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# Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Tuesday, 18th November, 2008**

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Time: **\*\*\* 2.00 p.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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**E-mail: [pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk)**

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**Herefordshire Council**



HEREFORDSHIRE  
COUNCIL



# AGENDA

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

<b>To:</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>SJ Robertson (Chairman)</b>
	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>WU Attfield (Vice-Chairman)</b>
	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>ME Cooper, BA Durkin, P Jones CBE, G Lucas, JE Pemberton, RV Stockton, AM Toon, WJ Walling and JD Woodward</b>
	<b>Church Members</b>	<b>J.D. Griffin (Roman Catholic Church)</b>
	<b>Parent Governor Members</b>	<b>Mr N Parker (Secondary School Parent Governor), Mr R Stevenson (Primary School Governors) and Mr A Wood (Special School Governors)</b>
	<b>Teacher Representatives</b>	<b>Ms K Berry (Connexions)</b>
	<b>Headteacher Representatives</b>	<b>Mr S Pugh (Primary Headteacher Representative) and Mrs D Strutt (Secondary School Headteachers)</b>
	<b>Community Representatives</b>	<b>Ms H Tank (The Alliance)</b>

### Pages

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

#### 2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

To receive details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.

#### GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a

personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is and leave the meeting room.

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| <b>4. MINUTES</b>   | 1 - 6   |
| To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2008.   |         |
| <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. EXTENDED SCHOOLS IN HEREFORDSHIRE</b>   | 7 - 10  |
| To consider the progress towards the implementation of extended services in and around schools within Herefordshire.  |         |
| <b>7. EARLY YEARS IN HEREFORDSHIRE</b>  | 11 - 16 |
| To consider the progress and provide an overview of Early Years with a focus on children's centres, number of childcare settings and funding linked to both of these. Also to outline current objectives.                 |         |
| <b>8. PERFORMANCE DIGEST - APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2008/2009</b>  | 17 - 20 |
| To present the Performance Digest for Children's Service for the half year April to September 2008, and to highlight any issues arising.<br>(Note: copies of the Digest will be issued to Members as a separate document) |         |
| <b>9. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS CHAMPION OR VICE-CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>  | 21 - 24 |
| To consider appointing Councillors on the Committee as Champion or Vice-Champion for Children's Services Scrutiny Committee based on the five areas of Every Child Matters.   |         |
| <b>10. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</b>   | 25 - 28 |
| To consider the Committee work programme.   |         |

## **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**

You can contact Councillors and Officers at any time about Scrutiny Committee matters and issues which you would like the Scrutiny Committees to investigate.

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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- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
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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.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage).
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.



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**COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday, 29th September, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>SJ Robertson (Chairman)</b>
	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>WU Attfield (Vice Chairman)</b>
	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>ME Cooper, BA Durkin, P Jones CBE, G Lucas, JE Pemberton, RV Stockton, AM Toon, WJ Walling and JD Woodward</b>
	<b>Church Members</b>	<b>J.D. Griffin (Roman Catholic Church)</b>
	<b>Parent Governor Members</b>	<b>Mr A Wood (Special School Governors)</b>
	<b>Headteacher Representatives</b>	<b>Mrs D Strutt (Secondary School Headteachers)</b>
	<b>Community Representatives</b>	<b>Ms H Tank</b>

**Councillors In attendance:** Councillors: WLS Bowen, PJ Edwards, TM James, MD Lloyd-Hayes, RI Matthews, PD Price (Cabinet Member ICT, Education and Achievement) and PJ Watts

**Also in attendance** Mr Jon Argent & Mr S Rolfe– Halo Leisure  
 Mr Bradley – Dolphin Swimming Club  
 Mr C Kerfoot – Triathlon Club  
 Mr M Puddy – City of Herefords Swimming Club  
 Mr J Moynihan – Headteacher Credenhill Primary School  
 Mrs JS Powell – Chair of Herefordshire Schools Forum  
 Mr Sascha Kindred and Miss Nyree Lewis – Swimming medal winners at the 2008 Paralympics.

**16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Ms K Berry; Mr N Parker; Mr RI Stevenson.

**17. NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

There were no named substitutes.

