

AGENDA

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Friday 11 December 2009**

Time: **10.00 am**

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

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

For any further information please contact:

Paul James, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01432 260460

Email: pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk

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

Membership

Chairman	Councillor WLS Bowen	
Vice-Chairman	Councillor ME Cooper	
	Councillor WU Attfield	
	Councillor BA Durkin	
	Councillor P Jones CBE	
	Councillor G Lucas	
	Councillor JE Pemberton	
	Councillor SJ Robertson	
	Councillor RV Stockton	
	Councillor AM Toon	
	Councillor WJ Walling	
	Mr PF Burbidge	Roman Catholic Church
	Mr T Leach	Church of England
	Mr N Parker	Secondary School Parent Governor
	Mr T Plumer	Primary School Parent Governors
Non Voting	Ms K Berry	Connexions
	Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins	Secondary School Headteachers
	Mrs OR Evans	Special School Headteachers
	Mr M Harrisson	Teacher Representative
	Mr C Mutton	Primary School Headteachers
	Ms H Tank	The Alliance

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. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

AGENDA

		Pages
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
2.	<p>NAMED SUBSTITUTES</p> <p>To receive details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.</p>	
3.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.</p>	
4.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2009.</p>	1 - 6
5.	<p>SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY</p> <p>To consider suggestions from members of the public on issues the Committee could scrutinise in the future.</p>	
6.	<p>SAFGUARDING AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN SEMINAR TO MEMBERS 9 NOVEMBER 2009</p> <p>To note a summary of the Member's seminar on 9 November 2009 concerning Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children and consider issues arising.</p>	7 - 12
7.	<p>INTRODUCTION AND IMPLICATIONS OF NURSERY EDUCATION FUNDING (NEF) AND SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA</p> <p>To note the background information on the scheme for Free Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds – also known as Nursery Education Fund (NEF) together with an update on recent, local and national developments.</p>	13 - 36
8.	<p>HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOL TASK GROUP CONSULTATION - UPDATE</p> <p>To receive an update on the Herefordshire Schools Task Group Consultation following consideration by Cabinet on 26 November, 2009.</p>	37 - 44
9.	<p>CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2009/10</p> <p>To scrutinise the capital budget position for 2009/10 for the Children & Young People's Directorate.</p>	45 - 52
10.	<p>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10</p> <p>To report on the monitoring of the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10 at the end of quarter two. To provide comparisons to 2008/09 budget and outturn so that Scrutiny Committee can assess and comment upon the budget management of Children's Services.</p>	53 - 64
11.	<p>PERFORMANCE DIGEST - QUARTER 2 2009/2010</p> <p>To present the Performance Digest for Children's Services for the second quarter of 2009/2010 (April – September 2009) and to highlight key performance issues.</p>	65 - 68

12. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

To consider the Committee's 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

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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.

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(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 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.
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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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HEREFORDSHIRE 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 28 September 2009 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor WLS Bowen (Chairman)
Councillor ME Cooper (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: BA Durkin, Brig P Jones CBE, MD Lloyd-Hayes, G Lucas, JE Pemberton, SJ Robertson, RV Stockton, AM Toon, WJ Walling,

Co-opted Members: Mr PF Burbidge, Mr M Harrisson and Ms H Tank

In attendance: Councillors PJ Edwards, JA Hyde (Cabinet Member Children's Services), TM James, AT Oliver, PD Price (Cabinet Member ICT Education and Achievement) and J Stone.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor WU Atfield; Mr T Leach; Mr N Parker; Mr T Plumer; Mr A Wood; Ms K Berry; Mrs OR Evans; Mr C Mutton and Mrs D Strutt.

The Committee noted that Mr Wood had resigned from the Committee on personal grounds and that following a change in the Chairmanship of HASH, Mrs Strutt would be replaced on the Committee by Mrs Catlow-Hawkins.

17. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes substituted for Councillor WU Atfield.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Name	Interest	Reason
Councillor WLS Bowen	Personal	Governor – Kingsland CE Primary and Luston Primary schools.
Councillor M Cooper	Personal	Governor - John Masefield High School
Councillor B Durkin	Personal	Governor - Kings Caple Primary School
Councillor Bri P Jones CBE	Personal	Governor – The Minster, Leominster
Councillor G Lucas	Personal	Governor – Brampton Abbots CE Primary School
Councillor JE Pemberton	Personal	Governor – Hampton Dene Primary School
Councillor SJ Robertson	Personal	Governor - Burghill Community Primary School
Councillor RV Stockton	Personal	Governor - Colwall CE Primary School
Councillor AM Toon	Personal	Governor - Whitecross High School and Trinity Primary School.
Mr PF Burbidge	Personal	Governor – St Mary's RC High School

19. MINUTES

In the resolution for Minute 4 the word clarifying be substituted by clarification and in the second paragraph of Minute 7 reference to Career Policy be changed to read Care Policy.

RESOLVED: That subject to the above amendments the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2009 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 for scrutiny were made.

21. SCHOOL TASK GROUP PAPER

The Committee were invited to note and comment on the progress made by the Schools Task Group (STG) and the proposals for the consultation process for the STG paper.

The Director of Children's Services reported that the Schools Task Group, lead by an independent chair, had met with the purpose of drafting a paper outlining the next steps in the planning of educational provision in the County. The STG paper had been reported to Cabinet on 24 September and copies of the STG paper had been issued to Committee members prior to the meeting. Cabinet on 24 September approved the process and timescale for consultation on Schools Task Group paper, noted the process followed and progress made by the Schools Task Group in preparing the paper for consultation; and agreed that a further report be presented to Cabinet in November 2009.

The Director further reported that in a relatively short time period the STG had considered the major challenges facing the County being: the priority to continually improve the quality of educational outcomes; the impacts of falling rolls, surplus capacity and parental preference; financial realities and changes in school workforce.

The Cabinet Member (ICT Education and Achievement) commented that this was not just about closing schools but working to engage the public in the challenges that schools must face. The Cabinet Member (Children's Services) commented that representation concerning the low funding to Herefordshire would continue to be made at the f40 Group which represented a group of the poorest funded education authorities in England. On this point the Director agreed that while greater financial equality with other authorities should be sought, the County still needed to tackle the problem of falling pupil numbers.

Having attended a recent seminar for Council Members on the content of the consultation paper, a member complemented the Task Group on their work and the consultation paper produced. Other members agreed that the issue needed to be tackled in a realistic manor.

Questioned on whether account would be taken of the new homes proposed for Herefordshire the Committee were informed that regular meetings were held with colleagues in the Planning Service to ensure that the latest position could be included in considerations.

A point was made that accurate estimates of future pupil numbers was essential as once a school had been closed or mothballed it would be very difficult to reopen. The Director of Children's Services reported that the current indications were that for the foreseeable future pupil numbers were unlikely to return to the high levels of recent years.

The Committee noted that an increasing number of schools were experiencing financial problems and were receiving support, which was to the detriment of other schools. The current intention to continue the Small Schools Policy was noted.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

- (a) agreed with the process and timescale for consultation on the Schools Task Group paper;**
- (b) agreed with the process followed and progress made by the Schools Task Group in preparing the paper for consultation;**
- (c) be kept informed of progress.**

22. 14-19: MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT, : CHANGES TO CONNEXIONS, LSC TRANSFER

The Committee received an update on the current position relating to: Machinery of Government changes / Learning & Skills Council (LSC) transfer and Connexions transfer.

The Director of Children's Services and the Assistant Director Improvement and Inclusion highlighted the key issues contained in the agenda report and supplementary papers, previously issued to members.

The Committee noted that the changes had been initiated by government and locally officers were working with both services concerned to ensure a smooth change over and that the resultant service reflected local need.

Questioned on whether the authority would regain control over the 6th form and colleges the Committee were informed that the authority would have the potential to influence the commissioning of provision; would be helping young people with career choices and would be seeking to re-engage with students that may have dropped out of further education or training.

The Committee noted the current legal issues concerning the intended transfer of the Connexions office in Hereford and requested to be kept informed. The Assistant Director Improvement and Inclusion reported that should the transfer not take place a fall back position was being explored.

A Member criticised the fact that in the Connexions Consultation Summary document, issued as a supplement to the agenda, the Summary Feedback from Young People appeared to have been buried at the back of the document and thought the intention of the consultation should have been more forward facing

The agenda report touched on the need to ensure that young people experienced a smooth hand over of service and the need to improve the level of data and performance management which the Committee concurred with and sought assurances that urgent consideration was being given to the speedy integration and continuity of data on the transfer of the services.

The Committee noted the staff transfer issues outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (a) The Committee noted the process established for transferring the Learning and Skills Council staff;**

- (b) The Committee noted the delivery arrangements following the consultation process for the transference of the Connexions Service from Herefordshire and Worcestershire Connexions Company into Herefordshire Council;**
- (c) the need for urgency be brought to the attention of the Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement) concerning the need to ensure the speedy integration and continuity of data on the transfer of the services; and**
- (d) The Chairman consider whether a progress report on the ICT/Data issue be included in the Committee work programme.**

23. CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2009/2010

The Committee considered the capital budget position for 2009/10 for the Children and Young People's Directorate.

The Schools Planning & Access Manager presented the agenda report and highlighted that approval to the final business case for the Hereford Academy was expected which would release the funding. The formal process to amalgamate the Leominster Infant and Junior schools had commenced and a report to the Executive was expected to be made in December 2009. The report to the next meeting would include greater detail of the grants under the Quality & access for early years provision and under the Extended Schools Grants.

During debate the following principal points were noted:

- Questioned on The Minster, Leominster, the Committee noted that Amey had provided the Architectural consultancy work and that the sustainability of the school had been an important part of the design brief. A suggestion was made that any spare capacity at the site could be used for a career advice centre.
- It was confirmed that the government was providing the funding for the Hereford Academy, however, the authority acted as the delivery agent and therefore drew down the funding from government.
- Greater detail would be provided in future reports on the capital maintenance programme.
- Questioned whether it was the Council's responsibility to fund the Holmer Flood Alleviation works, the assertion being that this lay with the Environment Agency, the Schools Planning & Access Manager undertook to make further investigations and inform members.
- Responding to a suggestion that greater benefit could have been gained from investing the Primary Capital Programme funding in a range of schools the Schools Planning & Access Manager reported that it was the Governments intention that the funding be concentrated on larger schemes.
- Criticism was expressed concerning the schemes being proposed under the Playbuilder grant funding, particularly those in Ledbury and Kington, and the Director undertook to make further investigations and provide a briefing note on the terms for the funding and the proposed schemes.

RESOLVED: That

- (a) the Committee noted the content of the Capital Monitoring report and approved the format of the information.**
- (b) The Committee be informed by briefing note of the terms and intended location of schemes under the Playbuilder grant.**

24. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/2010

The Committee considered the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10 and comparisons to the 2008/9 budget outturn. The report was presented in a revised format to meet the expectations of the Committee.

The Director of Children's Services reported that her management team had started looking at future service provision in the context of the government's current tighter budgetary intentions and the provision needed to support vulnerable groups.

The Assistant Director Planning Performance and Development, presented the agenda report and highlighted issues in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant, general grant funding and the repayment of charitable rate relief.

It was clarified that while an underspend was anticipated on the school transport budget through route rationalisation and lower fuel prices, there was still an underlying pressure from inflation on fuel and staff costs.

Questioned on the budget to support the placement of out of county looked after children the Committee was informed that there was no separate contingency should the budget be over spent. Court cases were expensive and court fees had risen. The needs of the child were paramount and in such circumstances budgets would have to be reallocated. The Committee noted that higher payments were now paid to the County's foster carers and an improved training programme had been introduced which it was hoped would reduce the reliance on agency foster parents.

Subject to one or two minor changes the Committee approved the new format as a significant improvement on previous reports. Future revenue reports will be to the new format.

RESOLVED: That the Revenue Budget Monitoring report be noted and subject to further minor improvements in the report formatting, the format be agreed.

25. PERFORMANCE DIGEST - QUARTER 1 2009/2010

The Committee considered the performance Digest for Children's Services for the first quarter of 2009/10 (April-June) and any highlighted performance issues.

The Director of Children's Services reported that 56.9% of initial child assessments were completed in 7 working days (NI 59) which was an improvement on the year end position of 37.4%. The Head of Performance further reported that initial indications (to the end of Aug 09) were that this had risen further to 64.8%. It was clarified that not every referral ended up as an assessment.

Questioned on the current staffing level of social workers (target 57) the Director of Children's Services reported that following discussions with regional government it had been agreed that the current level of 54 was acceptable.

Referring to NI 112 in the Digest, indicating that no data was available, the Head of Performance explained that data was collected by the PCT but had to be verified, which delayed its release. The Committee questioned whether a local figure could be used pending the verified figure.

Questioned whether a referral to CAMHS within 18 weeks was appropriate or timely the Committee were informed that there were currently no children on the CAMHS referral

list. The Committee noted that the referral system had been widened to ensure more cases were captured. It was further noted that the voluntary sector were currently responding to consultation on this matter.

The Committee debated the effect of homelessness on families and the use of Bed and Breakfast facilities and questioned whether more empty properties could be brought into use rather than place families in expensive temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

RESOLVED: That

- (a) the levels of performance achieved for the first quarter of 2009/2010 were noted and
- (b) the Committee suggested that the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) give further consideration to reducing the number and period that residential properties become 'void' to ensure a speedy turnover in letting, the intention being to let the property rather than place homeless families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

26. SEN/BANDED FUNDING REVIEW WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Committee considered the findings of the SEN/Banded Funding Working Group.

The Chairman of the Working Group, Councillor WLS Bowen, outlined the work of the Working Group and its findings which were set out at paragraphs 12-14 of the agenda report. He suggested that school cluster groups be included in paragraph 13 concerning future consultation on SEN by the Funding for Inclusion (FFI) Group.

RESOLVED: That, subject to inclusion of reference to school cluster groups in the recommendation at paragraph 13, the report be noted and the findings of the Working Group set out in paragraphs 12 – 14 of the report be referred to the Herefordshire Schools Forum for consideration as part of their further review of SEN/Banded Funding

27. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme.

The Chairman of Strategic Monitoring Committee reported that arising from the external health check of the scrutiny function an informal meeting of Strategic Monitoring Committee had been held to further consider the work programmes of the Scrutiny Committees. The Committee noted that the theme of Safeguarding, identified during that informal meeting, was already due to be considered at the next meeting. The other theme identified had been youth issues.

The Chairman commented that he would be discussing with the Director of Children's Services possible future debates on Youth provision and the Museum Educational Service and would report further in due course.

RESOLVED: That the work programme be approved and reported to Strategic Monitoring Committee

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	SAFEGUARDING AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN SEMINAR TO MEMBERS 9TH NOVEMBER '09
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES DIRECTORATE

Wards Affected

County Wide

Purpose

To note a summary of the Member's Seminar on the 9th November 2009 concerning Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children and consider issues arising.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT subject to any further comments the Committee may wish to make the report be noted.

Introduction and Background

Staff from the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children's services from within the Children and Young Peoples Directorate presented a seminar to Members as part of the Directorate's rolling programme to raise Members' awareness of key service issues. Following an external healthcheck of the scrutiny function, Strategic Monitoring Committee considered the challenges facing the County and key issues identified from public consultation and surveys. They requested that this Committee give priority to considering Safeguarding Vulnerable Children.

