



AGENDA

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Friday 1 October 2010**

Time: **10.00 am**

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

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

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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 AW Johnson	
	Councillor Brig P Jones CBE	
	Councillor G Lucas	
	Councillor JE Pemberton	
	Councillor SJ Robertson	
	Councillor RV Stockton	
	Councillor AM Toon	
	Councillor WJ Walling	
	Councillor JD Woodward	
	Mr PF Burbidge	Roman Catholic Church
	Mr T Plumer	Primary School Parent Governors
Non Voting	Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins	Secondary School Headteachers
	Mrs OR Evans	Special School Headteachers
	Mr M Harrisson	Teacher Representative
	Mr C Mutton	Primary School Headteachers

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AGENDA

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Council has established Scrutiny Committees for Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing, Children's Services, Community Services, Environment, and Health. An Overview and Scrutiny 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

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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.

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Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing

Statutory functions for adult social services and Strategic Housing.

Children's Services

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

Community Services Scrutiny Committee

Cultural Services, Community Safety (including Crime and Disorder), Economic Development and Youth Services.

Health

Scrutiny of the planning, provision and operation of health services affecting the area.

Environment

Environmental Issues

Highways and Transportation

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Strategy and Finance

Resources

Corporate and Customer Services

Human Resources

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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

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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 14 June 2010 at 9.30 am

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

Councillors: AW Johnson, Brig P Jones CBE, G Lucas, JE Pemberton,
SJ Robertson, RV Stockton, WJ Walling, JD Woodward,

Co-opted Members Mr PF Burbidge, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Mrs OR Evans, Mr M Harrisson,
Ms H Tank and AT Oliver

In attendance: Councillors PJ Edwards, JA Hyde (Cabinet Member - Children's Services),
TM James, JG Jarvis, MD Lloyd-Hayes and PD Price (Cabinet Member – ICT,
Education and Achievement)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr T Leach; Mr N Parker; Mr T Plumer; Councillor AM Toon.

2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Councillor AT Oliver substituted for Councillor AM Toon.

3. 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 Brig. P Jones CBE	Personal	Governor – The Minster, Leominster
Councillor G Lucas	Personal	Governor – Brampton Abbotts 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
Mr PF Burbidge	Personal	Governor – St Mary's RC High School

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

No suggestions for scrutiny were received.

6. IDEA SAFEGUARDING PEER REVIEW UPDATE

The Committee were informed of the outcome of the IdEA Peer Review into Safeguarding Children in the County.

The Interim Director of Children's Services reported that the IdEA had been invited to undertake a 'critical friend' review of Safeguarding in the County. The review team had now reported back their findings, the headlines being:

Strengths:

- Vision and aspirations for children are clear;
- Strong political and senior managerial leadership;
- Performance has improved significantly over the last two years;
- Outcomes for Looked After Children & Young People are positive;
- The commitment and enthusiasm of frontline staff is impressive;
- Rapidly increasing use of CAF;
- Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board has strong sense of renewal;
- Education attainment of LAC is strong.

The Peer Review Team had highlighted Areas for Improvement as:

- The children's voice in practice appears to be less well developed;
- To learn from Serious Case Reviews, the organisation needs to change the way staff behave to address the outstanding themes;
- SMART planning needs consistent application;
- Learning lessons from audit is in the early stages of development;
- Children's Trust role, structures and membership not fully developed;
- Clarity needed about the distinctive roles of the Children's Trust and Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board;
- Ensure your reports acknowledge your positive achievements.

The Peer Review Team had also highlighted the following priority areas:

- Relationship between the Children's Trust and Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Board – delivery v scrutiny and monitoring;
- Child's voice – systems for capturing;
- Data analysis – performance management, scrutiny, quality assurance;
- Developmental issues – inter-agency working, training, serious case reviews.

In relation to the areas for improvement / priority areas he commented that the 'children's voice' would be developed through the Children and Young Peoples plan; improvements would be made to the way staff work within multi-agency teams; while planning was at 80% a more consistent approach would bring the service closer to 100%; developments through the Children's Trust were already underway, and he acknowledged that positive achievements needed to be celebrated.

Responding to how the 'children's voice' would be developed the Cabinet Member (Children's Services) commented that the Child Care Council had refocused its efforts to encompass the views of all children. The Interim Director of Children's Services reported that a range of methods would be used to encourage children, not just looked after children, to voice their opinion on service provision and delivery. Further effort was need to ensure that the views were included from hard to reach children.

RESOLVED: that the Committee recommend that the Cabinet Member(s) concentrate on the priority areas identified by the Safeguarding peer review and report on progress to the Committee in 6 – 9 months time.

7. ANNUAL REPORT BY CABINET MEMBERS

The Committee received a presentation by the Cabinet Member (Children's Services) and the Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement) reviewing past performance, identifying key issues and commenting on future plans.

The Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement) commented that Herefordshire was lucky to have the services of a top quality Interim Director of Children's Services pending a permanent appointment later in the year. The restructure of the Directorate would have an important impact for the future. Against the background of falling rolls and reducing budgets the recommendations of the Schools Task Group were out for consultation and this was an opportunity for schools, local communities and Councillors to look at, and debate, the future of the children, not just school buildings, in their area. While attainment in Early Years was improving, performance at Key Stages 1 & 2 was declining and this had to be addressed. Key Stage 4 was improving but below target. He questioned the necessity to narrow the attainment gap by comparing children from different social, economic and geographic areas of the county as different children had different motivations, desires and expectations.

The Cabinet Member (Children's Services) commented that improvements in safeguarding and the timeliness of initial assessments would continue; there would be a strengthening of support for children in care. The Children in Care Council had been revamped to ensure that children were happier to contribute their views. While the County had an excellent team of foster carers, more needed to be done to encourage younger people to become foster carers. In the next few years budgets would be even tighter and therefore spending would need to be further focused to ensure greater value for money. The membership of the Herefordshire Children's Trust had been refreshed and the priorities refocused with more accountability and challenge provided through the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board. Greater emphasis would be placed on multi-agency working to ensure the best use of limited resources.

During debate the following principal points were noted:

- Following the government's announcement to allow schools to apply for academy status and whether any local interest had been expressed, the Committee noted that a number of schools, including a special school, had expressed an interest but no decisions had yet been made. Officers were looking at the possible implications for the schools and the county.
- Difficult financial times were ahead and the Interim Director of Children's Services commented that some difficult decisions would need to be taken to ensure that all sections worked closely together, made best use of resources and provided a better service.
- Responding to comments on the financial limitations on the authority and on the range of specialist services needed e.g. providing for children with autism, the Interim Director of Children's Services responded that schools were obliged to provide a limited level of support, however, the more complex needs had to be met. Limitations on local provision meant that to some degree all local authorities had to make use of out of county facilities which came at a cost. It was therefore important to ensure that the correct level of support came at the right price and that this was constantly reviewed.
- The Committee sought further information and statistics on incidents of both child and parent abuse.