**18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were made in relation to Item 6 - Swimming Provision in Hereford City and Surrounding Area:

Councillor SJ Robertson	Personal - Primary School Governor.
Councillor W U Attfield	Personal - High School Governor.
Councillor R V Stockton	Personal - Council representative on HALO

	Board.
Councillor JD Woodward	Personal - Primary School Governor.
Mr A Wood	Personal – Primary School Governor.

**19. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2008, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

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

No suggestions were made by Members of the Public.

A Councillor in attendance suggested that Special Educational Need (SEN) and Banded Funding should be considered for closer scrutiny.

**21. CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION ON SWIMMING PROVISION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN HEREFORD CITY**

The Committee considered the Cabinet Decision to approve the decision not to reopen the St Martin's Swimming Pool (the LEA Pool), to evaluate the use of other pools for school swimming, particularly the Hereford Leisure Pool, and to report back by Easter 2009 with proposals for the future use of pools, which had been called in by three Members of the Committee.

The agenda report detailed the stated reasons for the call-in. Appended to the report was the decision notice of Cabinet setting out the decision and the report to Cabinet on 31 July 2008 on which that decision had been based. Also attached to the report at appendix 3 was an extract from the minutes of Cabinet and appendix 4 was a response to the questions raised by the call-in. Members received at the meeting copies of financial and usage statistics submitted by Councillor AT Oliver.

In the course of discussion the following principal points were noted:

- In response to various questions concerning why the pool had needed to close and the levels of maintenance, the Property Services Manager reported that the pool had been closed on Health and Safety grounds, principally due to the failure of the heating system and lack of emergency lighting. The maintenance of the LEA Pool had to be seen in the context of a £17m backlog of Council-wide maintenance. The £72,500 estimated capital investment required to enable the pool to reopen had been based on professional estimates rather than on competitive quotations.
- Responding to whether the Section 106 funding from the Bradbury Lines, Hereford, development had been allocated to the LEA pool, as specifically suggested at Central Area Planning Sub-Committee, the Committee were referred to paragraph 12 of the Cabinet report. The Director of Children's Services commented that 106 funding was to be invested in education for locality and amenity purposes.
- Concern was expressed over the capacity of the HALO Pool to accommodate the number of people wishing to swim, particularly in relation to future government proposals to introduce free swimming for the over 60s and under 16s. In this context the Councils 'duty of care' towards the child under 'Every Child Matters' was also raised. Further concern was raised regarding the

potential for complaints that the paying public were unable to make use of the whole of the main pool. In response Mr Argent, Chief Executive, HALO Leisure, commented that HALO was part of the solution and not the problem in that they had reorganised the swimming programmes at the HALO pool at short notice to accommodate the schools. While there may be some minor disruption between 9am – 3pm during term times, mixed use by schools and public already occurred satisfactorily at other pools in the County and at the Hereford Leisure pool.

- Responding to questions over the use of the leisure pool for teaching Mr Argent acknowledged that while the floor of the leisure pool sloped to a beach, he was confident this was acceptable for teaching on the clear understanding that the wave machine was not used.
- The Committee acknowledged the financial and usage statistics submitted by Councillor AT Oliver. The Head of Performance, Planning and Development reported that many of the figures had been supplied by officers and were therefore known to them; however, in accordance with the decision of Cabinet, further financial and statistical work would be undertaken and would include the wider context of pool use throughout the County and this would inform the report to Cabinet at Easter 2009.
- Comment was made that public perception was that the decision to finally close the LEA Pool had already been made.
- Doubt was expressed whether the identified maintenance of the of the LEA Pool had been included in the Council's Capital Investment Plan. It was suggested that a robust feasibility / financial business case needed to be formulated.
- While claims of universal opposition to the closure by some school heads and public had been made, the Committee recognised that there was a wide range of opinion on the issue, including to the contra, which may be less vocal.
- It was suggested that the sums involved to re-open the pool were insignificant when compared to other projects e.g. the Masters House, Ledbury, the Council's overall budget and financial reserves. It was further suggested that the facility should receive annual levels of subsidy, as in the case of school transport.
- The Chairman of the Herefordshire Schools Forum reported that the Forum had considered the centrally retained element of funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant and, while sympathetic to the cause, were unable to offer further support due to the low level of central government funding to education in the County.
- Questioned on the current status of the pool the Property Services Manager reported that in effect it was decommissioned but could be re-commissioned, in that the water had been drained to avoid legionella. Responding to why the sand filters needed replacing, as listed in the £72,500 of initial investment, he reported that once the sand had dried out it had to be replaced for it to work.
- Asked why the building needed emergency lighting now rather than earlier the Director of Children's Services commented that the building had not been built to current day Health and Safety standards. The Council had a rolling programme to update and replace such equipment and this was undertaken in accordance with the priority to comply with fire risk assessments.
- Responding to questions concerning whether efforts had been made to balance the running costs of the pool the Committees attention was drawn to appendix 4 and the response to question C. The Committee were also informed that Council properties were inspected every 5 years in accordance with the Asset Management policy.
- Questioned on the position concerning the management agreement of the