Key Considerations

The seminar focused on three significant service areas:

1. **Children in Need:** Members were informed by Lisa Green Service Manager about this area of work where there are approximately 550 children and their families defined as Children in

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Kim Drake, Assistant Director Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children (01432) 261603

Need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. This number includes the 64 Children with Disabilities whom we work with. Members heard about the process of assessment and the research base used to understand need and provide services for this vulnerable group of children.

2. **Corporate Parenting:** Members received a presentation from Stephanie Rowles, Team Manager for Fostering and Hilary Jones, Project Manager for STEPS outlining some of the work ongoing in Herefordshire to support our 148 Looked After Children and Young People. The context of Care Matters government agenda was set out as were plans to develop a Children in Care Council, a Pledge to our Looked After Group and a Corporate Parenting Panel to oversee this crucial statutory function and ensure that the whole council is involved. Particular challenges were raised regarding costs of agency placements.
3. **Independent Reviewing Function.** Members received a presentation from Sarah Duerden Acting Manager for the Children's Planning and Review Team in Herefordshire explaining this important independent function in ensuring that children Looked After and those with Child Protection Plans are cared for well and have clear and appropriate plans and placements. The role of this team will be strengthened in Herefordshire over the next year to provide more audit time and internal challenge to teams and services to ensure we learn and improve to deliver excellent services to the most vulnerable children.
4. **Questions arising from Seminar with responses:**

(A) Children in Need

1. *Is there education input to Children's assessments and reviews during school holidays?*

Yes. Although the school holidays do present challenges there is usually a whole range of information and support available through Education Welfare service, School support services, School nursing etc. Head teachers are contactable during holidays and often come to meetings. Planned reviews are held at the beginning or end of school holiday periods to maximise attendance from school staff.

2. *Are measures in place to protect lone male social workers visiting at home as they may be vulnerable to allegations?*

Yes. Each case is looked at in terms of health and safety of staff. In any case where there is a perceived risk, joint visits will be arranged. Team Managers take staff welfare very seriously and will assess any risks to workers whether male, female, from ethnic minority or vulnerable through a disability.

3. *Are there cross border procedures in place when children move?*

Yes we have an agreed procedure as part of our joint Safeguarding Board Procedures. We have both a Cross Boundary and a Children moving across Local Authority Boundary procedure giving clear guidance to staff. This can be accessed via the weblink found on the Herefordshire Council intranet.

4. *Is there effective information sharing between agencies and does this also apply to transition to adult care?*

On the whole we do have good systems and processes for ensuring that information sharing is effective.

Effective information sharing is the key challenge for every local authority in the country and requires a sustained effort to ensure that all is working well. In Herefordshire we have the mechanisms in place to support effective working i.e. Herefordshire's Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) with a recently appointed

Independent Chair, a Children's Trust Board with working outcome groups. These mechanisms bring together key people delivering services to children and help develop jointly agreed ways of working.

Our safeguarding procedures has a good guide for staff in information sharing and we are planning to launch a refreshed Children's Trust Information Sharing Protocol (February 2010) which updates and makes clear everyone's responsibilities.

Auditing of cases across agencies and independently by the HSCB quality assurance group helps to test out information sharing and tweak systems accordingly to ensure we are always improving.

Workforce Development and training programmes from the HSCB and internally to Children's Services address the issues of information sharing to ensure our staff are confident and well informed and know where to go if they are worried.

5. *Is there adequate engagement with Social Care Housing Providers over provision of accommodation?*

This is an area where we need to jointly develop more options especially for under 18s. Engagement is good and the will is there but the issue is complicated by statutory responsibilities and access to adequate funding. A recent meeting between Children's Services and Strategic Housing colleagues helped to set out key priorities and we have agreed a joint strategy will be developed to assist those vulnerable young people under 18 years who cannot live at home. A bid is being made to Supporting People to develop Supported Lodgings for 16/17 year olds and we are looking to develop mediation and support to help young people stay with family or friends.

There is still work to do in this area.

6. *Is there help for parents who want their children taken into care?*

Yes. We offer a range of services to children and families where relationships are at breaking point. We carry out thorough assessments, with other agencies involved. We know from national research that coming into care is not always best for children and should always be a last resort. Therefore a range of interventions will be tried to help families to stay together where possible. These include social work and family support staff working directly with families, specialist intervention from Action For Children, Family Group Conferencing, mediation, referral to CAMhs

7. *Does the Child Protection Team have a good working relationship with the police?*

Yes. The referral and assessment teams and our three fieldwork teams work on a daily basis with both the Family Protection Unit and the uniformed police service and describe excellent working relationships most of the time. Senior Managers have regular and various meetings between the two agencies to resolve any problems. Our police colleagues are keen to develop an interagency team approach in the referral and assessment team meaning that police and social workers will work alongside one another to ensure that child protection work is carried out together.

8. *What is the local Member involvement and is the most made of their knowledge? Members often refer families to Social Care services and can be crucial in ensuring that vulnerable children are 'captured' and receive appropriate services.*

Members are not routinely contacted regarding all referrals to Social Care. This would not be feasible or necessarily appropriate. However innovative ways to ensure that local knowledge is used would be welcomed.

(B) Corporate Parenting

1. *Are children's views reported onto the system?*

Yes –in all sorts of ways. One of the roles of the Independent Reviewing Officer is to ensure that children's views are sought and considered properly with regard to their plans and important things in their life. Our Voices and STEPs teams work with young people in care to give them a stronger voice about what they need from us as corporate parents. We are developing a Children in Care Council which will provide an even more formal route to senior managers and Members to involve young people in designing and delivering services.

2. *Can Members be informed about carers in their ward?*

Not necessarily. Carers have been asked in the past about this and have not always wanted Members to know on an individual basis. The best route would be to develop links with the foster carers group in Herefordshire and offer support that way. Councillor Jenny Hyde will be sitting on the Fostering Panel from 2010 so another positive link is being made.

3. *Recruiting /retaining foster carers and competition with Agencies*

This is a problem nationally as agencies pitch their fees at sometimes treble what local authorities can afford to pay. Most agencies are national and so have large corporations within which to expand to all counties. We are looking at joining sub regionally to gather strength in commissioning to drive prices down. We are also looking to develop our in house package to foster carers to make being a Herefordshire carer more attractive. An invest to save proposal could be considered to recruit carers away from Agencies or at least be more competitive but financial constraints across the Council makes this unviable at the moment.

4. *Councillors need information and support to be good corporate parents.*

Yes this is accepted and the Corporate Parenting Panel will look to improve this area with regular updates and ideas.

5. *Should every member be informed about every Looked After Child in their ward?*

I think we need to explore that as part of the Corporate Parenting Panel and with young people themselves. There are obviously huge confidentiality issues regarding individual cases; however it is definitely worth exploring and feeding back to Members in early 2010.

(C) Independent Review Function

1. *How do we measure long term outcomes for Looked After Children-into adulthood?*

This is an interesting area and something that we don't do in Herefordshire. It is something we can consider and look into with regional colleagues as to best methodology. It may involve partnering with researchers at a local university.

2. *Are there statistics of young people living with family and friends but not formally in care system and are they entitled to support?*

We have some statistics of Kinship placements but mainly with younger children. This is an area that we need to develop and can be done through development of frameworki reporting. We have allocated a specialist worker within the referral and assessment team to work with potentially homeless young people and our colleagues

in housing also work directly with many of these young people. Scoping the extent of the need is a good idea and we will look to do this – reporting back more fully in March 2010.

3. *More work is needed to build public confidence to report concerns for a child.*

Yes this is always needed. We are launching a new Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board website in January which will give us a vehicle to give much more advice to the public and young people themselves. The Safeguarding Board has a clear role in this regard and will be working to develop further. The development of Locality Teams will help in having professionals aligned to communities where safeguarding in its broadest sense can be better publicised and understood.

4. *Have we got adequate ICT tools to record the work done by social workers?*

Not yet. The implementation of Frameworki has helped to systemise workflows and is enabling clearer recording, easier access to information and better performance reporting. We are adapting systems to make as simple as possible for social workers to use and enabling them to spend as much time with children as possible. We do need to develop some form of mobile working. Mobile working is essential in such a rural county and to fit patterns of visiting families which is often after office hours.

Financial Implications

None

Background Papers

- None identified.

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	INTRODUCTION AND IMPLICATIONS OF NURSERY EDUCATION FUNDING (NEF) AND SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note the background information on the scheme for Free Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds – also known as Nursery Education Fund (NEF) together with an update on recent, local and national developments.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation(s)

That Scrutiny note the information provided in up dating on Nursery Education Funding.

Key Points Summary

- Nursery Education Funding – Free Entitlement
- Single Funding Formula, Statutory requirement that LA delivering from April 2010 for both Private, Voluntary and Independent sector and maintained local authority nursery classes. See *appendix 1 Ref DCSF guidance on delivery of the Single Funding Formula*. (Copies have been issued to members with the agenda. Copies are available to the public from DCSF Publications or on request)
- Funding allocated to Nursery Education Funding is Dedicated Schools Grant and is separate funding from General Sure Start grant which support Children's Centres.
- Disadvantage (deprivation) supplement, hourly rate per identified child (by postcode)

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Ros Hatherill, Manager Early Years and Extended Services – 01432 261681

- Extension to the existing entitlement 12.5 – 15 hours for 25% most deprived (delivered by setting) from September 2009 – universal provision Sept 2010
- 2 year old funding pilot, 15% of the most disadvantaged children (by postcode) from Sept 2009

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no alternative options available.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The delivery of Nursery Education Funding is a statutory requirement from the DCSF. Herefordshire was asked to implement additional hours to meet the Extended Entitlement for the 25% most deprived children in Herefordshire from September 2009. The full extension of the extended entitlement from 12 hours to 15 hours will be universal provision across Herefordshire September 2010. The introduction of 2 year funding for the 15% most deprived Children, 10 hours per week, was a direct request again from the DCSF, to commence September 2009. This project is funded for 2 years until September 2011. The implementation of a Single Funding Formula is also a statutory directive from DCSF to be in place in all local authorities for April 2010.

Introduction and Background

What is the Free Early Education (NEF) scheme

- 3 This scheme is part of the national Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Ten Year Strategy 'Choice for parents, the best start for children' and with effect from 1st April 2006, in line with the commitments in that strategy, the minimum entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds for free early Education is 12.5 hours per week, normally taken as up to five 2.5 hour sessions, and extended from 33 to 38 weeks per year.
- 4 Local Authorities, working with providers, have a statutory responsibility to ensure that all 3 and 4 year olds in their area are able to access a full 38 week entitlement. In particular local authorities have had to ensure that children attending Private, Voluntary and Independent settings benefit from an increased funded provision from the start of the Summer 06
- 5 The free entitlement may be delivered by a range of providers, including schools, nursery schools and classes, private and voluntary sector providers, independent schools and accredited childminders. Local authorities should ensure a suitably diverse range of providers in line with parental choice, offering uniformly high quality provision.
- 6 Local authorities should ensure that parents of all 3 year old are able to access the minimum entitlement for up to two years before they reach compulsory school age. Parents can access as little or as much of the minimum entitlement as they choose and may take up their free entitlement at more than one provider. Currently Herefordshire has a 95% take up rate.
- 7 From September 2009, following further DCSF requirements, Herefordshire settings in the 25% most disadvantaged areas are offering an extended free entitlement of up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks. Parents are able to use the free entitlement flexibly across a minimum 3 days. From September 2010 the minimum entitlement of 15 hours per week for 38 weeks will be in place (universal provision) for all 3 and 4 year olds.
- 8 The Free Early Education scheme is funded by Central Government through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Previously the Free Early Education scheme was funded

separately by DCSF through the Nursery Education Grant (usually colloquially known as “nursery vouchers”) and this was incorporated within DSG on its creation in April 2006. Dedicated Schools Grant is ring fenced and must be used to fund the Total Schools Budget, which includes Individual School Budgets, central services for pupils (e.g. Special Educational Needs) and Nursery Education Funding subject to national funding regulations, it is for each authority, in consultation with their Schools Forum, to allocate funding to all these services as appropriately as possible.

- 9 For 09/10 the Government has provided separately a designated amount of funding to support the move from 12.5 hours to 15 hours for the 25% most deprived areas. This is ring fenced funding which sits within Standards Fund. At £8.72 per session Herefordshire currently pays one of the highest sessional rates for NEF nationally but receives from government the third lowest DSG funding .This was not considered a fair allocation of funding by the Schools Forum.
- 10 As part of the budget setting process for 2009/10, Schools Forum on 26th February 2009 recommended to, and it was subsequently agreed by, the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services that the payment rate for Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nursery settings should be frozen to achieve parity with the average of Worcestershire, Shropshire and Gloucestershire. Schools Forum considered that PVI business operating costs would not be different in Herefordshire to those of our neighbouring counties. In light of the DSG budget reductions due to falling rolls it was considered reasonable to freeze the payment rate for an estimated four years rather than reducing the payment rate but over a shorter timescale. The freeze in payment has been considered in the development of the statutory requirement to have a Single Funding Formula across all settings including the LA nurseries. The proposed single funding formula for Herefordshire has fully considered the neighbouring local authorities formula’s and is comparably in line.
- 11 Herefordshire is also piloting 2 year old funding from September 2009 to the 15 % most deprived children. Funding has also been allocated for a second year 2010/2011. The identified target group for Herefordshire is some 50 places. A place equates to 10 hours per week. It may be that parents do not wish to take up the full 10 hours. In this instance the offer will be available to more than 50 children hence allocated as places.
- 12 Whilst ongoing development of the NEF has been taking place the local authority has also been charged with providing a Single Funding Formula across all settings including the Local Authority School nursery classes. This is a statutory requirement from April 2010, enabling a fair, equitable and transparent funding to settings. (Previously in LA’s schools, nursery classes have been funded on a block amount place led eg 26 places irrespective of how many children attend). The single funding formula must be based on actual pupil numbers and not simply places. The single formula must also include a disadvantage factor amount per pupil per hour from Year 1, while delivering against a basic hourly rate per child. Consideration also needs to include (as part of a phased approach) A supplement for Quality per setting per week, and a supplement for offering provision flexibly.
- 13 The potential impact of the EY formula on nursery classes in schools is as follows. If LA nursery classes are full, under the formula they will get more or less the same with some having increased funding. But if classes are half empty they will lose money. The LA have been working with schools helping, advising and consulting for 2 years so schools are fully aware of the potential impact of the Single Funding Formula. In some instances schools have reduced nursery class from all day to mornings only, some working closely in partnership with local private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers. There is concern where LA nurseries are not working in partnership with local PVI to offer flexibility and full day provision.

Key Considerations

- 14 The introduction of a single funding formula is a statutory requirement from April 2010 for all settings delivering Nursery Education Funding

Community Impact

- 15 The delivery of several distinct funding streams and a single funding formula has proved quite challenging across the county for settings to take on board. The LA has endeavoured to communicate information as widely and promptly as possible. Full consultation has taken place, but with a poor response rate overall. The single funding formula has considered the cost implications (where settings have made information available) from a range of settings. The formula for Herefordshire has developed with the support of Government and West Midlands (GOWM) officers and contracted consultants. Full consideration has been undertaken in gauging the West Midlands and neighbouring Local Authorities with single funding formula development.