- Where appropriate, current Key Stage 1 & 2 pupils were receiving additional tuition to help them improve. High schools were achieving good attainment based on previous years but targeted investment in Key Stage 3 pupils was now on stream to drive further improvements.
- A criticism was made that while the 'No Wrong Door' initiative had started well the views of the 3rd sector were now being lost. The Cabinet Member (Children's Services) was concerned about this comment and requested that specific matters be brought to her attention.
- Responding to whether performance in GMVQs were reported the Committee were informed that a range of learning statistics were captured and consideration would be given to how captured data was reported.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Members for their presentations and for answering the many questions. He commented that the next few years would be difficult financially and the long term view had to be taken to ensure that the best could be provided for children in the County. The Council should also celebrate its successes.

RESOLVED: that

1. **the presentation by the Cabinet Member Children's Services and the Cabinet Member ICT Education and Achievement be noted ; and**
2. **a Member Briefing note be produced setting out the statistics on children at risk from parents and parents at risk from children.**

8. SCHOOL SWIMMING - UPDATE

The Committee were informed of how swimming tuition for schools had developed over the last 6 months.

Mr J Argent, Chief Executive, and Mr S Gwynne, Hereford Pool Manager, Halo Leisure, informed the Committee that Halo worked with the vast majority of primary schools throughout the county to deliver swimming lessons for their pupils. The total number of school swims p.a. by facility was: Ledbury – 11,080; Ross – 11,450; Leominster – 22,220 and Hereford – 33,685. This compared to the total number of swims p.a by facility: Ledbury – 98,783; Ross – 100,105; Leominster – 117,372 and Hereford 273,761. Swimming and water safety are statutory activities for schools at Key Stage 2. Since September 2009 Halo had accommodated the displaced schools following Cabinet's decision not to reopen the LEA Pool. All schools were invited twice per year to a Headteacher's Forum to discuss issues and subjects already discussed have been: registration for swimmers and records for the future; Top-up swimming; ASA support; Swimming Teacher Training; and operational problems to be resolved. It was highlighted that Halo had accessed top up funding from government to provide more instructors during school lessons specifically targeted at children who cannot swim and those that cannot achieve 25m. Access had also been made to funding for disabled swimming tuition and funding from the ASA to provide a subsidised summer activity programme.

In summing up Mr Argent remarked that schools that used Halo managed facilities were now all working within a consistent and integrated learn to swim programme across the county which met best practice nationally and was delivered by specialists. Halo were pleased to develop the partnership working with schools though accessing funding for teacher instruction and improving communication through regular dialogue at forums. Halo were working well with the Sustainable Communities Directorate and the Environmental Health Team on a commissioning framework and he encouraged the Children and Young People Directorate to engage in this process so that pupil attainment at KS2 could become a prioritised outcome.

During discussion the following principal points were noted:

- Responding to how Halo were managing complaints about the conflict between public and school pool access time it was reported that while there had been complaints they had been relatively few.
- Along side Key Stage 2 swimming Halo were offering ASA Lifesaving courses.
- The achievement by pupil and school across the whole county was recorded making benchmarking and the targeting of schools possible.
- The introduction of free swimming had increased the attendance numbers with approximately three quarters of the increase being young people. Statistics could be provided if required.
- It was noted that Halo had received a number of national awards including achieving ASA Aqua Mark status.
- It was confirmed that Halo were working with the Planning Services to ensure that facilities would be available in response to the anticipated housing growth.

RESOLVED: That

1. **Halo Leisure be invited to give a further update on school swimming performance in one years time;**
2. **It is recommended that Halo continue to compile a database on pupil/ school swimming attainment;**
3. **It is recommended that Halo continue to expand the training of teachers to assist in giving swimming lessons; and**
4. **A Members briefing note be provided on the take-up of free swimming and outline how Halo have managed the increase in patronage.**

9. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10

The Committee considered a report on the outturn of the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10. The report included comparisons to the 2008/9 budget and outturn so that the Committee could assess and comment upon the budget management of Children's Services.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Performance and Development reported that the actual outturn for 2009/10 was an over spend of £137k. This comprised an over spend of £889k on Safeguarding which had been largely offset by savings made within Planning, Performance and Development (PPD) and Improvement and Inclusion. The reduction of £166k from the revised March projection of £303k was largely due to work to utilise available grants wherever appropriate and capitalisation of ICT equipment and office furniture. Although the actual outturn showed a significant improvement on earlier projections it should not detract from the significant pressures facing Children's Services particularly within the Safeguarding area. The draft budget for 2010/11 for Children's Services recognised the increasing pressures and had allocated additional funds to cover court costs and the cost of caring for homeless 16/17 year olds. A central provision had also been made for the increasing cost of front line Safeguarding pressures, which continued to face pressures and would be closely managed throughout 2010/11. Other budgetary changes were detailed in the agenda report and appendices. Following the change in government announcements were being made almost on a daily basis e.g. de-ring fencing and reductions to the Area Based Grant, and therefore officers were closely monitoring the situation.

On scrutinising the report the following principal points were noted:

- As Herefordshire repeatedly pointed out that it was underfunded, Members expressed their disappointment that some elements of unused grant funding would need to be repaid and questioned whether adequate resources had been put in place at the start to ensure that the relevant project could proceed effectively.
- The budgets of a number of schools were being effected e.g. by falling rolls, and therefore a recovery plan would be agreed with those schools entering a deficit position.
- Questioned whether the savings made within Planning & Performance and Improvement & Inclusion would impact on future performance the Committee were informed that the financial position affected all sections and this would be addressed through re-shaping the directorate.
- The Committee noted there were currently 3 social worker vacancies. 10 social workers had recently been employed and were gaining experience.
- A briefing note was sought clarifying the financial position following government announcements, particularly in relation to changes in 'ring-fencing' of grant funding.

RESOLVED: That

1. **it is recommended the Cabinet Member(s) take steps to ensure that all grant funding obtained is fully utilised and that it is done in an efficient, effective and timely way to ensure there is minimal repayment to the grant making body; and**
2. **a Member briefing note be provided setting out those funding streams or projects that are ring-fenced and the effect of the recent announcements from national government.**

10. CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2010/2011

The Committee considered the capital budget position for 2010/11 for the Children & Young People's Directorate.