LEA pool with HALO, the Committee were informed that this was still in place. Mr Argent informed the Committee that HALO had reviewed the additional user groups in accordance with the agreement to increase the use of the pool by all sections of the community.

- Questioned whether external funding was available e.g. from the Amateur Swimming Association, the Committee were informed that, so far as the Council was aware, no external funding was available for the necessary work.
- While the swimming pool assessment in 2003 had indicated there was an over provision of pool space in the County, it was suggested that with 20,000 new homes expected to be built in the coming years, the number of visiting migrant workers, and the possibility to capitalise on the new enthusiasm for swimming following the Olympics, greater use of the swimming pools should be anticipated
- A Committee member questioned if the £72,500 of works were undertaken then which budget in particular would it be financed from, and hoped that the school budgets would not be effected. An alternative comment was made that not all the finance need come from the Council as in the case of public fundraising for the replacement of the Sydonia swimming pool, Leominster.
- Mr Moynihan, Headteacher, Credenhill Primary School, commented that to the best of his knowledge the majority of the schools effected were using the HALO pool, however, 5 had not made alternative arrangements. There was a strong desire for the pool to be reopened and if that were the case then many, if not all, would return there.
- It was commented that no revenue was being generated by having the pool closed.

During the course of the meeting the Chairman invited the following to address the meeting: Mr Bradley, Dolphins Swimming Club; Mr C Kerfoot, Hereford Triathlon Club; Mr M Puddy, City of Herefords Swimming Club, and Mr Sascha Kindred, Paralympic swimming medal winner. While supporting the retention of the LEA pool, the principal points made centred on the need to provide adequate pool time for training (18-20 hours per week); that greater use of the pool could have been made by clubs had they known that sessions were available and how the expected increase in swimming (over 60s and under 16s) was to be supported.

The Cabinet Member (ICT, Education & Achievement) commented that both the LEA and HALO pools had a natural life span and unfortunately the LEA pool was now beyond its designed life expectancy. The future of the pool was an emotive issue and while he would have liked to have kept the pool open, decisions had to be taken and capital expenditure had to be prioritised. In addition there was the longer term issue regarding balancing the pools revenue accounts. He had requested at Cabinet that the options of divorcing the pool from the Education system or the transfer of the property under Community Asset Transfer (CAT) be looked at. Cabinet had agreed that a report be brought back by Easter 2009 at the latest and if, as part of that report, there was an evidence based business case to keep the pool open then it would be considered, if not then it should close.

**RESOLVED: That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that:**

- a) the Council invests £72,500 to enable the pool to reopen as soon as possible;**
- b) there should be no additional costs to schools;**
- c) the existing charge to schools be maintained; and**

**d) a thorough feasibility/business case for the next 2 years (to include LEA pool, HALO and users/voluntary sector) be formulated on the future of the pool in the context of the whole of Herefordshire swimming provision.**

(Councillor RV Stockton requested that his abstention be recorded)

At the conclusion of the meeting a petition organised by Sarah Carr (Liberal Democrats), Hereford House, 20 East Street, Hereford, was handed to the Cabinet Member (ICT, Education & Achievement) and in summary those documents were:

- A 118 signature petition headed "Petition to reopen the LEA Swimming Pool – I/We the undersigned call upon Roger Phillips and Herefordshire Council to listen to local parents and reopen the LEA Pool. Life-saving skills, not money saving cuts."
- 99 individual leaflets, containing a total of 144 names/signatories, each saying, "I/We the undersigned call upon Roger Phillips and Herefordshire Council to listen to local parents and reopen the LEA Pool. Life-saving skills, not money saving cuts."