Financial Implications

- 16 From April 2010 the LA will be implementing a Single Funding Formula. Following a series of consultations and workshops, with the support of both DCSF and Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Herefordshire has presented the following formula.

Basic Revised Formula Structure – Phased Approach Following 3rd consultation

	Basic hourly rate per child	Fixed rate per setting per week	Supplement for quality per setting per week	Supplement for flexibility will be discussed from Sept 2010	Amount per setting in a disadvantaged area per week	Amount per hour per disadvantaged child from year 1	% areas of deprivation (note :the lowest % band is most deprived)
Year 1	£3.41	£27.00	0		0	7p	
Year 2	£3.23	£54.00	£5.00		£15.00	14p	
Year 3	£2.97	£86.00	£10.00		£40.00	24p	0-25% band
						12p	25-50% band
						4p	50-60%

- 17 Based on the formula given above and the numbers of settings delivering the funded places, the total amount of money required is shown in the table below. Estimates are provided for 2010/11 since actual funding can only be determined by pupil numbers in 2010/11.

Year	Funding	Total	Total Funded
2009/2010	DSG: 3 year olds 4 year olds LA nursery classes TOTAL DSG	£2,115,551 £ 768,032 £ 691,000 £3,574,583	£3,574,583
	General Sure Start Grant: 2 year olds	£ 133,050	£133,050
	Standards Fund: 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement – additional 2.5 hrs	£ 370,374	£370,374
			£ 4,078,007.00
2010/2011 FORMULA RUN	DSG: 3 and 4 year olds / 118 settings inc LA nursery classes (based on head count JAN 2009)	£ 3,603,849.70	£3,603,849.70
	Standards Fund Extended Entitlement	*£ 1,164,485.00	£1,164,485.00
	General Sure Start Grant 2 year olds	*£ 167,150.00	£ 167,150.00
			£ 4,935,434.70

* provisional figs

Legal Implications

- 18 There are no legal implications at this stage. Contracts /agreements are issued to each setting, legally contracting then to deliver Nursery Education Funding. These contracts /agreements will now also be extended to the 13 primary schools with LA nursery classes that are now to run under the Single Funding Formula. (Previously the LA nurseries were funded place led (set by LA) rather than as now under the formula (participation, the number of children attending)

Risk Management

- 19 The information held within this paper covers the requirements as laid out by the DCSF. However ref paragraph 11 if as an authority the decision is made to freeze payments to the PVI and nursery settings, then consideration will need to be highlighted as to how this may effect businesses. The report states that operating costs should be no more in Herefordshire than neighbouring authorities, however if a business has been used to an identified income and now over 4 years a freeze impacts, this could effect staffing levels and possibly the ability to provide quality service. The risk initially will be to individual business but the knock on effect could be a risk for the council.

Consultees

- 20 A series of three formal consultations have taken place since October 2008. All of the settings, together with the LA nurseries have been involved. A Nursery Education / Single Funding finance sub group of the Early Years and Extended Services Forum has met termly, representation has been across a range of the PVI sector and the LA nurseries. The formula has been adjusted in direct response to the consultations and also in line with regular DCSF updates, the last of which was 30 September 2009. *See appendix 2 Consultation Paper – Early Years Reform For Free Entitlement of Early Education (September 2008) and Appendix 3 Final Consultation Early Years Funding Group - September 2009*

Appendices

- Appendix 1 DCSF guidance on delivery of the Single Funding Formula (Copies have been issued to members with the agenda. Copies are available to the public from DCSF Publications or on request)
- Appendix 2 Draft Consultation Paper – Early Years Reform For Free Entitlement of Early Education (September 2008)
- Appendix 3 Final Consultation Early Years Funding Group - September 2009

Background Papers

- None identified.

Early Years and Extended Services

Appendix 2

Draft Consultation Paper
September 2008

Early Years Funding Reform For The Free Entitlement to Early Education

1. Introduction

The Government announced in June 2007 that Local Authorities (LAs) will be required to use a single local formula for funding early years provision in the maintained and PVI sectors from 2010-11. The Government is encouraging LAs to introduce the formula from April 2009 wherever possible. This is intended to support the extension of the free entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds and to address inconsistencies in how the offer is currently funded across the maintained and Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sectors.

- 1.1 Decisions about funding for maintained and PVI providers needs to be transparent and based on the same factors. Funding levels and funding methodologies do not have to be exactly the same for all providers, but any differences must be justifiable and demonstrable.
- 1.2 Nationally six LAs were identified to work as part of the Formula Development Project. These LAs are accelerating progress to implement a single formula in April 2009 to provide good practice guidance for other LAs. Herefordshire was not identified as one of the six but this project is intended to prepare the LA for full implementation in the financial year 2010/11. In order to achieve this it is proposed that changes will commence from September 2009 within the school sector, in order to phase it in.
- 1.3 The single formula is likely to be different in each LA, to reflect the very different local circumstances of each. LAs have the same flexibility here as they do on school funding. However it is clear that every formula should be developed according to a common set of principles. The principles below have been agreed with the Formula Development Project LAs as a basis for their work.

The single formula should:

- 1.3.1 Support effective and efficient distribution of resources at a local level, while aiming to be as simple as possible
- 1.3.2 Promote diversity and choice so that parents are able to access the free entitlement more flexibly
- 1.3.3 Promote a high quality of provision in all settings
- 1.3.4 Be based on common information from both the PVI and maintained sectors, taking into account all costs and sources of income

- 1.3.5 Take into account the same factors when deciding the level of funding for each sector, ensuring that decisions are transparent and differences between sectors are justifiable and demonstrable
 - 1.3.6 Take into account the sustainability of the market and the statutory duty on the LA to provide sufficient childcare and consider the need for stability in both sectors
 - 1.3.7 Avoid perverse incentives
 - 1.3.8 Fund settings on the basis of participation, not places. Any exceptional use of place-led funding should be based on clearly defined local imperatives
 - 1.3.9 Enable transition from the current to the future funding mechanism to be planned and managed carefully, and based on a clear impact assessment.
- 1.4 From 2009-10 all LAs will be required to introduce consistent pupil counting between the maintained and PVI sectors. Changing the count from place-led to mainly participation-led funding in both sectors will need to be carefully managed, subject to an impact assessment and appropriate transition and protection mechanisms.
- 1.5 In the short term LAs will need to carry out an analysis of PVI costs in their area and present this to their schools forum and relevant sub-group.
- 1.6 There are also a number of changes aimed at improving the representation of PVI providers on Schools Forum so that the views of all sectors are taken into account.
- 1.6.1 Schools Forums' membership will be broadened to include non-school members from the early years sector so that they can play a full part in discussions on the development of the funding arrangements
 - 1.6.2 LAs are also expected to establish an early years provider reference group, which will act as a sub-group to the Schools Forum feeding in views on the implementation of the new early years funding arrangements

2. Schools Forums' Membership Broadened

Nominations were requested from PVI providers to sit on the Schools Forum and two people from Herefordshire Early Years settings – Rose Lloyd (Bridges childcare) and Alison Jackson (St Michael's Nursery) now sit as members.

3. Early Years Provider Reference Group

In order for these two members representing Early Years to be fully informed and represent the views of this sector; a working sub group was put together called the Early Years Funding Group. This group have met twice since January 2008 and will be considering this paper at its next meeting in July 2008 prior to submitting proposals to Schools Forum in the Autumn 2008.

4. Cost Analysis

For the first part of the exercise it was expected that LAs carry out an analysis of the costs of delivering the free entitlement to nursery education in the PVI sector. In Herefordshire this was initially carried out as a 'face to face' exercise in order to ensure that settings understand what was being asked of them and to collect as accurate data as possible. Prior to this exercise the annual childcare sufficiency audit had been carried out and one of the questions had asked whether the current amount of NEF

met the costs of delivering the free entitlement. The responses divided almost equally between Yes and No. It was decided to collect data from 10 providers; five who had answered yes and five who had answered no.

- 4.1 A questionnaire (see appendix A) identified a list of costings as suggested in a report in August 2007 by the DCSF, Pre School Learning Alliance and the NDNA. Although the accuracy of the data was more reliable this method was very time consuming. We surveyed 8 settings plus information from 13 LA Nurseries but it was felt that this was insufficient to draw any informed conclusions.
- 4.2 At the first meeting of the Early Years Funding Group in January 2008, it was decided that a letter and questionnaire (see appendix B) be sent to all PVI settings. Some private providers refused to take part in the survey on the grounds that they did not want to release sensitive and private financial information. From this activity we manage to secure another 33 responses making a total of 41 which is 40% of the PVI settings (see appendix C). This sample is properly reflective of the mix of settings. However, the results varied hugely and we could not identify any particular pattern or draw any reliable conclusions. Settings currently receive £8.72 and 22 settings acknowledged that the actual cost to them was up to 20% lower or 20% higher than this figure. We are not sure how they interpreted the questions, whether they were truthful answers or if they had included all the relevant costs. It should also be remembered that this was a snapshot in January. Occupancy rates and therefore staffing costs do fluctuate throughout the year and if this exercise had been conducted in September we would have seen a different picture.
- 4.3 The DfES commissioned HEDRA Consulting to examine and report on the costs of delivering the free early education entitlement. The report noted several anomalies:
 - 4.3.1 The reports main findings relate to average costs because it is not possible to isolate the costs of delivery for 3 and 4 year olds from other age groups.
 - 4.3.2 The supplier market for childcare is highly fragmented and highly differentiated. There are relatively few large providers. As a general observation, this is a market dominated by small providers.
 - 4.3.3 Many of these providers appear to be relatively unsophisticated in financial terms and are not motivated to be highly profitable. They tend to price on the basis of what the local market will bear and with a view to either breaking even or making a small overall return.
 - 4.3.4 The costs of the different settings (full day care and sessional) are likely to be significantly different and so too the perception of the provider of the level of funding provided through the Free Early Years Entitlement.

These points were made as it is easy to talk about the PVI sector in particular as if it was homogenous and therefore draw conclusions which apply to every provider of every type. This is decidedly not the case and all of the findings and conclusions should be seen in this light. In Herefordshire looking at our findings, this statement certainly rings true.

5. Early Years Funding Group – 30 January 2008

At this meeting Ros Hatherill, Manager Early Years & Extended Services, set the scene and explained that the group had been formed in order to discuss and comment on the proposed new funding formula for Nursery Education Funding, with a view to the two new Early Years representatives taking the findings and proposals to Schools Forum.

- 5.1 The meeting discussed that the results from the 8 settings so far was not enough to draw any accurate conclusions and that the consultation should be extended. Based on statistical analysis of the 8 PVI settings and 13 LA nurseries, Malcolm Green, Finance Manager, proposed a possible formula - £105 per week plus £7.50 per session (per child) and asked that the group consider how it is taken forward and the implications of implementing it as it is obvious that with any new formula there would be some providers who would gain and some who would lose. It was agreed that the new formula would be run against a selection of nurseries to gauge its impact.
- 5.2 The differences between maintained and PVI nurseries were discussed and how again there would be winners and losers. It is clear that LA nursery classes that are not fully occupied would be financially worse off under any new pupil led formula.
- 5.3 Many of the providers were concerned about the impact the new formula would have on their longer term sustainability.
- 5.4 Social and rural deprivation were also raised as factors which should be taken into consideration. It was also agreed that we would look at what formula's other LA's were intending to use.

6. Early Years Funding Group – 29 May 2008

At this meeting clarification was sought on the savings that Schools Forum has to make and whether NEF would be reduced. It was confirmed that there is no intention to transfer any money from Early Years to Schools within this financial year or the next. Social deprivation was discussed and noted that this will take into account the 30% deprived areas of Leominster and South Wye. DCSF have stipulated that all local authorities must allocate money towards socially deprived children – Herefordshire being set at 7.69% allocation, based on the free school meals percentage. Rural deprivation will not be a factor. Special needs funding will continue to be funded separately.

7. Proposed formula

Malcolm Green proposed the following formula which was accepted by the working party as the basis for further consultation with schools and PVI providers.

- 7.1.1 £105 per week plus £7.50 per session. Three example settings – large nursery, a small pre school and a childminder were run against this formula. Malcolm had calculated that the break-even point is 86 sessions a week. Those who delivered more would be worse off whilst small settings would benefit.

8. Social Deprivation

The deprivation will be assessed on the child not the setting using home postcodes and will be based on Grade 5 IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index). It was considered that we could extend this to Grade 4 in order to include more children, perhaps at half rate of Grade 5. However this will further reduce the basic formula.

- 8.1 Malcolm Green distributed at the meeting, information on Nursery Funding for 2008/09 incorporating a proposed deprivation allocation (see appendix D).

The main points for this proposal are:

- 8.1.1 7.69% would be deducted from total nursery funding to create a distinct social deprivation fund

- 8.1.2 Using the IDACI ranking, the amount per pupil/child accessing NEF per session in Herefordshire was estimated at £3.97
 - 8.1.3 A setting which has a child from a social deprivation area would receive standard NEF session amount plus an additional £3.97
 - 8.1.4 Standard allocation of funding per NEF session using proposed funding formula - £105 per week plus £7.50 per session would be reduced for all settings to £97 per week and £6.90 per session.
 - 8.1.5 The introduction of a social deprivation fund could be phased in over 3 to 5 years in order to minimise the affect on settings.
- 8.2 Herefordshire has liaised with North Somerset Council who have already introduced a new scheme and have stipulated that the additional funding that settings receive from a social deprivation fund, is used to reduce staffing ratios. This is broadly equivalent to an extra 50% funding for nurseries in highly socially deprived areas. The meeting as a whole queried this as extra staff does not necessarily mean better quality. We need to consider how this money could be equitably spent.
- 8.3 A question remains as to what we do about those families who are deprived but don't live in a socially deprived area. Malcolm Green suggested that we could consider extending the use of the IDACI from Grade 5 to Grade 4 and therefore including more children. For example, children who fall within the IDACI Grade 4 category could be funded at half the £3.97 supplement suggested for children within IDACI Grade 5 category (this will further reduce the amount quoted above in the formula). There was also a concern expressed that there will be children in a socially deprived area who don't actually need additional funding.

9. Childminders and Small Nurseries

Under the proposed new formula, childminders providing NEF would receive £105 (£97) per week plus the sessional amount. It was considered how fair this is bearing in mind the low numbers that they have. After some discussion it was agreed that childminders and nurseries who deliver 40 or less NEF sessions a week would receive a percentage of the lump sum, i.e. 5 weekly sessions would receive 12.5% of the flat rate i.e. 5/40th.

10. Maintained Nurseries

In order to bring maintained nurseries into line with the PVI sector it is proposed that they be funded on the basis of participation, not places and that this be implemented from September 2009, i.e. the beginning of the new academic year. This is a key implementation phase as it provides LA nurseries with the opportunity to revise their nursery offer from September 2009 and hence avoid the possibility of an uneconomic setting in the Summer Term 2010 when the full single early years formula is introduced.

11. Implementation Plan

Basic Principles

The principles of the formula are to take the Nursery Education Funding and divide it between each child, taking account of social disadvantage. These principles translate into the specific figures below. The implementation plan has the following elements

Firstly, 7.69% would be deducted from total nursery funding to create a distinct social deprivation fund

A setting which has a child from a social deprivation postcoded area would receive standard NEF session amount plus an additional amount for social deprivation.