The Head of Access and Capital Commissioning presented the agenda report and highlighted that the overall capital programme was broadly on budget and to timescale. The agenda report provided an update on all major funding streams and capital developments.

On scrutinising the report the following principal points were noted:

- the Riverside Primary school performance bond, put in place to mitigate against the developer being unable to deliver the scheme had now gone to adjudication. It was confirmed that the Council had funded the payments to the subcontractors when the main contractor had gone into administration and this was being reclaimed through the performance bond.
- Feasibility work had commenced under the 14-19 and Special Needs Grant and it was acknowledged that development at Barrs Court School was constrained due to its site.
- The completion of the Earl Mortimer College (formerly The Minster College) was now in its final stages and a local member commended all concerned in the project. It was also confirmed that the funding package for The Minster College had not included funding for the local youth service.
- Progress was being made in prioritising and allocating income through Section 106 (developer contributions) to various schemes and it was anticipated a report would soon be made to the Cabinet Member with proposals.
- Concern was expressed regarding how a number of the Council's major school building projects had been administered e.g. Riverside Primary School, and it

was suggested that Overview and Scrutiny Committee should receive a report on the Council's Project Design and Development Management methods to ensure that good practice was being incorporated.

- Questioned on the criteria for selecting schemes under the Capital Maintenance Programme, Members were reminded that this was administered by the Council's Asset Management and Property Service (AMPS) in accordance with predetermined criteria, the details of which had been set out in a briefing note to Members in March 2010.

RESOLVED: That

1. The Committee recommend that a full report on how major school building projects had been administered e.g. Riverside Primary School be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that learning and good practice was being incorporated into future projects.
2. The Committee recommend to the Cabinet Member(s) that the feasibility work being undertaken to provide Blackmarston and Barrs Court Special Schools with additional accommodation be progressed as quickly as possible; and
3. In view of the national budget on 22nd June which it is anticipated will have implications for capital budgets a Member briefing note be provided setting out the major changes and their likely effect on projects.

11. PERFORMANCE DIGEST - YEAR END 2009/2010

The Committee considered the Performance Digest for Children's Services for the end of year 2009-2010.

The Head of Performance presented her report which drew Members attention to a number of key areas for consideration based on each of the Every Child Matters outcome areas and she highlighted the following issues:

Be Health

- The Be Healthy Outcome Group of the Children's Trust was coordinating Herefordshire's multi agency activities to improve children and young people's health and reduce the levels of obesity;
- The CAMHs service (mental health services for children and young people) had achieved 15 /16 in 2009/10;
- Assessments under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), were well above target;

Stay Safe

- 75.9% of initial assessments were completed in 7 working days (NI 59) which represents a significant improvement in performance against the previous year's outturn of 37.4%.
- At 31 March 2010, there were 147 children subject to a child protection plan, a significant rise from the same time last year when it was 104. The timeliness of reviews of child protection cases was impacted by the bad weather in the early part of 2010.
- Robust measures were in place to monitor newly qualified social care staff.

Enjoy and Achieve

- There had been an improvement in achievement across the Early Years Foundation Stage. Key Stages 1 and 2 showed a continuing downward trend.

The Inclusion of the results for the two Academies had impacted on the results for the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs (NI 75).

Make a Positive Contribution

- In relation to re-offending (NI 19), the data for the year end was still not available; however, the positive trend reported in previous quarters was expected in the year end outturn.
- Young people's participation in positive activities (NI 110) is measured through the annual Tellus survey and in 2009/2010, 79.6% of young people reported participating in activities run by adults. In that year, the percentage was disproportionately high compared with other authorities giving a target for 2010/2011 of 94%. This year's results are more robust and although below the target, were 14 percentage points above national figures and 11 percentage points above statistical neighbours.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

- The percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NI 117) was 5.9% for 2009/2010 which is the same outturn as the previous year. Due to the impact of the recession and general downturn in the economy it was unlikely that the 2010/2011 target of 4.7% would be achieved.

Concern was expressed that the outstanding requirement under NI51 that a 24/7 emergency telephone response for the CAMHS service be provided by December 2010 was unacceptable and that an earlier implementation date be achieved.

As a Link Member Councillor Robinson was impressed with the work being done in relation to Making a Positive Contribution.

Members were pleased to note that no families were currently in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

The Interim Director of Children's Services commented that the Performance Digest could indicate some areas that scrutiny may wish to investigate further and suggested that while child obesity was of concern the broader health issues could be looked at in collaboration with Health Scrutiny e.g. alcohol / lifestyle / housing / CAMHS/ Psychology Service.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the Committee recommends:

1. **that Cabinet Member(s) consider an earlier implementation date for the 24/7 emergency telephone response required to meet National Indicator 51; and**
2. **that closer working arrangements be brought about between the CAMHs and child psychology service.**

12. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report and noted the status of previous recommendations set out at Appendix 2.

The Chairman reported that following discussion with the Interim Director of Children's Services he had decided to add an extra meeting specifically to consider:

- a paper on primary school performance;
- a report on the Herefordshire Task Group, due to be considered by Cabinet on 21st October and Cabinet's response to it.

The Interim Director of Children's Services suggested the following issues for consideration:

- a progress report arising from the Safeguarding Peer Review discussed earlier.
- concerns arising from the Make a Positive Contribution ECM key area including links to NEETs (Not in Employment or Training)
- the reorganisation of the Directorate including an update on Locality Development.
- Early Years and Primary School performance.
- New policy developments from the national government and how to respond to them as a Local Authority and as a family of schools.

RESOLVED: that following consultation with the Interim Director of Children's Services the Chairman and Vice Chairman consider the suggested items and determine the work programme for the Committee and recommend it to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm

CHAIRMAN



MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	1 OCTOBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	ISSUES RAISED FROM ECONOMIC WELLBEING SEMINAR ON 5 JULY 2010
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note the content of the all Member seminar on 5 July 2010 held to consider the activity to support and enable children and young people's economic well being in Herefordshire.

Recommendation

THAT: the Committee notes the content of the session, the feedback from members and the areas of work that the directorate is taking forward.

