing "service hubs" and their location in areas of relative deprivation is already well developed and comparatively straightforward in Herefordshire. The model and the evidence base map well onto one another. A clear view of our long-term destination is apparent. What is not so clear is the route to this destination.
- 11.2 Pointers and signposts for the journey are:
  - The location of the Children's Centres and extended school provision in the 7 proposed Children's Services Improvement partnerships, which could be planned to house multi-professional teams, targeting the complete spectrum of children and young people. In addition, falling rolls and the possibility of surplus accommodation in schools may provide opportunities to further service hub developments
  - This model would require revised management and leadership arrangements.
  - Government plans for the role of PCTs and commissioning of services may provide opportunities to further service hub developments
  - Existing support services could be reorganised and aligned in teams offering services to localities.
  - The development of the Common Assessment Framework, the information sharing arrangements, development of the lead professional role, etc. can only become meaningful in terms of multi-professional co-located system.
  - Shared governance and establishing Children's Trust arrangements must impact on the development and delivery of services.
- 11.3 Finally, this local framework proposal is built on work already underway in developing service hubs in Herefordshire. We have the rationale and the framework; we have identified the locations in line with government guidelines, which offer the opportunity to deliver the agenda.

- 11.4 This consultation paper lays out the rationale and future direction of integrated services for children and young people in Herefordshire. We would welcome any constructive comments and suggestions for the further development of the plan.

**Any comments and response on this consultation document should be made to Lorna Selfe, Change Manager, by Friday, 11th November either via telephone number: 01432 260801, e-mail: [lselfe@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lselfe@herefordshire.gov.uk) or in writing to: Children's Services Directorate, P.O. Box 185, Blackfriars Street, Hereford. HR4 9ZR,**