All elements of Herefordshire Council's formula have to comply with DCSF funding regulations which we have not yet been consulted upon. Expect some requirements on linking base allowance to sustainability.

Funding Formula

New single formula of £97 per week plus £6.90 per session (per child) plus £3.97 per socially deprived child (IDACI 5 children).

Using the IDACI ranking, the amount per pupil/child accessing NEF per session in Herefordshire was estimated at £3.97

Childminders and small settings to receive 1/40th of fixed sum (up to 40 sessions) plus an amount each child.

For LA nursery classes, phase in funding from September 2009 on the basis of participation rather than places.

Options

Protection -

Phase in new formula by either:

- a) all new formula from April 2009
- b) phase in over 2 or 3 years:
 - 1st year – 2/3 of NEF paid on current method and 1/3 on new formula
 - 2nd year – 1/3 current NEF method and 2/3 new formula.

Phasing -

11.10 The introduction of a social deprivation fund could be phased in over 3 years in order to minimise the affect on settings, i.e. phase in 2.5% deduction a year over 3 years. Choice of:

- a) all fund introduced by April 2009
- b) phase in over 3 years

Widening Deprivation Payments -

11.11 Extend To IDACI Grade 4 at half the rate of Grade 5.

Rules and Conditions -

11.12 Consider how social deprivation fund is spent and agree terms and conditions; i.e. ensure money is spent on children rather than making profits for the setting.

Payment Process

11.13 Average out NEF payments over a rolling 12 month period and update termly. Payment made in the summer term is based on the last 12 months, Autumn – last 12 months including summer's actuals etc. Make payments monthly as 12 equal instalments.

11.14 Minimise paperwork as current amount is excessive.

Trial

- 11.15 Identify and arrange for a large setting (over 40 sessions), a small setting (under 40 sessions) and a childminder (accredited) to pilot the new formula from September. If they are better off they could keep the difference and if they are worse off then the difference would be made up.

12. Recommendation

That the Early Years Working Group considers the above implementation plan and approves the proposals so that detailed modelling can be undertaken prior to draft proposals being put to Schools Forum to permit a wider consultation with schools and PVI settings prior to April 2009. The agreed proposals will be trialled in a handful of settings during Summer 2009 and Autumn 2010 prior to Schools Forum considering final proposals in Autumn 2009 for implementation from April 2010.

Clare Williams
Finance and Local Business Development Officer
12th September 2008

DRAFT

Appendix A

Analysing the costs of delivering the free entitlement to nursery education

Date of Analysis:

Name of Setting:

Item	Costs per week
Staffing Costs	
Administration and Management Costs	
Premises costs (rent and rates)	
Heat/Lighting	
Equipment and materials	
Insurance/Legal costs	
Contingency/reserves	
Registration Fees (eg Ofsted)	
Training (incl staff cover)	
Outreach/Marketing	
Telephone/Internet	
Refreshments/Food	
Consumables (eg cleaning, stationery)	
Maintenance	
Travel/transport (eg visits)	
Total	0

No of Sessions -					
NEF children in each session	M	T	W	Th	F
Am					
Pm					

Non NEF Children	M	T	W	Th	F
Am					
Pm					

Opening Hours:

Fees:

How many weeks open per year:

Office Use Only	<input style="width: 95%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>
Social Deprivation Factor	<input style="width: 95%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>

Analysing the costs of delivering the free entitlement to nursery education

Date of Analysis:

Name of Setting:	Postcode:
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If you wish to remain anonymous, please do not enter the name of the setting but please put in your postcode as we may need to factor in an amount for social deprivation

Total Expenditure for a week in January	£ <input type="text"/>
---	------------------------

This figure should include:
salaries, admin costs, premises costs (rent, rates, electricity etc), materials, equipment, marketing, telephone, refreshments, cleaning, stationery, transport, registration fees, insurance)

Calculation of Sessions	
Number of NEF funded sessions in a week in January (1 session = 1 child for 2 and a half hours)	<input type="text"/>
Total number of Non NEF funded hours during a week in January. (This is the total number of hours in a week which children attend but are not NEF funded)	<input type="text"/>

Opening Hours:

How many weeks open per year:

Office Use Only	<input type="text"/>
Social Deprivation Factor	<input type="text"/>

Fees:

If you have any questions about how to complete the form, please contact Clare Williams on 01432 383492 or 07792881139

Appendix C

NEF ANALYSIS - PVI SETTINGS

	No of NEF sessions per week	No of non NEF sessions per week	Total Weekly Sessions	Total Expenditure per week	NEF Funding Rec'd per session	Average per session in total
1	92	35	127	1152	8.72	9.07
2	190	23	213	2222	8.72	10.43
3	170	155	325	3564	8.72	10.97
4	108	69	177	2264	8.72	12.79
5	53	2	55	834	8.72	15.16
6	23	2	25	561	8.72	22.44
7	67	230	297	2994	8.72	10.08
8	149	473	622	4405	8.72	7.08
Total 1st Survey						
	852	989	1841	17996	8.72	9.78
9	76	60	136	1015	8.72	7.46
10	128	12	140	750	8.72	5.36
11	68	55	123	818	8.72	6.65
12	123	13	136	885	8.72	6.51
13	93	15	108	946	8.72	8.76
14	77	17	94	819	8.72	8.71
15	101	67	168	1167	8.72	6.95
16	39	1	40	331	8.72	8.28
18	29	20	49	1284	8.72	26.2
19	120	347	467	4133	8.72	8.85
20	30	8	38	379	8.72	9.97
21	54	3	57	700	8.72	12.28
22	75	3	78	596	8.72	7.64
23	78	50	128	1505	8.72	11.76
24	85	13	98	865	8.72	8.83
25	163	32	195	505	8.72	2.59
26	110	49	159	930	8.72	5.85
27	86	14	100	1002	8.72	10.02
28	80	78	158	1483	8.72	9.39
29	64	60	124	900	8.72	7.26
30	16	117	133	1300	8.72	9.77
31	13	57	70	1000	8.72	14.29
32	99	80	179	1490	8.72	8.32
33	29	20	49	418	8.72	8.53
34	132	64	196	1702	8.72	8.68
35	121	155	276	4462	8.72	16.17
36	46	33	79	600	8.72	7.59
37	54	21	75	413	8.72	5.51
38	62	6	68	364	8.72	5.35
39	301	82	383	3500	8.72	9.14
40	49	83	132	700	8.72	5.3
41	30	99	129	1676	8.72	12.99
Total 2nd Survey						
	2631	1734	4365	38638	279.04	8.85
Grand Total						
	3483	2723	6206	56634	287.76	9.13

Nursery Funding 08/09

PVI Nurseries	£2,898,000
School Nursery Classes	£683,000
	<u>£3,581,000</u>

Deprivation share of DSG in 7.69% based on free meals %

So: deprivation funding	275,379
Nursery formula	<u>3,305,621</u>
	3,581,000

Nursery of IDACI (grade 5) pupils in primary school is 1536 over 7 years groups so 219 per year

219 per year is equivalent to $\frac{219 \times 5 \text{ for nurseries}}{3} = 365$

So amount per deprived pupil
 = £275,379 ÷ 365 ÷ 38 weeks ÷ 5 sessions
= £3.97 per session

Nursery Funding	4 year olds £761,080	35%
	3 year olds £2,136,920	100%

(more accurate to do $275379 \div 219 \div 1.35 \div 38 \div 5 = £4.90$ per session)

Setting	Summer 2007 - Spring 2008 (37 weeks)											Actual gain	Actual loss	Average monthly funding	
	Full occupancy annual sessions	Actual annual sessions claimed / attended	Actual annual funding received	Comparator funding		Proposed funding					Actual gain				Actual loss
				Annual amount excluding deprivation	IDACI setting proportion (average IDACI value)	Annual amount including deprivation (£96+£6.89 +£3.92)	Annual IDACI sessions proportion (IDACI sessions)	Annual amount including deprivation (£96+£6.89 +£3.92)	Annual amount including deprivation (£96+£6.89 +£3.92)	Annual amount including deprivation (£96+£6.89 +£3.92)					
The Downs School	-	4773	£46,224.72	£48,367.50	0.07	£1,447.01	£45,365.81	327.58	£1,427.11	£45,345.91	0	£0.00	£-878.81	£3,778.83	
The Elms School	-	2288	£21,346.56	£23,919.75	0.09	£851.51	£22,581.11	202.82	£852.80	£22,582.40	1	£1,235.84	£0.00	£1,881.87	
The Farm Childcare Group (Best Be 4)	-	3349	£32,935.44	£35,467.50	0.10	£1,833.50	£34,045.10	416.19	£1,844.28	£34,055.88	1	£1,120.44	£0.00	£2,837.99	
The Farm Childcare Group (Cut and Paste Nursery)	-	2916	£28,845.76	£29,939.25	0.15	£2,599.79	£29,783.79	596.90	£2,652.32	£29,836.32	1	£990.56	£0.00	£2,486.36	
The Farm Childcare Group (Step by Step)	-	819	£7,141.68	£8,190.00	0.03	£316.12	£7,757.32	81.69	£320.24	£7,761.44	1	£619.76	£0.00	£646.79	
The Red House Nursery School	-	1767	£17,152.24	£19,732.13	0.08	£715.58	£18,643.98	159.22	£686.51	£18,614.91	1	£1,462.67	£0.00	£1,551.24	
The Townsend Nursery	-	1587	£15,547.76	£17,869.13	0.07	£611.38	£16,846.98	140.39	£615.81	£16,851.41	1	£1,303.65	£0.00	£1,404.28	
The Wye Nursery School	-	4612	£44,995.20	£45,015.75	0.17	£4,231.82	£45,094.22	946.45	£4,121.55	£44,983.95	0	£0.00	£-111.25	£3,748.66	
Tiblands Nursery School	-	3805	£36,388.56	£37,886.25	0.11	£2,035.72	£36,436.12	470.06	£2,005.87	£36,406.27	1	£17.71	£0.00	£3,033.86	
Twiggy Day Nursery	-	877	£8,379.92	£9,730.13	0.10	£517.03	£9,358.23	124.09	£514.81	£9,356.01	1	£976.09	£0.00	£779.67	
Trinity Teds Playgroup	-	845	£7,368.40	£8,555.63	0.04	£412.29	£8,186.29	106.89	£419.00	£8,193.00	1	£824.60	£0.00	£682.75	
Trinity Treetots	-	5515	£53,497.20	£53,152.50	0.11	£3,277.07	£51,523.07	749.48	£3,255.53	£51,501.53	0	£0.00	£-1,995.67	£4,291.79	
Walford Pre-School Playgroup	-	4043	£39,510.32	£40,986.00	0.08	£1,819.27	£39,033.27	407.03	£1,799.33	£39,013.33	0	£0.00	£-496.99	£3,251.11	
Wellington (Busy Bees) Playgroup	-	1292	£12,312.64	£14,296.50	0.08	£498.77	£13,489.17	114.04	£489.24	£13,479.64	1	£1,167.00	£0.00	£1,123.30	
Weobley Share Nursery	-	195	£1,700.40	£1,974.38	0.07	£152.51	£1,946.51	38.91	£152.51	£1,946.51	1	£246.11	£0.00	£162.21	
Weston-Under-Penyard Playgroup	-	1792	£17,230.72	£19,938.75	0.11	£1,040.66	£19,157.46	254.29	£1,077.34	£19,184.14	1	£1,963.42	£0.00	£1,599.51	
Whitchurch Whizzkids Pre-School Playgroup	-	2254	£22,096.48	£25,436.25	0.10	£1,055.37	£24,166.57	217.79	£971.71	£24,082.91	1	£1,986.43	£0.00	£2,006.91	
Whitcross Day Nursery & Creche	-	8040	£79,142.72	£75,210.00	0.11	£4,770.64	£73,015.44	1109.32	£4,887.92	£73,132.72	0	£0.00	£-6,010.00	£6,094.39	
Whitney Crocodiles Pre-School	-	2054	£20,143.20	£22,396.50	0.11	£1,219.71	£21,564.51	155.35	£674.78	£21,019.58	1	£876.38	£0.00	£1,751.63	
Wigmore Pre-School Group	-	2761	£26,691.92	£29,399.25	0.12	£1,776.02	£28,480.42	413.74	£1,799.69	£28,504.09	1	£1,812.17	£0.00	£2,375.34	
Bromyard, St Peters Primary	6500	4260	£46,363.00	£35,835.00	0.20	£3,338.34	£35,858.34	851.62	£3,338.34	£35,858.34	0	£0.00	£-10,504.66	£2,988.20	
Hereford, Broadlands Primary	9620	5105	£65,442.00	£42,172.50	0.19	£3,884.52	£42,150.52	968.72	£3,797.39	£42,063.39	0	£0.00	£-23,378.61	£3,505.28	
Hereford, Lord Scudamore Primary	9620	9155	£65,442.00	£72,547.50	0.20	£7,297.52	£73,103.52	1861.61	£7,297.52	£73,103.52	1	£7,661.52	£0.00	£6,091.96	
Hereford, Martbrook Primary	9620	9065	£65,442.00	£71,872.50	0.28	£10,120.10	£75,314.10	2581.66	£10,120.10	£75,314.10	1	£9,872.10	£0.00	£6,276.18	
Hereford, St Martins Primary	9620	6055	£65,442.00	£49,297.50	0.25	£5,791.43	£50,517.43	1477.41	£6,791.43	£50,517.43	0	£0.00	£-14,924.57	£4,209.79	
Kingslone & Thrupton Primary	2410	1320	£18,047.00	£13,023.75	0.21	£1,079.80	£12,911.80	275.46	£1,079.80	£12,911.80	0	£0.00	£-5,135.20	£1,075.98	
Kington Primary	4810	4690	£32,721.00	£39,060.00	0.19	£3,577.06	£39,021.06	912.52	£3,577.06	£39,021.06	1	£6,300.06	£0.00	£3,251.75	
Ledbury Primary	9620	9210	£65,442.00	£72,960.00	0.14	£5,048.95	£71,228.95	1288.00	£5,048.95	£71,228.95	1	£5,786.95	£0.00	£5,935.75	
Leominster Infants'	9620	8990	£65,442.00	£71,310.00	0.33	£11,745.94	£76,429.94	2996.41	£11,745.94	£76,429.94	1	£10,987.94	£0.00	£6,369.16	
Ross-on-Wye, Ashfield Park Primary	9620	6750	£65,442.00	£54,510.00	0.13	£3,375.54	£52,827.54	861.11	£3,375.54	£52,827.54	0	£0.00	£-12,614.46	£4,402.29	
Weobley Primary	4810	2925	£32,721.00	£28,822.50	0.17	£1,844.25	£26,286.25	470.47	£1,844.25	£26,286.25	0	£0.00	£-7,434.75	£2,107.19	
Withington Primary	4810	4015	£32,721.00	£33,997.50	0.11	£1,716.29	£32,570.29	420.06	£1,681.91	£32,536.91	0	£0.00	£-185.09	£2,711.33	
Hereford, Riverside Primary	9620	6260	£65,442.00	£50,835.00	0.32	£7,735.61	£53,855.61	1973.37	£7,735.61	£53,855.61	0	£0.00	£-11,586.39	£4,487.97	

Grand Totals	100300	389886	£3,714,129.00	£3,799,066.88	0.12	£267,135.88	£3,716,279.88	62478.15	£264,743.98	£3,713,887.98	91	£143,480.51	£-143,721.54	£309,490.66
LA nursery	5										5	£40,608.57	£-85,763.72	£53,412.82

Notes:
 Sparklers Nursery; Holmer Pre-School & Down on the Farm = New settings claiming funding for first time in Autumn 2007
 Platos & Helen Rees Childminder = New settings claiming funding for first time in Summer 2008
 Sandra Bufton = Setting still claiming funding - 0 sessions equals nil return
 Garway Playgroup = Setting temporarily closed Spring 2008, re-opened at half-term Summer 2008 (any funding due to be paid in Autumn 2008)
 Weobley Share Nursery = Setting stopped claiming funding and considered closed from Autumn 2007
 Moreton Moles Pre-School = Setting closed end of Autumn term 2007
 Happy Hands & The Farm Childcare (Step by Step) = Settings closed at end of Summer term 2007
 Trinity Teds Playgroup = Setting closed at end of Summer term 2007, replaced by Holmer Pre-School

Early Years and Extended Services

Consultation No 3 on the Early Years Funding Reform for the Free Entitlement to Early Education Single Funding Formula

Consultation Period from 4th September 2009 to 16th October 2009

All responses to be returned to Clare Williams,
EYES, Blackfriars, PO Box 185, Hereford, HR4 9ZR

Background Information

The Single Funding Formula will be implemented from 1st April 2010.