Key Points Summary

- Members received an open invitation to attend a Member's seminar on the 5 July 2010 to discuss and debate activity to support and enable children and young people's economic well being in Herefordshire.
- The seminar was part of the ongoing opportunities for Members to engage with the work of the children and young people's directorate and Herefordshire Children's Trust. The seminar on the 5 July was an opportunity to hear a variety of presentations from a number of officers from the children and young people's directorate, a housing officer, as well as partner agencies such as Job Centre Plus and SHYPP covering:
 - An overview and update on the 14-19 agenda, including service challenges and the work carried out to bring Connexions and Learning and Skills Council work within the local authority. The seminar also discussed the current activity to support young people not in education, employment or training including work to offer apprenticeships
 - Child Poverty including Job Centre Plus working with Children's Centres; the approach to housing and homelessness and what is available for young people and families with children
- Members present were able to discuss and debate the issues presented. Feedback from

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Chris Baird, Assistant Director – Planning, Performance and Development 01432 260264

attendees was positive:

Rating	Excellent	Satisfactory	Marginal	Unsatisfactory
Total	6	4	0	0

Alternative Options

- 1 No alternative options are presented

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The report is requested for scrutiny as feedback from the Member's seminar

Introduction and Background

- 3 The seminar was part of the ongoing opportunities for all Member's to become more informed about the work taking place in Herefordshire to support children, young people and their families, not solely by the children and young people's directorate but by all partners, including schools, working within the Herefordshire Children's Trust arrangements. Themed workshops have been held on the five every child matters areas. The latest workshop centred on Economic Wellbeing.

Key Considerations

- 4 The agenda for children and young people in terms of economic wellbeing is to ensure that they are able to enter into further education, employment or training, make good progress and able to move successfully into adulthood. The Herefordshire Children's Trust Economic Wellbeing Outcome Group is a multi agency group, that enables partners to contribute to this agenda and coordinate their activities.
- 5 Members heard presentations from the Head of the 11-19 Integrated Service and team covering the developments of the connexions service, work that has been taken on from the Learning and Skills Council, apprenticeships, work to prevent young people becoming not in education, training or employment, alternative learning programmes. Members also debated the work of Job Centre Plus and Children's Centres, the expectations regarding child poverty, and the service and working relationship between SHYPP, the Council's housing service and services for vulnerable young people including care leavers. The presentations were circulated to Members and are available if members require further copies.
- 6 Comments provided by the Member's who attended are summarised below:

Comments on quality of presenters, delivery, length, timing and style of session:

- Down to earth & diverse presentation
- Very informative, clear information given, good timing and an excellent session provided.
- A lot of information delivered with clarity and conviction. Well organised.
- Very interesting and helpful. Raises questions as to how we will fund these services in future.
- Timing right, presenters slots idea.
- Informative a whistle stop tour of a very complex area.
- Good engagement from presenters with their subject presentation to time and to point

Comments on how will the seminar help you to be a more effective Councillor?

- I knew much of what was included in seminar, but job centre, SHYPP added some value to seminar.
- It provides basic facts for me to use in assessing need in my own ward.
- Good information is always vital.
- Yes better understanding of opportunities for young people.
- Provided better insight into provisions for young people's education and training and the integration of the partnerships concerned.
- Very informative and thank you

Suggested improvements:

- No numbered pages on the documents/ power point notes. Why is so much space wasted on the handouts, especially Council produced handouts, in such small print? Compare Council handouts to Job Centre handouts.
- Budget cuts & changes make an uncertain future. I appreciate the difficulties you all face.
- Make these seminars more attractive to the majority of Councillors. These very good presentations should be seen/heard by many more Councillors.

- 7 Members were interested in the progress that has been made in relation to access to housing for vulnerable young people/adults. The head of SHYPP and the representative from the Council's housing team assured members that the situation was much improved
- 8 Members commented that it was a wide agenda and overall the session had been a very useful one in terms of raising general awareness and providing a multi agency team of people to discuss issues and answer Members questions.

Community Impact

- 9 The work discussed impacts directly upon children, young people and their families in Herefordshire and where successful enables them to fulfil the objectives set out in paragraph 4.

Appendices

- 10 None.

Background Papers

- None identified.



MEETING:	CHILDREN SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	1 OCTOBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEREFORDSHIRE TRAVELLER ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER 2009
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note continued good progress towards the establishment of effective, integrated Children and Young People's Service provision for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and families.

Recommendations

THAT the Committee:

- (a) recognises the good progress of the Traveller Achievement Service;
- (b) monitors the sustained year-on-year impact of the Children and Young Peoples' plan in relation to:
 - (i) Benchmarking existing outcomes for GRT children;
 - (ii) Setting targets that narrow achievement gaps for GRT children; and,
 - (iii) The targeting of resources towards improving outcomes for GRT children

Key Points Summary

Herefordshire is in a very strong position to ensure effective collaboration across Children and Young People's Services to improve outcomes for GRT communities. We have a framework in place to ensure that mainstream services and the new co-located teams offer appropriate and relevant provision and outreach work to the most deprived GRT children and families:

- There are very considerable and notable disparities in desired Every Child Matters outcomes between GRT children and young people and other pupil groups in Herefordshire.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Ben Straker and Advisory Teacher- Traveller Achievement Service on (01432) 261840

- These disparities are a significant issue for DfE and the renewed importance of addressing these longstanding issues collectively, across Children and Young People's Services, is reflected in the revised Ofsted inspection framework.
- National Strategies have noted wide achievement gaps in Herefordshire for GRT children compared with all other pupil groups in Herefordshire Schools.
- Colleagues across Improvement and Inclusion have made significant steps towards ensuring a collaborative approach towards tackling inequalities.
- This requires sustained input and specialist advice to schools, settings and professional organisations across Children's Services to ensure that addressing inequality becomes, and remains, a collective responsibility.

Alternative Options

- 1 There is not a rational alternative. The formation of a new Traveller Achievement Service, with a focus on School Improvement, is reflective of best practice nationally. Herefordshire is establishing an effective model of mainstreamed GRT provision that is impacting on service delivery across Children and Young People's Services. The Advisory Teacher has been involved in the development of best practice, at a national level, for several years.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Herefordshire's largest, longest standing, ethnic minority group are Gypsies (legal definition) – many of whom prefer the term Romany. There are many other Traveller groups in Herefordshire. The collective acronym for these communities is GRT (Gypsy Roma Traveller) In terms of demonstrating an effective and positive impact upon race equality and social cohesion these groups remain a priority for schools and communities.
- 3 Herefordshire has a very good record of ensuring that the great majority of GRT children are on roll at school from 5-16.
- 4 The vast majority of Herefordshire Traveller children attend Key Stages 3 and 4. This is a notable success. Nationally, an estimated 80% of GRT children do not attend KS3 and 4.
- 5 Herefordshire Traveller children are disproportionately highly represented in exclusion statistics. Overall Traveller attendance figures are lower than the average for all other pupils. Traveller children are poorly represented both in Early Years uptake and in Post-16 education. This is reflective of national trends
- 6 A concerted effort between Children's Services, NHS Herefordshire, schools and families will begin to reverse these inequalities.
- 7 There is an expectation from Ofsted that professional organisations across Children and Young People's services should have in-depth knowledge of the different ethnic, cultural and socio-economic groups that form Herefordshire communities. There is a further expectation that addressing inequalities is integral to organisational planning.