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**





## **EXTENDED SCHOOLS IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

**Report By: Early Years and Extended Services Manager**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To consider the progress towards the implementation of extended services in and around schools within Herefordshire

### **Financial Implications**

2. Capital funding for Extended Services within the General SureStart Grant is available until 2011 and is one of three interlocking strands along with funding for Children's Centres and the creation of childcare places. It will be important to focus on synergies with Children's Centres and childcare developments to add value in relation to delivery of the 'core offer' for Extended Schools. Revenue funding is available for the same period and is devolved to school cluster groups via the high schools. Guidance is given via DCSF on spend and high school bursers collate and audit data.
3. Grant funding for 09-10 onwards has yet to be announced by Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Funding for 08/09 is as follows

Revenue – 2008/09 - £349,011 General Sure Start Grant

Capital - 2008/09 - £303,368

### **Background**

4. The Children Act 2004 requires Local Authorities and their relevant partners to cooperate to improve children's wellbeing and to ensure support for the five outcomes:
  - To be healthy
  - To stay safe
  - To enjoy and achieve
  - To make a positive contribution
  - To achieve economic wellbeing
5. The core principles and strategy which are key to establishing extended services closely align to a raft of parallel activity which includes:

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Ros Hatherill 01432 261681

- the development of Children's Centres
  - the Herefordshire Early Years Action Plan
  - the proposed Children's Trust
  - the Youth Matters agenda and the formal Youth Offer.
6. All are charged with bringing coherence and delivering greater quality assurance to service provision. All promote the active involvement of children, young people, parents and carers in shaping services strategically and operationally. Schools at the heart of their communities are well placed to promote multi-agency working to improve outcomes for children.
7. Extended Schools and Children's Centres will help facilitate Herefordshire's delivery of the Every Child Matters Agenda improving outcomes for all children.
8. The intention is to:
- Bring together services for children from conception onwards at neighbourhood level
  - Provide support to parents and carers
  - Enable all families to have access to the services of a centre by 2010
  - A centre in every community but with services delivered as locally as possible
  - Respond to local needs by building on existing services
9. The DCSF recognises that whilst there is no blueprint for how services are to be organised there is a **CORE OFFER**, which schools and partners will need to work towards. By 2010 every primary and secondary school will be expected to offer access to:
- high quality **childcare** provided on the school site or through clusters or other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements, available 8.00am-6.00pm all year round where appropriate
  - a varied **menu of activities** to be on offer, such as homework clubs and study support, sport (at least two hours a week beyond the school day for those who want it), music tuition, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs such as chess and first aid courses, visits to libraries, museums and galleries, learning a foreign language, volunteering, business and enterprise activities
  - **parenting support** including information sessions for parents and carers at key transition points, parenting programmes run with the support of other children's services and family learning sessions to allow children and young people to learn with their parents
  - **swift, easy and effective referral** to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, family support services, intensive behaviour support, and (for young people) sexual health services. Some may be delivered on school sites. This will need to link into the CAF arrangements

- providing wider **community access** to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning.
10. In Herefordshire we are working with all schools as partners to deliver this agenda. Whilst the partnership of schools is likely to be used to define a cluster, other networks may be appropriate in order to recognise local factors, for example a smaller group of schools serving a discreet satellite community. This model also offers the kind of flexibility required to respond to the needs of the community, where services are shared rather than duplicated. This approach could be used to improve access to transport and accommodation and provides opportunities for pooling budgets and sharing resources, including personnel. The LA, with support from partner agencies, will work with schools in locality partnerships assisting them to meet together with local service providers, community representatives and voluntary agencies as appropriate. There are 7 patch-based Integrated Children's Services Development Co-ordinators who can help with this and partnerships of schools are encouraged to appoint Extended Schools Co-ordinators locally.
  11. Under the new Ofsted inspection framework introduced in September 2005, the effectiveness of extended schools services and educational and support programmes for parents, families and members of the community will be evaluated and reported on by Ofsted.
  12. Schools must evidence the extent to which they understand local needs and opinions, and are able to capitalise on this understanding to improve what they provide, both for their own pupils and the community as a whole.
  13. By Sept 2008 the DCSF expected 50% of Primary schools and 33% of High Schools to be delivering the Full Core Offer. Herefordshire Council achieved this target:
  14. **SEPT 2008 status of delivery of extended schools full core offer.**