Two stages of consultation have taken place from 5th December 2008 to 30th January 2009 and from the 1st May 2009 to 15th May 2009.

Following on from both these exercises and using the feedback we received we are now entering the third and final phase of consultation.

On the 23rd September 2009 at 10.00am in Room 3 at Blackfriars, EYES are holding an Early Years Funding Group meeting, which will take the format of an Open Meeting. All settings are invited to attend and will have the opportunity to discuss the single funding formula and raise questions before responding to this consultation. It is very important that we receive your feedback. Please ensure that your setting is represented and ring 01432 261681 to confirm your attendance by 15th September 2009.

In July 2009 the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) issued guidance (www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/) on how the formula should be designed and implemented. It draws on the lessons learnt from the eleven pilot authorities and sets out the changes to regulations.

The guidance is aimed primarily at local authorities (LAs) and sets out the actions they must and should take.

The Formula - Design and Implementation

Must do's

Funding must be given on the basis of participation. Participation must be counted on a termly basis.

No top-up fees – the basic entitlement is free at the point of delivery and providers must not levy any fee in this respect. However they can charge for additional hours at their usual rate.

LAs must determine a basic hourly rate (following consultation).

Payments must ideally be made monthly.

All providers must be given an indicative budget at the start of the year which reflects anticipated participation.

Sustainability is a key consideration.

A deprivation factor is required by regulation.

Supplements should be considered to ensure that the single funded formula supports wider early years policy objectives. In particular:

- a) Supplements should be considered as a means for incentivising and rewarding improvements in the quality and flexibility of provision
- b) All single funded formulas should recognise the costs associated with quality and encourage a culture of continuous improvement

LAs must use the single funding formula to support and promote quality and encourage a culture of continuous improvement in the quality of provision.

A LA could build a quality supplement based on participation in a local quality improvement programme reflecting the four key principles of the Early Years Quality Improvement Support Programme (EYQISP) developed by the National Strategies:

- the role of effective leadership in securing and improving quality;
- a continuous cycle of self-evaluation, improvement and reflection;
- a system of support and challenge which is transparent and agreed by all;
- strong partnerships between LAs, settings and the settings communities.

Ofsted ratings could be used as a further measure to target those settings which were receiving consistently 'satisfactory' ratings with the aim of achieving 'good' or higher. Early Years and Extended Services could support the settings to use the Ofsted Self Evaluation Form to establish their strengths and areas for development and work with them on action plans to improve their provision across the board.

LAs should use the single funding formula as part of a package of measures to support, promote and incentivise flexible patterns of delivery. We will be looking at this from September 2010 against the following criteria:

- make sure the definition of flexibility is within the national parameters;
- ensure that the definition of flexibility is reflective of parental demand;
- clearly communicated to both parents and providers what flexibility means in Herefordshire;
- ensure the scheme does not impose additional burdens on providers.

Basic Revised Formula Structure – Phased Approach

	Basic hourly rate per child	Fixed rate per setting per week	Supplement for quality per setting per week	Supplement for flexibility will be discussed from Sept 2010	Amount per setting in a disadvantaged area per week	Amount per hour per disadvantaged child from year 3	% areas of deprivation
Year 1	3.41	27	5		0	0	
Year 2	3.23	57	7		20	0	
Year 3	2.97	86	10		40	0.24	0-25% band
						0.12	25-50% band
						0.04	50-60%

Note: Settings claiming less than 100 hours each week will receive 1/100th of any lump sum payment per hour claimed.

A spreadsheet is available at EYES where we can run the formula against setting numbers. If you are interested in doing this then please contact Clare Williams on 01432 383492 or cwilliams@herefordshire.gov.uk

Evaluation and Review

Cost Analysis

A cost analysis will be carried out in September 2010, six months after the introduction of the formula.

Sustainability in Rural Areas

Funding for the free early years entitlement must be based on participation levels. However there may be a very few circumstances in which an alternative approach is appropriate. One might be in rural areas where the sustainability of particular settings would suffer if all funding was participation based.

Consideration will be given in the future to using supplements for the protection of rural settings.

Clare Williams
 Finance and Local Business Development Officer
 Early Years and Extended Services
 August 2009



MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TASK GROUP - UPDATE
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ICT, EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To update the Committee on progress with the work undertaken by the Herefordshire Schools Task Group and report the decision of Cabinet on 26 November 2009.

Recommendation

THAT subject to any comment the Committee may wish to make the position be noted.

Introduction and Background

- 3 At its meeting on 28 September 2009 this Committee received an update report on progress made by the Schools Task Group. The Committee agreed with the process and timescale for consultation on the paper produced by the Schools Task Group; agreed with the process followed and progress made in preparing the paper for consultation and requested to be kept informed of progress.
- 4 On 26 November 2009 Cabinet considered a report setting out the feedback from the Herefordshire Schools Task Group formal consultation and the recommendations of the Herefordshire Schools Task Group. The covering report to Cabinet is attached at appendix 1 for information. The report with its appendices is available from the Committee Agendas section of the Council's web site
- 5 Cabinet approved the recommendations contained in the report as presented.
- 6 At this meeting the Director of Children's Services will orally update the Committee on the current position.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Kathy Roberts, Assistant Director: Improvement & Inclusion (01432) 260804

Appendices

10 Report to Cabinet 23 November 2009.

Background Papers

- None as a result of this report.

MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	26 NOVEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TASK GROUP CONSULTATION
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ICT, EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

- To note the feedback from the Herefordshire Schools Task Group (HSTG) formal consultation.
- To consider the recommendations of the Herefordshire Schools Task Group.

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living and working in Herefordshire.

It was not included in the Forward Plan, however inclusion in the agenda gives the required notice in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulations 2000.

Recommendations:

THAT Cabinet:

- (a) **Endorse the five Cluster Working proposals as detailed at paragraph 10 below;**
- (b) **Endorse the four School Leadership proposals as detailed at paragraph 12 below;**
- (c) **Endorse the principle of establishing sustainability criteria and thresholds and request that officers and partners produce a detailed analysis of Small Schools by Design models, including Sustainable Schools criteria and thresholds, which can inform judgements on suitability of cluster plans once submitted to be reported back within three months;**
- (d) **Endorse the five Finance proposals as detailed at paragraph 18 below and in addition request that officers progress the recommendation of the Task Group that further development be undertaken of the proposal at**

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Kathy Roberts, Assistant Director: Improvement & Inclusion on (01432) 260804

paragraph 17 (e) to ensure an appropriate balance of provision across the county;

- (e) **Endorse the implementation of existing policies by Local Authority (LA) and Diocesan officers implementing existing policies in their work with schools which face challenging circumstances and in addition that recommendations (a) and (b) above be implemented with immediate effect in order to further support this; and**
- (f) **Support the LA and Diocesan officers in their work with schools and clusters to develop local plans of partnership working to inform a long-term strategic plan for Herefordshire.**

Key Points Summary

- This is an area of critical consideration which requires careful analysis with clear recommendations relating to the design process for sustainable quality schools within Herefordshire.

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no alternative options.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The pressure on all schools in delivering high quality provision for our children and young people in a time of falling pupil numbers and therefore reducing budgets is significant and increasingly unsustainable. A strategy for sustainable provision is required. This needs to be developed and implemented with all stakeholders involved. This consultation was a first step towards this.

Introduction and Background

- 3 Following a meeting in December 2008 of Head Teachers, Chairs of Governors and Cabinet the Herefordshire Schools Task Group (HSTG) was established, under the independent chairmanship of David Brown, to recommend to the Council a set of criteria to underpin the future of education and learning provision in the county, providing a framework within which decisions will be made.
- 4 At its meeting on 24th September Cabinet received the paper produced by the Herefordshire Schools Task Group outlining its proposals for the criteria, and approved that paper for formal consultation.
- 5 The formal consultation held on the Herefordshire Schools Task Group Interim Report ran from 25th September 2009 to 2nd November 2009.
- 6 The document (previously circulated with the Cabinet agenda for 24 September and available on the council website) was made available to all stakeholders and interested parties through a range of sources including schools, libraries, and the corporate council consultation website.
- 7 95 responses were received by the end of the consultation period and the analysis of these responses is attached in Appendix 1. A further 8 responses were received after the deadline, and whilst they are not included within the statistical analysis do not raise any new issues or

concerns.

Key Considerations

- 8 HSTG recognised that, in common with a number of rural counties, the challenges facing Herefordshire's ability to continually improve educational quality and outcomes for the county's young people include:
- The impact of falling pupil numbers, surplus capacity within schools and parental preference;
 - Consequential financial impacts (in a climate of reducing public funding); and
 - Changes in schools workforce.
- 9 HSTG developed proposals covering the following four key areas: cluster working, school leadership, sustainable schools, and finance. The proposals within each of these sections are detailed below, together with the recommendations of the HSTG taking into account the consultation responses.

Cluster Working

- 10 HSTG made five proposals in respect of cluster working which were:
- a) Engagement of all stakeholders is essential. Local communities and appropriate authorities must contribute to and take ownership of the outcomes of the process. The process should be open and inclusive where all those who seek to participate respect the views of others and treat those views with due regard to the differing faith, cultural and professional perspectives.
 - b) Co-operation is essential to meet the identified challenges. It is also a necessary part of retaining a widespread and diverse variety of education as currently chosen by parents. It is fundamental to the continued improvement of children and young people and a vital part of schools sharing leadership, teaching and wider support services. Co-operation can take a variety of forms including sharing physical facilities, staffing and resources. Governors, Head Teachers and appropriate authorities will work together through their cluster schools, to establish a firmer foundation for this. All schools must be pro-actively engaged in such discussions.
 - c) Provision planning is to be adopted and applied by all schools as part of annual self evaluation. Local Authority, Diocesan and Trust Representative officers alongside School Improvement Partners should support all Governing Bodies to undertake, by September 2010, a formal evaluation of different options to feed into the creation of a strategic plan for Herefordshire. This will inform a strategic map for Herefordshire.
 - d) Cluster Meetings of Governors, Head Teachers and Local Authority and Diocesan/Trust representatives will take place termly, with agenda and minutes of the meetings to be made available on Herefordshire Council Website. Accurate information relating to financial and pupil data and evaluation of standards relating to all schools and other members of the clusters will be made available to aid discussion and strategic planning.
 - e) Schools facing challenges have specific issues relating to their development and sustainability. Governing bodies have the responsibility to provide strategic direction for their schools in order to maximise the opportunities on offer for their children and young people and ensure continuous improvement of standards and delivery. As part of this duty governors should be required by the Local Authority, and Diocesan Boards if appropriate, to consider all options should such challenges face their school.

Cluster representatives and school leadership teams should be fully involved in such

developments and offer solutions and models for consideration. This will further support the consideration and development of new models of working.

Where agreements, models and/or solutions cannot be identified through this approach Local Authority officers will further support and challenge in order to bring about an agreed plan of action. If necessary the Local Authority will use its powers to intervene if no cluster engagement has been undertaken prior to appointing to leadership vacancies or developing solutions to school specific issues

- 11 HSTG have recommended that Cabinet fully support the five cluster proposals and, in making this conclusion the Task Group notes the wide support from both the public consultation and from earlier professional discussions. It was also noted that to fulfil these proposals the local authority and partners will need to have due regard to the broad comments made in the consultation from which the following are the key issues:
- Capacity in terms of people resource that will be needed system wide to support all Governing Bodies to complete, by September 2010 a formal evaluation of different options to feed into the creation of a strategic plan for Herefordshire
 - Capacity in terms of people resource that will be needed system wide to support clusters in discussions potential models and data to produce solutions to inform the strategic planning process Herefordshire.
 - Local authority and Diocesan officers to work with Head Teachers and Governors to clarify cluster working
 - Clarity over the quality of data used, with existing data being used for such discussions, with review of data if any statutory process is considered.

School Leadership

- 12 HSTG made four proposals in respect of school leadership which were:
- a) Change of leadership will require a review of different potential leadership options/models with Governors, cluster schools, Head Teachers and appropriate authorities. This will include different models of governance as well as design of staffing structures.
 - b) Succession planning will follow the evaluation of a school's future sustainability by Governors, Head Teacher, cluster schools, and appropriate authorities.
 - c) Changes to the leadership of a school will be discussed in Cluster Meetings prior to any recruitment process taking place. Recognising that solutions may not be limited to the host cluster all Head Teacher vacancies will also be shared with all Heads prior to recruitment so that every opportunity for alternative models are explored.
 - d) Resource and capital implications will be considered and prioritised throughout the planning process with Local Authority officer support.
- 13 HSTG have recommended that Cabinet fully support the four school leadership proposals and, in making this conclusion the Task group notes the wide support from both the public consultation and from earlier professional discussions. It was also noted that to fulfil these recommendations the local authority and partners will need to have due regard to the broad comments made in the consultation from which the following are the key issues:
- Clarity needed over process to guide (c) above. It is recommended that this starts in April 2010 after protocols have been agreed.
 - Local authority officers to provide guidance on different models of working between schools.

Sustainable Schools

- 14 HSTG recognised the difference between schools which are small by design and those schools with surplus capacity and/or falling rolls. This acknowledgement will enable a more strategic consideration of school provision in Herefordshire. Small schools 'by design' are those representing a specific and distinct model of education. This might relate to very isolated communities where cost of transport would be high even within an overall transport review. Such schools will be a continuing part of the pattern of education provision.
- 15 The Task Group sought views on the threshold for which three key indicators of sustainability would trigger discussion and monitoring with individual schools. These three elements were the level of surplus capacity within an individual school, the degree to which roll was falling within an individual school, and the total pupil numbers within a school.
- 16 HSTG recognised the support for the proposals in respect of the sustainability criteria of total pupil numbers as follows:
- Primary Schools 36 or less (Small Schools Policy)
 - Primary Schools 37-45 (Monitoring Threshold)
 - Primary Schools 45-60 (Financial Viability & Sustainability)
 - Secondary Schools 200 or less (Small Schools Policy)
 - Secondary Schools 201 - 350 (Monitoring Threshold)
- 17 However, the results of the consultation indicate that further clarity is required in respect of the proposals for thresholds re surplus capacity and falling rolls. HSTG has therefore recommended that cabinet request that, within three months, local authority officers with partners, produce a more detailed analysis of a 'small school by design', to include the thresholds recommended at paragraph 16 above and proposed thresholds in relation to the remaining criteria, which will then be used to judge the sustainability of plans produced by clusters.