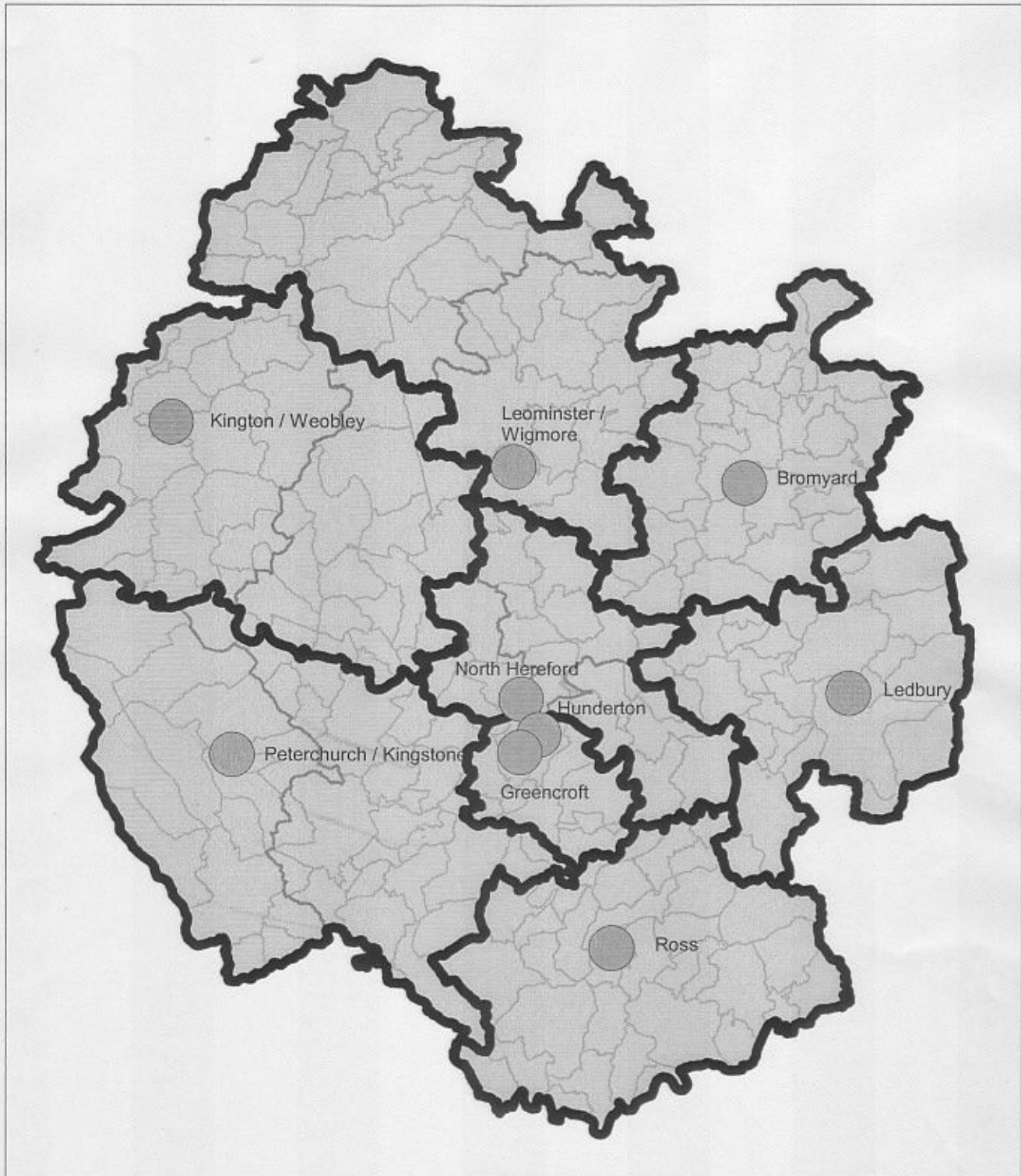
**APPENDIX 1 ANALYSIS OF NEED**

| <b>Herefordshire Ranks of IMD 2004</b> | <b>SOA</b> | <b>NAME</b>                  | <b>NATIONAL RANK OF IMD (1=most deprived)</b> | <b>NATIONAL DECILE</b> | <b>H'fordshire Decile: IMD 2004</b> | <b>Children's Centre</b> |
|--|------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1                                      | E01013995  | Golden Post<br>Newton Farm   | 3394  | 20%                    | 10%                                 | G/HH                     |
| 2                                      | E01014042  | Ridgemoore<br>Leominster     | 5807  | 20%                    | 10%                                 | L                        |
| 3                                      | E01014074  | Bishop's Meadow<br>Hunderton | 6840  | 25%                    | 10%                                 | HH                       |
| 4                                      | E01014071  | Belmont Road<br>Redhill      | 6917  | 25%                    | 10%                                 | G                        |
| 5                                      | E01014010  | Hereford<br>City Centre      | 7015  | 25%                    | 10%                                 | HH                       |
| 6                                      | E01013994  | Hunderton                    | 7049  | 25%                    | 10%                                 | HH                       |
| 7                                      | E01013993  | Brampton Road<br>Newton Farm | 7357  | 25%                    | 10%                                 | G                        |
| 8                                      | E01013992  | Treago<br>Newton Farm        | 8742  |                        | 10%                                 | G                        |
| 9                                      | E01013989  | College Estate               | 8934  |                        | 10%                                 |                          |
| 10                                     | E01014048  | Grange<br>Leominster         | 9694  |                        | 10%                                 | L                        |
| 11                                     | E01014005  | Bromyard<br>Central          | 10171   |                        | 10%                                 |                          |
| 12                                     | E01014086  | Courtyard                    | 10211   |                        | 10%                                 |                          |
| 13                                     | E01014047  | Gateway<br>Leominster        | 10377   |                        | 20%                                 | L                        |
| 14                                     | E01014072  | Ross Road<br>Redhill         | 10395   |                        | 20%                                 | G                        |
| 15                                     | E01014064  | John Kyrle<br>Ross           | 11876   |                        | 20%                                 |                          |
| 16                                     | E01014073  | Putson                       | 12682   |                        | 20%                                 |                          |
| 17                                     | E01013991  | Hopsvalley                   | 13045   |                        | 20%                                 |                          |
| 18                                     | E01013986  | Barr's Court                 | 13888   |                        | 20%                                 |                          |
| 19                                     | E01014085  | Moor Farm &<br>Whitecross    | 14016   |                        | 20%                                 |                          |
| 20                                     | E01014099  | Allenschurch                 | 14075   |                        | 20%                                 |                          |