Introduction and Background

- 8 In September 2008 Herefordshire Council gave notice to the West Midlands Consortium Service for Travelling Children (WMCSTC) to withdraw from the consortium with effect from September 2009.

- 9 This decision was due to two main issues:
- Herefordshire was part of the three year GRT National Strategies Programme, the central tenet of which was that the main responsibility for Traveller outcomes should be held by their schools and their LAs. In effect, Herefordshire was delegating responsibility to an external agency.
 - The consortium had become less efficient in terms of service delivered for the cost, which was around £154,000 per year.
- 10 A report outlining the case for withdrawal was submitted to the Directorate Leadership Team in May 2009. This report was called 'The Establishment of Traveller Education Service within Herefordshire Children and Young People's Directorate-, September 2009. (Devolving from West Midlands Consortium - Services for Travelling Children, Schools and Families)'.
- 11 Accordingly, the report outlined the considerations and proposals for the development of a Herefordshire Traveller Achievement Service, which would be located under the Head of Improvement and integrated into the National Strategies area of work. Subsequent consideration of the CYPD structure has resulted in the service being positioned within the Additional Needs Service, yet retaining strong links to the School Improvement Service. At the time the paper was written, it was proposed that there should be two advisory teachers plus a budget for arranging support for individual Traveller children as required. The proposed budget for the new service was projected at £125,000.
- 12 Presently, there is one Advisory teacher in post (TUPE'd from the previous consortium). The proposal within the new structure is to additionally appoint a community Cohesion Officer. The aim of this post is to build positive relationships between Traveller families, schools and services by offering direct practical support.

Key Considerations

- 13 This paper details ongoing progress stemming from the decision to form a new Herefordshire Traveller Achievement Service.
- 14 In recent months we have achieved:
- A commonly held data set of all identified GRT children in Herefordshire Schools for the purposes of tracking and targeting.
 - Effective collaboration with data team and English as an Additional Language team.
 - School Improvement Partner briefing on Ofsted/Self Evaluation Form developments and Narrowing the Gap.
 - Ofsted/SEF briefing circulated to all schools.
 - Production of SEF materials for vulnerable groups circulated to all schools.
 - Input into National Strategies GRT resources.
 - Target setting with Senior Leadership Teams in several schools.
 - Effective collaboration with National Strategies colleagues throughout Children and Young People's Services.

- Training for newly qualified teachers (NQTs), Early Years colleagues, Connexions, Education Liaison Support Service (ELSS), Children and Families Social Care.
- Collaboration with the museum service re. GRT history month and educational provision for Showmen Children at the May Fair.
- First Romany child to leave school with 5 GCSE A-C grades.
- More Year 11 students targeted for similar achievements.
- Organisation of Early Years Regional Forum for development of best professional practice with GRT families and settings.

Community Impact

15 Please see above for equalities and community impact - these underpin the entire report.

Population and accommodation

- 16 There has been a significant Romany/Gypsy population living in Herefordshire for five hundred years. Herefordshire has a long tradition of seasonal workers travelling through the county to provide essential labour on farms.
- 17 The vast majority of the Herefordshire Traveller population (approx. 1,000) currently live in conventional housing. It is important to note that accommodation status and nomadism do not determine the ethnic and legal status of Romany Gypsies and Travellers of Irish Heritage. These two groups have their own distinctive languages, cultures and histories. The term 'Traveller' is a non-descriptive, generally inoffensive, label.
- 18 Some Traveller families in Herefordshire live in privately owned caravan sites, 'tolerated' sites (such as lay-bys), and temporary farm sites during seasonal land work. There are a small number of Local Authority caravan sites with individual plots available for rental. These are based in Hereford – Watery Lane and Romany Close, Bromyard, Coddington, Luston and Pembridge. There is currently no transit site provision in Herefordshire for families that travel through the authority following traditional working patterns. Some New Travellers live on private farm sites. A number of Showmen families have permanent, privately owned 'Winter Quarters' in Ross on Wye.
- 19 There are notable populations of housed Travellers in Hereford (College Estate, Hinton, Redhill, Newton Farm, Hunderton), Leominster (Ridgemoor, Baron's Cross), Ledbury, Weobley (Burton Wood), Bosbury and Bromyard.
- 20 21st Century Herefordshire Travellers are predominantly Romany Gypsies, with smaller populations of Showmen, New Travellers and Travellers of Irish Heritage.
- 21 In recent times, the authority has an impressive record of children accessing education. Our collective challenge for the next generation is to ensure that Traveller children and young people enjoy the expected outcomes of the Every Child Matters agenda.

Pupil population

- 22 Currently there are approximately 150 Traveller children, known to the LA, in Herefordshire schools. Ten children follow elective home education.
- 23 There are clearly identifiable Traveller pupil populations in John Masefield High School, The Minster College, Weobley High School, Kingstone High School, The Hereford Academy, John Kyrle High School and The Steiner Academy.
- 24 The primary school population is more dispersed, but there are concentrations of Traveller pupils in Bosbury, Brockhampton, Luston, Leominster Junior, Leominster Infants, Weobley, Thomas Cantilupe, Lord Scudamore and St Martin's.

Financial Implications – see reference to above report

- 25 As agreed previously.

Contribution to WMCSTC 08/09	Contribution to WMCSTC April - September 09	Interim budget - September 09 – March 2010	Proposed full year budget for new service 2010/11
£154,983	£70,000	£50,000	£125,000

Legal Implications

- 26 No legal implications have been identified.

Risk Management

- 27 Should the development of the Herefordshire Traveller Achievement Service be significantly revised, it is highly probable that ECM outcomes for many GRT children might not improve. Schools and Children's Services could be vulnerable to unfavourable Ofsted judgements. Many schools would be poorly equipped to demonstrate effective strategies towards their statutory duties of promoting race equality and community cohesion. In addition, there may well be an increase of children missing from education with attendant safeguarding issues.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

- The Establishment of Traveller Education Service within Herefordshire Children and Young People's Directorate, September 2009. (Devolving from West Midlands Consortium - Services for Travelling Children, Schools and Families) Written by: D Longmore and B Straker
- Generic Self Evaluation prompts for vulnerable Children. Written by Ben Straker – Advisory Teacher – Herefordshire Traveller Achievement Service



MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	1 OCTOBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To provide Members with an overview of government initiatives that affect children's services.