TYPE AND NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PERCENTAGE DELIVERING	ACTUAL NUMBER DELIVERING
<b>Primary / special</b> 81 + 4 = 85	64%	63
<b>Secondary / High Schools</b> 14	100%	14

15. Against individual areas of the Core Offer Herefordshire's progress exceeds the regional figures and offers an encouraging picture for development over the coming 2 years.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Scrutiny Committee note the progress made within Herefordshire towards the full core offer of extended services in and around schools by Sept 2010.**

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Extended Schools Strategy
- Financial breakdown on monies available through Extended Schools to LA and schools 2008-2010.
- Current TDA (Training Development Agency) Matrix of Extended Schools Cluster Report.

## EARLY YEARS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

**Report By: Early Years and Extended Services Manager**

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To consider the progress and provide an overview of Early Years with a focus on children's centres, number of childcare settings and funding linked to both of these. Also to outline current objectives.

### Financial Implications

2. Herefordshire Council receives a SureStart Early Years and Childcare Grant Revenue 08/09 The Council receives capital and revenue grant for Early Years activity. It also receives other funding for revenue activity as follows that totals to **£7,353,180**.

Annual budget : Children's Centres	£2,235,025
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Sufficiency and Access, Outcomes, quality and inclusion

Extended services&short breaks (AHDC)	£1,461,765
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(Aiming High for Disabled Children)

#### Additional revenue money from (Dedicated Schools Grant)DSG supports

Childcare training, Quality Assurance,

Discretionary Grant U4's and other areas	£ 459,390
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<u>Nursery Education Funding (NEF) 08/09</u>	£2,898,000
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#### Projects

ISPP (Information Support for Parents and Providers)	£ 11,000
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Big Lottery Play Projects from 2007 to 2010	£ 288,000
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<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£7,353,180</u></b>
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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Ros Hatherill 01432 261681

Capital funding of £3,318,213 is from the following sources:

Herefordshire Council receives the following **Capital Grant**

in support of Early Years

Extended Schools 08/09 10/11	£ 303,368
Access, Quality and Inclusion 08/11 (3 years funding)	£ 1,998,291
Childrens Centres 08/11	£ 943,055
Big Lottery Capital	£ 50,000
ISPP	£ 23,499
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£ 3,318,213</u></b>

## Background

- 3 All Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) funding should support the delivery of the Government's Ten Year Strategy for Childcare, Choice for parents: the best start for children and in the case of extended schools, development by all schools of a core set of services as set out in the Extended Schools Prospectus. The strategy sets out the Government's vision to ensure that every child gets the best possible start in life and to give parents more choice about how to balance work and family life.
- 4 The ten year childcare strategy action plan (Choice for parents, the best start for children: making it happen) was published April 2006. The plan recaps the principles of the strategy and sets it in the context of the Every Child Matters agenda. It highlights achievements, challenges and who needs to do what by when. The action plan is accessible on the Sure Start website. <http://www.surestart.gov.uk/publications/?Document=1684>
- 5 The funding will also contribute to the delivery of some of the goals in the Children's Plan: Building brighter futures.
- 6 Funding also supports the duties set out in the Childcare Act 2006. The new duties in the Act confirm local authorities' key role as strategic leaders for childcare and children's services. Local authorities and their partners in health services and Job Centre Plus are required to:
  - Improve Outcomes and narrow gaps at age five through the provision of integrated early years services.
  - Ensure there is sufficient childcare available for parents who want to work and train including an expanded and, where possible, more flexible free offer for three and four year olds.
  - Provide comprehensive information to parents.