Finance

- 18 HSTG made five proposals in respect of finance which were:
- a) Clusters should consider pooling Devolved Formula Capital monies to create centres of excellence in specialist areas with guaranteed access for all.
 - b) New builds of large Primaries and all High Schools should incorporate centres of excellence with guaranteed access to specialist facilities, as should all schools where these possibilities exist.
 - c) All strategic capital developments such as Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital planning should be coherent and align with any other developments, unless there is a risk to accessing the capital grant due to any external timescales.
 - d) Any new build needs to be consistent with surplus places planning.
 - e) Any new build should take account of the higher pupil density and closer proximity of schools in central areas of Herefordshire thus realising opportunities for different approaches.
- 19 HSTG have recommended that Cabinet support the five proposals, and in addition have recommended that further development of the proposal at 17 (e) above be carried out to take account of the concerns expressed in the qualitative responses to the consultation.

Next steps

- 20 HSTG have recommended that Cabinet endorse the full implementation of existing policies by Local Authority and Diocesan officers with schools facing challenges and that the proposals in relation to both cluster working and school leadership are used to support these processes with immediate effect.
- 21 In addition, HSTG has recommended that Cabinet support Local Authority and Diocesan officers in their work with schools and clusters to develop the local plans of partnership working to feed into a strategic plan for Herefordshire.

Community Impact

- 22 It is critical for the communities in Herefordshire that a long-term strategy is in place to guide the planning and delivery of sustainable quality educational provision across the county.

Financial Implications

- 23 A detailed analysis of the current and projected funding for schools, reflecting the negative impact of decreasing pupil numbers on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was attached as an appendix in the formal consultation document. Implementation of the recommendations within this report will be met from within existing directorate budgets and DSG.

Legal Implications

- 24 There are statutory processes which would need to be adhered to should there be any remodelling or redesign of school provision.

Risk Management

- 17 Should there be no agreement on the implementation of the HSTG recommendations then the current challenges facing schools would remain unaddressed. The status quo has already been identified as unsustainable and unacceptable;

Consultees

- 20 All key stakeholders and partners including young people.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Analysis paper.

Appendix 2: Executive summary.

Background Papers

- Qualitative responses.
- Quantitative responses.
- Late submissions.
- Consultation Document.

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2009/2010
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To scrutinise the capital budget position for 2009/10 for the Children & Young People's Directorate.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Committee note and comment on the report as part of its scrutiny function.

Key Points Summary

- The overall capital programme is being delivered on time and to budget.
- The Final Business Case for The Hereford Academy new build was approved by Partnerships for Schools on 20th November 2009. This brings £23,923,712 of Government funding to Herefordshire and, following the competitive procurement process through The National Academies Framework, now allows Herefordshire Council to appoint Willmott Dixon Construction to deliver this scheme on behalf of The Hereford Academy Trustees. While this is very welcome news, the approval process has been protracted, with implications for the programme and budget which officers will seek to mitigate in partnership with The Hereford Academy Trustees and Willmott Dixon Construction. See paragraph 4.2.
- Herefordshire has negotiated a further £419,000 to deliver accommodation for alternative provision in each of the 14 high schools. See paragraph 4.7.

Alternative Options

- 1 This report is a monitoring report. There are alternatives in terms of the format if Scrutiny Committee wishes to have information presented in a different way.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Rob Reid, Head of Access & Capital Commissioning on (01432) 260920

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Monitoring report

Introduction and Background

- 3 This report provides a summary of the planned capital expenditure for the Children & Young People's Directorate in 2009/2010.

Planned capital expenditure for 2009/10 is around £30 million.

Key Considerations

4. **Update on capital schemes for 2009/10**

- 4.1 **The Minster College – Building Schools for the Future One School Pathfinder - £21,000,000 (£12,201,349 to be spent in 2009/10)**

This scheme continues to progress well and is on schedule to complete in the summer 2010. While the new school has been designed to accommodate the upper end of possible future student numbers within the catchment area and, in time, from new housing, the school will have significant spare capacity when it opens. The Local Authority continues to work with the headteacher and governors to mitigate this. An area of surplus capacity is being developed to accommodate a multi agency integrated children's services team within the new building and other accommodation is being adapted to provide a facility for alternative provision (see paragraph 4.7).

- 4.2 **The Hereford Academy - £23,923,712 (£9,066,000 to be spent in 2009/10)**

The Final Business Case for The Hereford Academy new build was approved by Partnerships for Schools on 20th November 2009. This brings £23,923,712 of Government funding to Herefordshire and, following a competitive procurement process, through The National Academies Framework, allows Herefordshire Council to appoint Willmott Dixon Construction to deliver this scheme on behalf of The Hereford Academy Trustees. While this is very welcome news, the approval process has been protracted. There have certainly been some learning points for the Local Authority in this, its first encounter with the National Academies Framework, but officers feel that there is also scope to simplify and shorten the approval process adopted by Partnerships for Schools. Officers will be feeding back constructive comments and suggestions to Partnerships for Schools which it hopes will benefit local authorities and their partners who are engaged in such projects in future.

The result of the approval process means that the school decanting to the new building in the early summer of 2011, rather than the spring term. Officers are working with The Academy Trustees and Willmott Dixon Construction to mitigate the affect on the programme and cost of Willmott Dixon Construction keeping a presence on site during this period.

4.3 **Primary Capital Programme - £3,000,000 (2009/10) + £5,378,000 (2010/11)**

This is the national Government fourteen year funding programme for major investment in primary schools and primary age special schools. Herefordshire will receive its first year's allocation of £3,000,000 this financial year and £5,378,000 in 2010/11, giving a total of £8,378,000 over the two financial years. Funding amounts beyond this have not yet been announced by Government.

Cabinet has committed £7,378,000 of the first two year's funding to the building of a new all through primary school in Leominster, to replace the current Leominster Infant and Leominster Junior schools. A Project Team has been formed, comprising of the headteachers and governor representatives of the current schools and Local Authority Children's Services, Property Services and Human Resources officers, to deliver the new build school and to carry out the statutory school reorganisation process to establish the new school. Amey are providing the consultant architect and design service.

Herefordshire's Primary Strategy for Change identifies the balance of the funding from the Year 1 and Year 2 allocations, £500,000, as being available as a 'match funding pot'. Consultation with schools will take place early in the spring term 2010 on a mechanism for primary schools to bid for funding for capital schemes from the 'match funding pot' and the criteria to be used to determine priorities for receiving funding.

4.4 **Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) - £1,600,000**

Capital funds for Voluntary Aided schools are allocated to local authorities from the Department for Children Schools and Families. In conjunction with the Roman Catholic Diocese, the Anglican Diocesan and Staunton-on-Wye School, which is Herefordshire's only non-denominational voluntary aided school, the Local Authority coordinates the programme of investment. The works identified are either large maintenance schemes or improvement schemes, although certain ICT installations are also permitted. The figures quoted are always in 100% but 10% has to be found locally using School's revenue budget or the Trustees' own account. Bids are invited from aided Schools around June/July each year with submissions having to be made by the end of September. The Department for Children Schools and Families are advised of the programme by the end of November of each year. Any scheme approved requires competitive tenders to be obtained and submitted to the Department for Children Schools and Families for approval. Grants are paid on receipt of invoices and the final account requires receipted invoices and certificates of completion from the professional advisors.

The programme for 2009/10 is:

St Joseph's RC Primary – completion of new school hall -	£300,000
Pembridge C of E Primary – Remodelling of accommodation -	£300,000
Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School – Boiler replacement -	£100,000
- Re-roofing -	£30,000
Staunton on Wye Primary School – contribution to school build	£300,000
St Paul's C of E Primary – Replacement roof	£55,000
St Michael's C of E Primary – kitchen conversion -	£17,000
Leintwardine C of E Primary – Admin/staff area remodelling -	£150,000
St Mary's C of E, Fownhope – replace rooflights -	£30,000
St Mary's RC High – Re-roofing	£40,000
- upgrade lighting to classrooms	£40,000

Whitchurch C of E Primary – Re-roofing	£60,000
Brampton Abbots Primary – remodelling	£128,000
Access contingency - (to meet Disability Discrimination Act requirements)	£50,000

All of the above schemes have either been completed or are on schedule to complete successfully before the end of this financial year.

4.5 **Capital Maintenance Programme - £1,968,486**

This allocation is managed by the Council's Asset Management and Property Services Team to address the highest condition issues. The allocation includes £250,000 specifically for work to prevent legionella and £100,000 to refurbish and re-site mobile classrooms where appropriate.

4.6 **14 to 19 and Special Education Needs Grant - £2,000,000 (2009/10) + £6,000,000 (2010/11)**

Priorities for spend are to be determined as part of the review of Special Educational Needs provision, alongside a consideration of priorities established from the 14 – 19 agenda. A paper outlining options will be considered by Cabinet.

4.7 **Alternative Provision Capital Grant - £378,000 (2009/10) + £1,775,000 (2010/11)**

Last summer, the Local Authority was successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families to acquire funding for a pilot project to establish alternative provision for children who would otherwise be excluded from school. The bid attracted a capital grant totalling £1,734,000 and also some revenue funding. Officers have been working with all Herefordshire high schools to design and deliver appropriate accommodation. In November 2009, Herefordshire successfully negotiated an extra £419,000 capital funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This will allow the Local Authority to deliver in full the accommodation plans which have been drawn up with every high school.

The first school to benefit from this funding is John Masefield High School which opened its new provision at the beginning of this autumn term. Provision at John Kyrle High School opened earlier this autumn term. Officers are working with the remaining high schools to provide dedicated accommodation for alternative provision at each school by 31st March 2011.

4.8 **Playbuilder – £526,332 (2009/10) + £593,285 (2010/11)**

The Local Authority has been successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families for capital grant funding totalling £1,119,617 from the Playbuilder scheme.

The Playbuilder scheme is about providing play sites for 8-13 year olds that are fully inclusive in terms of diversity and disability, have support from the local community, permission from the landowner, encourage risk and challenge and make the most of the natural environment.

This is a two year project to develop 22 play sites, 11 in each year. 11 sites have been identified for development this financial year and officers from the Children and Young

People's Directorate are working with colleagues from Parks, Countryside and Leisure and the third sector to consult communities, and in particular young people, on the facilities they would like to see developed in their area.

The project is being externally audited on behalf of the Department for Children Schools and Families by Play England which provides a monthly 'Red/Amber/Green', or 'RAG' rating report to Ministers. Play England is very pleased with Herefordshire's progress to date and the project management arrangements. The latest 'RAG rating' is 'Green'.

As requested at the last meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee, a briefing document on Playbuilder has been circulated to Members.

4.9 Riverside Primary School - £1,235,693 (2009/10)

This scheme has been delayed due to the appointed contractor going into administration. A new contractor has been appointed to complete the works. Handover of the new accommodation is imminent with plans in place for pupils and staff to start using their new building from the beginning of the spring term in January.

4.10 Holmer Flood Alleviation - £179,419 (2009/10)

Immediate preventative works have been carried out. The council is dependent upon receipt of a flood modelling survey from the Environment Agency before further work is done. The main work will be undertaken in the spring of 2010.

Following a query at the last Committee meeting, a briefing note has been provided to Members on the Local Authority's responsibility in this scheme.

4.11 Accessibility – Individual Pupil Needs - £389,560 (2009/10)

This budget is used to address specific accessibility issues for pupils who would otherwise be disabled from accessing the curriculum. A number of schemes have been carried forward from last financial year for completion this year. Officers are currently assessing works which will be carried out this year, ready for pupils starting primary school, or transferring to high school in September 2010.

4.12 Children's Centres - £1, 542,560 (2009/10)

Hollybush will soon change its name to South Meadow Children's Centre. Works at this centre and at Peterchurch Children's Centre are now complete. Plans for the extension of Springfield Children's Centre are being prepared and options are being considered for the provision of children's centre services to the north of the County.

4.13 Quality & Access for early years provision - £1,324,268 (2009/10)

This is grant funded by the DCSF and is aimed at improving the quality of, and/or access to quality early years provision, particularly in the private, voluntary and independent sectors. A Quality & Access Project Board has been established to invite and evaluate bids from early years providers for grant funding aimed at schemes which will improve quality and/or access. An initial round of bids has focused on ICT, accommodation and outdoor play space. Consideration is now being given to the focus of further bidding rounds.

4.14 Section 106 - £536,287 of developer contributions to spend within time-scales which are specific to individual contributions.

The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 allows a Local Authority to negotiate financial contributions from developers in respect of infrastructure and services. The Council's Planning Obligation Supplementary Planning Guidance document provides a framework for negotiating contributions for Children & Young People's Services, including schools.

Contributions are used to meet the highest asset management plan priorities of the individual school, or groups of schools/establishments in an area, if specific schools are not named.

The following Section 106 developer contributions are currently held by the Children & Young People's Directorate:

The Bradbury Lines, Hereford, developer contribution of £182,443 is provided for education facilities in the area. Possible beneficiaries are: St. Martin's Primary, Our Lady's RC Primary, Marlbrook Primary and Blackmarston Special School. While there is potential to spend this money at any one, or all of these schools, the highest asset management plan priorities are currently being assessed by officers in order to provide an objective analysis of the priorities for capital investment. Options will be reported to the Cabinet Member for consideration. The deadline for spend is 25th January 2011.

The Pentland Gardens, Hereford, developer contribution of £46,878 for Trinity Primary School has been spent on toilet refurbishments in 2009/10. This scheme was undertaken during the school summer holiday.

The Bullingham Lane developer contribution of £34,090 for St. Martin's Primary School will be spent on providing outdoor shade/weather shelter facilities and an extension to accommodate reprographics facilities, which currently occupy a corridor space.

The Withies Road developer contribution of £39,407 will be spent in 2009/10 upon agreement with Withington Primary School and Aylestone High School on the highest asset management plan priority(ies) to be addressed.

The Coughton, Ross-on-Wye, developer contribution of £9,000 has been spent in 2009/10 to help provide sufficient Year 7 places at John Kyrle High School for September 2009.

The balance of £8,842 from the Old Road, Bromyard development will be spent by St Peter's Primary School in 2009/10.

Kington (land west of Old Eardisley Road). £92,000. £62,000 of this to Lady Hawkins High School towards eco toilet refurbishment and ICT equipment. £32,000 to Kington Primary School to improve outdoor hard play areas.

Kington (Maesydari Site) contribution of £62,000. £44,000 of this has been allocated to Lady Hawkins High School for improvements to performing arts facilities and £18,000 Kington Primary School for toilet refurbishments.

Leominster Police Station site contribution of £24,000. Pending decision on proposed amalgamation of Leominster Infant and Junior Schools.

4.15 **Extended Schools Grants - £462,392 (2009/10)**

Extended schools providers are invited to bid for capital grants through a 2 stage process. The first stage is for the bidder to seek agreement in principle to grant funding towards their particular project. If bids are approved in principle, then the applicant is invited to submit a full business case. Upon approval of the business case, a grant is then made.