Recommendation(s)

THAT: the Committee notes the content this briefing report and reflects on possible implications for the children and young people of Herefordshire.

Key Points Summary

- The coalition government has introduced a range of measures to address the economic situation as well as a number of policy initiatives that have an effect on the services that children and young people in Herefordshire receive. More policies and initiatives are to follow and the pace of announcements has been very rapid over the months since entering office. There have been a number of measures that have been enacted within the financial year that have affected ongoing projects and support for children and young people. A number of initiatives and capital schemes have been stopped, and this has been replicated where applicable at a local level in Herefordshire.
- The underlying policy objectives appear to be to reduce the amount of public money spent this financial year, and in future years; to develop new relationships between government and the public; and to encourage more direct involvement of private, voluntary and community organisations in areas that were previously viewed as the responsibility of national and local government. Much has been made of promoting a local agenda. This has emerged in the emphasis on local being at a school level or at a general practice level, rather than at local authority level. There is still much to be clarified on the role of local government and partnerships. The implications of the Academies Act for example have yet to be worked through in detail at a national or local level. They do however present challenges which will require Herefordshire to develop significantly new ways of working.
- The report summarises government initiatives relating directly to children and young people within Herefordshire, primarily focusing on the work of the Department for Education, which has

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Chris Baird, Assistant Director – Planning, Performance and Development 01432 260264

replaced the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Much of the focus is on schools, colleges and particular areas of activity. Apart from the review of social care instigated by the new government and led by Eileen Munro there has been very little to address children's issues relating to social care practice and highly vulnerable levels of need.

Alternative Options

- 1 No alternative options are presented

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The report is presented as a summary for comment.

Introduction and Background

- 3 The coalition government established its "Programme for Government" (extracts are contained in Appendix 1) which sets out a broad vision and agenda for the next five years. Subsequent to its publication an immediate review of government spending resulted in a number of in-year cuts to programmes, some of which affected Herefordshire and are detailed below. In addition various policy initiatives took place, most notably the Academies Act and the activities set out in the Department for Education's structural reform plan. The NHS White paper, with its move to place GPs at the heart of commissioning services, will also have a significant impact on the services for children and young people. The report summarises a number of these areas and indicates the implications for Herefordshire. This is a time of significant change which will affect the work of the Herefordshire Partnership over the next three to four years. Much of the detail has yet to be established either at a national or local level and a great deal of flexibility will be required to ensure children and young people get the most out of new developments at a time when resources will be significantly reduced.

Key Considerations

Funding and Policy Decisions

- 4 A wide range of cuts were implemented swiftly following the coalition taking power. These are contained in Appendix 2. Members will note that one of the most controversial measures was the ending of the building schools for the future programme (BSF). Since Herefordshire was amongst the last of the local authorities due to benefit from the programme little money had been spent on preparation for the programme. The government has also implemented cuts to the targeted capital funding given to those authorities at the end of the BSF programme which has cut £660k from the £8.0m programme in Herefordshire.

Schools

- 5 The coalition government has introduced the Education and Children Bill which is expected to:
 - provide schools with the freedoms to deliver an excellent education in the way they see fit.
 - reform Ofsted and other accountability frameworks to ensure that head teachers are held properly accountable for the core educational goals of attainment and closing the gap between rich and poor.
 - introduce a slimmer curriculum giving more space for teachers to decide how to teach.

- introduce a reading test for 6 year olds to make sure that young children are learning and to identify problems early.
 - give teachers and head teachers the powers to improve behaviour and tackle bullying.
 - enable standards across the education sector to rise through the creation of more Academies and giving more freedom to head teachers and teachers. The intention is also to ensure that money follows pupils, and introduce a ‘pupil premium’ so that more money follows the poorest pupils.
- 6 The Academies Act is now in place, enabling all maintained schools to apply for Academy status. Initial expressions of interest were opened to schools judged as “outstanding” by Ofsted. Schools wishing to become Academies were encouraged in the initial proposals to help at least one coasting or faltering school. They are given a number of freedoms including greater delegation of funding, freedoms from inspection (unless certain triggers such as exam result indicate OfSTED should once again become involved) and from the national curriculum. Academies must follow the Code of Admissions. They also take on full responsibilities and liabilities as if they were an independent school, including property. Any surpluses are transferred to the Academy at the time of conversion. The role of the local authority is clearly lessened, with the expectation that Academies may wish to buy back services currently provided directly by the local authority, but they may decide to use the money in other ways.
- 7 The affects of Academies in Herefordshire could be significant if a number of schools become Academies and then decide not to buy back local authority services. This could destabilise services and make them unviable for the remaining schools. Services affected include corporate services such as human resources, payroll, property services, as well as children and young people services such as special educational needs support and school improvement, and strategic management. At present one school, John Kyrle High School has put themselves forward to become an academy from January 2011. The local authority held a discussion session for all schools expressing an interest in becoming an academy. Much of the detail has still to be clarified by government and understood, particularly the responsibilities of Academies and the impact of funding changes. The possible impact on the local authority budget if John Kyrle High School was to become an Academy is estimated to be approximately a £300k reduction.
- 8 The concept of Free Schools has also been introduced, with organisations asked to express an interest in establishing free schools, state schools that are independent of local authorities. Groups wishing to establish free schools will need to prove that there is a viable requirement for a free school and include in their proposal a convincing 5 year business plan. In association with this the government is looking to change the requirements for school buildings. Previously there have been exacting requirements in terms of curriculum spaces and class spaces. The initiative is proposed under the umbrella of giving more parents more choice.
- 9 The Pupil Premium is proposed to tackle deep rooted disadvantage. A consultation paper has been issued and will be debated at Schools Forum in October 2010. The structural reform plan states that money will be taken from outside of the schools budget and will enable smaller class sizes, more one-to-one or small group tuition, longer school days and more extra curricular activities. Further details are expected, but Members should note that some of these activities are currently funded from other funding streams outside of the schools budget already, for example for extended schools via the area based grant. Some initiatives such as the extended schools start up grant were due to end in March 2011 under the previous government.
- 10 A white paper is expected in the autumn setting out further details of the reforms

11 In year cuts of 50% have taken place to the harnessing technology grant which is devolved to schools and this has had direct impact on school ICT investment. The cuts total £0.5m. Some schools have already spent their allocation before the cuts were announced.