| Herefordshire Ranks of IMD 2004 | SOA       | NAME                      | NATIONAL RANK. OF IMD (1=most deprived) | NATIONAL DECILE | H'fordshire Decile: IMD 2004 | Children's Centre |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 21                              | E01013995 | Hinton Road               | 14141                                   |                 | 20%                          | *HH               |
| 22                              | E01014042 | Whitecross – Sainsbury's  | 14364                                   |                 | 20%                          | *NH               |
| 23                              | E01014074 | Eardishill                | 14411                                   |                 | 20%                          | *SS               |
| 24                              | E01014071 | Hospital                  | 14728                                   |                 | 25%                          | *NH               |
| 25                              | E01014010 | Fairfields                | 14867                                   |                 | 25%                          | *GV               |
| 26                              | E01013994 | Kington Central           | 15077                                   |                 | 25%                          | *K                |
| 27                              | E01013993 | Aymestrey Horseshoe       | 15145                                   |                 | 25%                          | *?                |
| 28                              | E01013992 | Kingsbridge               | 15284                                   |                 | 25%                          | *?                |
| 29                              | E01013989 | Bromyard Rural            | 15466                                   |                 | 25%                          | *B                |
| 30                              | E01014048 | RotherLacey               | 15628                                   |                 |                              | *G                |
| 31                              | E01014005 | Trumpet                   | 15738                                   |                 |                              | *L                |
| 32                              | E01014086 | Frome's Hill              | 15822                                   |                 |                              | *L                |
| 33                              | E01014047 | Ledbury Central           | 16204                                   |                 |                              | *L                |
| 34                              | E01014072 | Treacle Mines             | 16296                                   |                 |                              | *R                |
| 35                              | E01014064 | Greater Docklow           | 16420                                   |                 |                              | *SS               |
| 36                              | E01014073 | Clehonger                 | 16512                                   |                 |                              | *?                |
| 37                              | E01013991 | Knillshall                | 16540                                   |                 |                              | *K                |
| 38                              | E01013986 | Symonds Yat               | 16643                                   |                 |                              | *R                |
| 39                              | E01014085 | Black Mountains           | 16698                                   |                 |                              | *GV               |
| 40                              | E01014099 | Leominster – Barons Cross | 16713                                   |                 |                              | *SS               |







**Map Location Title: Children's Services Improvement Partnerships**



**Children's Centres =** ●



**Scale 1 cm: 3,500 m**

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## REVIEW OF STATUTORY AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

Report By: Director of Children's Services

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

- 1 To consider the principles under which a Foster Care representative and a Children's Social Care Social Worker representative are to serve the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and other arrangements.

### Financial Implications

- 2 None.

### Background

- 3 At the previous meeting of the Committee held on 3rd October, 2005, the Committee considered a report on the Statutory and Co-opted Membership on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. The Committee agreed that the County Secretary and Solicitor request that the Diocesan Authorities reaffirm their nomination prior to Council elections and reaffirmed the Parent Governor membership. The Committee also agreed that to reflect the wider remit of the Committee the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman consider the appropriate sectors, number and term of office of the non-voting co-opted representatives on the Committee and report to a future meeting.
- 4 In accordance with the decision the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have considered the representation in respect of the wider remit of the Committee and the following proposals are put to the Committee for consideration:

### Representing the wider remit of the Committee

- 5 **Foster Care Sector** - The appointment mechanism and terms proposed for the Foster Care sector. The following terms are proposed:
  - That one representative be sought from the Foster Care sector. The Children's Services Directorate holds a register of people in this sector and it is suggested that those registered be invited to seek nomination via the Herefordshire Foster Care Forum.
  - To allow the successful representative time to 'learn the role' it is suggested that they serve for the remainder of the current term (May 2007) and the following 4 years namely to the May 2011 elections. Thereafter the term would run in accordance with the electoral cycle.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Paul James,  
Committee Officer (Scrutiny) on 01432 260460

- Provided they continue to be eligible for the sector they represent any appointed representative may be re-nominated by the Forum.
  - Any casual vacancy to be filled on the basis of completing the remaining term of office excepting that should a vacancy leave a short period of unexpired term then the decision to initiate the appointment process for that vacancy to be decided after consultation with the Chairman.
  - The representative will represent their respective sector. They may however, speak on any matters within the remit of the Committee.
  - The representative will not be a Member of the Committee and will be Non-Voting.
- 6 **Children's Social Care Social worker** – the Chairman, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, has considered the availability of advice from this sector of the Children' Services Directorate. It is proposed that the Director of Children's Services nominate a Children's Social Care Social worker to attend the Committee as an advisor to assist the Committee in deliberations.