4.16 **Schools' Devolved Formula Capital - £3,663,535**

Devolved directly to schools to spend on their highest asset management plan priorities.

4.17 **Co-location of services – £2,396,050 in total. £157,700 (2009/10)**

The Local Authority has, on behalf of Herefordshire's Children's Trust, been successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families for capital funding to provide co-located services. The full funding, over two years, is £2.4m. This will support the move towards the provision of integrated services through locality based teams. Sites for co-located services have been identified at The new build Minster College, Kington Youth/Children's Centre, Ledbury Primary School, Ryefield Children's Centre, Ross-on-Wye, Greencroft Children's Centre, and the Hope Centre Bromyard. A second Hereford City site, north of the River Wye has yet to be determined.

Community Impact

- 5 The capital investment programme of the Children and Young People's Directorate, including schools and early years settings, has wide ranging community impacts, benefiting children and young people and their families across Herefordshire

Financial Implications

- 6 These are contained in the body of the report.

Legal Implications

- 7 The use of capital funding including grants must comply with the legal requirements associated with each funding stream and the conditions of specific grants

Risk Management

- 8 The risks are set out in the body of the report, in terms of project delays and the actions planned to mitigate the impact of these.

Consultees

- 9 Not applicable.

Appendices

10 None.

Background Papers

- None identified.

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Children's Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To report on the monitoring of the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10 at the end of quarter two. To provide comparisons to 2008/09 budget and outturn so that Scrutiny Committee can assess and comment upon the budget management of Children's Services.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendations

THAT Children's Services Scrutiny Committee comments and scrutinises the figures contained herein.

Key Points Summary

- Figures for this report have been adjusted to take into account the actual 1% pay award. The previous report to Scrutiny Committee in September 2009 assumed a 2% pay award,
- The directorate under spent by £533k in 2008/09 and is currently projecting to over spend by £533k for 2009/10. This represents a reduction of £222k since the September report when the over-spend was projected at £755k.
- As a result of the over spend reported to Scrutiny committee in September the Director of Children's Services and the Directorate Leadership Team have actioned several cost savings measures which are largely responsible for the reduced over-spend now being projected.
- Additionally despite the escalating pressures within safeguarding services the Assistant Director has also introduced further cost savings measures to minimise the impact whilst not jeopardising service delivery.
- Work is progressing on the detailed review of current services and staffing requirements to enable Children's Services to be robust in structure to meet increasing demands in a time of mounting budgetary pressures. The outcomes of this ongoing work will not impact on 2009/10 but will generate savings in 2011/12 and beyond and will form part of the

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Chris Baird, Assistant Director, Planning, Performance and Development, Children and Young People's
Directorate cbaird@herefordshire.gov.uk, 01432 260264

Council's response to the changing economic climate. As part of the development of the Directorate a series of appointments have been made to tier three management positions. These will drive forward the changes necessary to improve the services of the Directorate.

- As reported in September, a significant service pressure continues to be aspects of safeguarding services. This is reflected nationally as well as locally. Since the Baby Peter case there has been a substantial national increase in referrals of concern over child safety and this has led in turn to increased numbers of children subject to child protection plans and children becoming Looked After... On 20th October 2009 Cafcass (the organisation representing children in family courts) reported that "*the three months to September saw an increase in care applications to England's courts of 688 cases, a 47% rise*".
- In Herefordshire in the 12 months to September 2009 there has been an increase of 29% in the numbers of children in agency (independent) fostering placements (an increase from 17 to 22). Over the past 15 months there has been a 220% increase (from 10 children to 22) with a corresponding increase in both court and placement costs.

Alternative Options

- 1 This report is a monitoring report for the committee to scrutinise and comment upon.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To enable Scrutiny Committee to carry out its function in relation to the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10.

Introduction and Background

- 3 This report continues the format that was favourably received at the last Scrutiny Committee, and includes the minor revisions suggested.
- 4 Additional information has also been provided to offer further analysis on the expenditure which is grant funded to show the varied sources of funding provided and the breadth of services delivered by the Directorate.
- 5 Some budget virements have been actioned since the last report and the Appendices show the updated budgets, including a corporate adjustment to reflect the 1% pay settlement (previously budgeted at 2%).
- 6 Comparison of both the current projected outturn and those from the September report are shown together with a variance to both budget and the September estimated outturn. Appendices A to C provide an overview of the budget sources and areas of expenditure.

Key Considerations

- 5 In the following figures it should be noted that the corporate recharges and the related budgets are only allocated at the end of the financial year. The tables in Appendices A-C show comparisons for 2009/10 versus 2008/09 reports last year excluding corporate recharges for ease of comparison.

Local Authority Expenditure

- 7 Appendix A shows the budget and projected Local Authority Expenditure for 2009/10 with 2008/09 comparatives. In summary this is currently showing a net over-spend of £533k which relates largely to expenditure within Safeguarding Vulnerable Children Services, with contributions to achieving the directorate wide target savings coming from Inclusion & Improvement and Planning, Performance and Development teams. The primary contributory factors are detailed below.
- 8 The number of external residential agency placements including agency fostering has increased and therefore costs are running significantly over budget (£449k at the present time and £383k higher than last year's spend). The Assistant Director for Safeguarding has implemented a review of all high cost placements to identify exit strategies and options for lower cost placements (where these are appropriate for the child). For prudence the current forecast assumes that the current numbers of children remain in care for the remainder of the financial year. Work is also taking place to make the most of regional approaches to external placements, which should reduce future cost pressures.
- 9 The fostering and other looked after children costs are currently projecting an over spend of £192k versus budget and £94k higher than 2008/09 actual spend. This is largely due to increased court costs. The Assistant Director for Safeguarding has implemented improved controls and robust challenge process in order to minimise the impact of legal costs. The increase in referrals reported above combined with legislative changes has resulted in a doubling of court costs from 2008/09 (£111k) to 2009/10 (£210k). The budget did not reflect realistic expenditure levels based upon last year costs and is currently projecting an over-spend of £180k versus the £30k budget
- 10 The Family Assessment and Support reporting line now includes an anticipated expenditure of circa £95k for providing Bed and Breakfast to Homeless 16/17 year olds. This has arisen following a legal decision (Homeless 16/17 year olds re: R(G) v Southwark LB) resulting in a requirement for Children's Services to provide accommodation for homeless 16/17 year olds who are below the minimum age to be covered by adult housing provisions. This is a new requirement for all councils for which there is currently no budget. The DCSF has indicated that funding should be sought from within the Supporting People grant which councils have received. Initial investigations by Children's Services staff indicate that most 16/17 year olds will not meet the eligibility criteria, but further action will be undertaken to see if funding can be secured.
- 12 There are two budget areas for Children with Disabilities. The Children with Disabilities (non joint agency managed cases) forecast expenditure has been reduced since the last report as a result of anticipated funding from the Carers Grant held by Adult Social Care (£53k) and other actions taken by the Assistant Director to cap expenditure. The Children with Disabilities budget for the joint agency managed cases (JAM) has been maintained at the 2008/09 budget level for now as each case can be very expensive. Any budget amendments must be agreed through the formal pooled budget agreement. Spending will be closely monitored on an ongoing basis throughout the year.
- 13 The Children's Service ICT budget has been adjusted to reflect the true cost of licences and to remove a budget anomaly following the centralisation of ICT costs. The negative budget arose as budget equivalent to actual spend was deducted from the CYPD budget when the costs were centralised. This has resulted in a budget shortfall which has to be covered within CYPD. The current year over-spend has been offset by savings for this financial year and a budget adjustment will be made to correct the anomaly.

- 14 The Community Operations forecast includes the full year cost of the Assistant Director and also the commencement of activities (including the recruitment of tier 3 posts in year) in the lead up to the creation of the new locality based teams. The funding of this team will come from the reorganisation of CYPD which is currently underway.
- 15 The under spend on target savings includes actual one off income and currently also includes the estimated savings to be generated as a result of the Directorate budget recovery plan actions.
- 16 The increase in miscellaneous other costs relates to ongoing costs for the Schools' Task Group and charges for the central recruitment team.

Dedicated Schools Grant

- 17 Appendix B shows the projected outturn for 2009/10 for Dedicated Schools Grant. This is subdivided between schools expenditure and centrally funded schools related expenditure.
- 18 In 2008/09 budgets for all new applications for banded funding (bands 1-4) were held centrally (existing commitments were included in school budgets at the start of the financial year). For 2009/10, levels 1 and 2 banded funding was delegated to schools and only new applications for Bands 3 and 4 (and academies) are now centrally administered. These payments are currently running in excess of the budget and currently estimated to over-spend by £261k. Work is underway to identify the underlying trends and pressures so that appropriate action can be taken.
- 19 Savings are being made within the Special Educational Needs team (£64k) due to staff vacancies and the Travellers Children team due to a vacancy following a change in delivery method to bring the service "in house". Previously the service was provided regionally by the West Midlands Traveller Service.
- 20 Other miscellaneous expenditure includes the costs for the special casework team, the net position for inter authority recoupment (costs for other local authority children educated in Herefordshire schools and for Herefordshire children educated in schools elsewhere), and an apportionment of overheads. The net over-spend represents a saving on the costs for the LEA pool (£26k) offset by additional costs for Trade Union duties (£30k) and licence costs (£18k).
- 21 The previous report to Scrutiny detailed the position regarding rates rebates (totalling £1,054,205). Schools Forum on 29th September have asked for funding models to be prepared that allocate all the funding to schools and that schools be given a choice whether to receive all their share in 2010/11 or spread it equally over the three years 2010/11-2012/13 in view of the expected downturn in schools funding expected nationally. This work is to be considered at Schools Forum in January 2010.
- 24 Detailed business cases for the use of the DSG carry forward (£1,280,408) will be considered by Schools Forum on 7th December 2009. Projects under consideration include on-going improvements, developments and efficiencies including ICT developments, resources for schools and contributions towards any Building Schools for the Future initiative.
- 25 The Music Service is operated as a Trading Service to schools and currently has a projected deficit. Work is underway to develop a recovery plan.

Grant Funded Expenditure

- 26 To provide members with a full overview of the use of grants by the Directorate Appendix C sets out the major grant funded activities.
- 27 The two principal funding streams for Children's Services (other than Council and DSG) are the Area Based Grant for which there is a budget of £4.362m and Standards Fund (DCSF) of £15.643m.
- 29 The DCSF is also providing £391,000 in various grants this year from its Think Family programme as well as other minor programmes.
- 30 Children and Young People's Directorate receives various grants from the Children's Workforce Development Council and the TDA which encompass the development of both teaching and non-teaching staff totalling £424,000.
- 31 Most grants are forecast to be in line with budget. This is because the terms and conditions of the grants either permit the carry forward of unspent money's to future years (in the case of Standards Funds carry forward is to August 2010) or require repayment to the body providing the funding (e.g. Surestart grant). Grant funded programmes are not allowed to over-spend (any additional costs would have to be local authority funded).

Community Impact

The work of the Children and Young People's Directorate, including schools and early years settings have wide ranging community impacts, benefiting children and young people and their families across Herefordshire.

Financial Implications

These are contained in the body of the report. The projected outturn is based upon results to the end of October 2009.

Legal Implications

The use of budgets including grants must comply with the legal requirements associated with each funding stream and the conditions of specific grants.

Risk Management

The risks are set out in the body of the report, in terms of the potential overspend. The report notes the actions planned to address this potential overspend.

Consultees

Not applicable

Appendices

Appendix A, B and C are attached and referred to in the body of the report.

Appendix A

Budget and Projected Local Authority Expenditure for 2009/10 with 2008/09 Comparatives

£'000	2008/09			2009/10				
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget* ¹	Sept Proj. Outturn * ²	Current Proj. Outturn	Variance to Budget	Variance to Sept Outturn
External Agency Placements	2,956	2,893	63	2,827	3,186	3,276	(449)	(90)
Fostering & other Looked After Children costs (LAC)	1,855	2,006	(151)	1,908	2,131	2,100	(192)	31
Children with Disabilities (non JAM cases)	700	697	3	709	752	681	28	71
Family Assessment and Support	1,743	1,761	(18)	2,147	2,194	2,281	(134)	(87)
Safeguarding Staff Costs (including social workers)	4,235	4,223	12	4,258	4,310	4,220	38	90
Children with disabilities Joint Agency Managed (JAM)	825	619	206	825	825	825	0	0
Early Years (non grant funded)	274	55	219	62	62	61	1	1
Education Welfare Team	184	184	0	188	190	190	(2)	0
Inclusion & Improvement Mgmt	476	421	55	456	458	458	(2)	0
Special Educational Needs	859	700	159	854	838	802	52	36
School Improvement Service	1,113	1,166	(53)	1,067	1,077	1,078	(11)	(1)
Youth Offending Team	341	307	34	341	339	331	10	8
Youth Services	1,096	1,136	(40)	1,123	1,123	1,113	10	10
Children's Services ICT	10	65	(55)	(49)	80	49	(98)	31
Planning, Performance Mgmt	512	479	33	533	559	559	(26)	0
Property / Asset Management	847	1,100	(253)	762	748	743	19	5
School Admissions & Transport	5,285	4,901	384	5,296	5,123	5,008	288	115
Community Operations	110	85	25	102	120	162	(60)	(42)
Central Management Costs	225	212	13	228	220	236	(8)	(16)
Inspection & Advisory Service	0	154	(154)	0	0	0	0	0
Staff Severance Costs	598	605	(7)	756	756	756	0	0
Target Saving	(159)	42	(201)	(152)	(64)	(279)	127	215
Misc Other Central costs	44	(85)	129	(337)	(273)	(213)	(124)	(60)
Total Local Authority Net Expenditure	24,129	23,726	403	23,904	24,754	24,437	(533)	317

*¹ Budget adjusted to reflect 1% pay award - original budget

*² Agency fostering costs reclassified into External Agency (from Fostering & Other LAC) all figures adjusted

Appendix B

Budget and Projected Dedicated Schools Grant Expenditure for 2009/10 with 2008/09 Comparatives

£'000	2008/09			2009/10				
	Budget	Actual	Variance *1	Budget	Sept Proj. Outturn	Current Proj. Outturn	Variance to Budget	Variance to Sept Outturn
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)								
Grant Income	(83,558)	(83,558)	0	(84,519)	(84,519)	(84,526)	7	7
Primary Schools	37,163	37,021	142	38,802	38,802	38,802	0	0
High Schools	36,293	36,121	172	36,162	36,162	36,162	0	0
Special Schools	3,580	3,623	(43)	3,777	3,777	3,777	0	0
Schools Related Expenditure (inc Contingency)	(461)	(572)	111	100	100	50	50	50
Less LSC Income	(2,750)	(2,806)	56	(2,750)	(2,750)	(2,750)	0	0
Sub total Schools Spending	73,825	73,387	438	76,091	76,091	76,041	50	50
Special Needs Banded Funding	1,190	858	332	534	534	795	(261)	(261)
Special Needs Support (JAM)	878	619	259	878	878	825	53	53
Fees to Independent Schools (for Special Educational Needs)	341	332	9	341	341	341	0	0
Nursery Education Funding	2,900	2,923	(23)	2,884	2,884	2,884	0	0
Pupil Referral Units	895	895	0	924	924	914	10	10
Schools Admissions & Planning	173	184	(11)	163	163	166	(3)	(3)
Special Educational Needs Support Teams	1,501	1,376	125	1,504	1,504	1,440	64	64
Travellers Children	154	154	0	139	139	119	20	20
Early Years Support	465	165	300	469	469	469	0	0
Other Misc Expenditure	421	384	37	592	592	614	(22)	(22)
Total DSG Central Expenditure	8,918	7,890	1,028	8,428	8,428	8,567	(139)	(139)
Music Income	(989)	(754)	(235)	(1,077)	(1,077)	(867)	(210)	(210)
Music Expenditure	996	884	112	1,077	1,077	1,066	11	11
Sub Total Music Traded Service *2	7	130	(123)	0	0	199	(199)	(199)