Key priorities and challenges which Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) will support in 2008-09 include:

- Following the completion of a childcare sufficiency assessment for Herefordshire. Filling the gaps between demand and supply identified in a childcare sufficiency assessment to secure sufficient childcare for working parents of children up to the age of 14 (18 for disabled children) The new duty which came into force April 2008 applies to all working parents, and parents preparing for work. Particular attention will need to be paid to the needs of lower income parents and those who have disabled children.
- Delivering at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, a real terms reduction in the achievement gap between the lowest achieving children and the rest. This needs to be addressed within the context of securing better results for all 5 year olds.
- Focusing more sharply on raising standards and embedding a culture of continuous quality improvement across early years. The accomplishment of this together with the narrowing of the achievement gap will be supported by:
  - better use of data to monitor progress and identify where to target resources
  - strengthening alignment between the early years and school improvement functions within the authority
  - more effective use of self-evaluation tools by settings
  - securing greater graduate leadership of practise within Private, Voluntary and Independent ( PVI) settings.
- Reviewing plans for delivering a children's centre in every community by 2010 to ensure that these achieve value for money and a fair distribution of resources to support services for all children while concentrating the greatest level of resource to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged families.
- Making adequate preparation for the transformation of disabled children's short break services.

**What does this mean for Herefordshire to date:**

**Key Features: The Government requires Herefordshire to deliver the following:**

**Phase 1 (2004-2006) 3 Children's Centres :**

Greencroft - South Wye	All completed, capital builds and refurbishments and designated as delivering services.
Conningsby- Leominster	
Springfield - South Wye	

Phase 2 (2006-2008) a further 6 children's centres (9 in total),

HOPE_ Bromyard Kington, Ledbury, Ryefield-Ross On Wye Widemarsh Golden Valley.	All first 4 completed, capital builds and refurbishments and designated as delivering services.  Widemarsh designated and delivering services, capital build still to complete  Golden Valley designated and delivering services, capital build still to complete.
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Phase 3 (2008 – 2010) a further 3 childrens centres ( 12 in total)

Holly Bush,(South Wye)	Refurishment and re-alignment of services
NorthHerefordshire,Leintwardine / Wigmore	To be identified – some services being delivered
second centre North Hereford City TBC.	To be identified

Capital grant in support of Extended Schools – creating additional purpose activity space.

Support development of Childcare settings:

Current provision in Herefordshire

<b>Setting</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
PVI Early Years Settings	104
Childminders	143
LA Nurseries	13.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>260</b>

Early years Funding Reform – Nursery Education Funding, statutory requirement that by 2010 the LA has a fair and equitable funding strategy that encompasses, the Private, Voluntary, Independent sectors, together with the LA nursery provision.

Strategic support for the development of AHDC – Aiming High for Disabled Children and Short Breaks.



Strategic delivery of Capital programme in support of Early Years, access, inclusion and Flexibility.

Action planning and review of Sufficiency of Childcare.

Play Pathfinders and Playbuilder status

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Scrutiny Committee note the general overview information made available with reference to Early Years.**

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- <http://www.surestart.gov.uk/publications/?Document=1684>
- <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pulications/childrensplan>



**PERFORMANCE DIGEST – APRIL-SEPTEMBER  
2008/2009****Report By: Director of Children's Services****Wards Affected**

County-wide

**Purpose**

1. To present the Performance Digest for Children's Service for the half year April to September 2008, and to highlight any issues arising.

**Financial Implications**

2. Remedial action in respect of the directorate's performance may require reallocation of resources within existing budgets.

**Background**

3. The Performance Digest is produced quarterly and is the mechanism for monitoring key performance indicators, both for the Children and Young People's Directorate and the wider Children's Trust.