### **Principles for the future appointment of Co-opted representatives on this Committee**

- 7 In accordance with the views expressed at the meeting on 3rd October, 2005, the Chairman and Vice Chairman have been giving consideration to the number and term of office of the existing non-voting co-opted representatives on the Committee. They are still giving consideration to the appropriate number of co-opted representatives on the Committee i.e. from the non-statutory Headteacher and Teacher sectors.
- 8 At its meeting in October the Committee were informed that the term of office for the non-voting Co-opted Headteacher representatives was at the discretion of the relevant Headteacher Association. However it was suggested that the County Secretary and Solicitor request that the Associations reconsider or reconfirm their nominations prior to Council elections. It is proposed that this suggestion be agreed.
- 9 In view of the fact that no term of office was set at the time of the appointment of the teacher representatives, it is proposed that their term of office expire on the date of the Council elections in May 2007. Thereafter, the term for any non-voting co-opted representatives be as described for Foster Care namely:
- Provided they represent their sector they may stand for reappointment
  - Term to be concurrent with that of the Council electoral cycle.
  - Any casual vacancy to be filled on the basis of completing the remaining term of office excepting that should a vacancy leave a short period of unexpired term then the decision to initiate the appointment process for that vacancy to be decided after consultation with the Chairman.
  - The representative will not be a Member of the Committee and will be Non-Voting

## RECOMMENDATION

### THAT

- a) the Herefordshire Foster Care Forum be invited to nominate one representative to serve on the Committee under the terms proposed;
- b) one Children's Social Care Social worker be nominated by the Director of Children's Services to act as advisor to the Committee;
- c) the term of office for the non-voting co-opted teacher representatives be set to expire at the May 2007 Council elections and thereafter the term for non-voting co-opted representatives will run concurrent with the Council's Electoral cycle; and
- d) Subject to the Associations confirming their nominations prior to Council elections the term of office for the Headteacher representatives be at the discretion of the appropriate Headteacher Association.

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.



**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME 2006/7****Report By: Chairman, Children's Services Scrutiny  
Committee****Wards Affected**

County-wide

**Purpose**

- 1 To consider a new Committee work programme for 2006/7.

**Financial Implications**

- 2 None

**Background**

- 3 The current Committee Work Programme expires following the March 2006 meeting. It is intended that the Committee meeting on 13th March 2006 will debate issues concerning:
  - The Every Child Matters agenda and the Change for Children Programme alongside the outcome of the Joint Area Review (JAR).
  - Young People's Health e.g. teenage pregnancy, sex education; sexually transmitted diseases.
- 4 The Committee is therefore requested to consider the proposed work programme for the period April 2006 to the end of March 2007. In accordance with the principles outlined in the Scrutiny Improvement Plan of developing a themed approach to issues debated at Committee, the programme at appendix 1 has been prepared following consultation with the Vice-Chairman and Director of Children's Services. Members are reminded that guidance for developing an effective work programme is contained in the Scrutiny Handbook previously issued to Members.
- 5 Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, as Chairman I may consider calling an additional meeting to consider that issue.
- 6 Should Members become aware of any issues they consider may be added to the scrutiny programme they should contact either myself as Chairman or the Vice-Chairman to log the issue so that it may be taken into consideration when planning future agendas or when revising the work programme.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** subject to any comment or issues raised by the Committee the work programme be approved and recommended to Strategic Monitoring Committee.

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.



| <b>June 2006</b>      |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Officer Reports       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The effect of Homelessness, and associated issues, on Young People in Herefordshire.</li> <li>Presentation By Cabinet Member.</li> </ul> |
| Scrutiny Reviews      |   |
| <b>September 2006</b> |   |
| Officer Reports       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress in achieving the outcomes identified in the Area Wide Inspection 14 – 19 Year Olds</li> </ul>                                   |
| Scrutiny Reviews      |   |
| <b>December 2006</b>  |   |
| Officer Reports       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues arising from the Childrens and Young Peoples Plan, Extended Schools and School Transport issues.</li> </ul>                       |
| Scrutiny Reviews      |   |
| <b>March 2007</b>     |   |
| Officer Reports       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current School Issues e.g. School Performance, Healthy Schools, School Meals.</li> </ul>   |
| Scrutiny Reviews      |   |