*1 DSG grant regulations require all underspends to be carried forward to 2009/10

*2 Music as a traded service is reported under DSG as a service delivered to schools - a recovery plan is being developed

Appendix C
Major Grant Funded Activities

£'000	Funding / Source	2008/09			2009/10				
		Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget *1	Sept Proj. Outturn	Current Proj. Outturn	Variance to Budget	Variance to Sept Outturn
Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	ABG	100	82	18	126	126	126	0	0
Other Community Operations Support	ABG	0	0	0	109	109	109	0	0
Extended Schools Start Up	ABG	402	385	17	688	818	688	0	130
Other Schools Support	ABG	812	740	72	861	861	847	14	14
Connexions	ABG	1,548	1,548	0	1,470	1,470	1,470	0	0
Teen Pregnancy	ABG	99	92	7	96	96	96	0	0
Children's Fund	ABG	276	246	30	0	47	0	0	47
School Travel	ABG	32	73	(41)	111	111	111	0	0
Children & Adolescent Mental Health	ABG	208	203	5	202	202	202	0	0
Other Safeguarding Children	ABG	176	170	6	467	420	467	0	(47)
Other ABG	ABG	(13)	85	(98)	232	102	232	0	(130)
Total Area Based Grant		3,640	3,624	16	4,362	4,362	4,348	14	14
Children's Centres	DSCF / Surestart	1,872	1,652	220	2,502	2,254	2,502	0	(248)
Other Early Years	DSCF / Surestart	1,933	2,153	(220)	1,568	1,816	1,568	0	248
Total Surestart Grant		3,805	3,805	0	4,070	4,070	4,070	0	0
Special & Beacon Schools	DSCF / Stds Fund	1,968	1,968	0	1,929	1,929	1,929	0	0
School Development Grant	DSCF / Stds Fund	5,415	5,415	0	5,183	5,183	5,183	0	0
Other Devolved Schools Standards Fund	DSCF / Stds Fund	1,215	1,215	0	1,915	1,753	1,915	0	(162)
Extended Schools	DSCF / Stds Fund	282	287	(5)	604	604	604	0	0
Support to Music Services	DSCF / Stds Fund	219	219	0	220	220	220	0	0
One to one tuition	DSCF / Stds Fund	50	50	0	383	383	383	0	0
Other non-devolved Standards Funds	DSCF / Stds Fund	1,200	1,366	(166)	1,216	304	1,216	0	(912)
School Standards Grant	DSCF / Stds Fund	4,141	4,141	0	4,193	4,193	4,193	0	0
Total Standards Fund		14,490	14,661	(171)	15,643	14,569	15,643	0	(1,074)
Community Ops (Think Family) various	DCSF/ Think	555	203	352	391	391	391	0	0
Training & Development	Various	406	216	190	424	424	424	0	0

*1 Budget includes virements made post September scrutiny in ABG & Surestart. Standards Fund Budget includes additional funding advised in year

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	PERFORMANCE DIGEST – QUARTER 2 2009/2010
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ICT, EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To present the Performance Digest for Children's Services for the second quarter of 2009/2010 (April – September 2009) and to highlight key performance issues.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation(s)

THAT Scrutiny Committee assesses and considers the levels of performance achieved for the second quarter of 2009/2010 and considers if further reports and/or action are judged to be necessary.

Key Points Summary

- The percentage of initial assessments completed within 7 working days has significantly improved and is now ahead of the target for the year.
- Unvalidated results show that the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths in the 2009 exams was the same as in 2008 at 52% which is ahead of the national average of 50% but still below the target. There has been significantly improved performance in relation to the achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, unvalidated results at Key Stage 1 continue to show a downward trend over the last three years. Of particular concern is the results performance in narrowing the gap for vulnerable groups which has declined significantly on last year's performance.
- Educational attainment of looked after children, particularly at GCSE, shows good performance again this year, ahead of national and statistical neighbour averages.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Hilary Hall, Head of Performance on (01432) 260801

- Persistent Absence in High Schools fell for the second successive year to 5.3% which met the target for 2009-10 and was 1.2% below this year's target. The national average of persistent absence is 5.58%. Overall absence in High Schools has fallen for the third successive year. In terms of exclusions, the trend overall is down with 18 permanent exclusions in 2008-2009. Clearly improving performance in these two areas ensures that children and young people are attending schools which, in turn, will positively impact on their achievement and attainment.

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no Alternative Options.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To ensure that progress against the indicators, for which the Children and Young People's Directorate is responsible, is understood and to ensure that the reasons for actual or potential under-performance are understood and recommendations made for remedial action.

Introduction and Background

- 3 The Performance Digest is produced quarterly and is the mechanism for monitoring key performance indicators, covering service delivery captured in the Local Area Agreement, the Children and Young People's Directorate and the Children and Young People's Plan. The Digest has been issued to Committee members as a separate document. Copies are available to the public on request.

Key Considerations

- 4 Key areas in each of the Every Child Matters outcome areas, to which the Committee's attention should be drawn, are set out below:

Be Healthy

797 young people, aged between 15 and 24 years, were screened for Chlamydia in the second quarter of the year, which is less than the projected number of 1050 (NI 113b); the prevalence of Chlamydia in young people is currently 4% which is below the national prevalence rate of 12% (NI 113a). Results from the local *Every Child Matters* survey undertaken in secondary schools in March 2009 show a reduction in the percentage of young people smoking and consuming alcohol. The percentage of young people consuming 5 or more fruit and vegetables a day has also fallen. The majority of indicators in this outcome area is subject to annual reporting in March 2010.

Stay Safe

At the end of Quarter 1, for the rolling year, there were 262 referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18, a slight drop on the year end outturn of 276. 67.9% of initial assessments were completed in 7 working days (NI 59) which is a significant improvement on the year end position of 37.4% and ahead of the target for the year. It reflects the targeted improvement work undertaken by managers in the service, supported by the performance team, focusing on quality and timeliness. Figures to the end of October 2009 show a continuing upward trend at 70.2%. As previously reported in quarter 1, a large number of uncompleted core assessment which were already out of date had been identified. These have now been completed and performance in relation to the timeliness of completing core assessments (NI 60) has remained at 57%. The risk of the potentially negative impact of a large number of out of date core assessments has been mitigated by a focus on completing new core

assessments in timescale. Completion of 'new' core assessments is in line with the target set for the year of 75%.

There has been a slight rise in the number of children subject to a child protection plan in quarter 1 from 120 as at 30 June 2009 to 128 as at 30 September 2009. The percentage of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time continues to maintain good performance at 12.7% (NI 65). All reviews of child protection cases have taken place during Quarter 1; however, as the figure is reported on a rolling year basis, five cases in the final quarter of 2008/2009 missing the statutory timescales has affected the Quarter 1 outturn (NI 67). The number of looked after children has fallen from 152 as at 30 June 2009 to 144 as at 30 September 2009. Performance in relation to the stability of placements for looked after children (NI 62 and 63) in terms of the number of moves and length of placement, continues to be very strong, ahead of national and statistical neighbour averages.

Enjoy and Achieve

Unvalidated results show that the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths in the 2009 exams was the same as in 2008 at 52% which is ahead of the national average of 50% but still below the target of 60%.

Although not achieving the target for achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (NI 72), the outturn of 45.8% represents a significant improvement on the 2008 outturn which was 42%. Unvalidated data for Key Stage 2 shows that 70.8% of children achieved Level 4 in English and Maths (NI 73) which is 2% below the 2008 outturn. Results in Key Stage 2 have shown a continuing downward trend over the last three years and improvement work in the current academic year will focus on embedding specific strategies around reading and writing, focusing on tracking pupil progress and continuing universal support and training for school, together with targeted work with key schools.

As at the end of Quarter 2, 9 personal education plans for looked after children (CYPEA-6) were outstanding; these were all completed in October. 100% of looked after children sat at least one GCSE examination (DIS 1406). 3 looked after children out of a cohort of 14 achieved 5 or more A*-C GCSE including English and Maths; a further 3 achieved 5 or more A*-C GCSEs not including English and Maths.

Make a Positive Contribution

All reviews of looked after children cases have taken place during Quarter 1 (NI 66). However, as the figure is reported on a rolling year basis, five cases in the final quarter of 2008/2009 missing the statutory timescales has affected the Quarter 1 outturn. 96.6% of looked after children participated in their reviews, an improvement on the previous quarter's outturn of 94.4% (PAF CF/63). During Quarter 1, there were 33 first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 to 17 years (NI 111), a decrease on the previous quarter's outturn of 41. In relation to re-offending (NI 19), 52 young people from the cohort of 123 have re-offended in the previous 12 calendar months with 143 offences between them. 5.2% of young people were sentenced to custody having received a conviction in court (NI 43).

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

The impact of the recession and general downturn in the economy continues to impact on this outcome area. The percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NI 117) continues to rise. The post 16 NEET programme has just started up again which will help. However, the biggest group in the overall NEET group is 18 year olds who have already been through the post-16 provision. Connexions continues to liaise with Jobcentre Plus to fast track these young people to New Deal provision. The Children's Trust

is using Area Based Grant awarded by the Herefordshire Partnership to increase the number of places on a variety of programmes to reduce the number of young people not in education, training or employment. At 30 September 2009, 2 families were occupying bed and breakfast accommodation (CYP-AEW1), a decrease on the previous quarter's outturn of 7.

Service Management

60% of social workers have achieved the PQ1 award (DIS 3124). 8.8 working days were lost to sickness absence per FTE within Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children Service (HR02), slightly behind the target for the year of 8 working days but considerably better than the year end outturn of 11.27 days. Managers, supported by HR, have been proactively managing short term absence cases through the corporate policy and procedure and there has also been a corresponding reduction in the number of long term absence cases. The social worker establishment, as at 30 September 2009, stood at 44.6 FTE against a target of 57 FTE (HR03). Appointments have been made to the vacant posts with CRB clearance awaited.

Community Impact

5 None.

Financial Implications

6 Remedial action in respect of the directorate's performance may require reallocation of resources within existing budgets. This is being addressed by the Directorate Leadership Team.

Legal Implications

7 None.

Risk Management

8 The risks to achievement of the indicators, for which the directorate is responsible, are identified by officers as part of the service planning process. Any significant risks are escalated to the directorate risk register, and corporate risk register, as appropriate. Day to day management of risk is undertaken by responsible officers, in conjunction with their Assistant Directors.

Consultees

9 None.

Appendices

10 Performance Digest circulated with the agenda as a separate document.

Background Papers

- None identified.



MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT BY:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To consider the Committee's work programme.

Recommendation

THAT

- a) the Committee consider how it wishes to take forward the Strategic Monitoring Committee's request that it gives priority to the scrutiny of Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Youth Provision issues;
- b) the Committee re-examine the current work programme to ensure that matters listed for future consideration remain appropriate subjects for scrutiny; and
- b) subject to any other comment or issues raised by the Committee the Committee work programme be approved and reported to the Strategic Monitoring Committee.

Introduction and Background

1. As reported to this Committee in September, work has been ongoing in response to the findings of the external healthcheck of the scrutiny function, undertaken by the Leadership Centre. Members of the Scrutiny Committees and the Executive participated in a facilitated scrutiny event to develop an enhanced external focus to the scrutiny committee work programme reflecting the concerns of residents and communities of Herefordshire. After considering the challenges facing the County and key issues identified from public consultation and surveys Members identified the following five priorities for scrutiny: Housing related issues; Youth; Communication; Safeguarding and Transport related issues.

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

2. At a formal meeting of Strategic Monitoring Committee on 19 October 2009 the Committee agreed that the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee be requested to give priority to the issues of Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Youth Provision issues in its work programme.
3. The Committee did not discuss this topic in detail but noted the following points from the Herefordshire Quality of Life Survey 2008:
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Children – one of the improvements the public most wanted to see is more support for families to protect vulnerable children. It is also identified by the Council as a key issue in Herefordshire.
 - Youth Provision – Activities for teenagers are the second most important thing that needs improving.
5. It is important that any scrutiny work makes a real contribution to the Council's work and does not duplicate any action already in hand.
6. Members will note from this agenda that Safeguarding Vulnerable Children has already been the subject of a seminar for all Councillors and is the subject of a report earlier in this agenda. Youth Provision is already scheduled for a seminar in January with the Committee debating the issues arising from the seminar at its March 2010 meeting.
7. The Committee will need to consider the extent to which it wishes to scrutinise these issues or aspects of them, and the appropriate method of scrutiny (briefing note / committee report / spotlight review / longer review) and the priority they should be given when considering the other issues currently scheduled for future consideration.
8. A report on the Committee's current work programme is made to each scheduled meeting of this Scrutiny Committee. A copy of the work programme is attached as an Appendix.
9. The programme may be modified by the Chairman following consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Directors in response to changing circumstances.
10. Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, the Chairman may consider calling an additional meeting to consider that issue.
11. A number of other possible issues for consideration have been logged and depending on the Committee's further instructions may be added to the programme as it is further developed. These issues are listed at the foot of the programme.
12. Strategic Monitoring Committee on 19 October also requested that all Scrutiny Committees re-examine their current work programmes to ensure that matters listed for future consideration remain appropriate subjects for scrutiny.
13. Should Members become aware of any issues they consider may be added to the scrutiny programme they should contact the Democratic Services Officer to log the issue so that it may be taken into consideration when planning future agendas or when revising the work programme.

Background Papers

- None identified.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme - 2009/10

Note: All Councillors will be invited to a seminar on Youth Provision in the County (anticipated date 9.30am Thurs 28 January 2010)	
Friday 19th March 2010	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Provision in the County (Note the seminar on 28 January will provide Members with a background to the issues) • Capital Budget Monitoring. • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Performance Digest • Committee Work Programme.
Scrutiny Reviews	-- Pupil Achievement at swimming at Key Stage 2 – awaiting data.
June/July 2010	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Presentation by Cabinet Member (Children's Services) • Annual Presentation by Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement) • Capital Budget Monitoring. • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Performance Digest • Committee Work Programme.
Scrutiny Reviews	--
September 2010	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Budget Monitoring. • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Performance Digest • Committee Work Programme.
Scrutiny Reviews	--
December 2010	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Budget Monitoring. • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Performance Digest • Committee Work Programme.
Scrutiny Reviews	--

March 2011	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Budget Monitoring. • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Performance Digest • Committee Work Programme.
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.

Suggested themes or Issues identified by the Director for future agendas

Date	Subject
To be confirmed	Be Healthy: Substance Misuse
To be confirmed	Economic Well Being: 14-19 / LSC / Connexions Changes / Plans
To be confirmed	Positive Contribution: Targeted / Integrated Youth Services
To be confirmed	Enjoy and Achieve: Attendance

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