**Considerations**

4. The Performance Digest for the period to the end of September 2008 is attached to this agenda, for Members' consideration. It is set out under the five outcomes of *Every Child Matters*, and service management, and includes a headline page for each outcome. A new National Indicator Set has been introduced for 2008/2009 which will eventually replace all existing Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) indicators and Best Value Performance Indicators.
5. In summary, key areas in each of the outcome areas, to which the Committee's attention should be drawn, are set out below:

**Be Healthy**

The percentage of children being breastfed at 6-8 weeks (NI 53) has remained constant for the first two quarters of 2008/2009 at around 50%. Many of the indicators in this outcome area rely on survey information – either from the nationally administered Tellus3 survey of children and young people or the local survey of children and young people. The results of the national Tellus3 survey have now been received but there was such a low response rate that a degree of caution will need to be exercised in interpreting the results. The number of Chlamydia screens being undertaken to meet the national target remains a concern although it is an issue nationally. However, the prevalence of Chlamydia in young people (NI 113) at 6.6% is below the national rate of 10%.

**Staying Safe**

In relation to the percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral (NI 59), performance was on an upward trajectory for the first quarter of the year, against of a backdrop of continuing recruitment and retention difficulties. During the second quarter, there were a number of unforeseeable staffing difficulties within the Referral and Assessment Team which has impacted significantly on performance, giving a quarter end figure of 50.6%. This is being proactively and robustly managed and performance is expected to improve in Quarter 3. The percentage of core assessments that were carried out within 35 working days of commencement (NI 60) continues to increase, improving by 7 percentage points in Quarter 2 to 74%. This is on track to meet the year end target of 75%. Performance in relation to looked after children including placement stability, case reviews and allocations to social workers, remains strong. Although the number of referrals per 10,000 population (KIGS CH141) has stabilised at around 250, the percentage of repeat referrals (KIGS CH142) has risen to 24.2%. An audit is being undertaken to identify the reasons for the rising figure.

### **Enjoy and Achieve**

Unvalidated results for Key Stage examinations are available but are still subject to change, prior to final figures being released in January 2009. Herefordshire's GCSE results are the best in the West Midlands. 69.4% of pupils achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs, a rise of 7.4% on 2007 and 3.7% above the national average. Those achieving 5 or more grade A\*-Cs including English and Maths has risen by nearly 2% to 52.5%. Overall, boys' performance in Herefordshire has gone up by 7.1%. Key Stage 1 remains a key area of focus with results down again in 2008, as does achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Targeted work over the last two years is expected to deliver improvements for Key Stage 1 results in 2009. Achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage has been impacted by the high number of 'summer-born' children, an increase in the number of children with additional needs and those with English as an additional language. The targets for primary and secondary school absence (HCS 33 and 34) for the academic year 2007/2008 were not achieved although performance remained in line with the previous year's outturn at 5.19% and 7.4% respectively. Performance in relation to the percentage of statements of special educational needs prepared and issued within 18 weeks (BV 43a and b) remains strong at 100%.

### **Make a Positive Contribution**

Work with young people through the Youth Service to gain recorded and accredited outcomes (BV 221a and b) remains on track to achieve national targets although performance dipped slightly during the summer. The percentage of young people in care communicating their views in reviews (PAF CF/63) remains strong. However, work is underway to improve the quality assurance and feedback mechanisms for young people in relation to their reviews.

### **Achieve Economic Wellbeing**

The percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NI 117) rose as at the end of Quarter 2 but this is expected as it includes all those young people leaving school and college at the end of the academic year. A more accurate picture will be available at the end of Quarter 3 when it is anticipated that the majority of these young people will have secured either further education, employment or training.

### **Service Management**

The cost of services for looked after children (PAF CF/B8) has risen in the first half of the year as a result of an increase in the number of children and young people requiring placements to meet their specialist and/or complex needs, although the number of children and young people in care has fallen overall. The recruitment and retention of social workers remains a priority for the Council and is on track to have 55 full time

equivalent social workers in post by March 2009, just under the target of 57 set after the 2005 Joint Area Review.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Committee assess the levels of performance achieved for the first half of 2008/2009 and consider if further reports and/or action is judged to be necessary.**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified



## **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS CHAMPION OR VICE-CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic**

### **Wards Affected**

None

### **Purpose**

1. To consider appointing Councillors on the Committee as Champion or Vice-Champion for Children' Services Scrutiny Committee based on the five areas of Every Child Matters.

### **Financial Implications**

2. None directly as a result of this report, however, Members attendance at meetings may incur additional expenditure from the Members Allowance budget.