11-19 Agenda

Post 16 Team (formerly the Learning & Skills Council)

- 12 On 19 July, Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education announced that there would be changes to the way that 16-19 education and training would be funded. Firstly, the Young People's Learning Agency would make payments direct to FE colleges, sixth form colleges and other providers, rather than via local authorities. School sixth forms will continue to be paid by local authorities. Secondly, funding for schools and colleges will be based on 'lagged learner numbers': the number of students in the institution the previous academic year. He also announced that local authorities would not be required to join together in sub-regional or regional groups for 16-19; they would be able to work jointly in whatever arrangements they chose.
- 13 These changes do not affect the statutory duty on local authorities to secure education and training for 16-19 year olds and to have regard to, amongst other things, the quality and location of that education and training. All of this means that it is essential for local authorities to continue to work with local education and training providers to reach a shared view on the provision needed for their area. It also remains essential for local authorities to work together to meet the needs of learners who of course will continue to move across boundaries.
- 14 General Further Education Colleges, Sixth Form Colleges and schools will be exempt from routine inspection; Sixth Form Colleges will no longer be required to undertake surveys of learners' views as a condition of grant; the previous Government's plans to introduce in-year funding adjustments will be scrapped. Nonetheless, the changes to the funding allocation system, and the withdrawal of the National Commissioning Framework, raise questions about the way that local authorities will deliver what government describes as a "their strategic commissioning and influencing roles". Further clarification is promised in September / October.
- 15 Following the establishment of the offender education reforms in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act (duty for the education of young residents in Youth Offending Institutions), Justice Ministers have taken the decision to delay implementation until 1 April 2011. The postponement will provide valuable time for the statutory guidance to be finalised and issued.
- 16 Ministers have decided to discontinue Youth Community Action (Formerly known as E2E Community Placements/Service) with immediate effect. The programme started in August 2009 and was part of the main E2E programme and effects Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and Herefordshire Primary Care Trust locally. 29 young people have been involved in the scheme since 2008 and the funding associated with this was very minimal (£130 per learner), the impact of this decision is not large and this aspect of the E2E programme can be continued as part of a young person's Foundation Learning programme through Personal and Social Development. Previously managed by the Learning and Skills Council, since April 2010 this has been managed through the Young People's Learning agency (YPLA)
- 17 Aspects of work in this area that will not change are:
- Local Authorities will continue with their statutory duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training for young people in their area aged 16-19 or up to 25 subject to learning difficulty assessment (Green Paper due in the Autumn).

- Local Authorities will maintain the strategic overview of provision and needs in their area – identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market; which links very much to the continued development of local commissioning statements. – The Post 16 team will complete the interim commissioning statement by 30 July and send to YPLA as a draft that needs to be signed off by the 14-19 partnership and Economic Well Being Group
 - Local authorities will continue with their crucial role in securing provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
 - The YPLA will continue to provide funds to local authorities to pass on to maintained school sixth forms.
 - Funding will transfer from the Department for Education (DfE) to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) for funding 16-18 Apprenticeships.
 - The Skills Funding Agency will fund Apprenticeships providers.
- 18 One of the key features of the ASCL Act is to give local authorities responsibility for securing the education and training of young people over compulsory school age: that remains a central feature of the new system.
- 14-19 Team**
- 19 The Raising of Participation Age (RPA) for compulsory education from 16 to 18 years by 2015 has been ceased
- 20 New Diplomas in science, humanities and languages, due to be introduced from September 2011 have been stopped. The Government has lifted the restrictions that stopped state schools offering iGCSE qualifications in key subjects. It has also announced its intention to include iGCSE results in school performance tables as soon as possible. The announcement means that state funded schools will be free to teach from September a wide range of these respected and valued qualifications, putting them on a level playing field with independent schools who have offered them for some time.
- 21 Specific marketing programmes that have been cut include those for *Educational Maintenance Allowances* and *Care to Learn* (aimed at potential recipients). Educational Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) provide financial support for learners in low income households; and Care to Learn provides support for child care for young parents in learning. In both cases information is available through www.direct.gov.uk
- 22 The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational education. The purpose of the review is to consider how vocational education for 14- to 19-year-olds supports full and valuable participation and progression. To do this the review will consider:
- how vocational education for 14- to 19-year-olds can be improved
 - what the appropriate target audience for vocational education is
 - what principles should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods of the vocational education offer
 - how progression from vocational education to positive destinations can be improved.
- 23 The review will begin in September 2010 with a public call for evidence and will conclude in

early 2011 with the submission of a review report and practical recommendations on how vocational education can be improved.

Connexions

- 24 Connexions budgets were reduced nationally for 2010/11. Amongst its other duties the service is charged with providing career education to lower age groups in schools. The service is balancing the allocation of Personal Advisor hours across schools and there have been some reductions in hours for some schools.

Youth Service

- 25 The Coalition Government have launched a pilot scheme for a National Citizenship Service (NCS) targeted at school leavers (16 years old), the key elements of this pilot scheme are:

- NCS forms part of the Governments Big Society Agenda
- Funding to be identified and announced in the autumn 2011. Expected to be £50 million earmarked for 2011 – 2013. Targeted at school leavers - 16 years. National Roll out proposed from 2013. Programme is expected to deliver 10,000 places.
- Pilots to commence June 2011. Programme duration 7/8 weeks - June - Sept (Summer Holidays). Programme to include charities, social enterprises and businesses and to include outdoor challenges and structured tasks involving visiting and helping local communities

- 26 The example of the programme structure is as follows:

- Pre Programme Prep – Weekend ; Week 1 - 7 day residential; Week 2 - 5 Community Involvement; Week 6 - Team Challenges; Ending with a Celebration and recognition event and awards.

- 27 Young people participating will get a ‘Reward’ - Small Allowance plus a grant. Each young person on the scheme will be expected to raise funds to assist in paying for the operation of the scheme as well as raising funds for local charity. Registration will be through schools, youth organisations, internet, shops and civic buildings and young people must register before their 17th birthday and commence programme prior to their 18th Birthday.

- 28 The 11-19 team along with key partners from the 3rd Sector in Herefordshire have submitted an expression of interest to be one of the 10 piloting organisations for 2011/12.

Early Years and Extended Services

- 29 Sure Start Children Centres – The previous government have made children centres a statutory service, however there is no indication of how much funding this service will receive from April 2011. The new coalition government have pledged ongoing support for Sure Start, but that the focus will be on services for vulnerable families who are suffering from the greatest disadvantage. Children Centres – intention to focus on core groups of children and families.