### **Background**

3. At its meeting on 7th July 2008, the Chairman proposed that, in the interests of furthering the Committee Members knowledge and appreciation of the varied issues within the Directorate, the Committee consider appointing each of the Councillors on the Committee as either a Champion or Vice-Champion for one of each of the five outcome areas for the Every Child Matters agenda (Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Well-being).
4. Champions and Vice-Champions would be encouraged to take a more proactive role in the Committee's work by shadowing and observing appropriate meetings to enable them to hear first hand some of the issues that had to be addressed. The Chairman also proposed that the involvement of the Champions would be governed by terms of reference.
5. The Committee agreed with the proposal and the Chairman subsequently raised the subject at Strategic Monitoring Committee on 10 September 2008 when the proposal was accepted.
6. Following discussion between the Chairman and the Director of Children's Services the attached draft Terms of Reference, set out at Appendix 1, have been compiled for consideration and approval.
7. Councillors are requested to identify their preferred ECM area of interest so that roles can be considered by the Chairman.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Paul James,  
Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260460.

## RECOMMENDATION

- THAT a) the Committee agree the Terms of Reference, set out at Appendix 1, for the appointment of Children's Services Scrutiny Champions and Vice-Champions
- b) Members express their preferred areas of interest to the Chairman in order that roles can be allocated

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Paul James,  
Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260460.



## **DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **CHAMPION MEMBERS OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1. That the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee appoint a Champion and Vice-Champion Councillor from the Committee to take a more pro-active focus in the Committee's work on one of each of the five outcome areas of Every Child Matters namely:
  - Be Healthy,
  - Stay Safe,
  - Enjoy and Achieve,
  - Make a Positive Contribution
  - Achieve Economic Well-Being).
2. Champion Members and Vice-Champion Members will be encouraged to shadow and observe appropriate meetings to enable them to hear first hand some of the issues that those practitioners, Children and Young People Directorate officers and indeed users of our services have to address.
3. Attendance at meetings will be by invitation only by the relevant Head of Service of the Children and Young People's Directorate.
4. Attendance at meetings will be no more than twice per school term during an academic year.
5. Members will be introduced to the group and given clarity over any acronym or professional jargon as requested but are there to observe and hear about the issues rather than use the meeting for a scrutinising interview.
6. Officers will ensure that should Members require casual clothing or outdoor gear to visit young people or a facility that Members will be notified well in advance.
7. Members are politely reminded of the need to safeguard children and young people's personal information and emotional well being particularly where these may be looked after children or children who are vulnerable. Members are therefore reminded of the Council's Constitution in this respect.
8. The Chairman, or in their absence the Vice-Chairman, be authorised to make any necessary administrative changes to the appointments.



**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME****Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic****Wards Affected**

County-wide

**Purpose**

- 1 To consider the Committee work programme.

**Financial Implications**

- 2 None

**Background**

- 3 In accordance with the Scrutiny Improvement Plan a report on the Committee's current Work Programme will be made to each of the scheduled quarterly meetings of this Scrutiny Committee. A copy of the suggested Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4 The programme may be modified by the Chairman following consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Director of Children's Services in response to changing circumstances.
- 5 Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, the Chairman 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 the Director of Children's Services or the Democratic Services Officer to log the issue so that it may be taken in to consideration when planning future agendas or when revising the work programme.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.



**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme 2008/09 for consideration at 18 November 2008**

<b>8 Dec 2008</b>	
Officer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School transport including reference to the Yellow Bus scheme.</li> <li>• Statemented and banded funding.</li> <li>• Domestic Violence.</li> <li>• Capital Budget Monitoring.</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme.</li> </ul>
Scrutiny Reviews	
<b>30 March 2009</b>	
Officer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Budget Monitoring.</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Performance Digest</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme.</li> </ul>
Scrutiny Reviews	

Possible future items on:

- The 14 – 19 Strategy
- Foundation and Academy Schools
- Governance arrangements for the Children's Trust and partnerships.
- Delivery plans to be submitted to Committee for the Children and Young People Plan.

In consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the Director of Children's Services is working up a programme of open seminars for Committee Members based on defined themes.