- 30 From November 2010 the Teacher Development Agency will no longer be supporting the extended services agenda and the DfE have confirmed that local authorities will no longer need to submit associated performance data. The emphasis for the local authority over the next few months will be to ensure sustainability of provision such as childcare beyond 2011 as it is unlikely that further extended services funding will be made available from DfE

Social Care: vulnerable children and young people

- 31 The new government has established a review of child protection, led by Eileen Munro, professor of social work at the London School of Economics. It is designed to look at early intervention, the interaction between social work teams and universal services and how this can be improved, how best practice can be shared, how the workforce can be improved, as well as slashing bureaucracy and improving inspections. The report is expected by the end of the calendar year.
- 32 The Contact Point IT programme is stopped and funding has been confirmed for Q1 2010/11 only. The government is considering whether a revised system focusing on groups of vulnerable children and young people should be put in place.

Playbuilder

- 33 The Department of Education have requested information on the current status and a decision over future projects for this year is expected shortly. Meanwhile we continue to help, support and advise all communities on play space development and are currently looking at self build schemes designed and built by the communities themselves. However, the revenue funding has been cancelled for 2010/11 (£18k for Herefordshire).

Children's Trust

- 34 The Department for Education has announced that it will be reforming Children's Trusts and revoking the requirement to have a Children and Young People's Plan. There has also been the stated intention to remove the duty on schools to co-operate with the local authority and other bodies to promote the well-being of children, and to remove the duty on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards. The intended changes are supposed to "support effective local partnerships" and free partnerships to "address local issues with innovative solutions" and "teachers and head teachers will be able to concentrate on teaching and learning". Instead local areas can decide what best fits local needs. The DfE News of July states "the basic duty to co-operate will continue but the list of statutory partners will be reviewed."
- 35 In Herefordshire the Children's Trust Board has agreed that both the partnership should continue and the plan should remain. We have already started work on the new plan which will be in place from April 2011 and that should continue. Partners believed that the Children's Trust has developed positively as a way to combine approaches and that we still need to focus on what we can do for children and families which working on our own will not achieve. We will consult with schools on how best to work with them effectively so that they continue to have an important voice in the development of Herefordshire's partnership approach for children, young people and their families. As we develop our new plan we will also look to ensure we have the most effective structures in place to support its delivery, within the context of Herefordshire Partnership arrangements.

Community Impact

- 36 Services delivered by schools, early years settings, colleges, and the children and young people's directorate directly or through contracts will all be affected by the new government's plans. Some decisions such as the cessation of the playbuilder scheme have already been recognised. There is a clear message that some services will end and should no longer be provided by the state. The expectation of the "Big Society" initiative is that the communities themselves will deliver services that they value, with the local authority playing a strategic role of influence and leadership.

Financial Implications

- 37 Financial implications have yet to be fully understood as more details and changes will follow. However, the in-year cuts to programmes are being felt by schools, voluntary agencies and the local authority and NHS Herefordshire. The financial impact of schools transferring to academy status will be significant if a substantial number of schools, or large schools take up this opportunity. The directorate is planning for significant cuts to services over the next three years.

Legal Implications

- 38 Legal implications of the decisions relating to each area are considered on an ongoing basis as national decisions are locally addressed.

Risk Management

- 39 There are risks to children, young people and families in that services that they may have been looking forward to or rely upon are no longer available. The directorate is working with partners through the Children's Trust and Herefordshire Partnership to focus resources on areas of greatest need and impact, looking to ensure that resources are considered across partners rather than via single agency approaches. There will be reductions in service and the policy decisions that will take place in October and November 2011 will set out the direction for Herefordshire.
- 40 There are risks to services provided by Herefordshire Council with the introduction of the Academies Act. The directorate is investigating trading opportunities with schools, alongside other services from the Council and NHS Herefordshire to see how valued services can operate and become sustainable.

Consultees

- 41 None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Extract from the Coalition Government's Programme for Government 2010

Appendix 2 – Funding and Policy Decisions by the new government

Background Papers

- None identified.

Extract from the Coalition Government's Programme for Government 2010

Section 14. FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The Government believes that strong and stable families of all kinds are the bedrock of a strong and stable society. That is why we need to make our society more family friendly, and to take action to protect children from excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation.

- We will maintain the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020.
- We will reform the administration of tax credits to reduce fraud and overpayments.
- We will bring forward plans to reduce the couple penalty in the tax credit system as we make savings from our welfare reform plans.
- We support the provision of free nursery care for pre-school children, and we want that support to be provided by a diverse range of providers, with a greater gender balance in the early years workforce.
- We will take Sure Start back to its original purpose of early intervention, increase its focus on the neediest families, and better involve organisations with a track record of supporting families. We will investigate ways of ensuring that providers are paid in part by the results they achieve.
- We will refocus funding from Sure Start peripatetic outreach services, and from the Department of Health budget, to pay for 4,200 extra Sure Start health visitors.
- We will investigate a new approach to helping families with multiple problems.
- We will publish serious case reviews, with identifying details removed.
- We will review the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and scale it back to common sense levels.
- We will crack down on irresponsible advertising and marketing, especially to children. We will also take steps to tackle the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood.
- We will encourage shared parenting from the earliest stages of pregnancy – including the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave.
- We will put funding for relationship support on a stable, long-term footing, and make sure that couples are given greater encouragement to use existing relationship support.
- We will conduct a comprehensive review of family law in order to increase the use of mediation when couples do break up, and to look at how best to provide greater access rights to non-resident parents and grandparents.

Section 26. SCHOOLS

The Government believes that we need to reform our school system to tackle educational inequality, which has widened in recent years, and to give greater powers to parents and pupils to choose a good school. We want to ensure high standards of discipline in the classroom, robust standards and the highest quality teaching. We also believe that the state should help parents, community groups and others come together to improve the education system by starting new schools.

- We will promote the reform of schools in order to ensure that new providers can enter the state school system in response to parental demand; that all schools have greater freedom over the curriculum; and that all schools are held properly to account.
- We will fund a significant premium for disadvantaged pupils from outside the schools budget by reductions in spending elsewhere.
- We will give parents, teachers, charities and local communities the chance to set up new

- schools, as part of our plans to allow new providers to enter the state school system in response to parental demand.
- We will support Teach First, create Teach Now to build on the Graduate Teacher Programme, and seek other ways to improve the quality of the teaching profession.
- We will reform the existing rigid national pay and conditions rules to give schools greater freedoms to pay good teachers more and deal with poor performance.
- We will help schools tackle bullying in schools, especially homophobic bullying.
- We will simplify the regulation of standards in education and target inspection on areas of failure.
- We will give anonymity to teachers accused by pupils and take other measures to protect against false accusations.
- We will seek to attract more top science and maths graduates to be teachers.
- We will publish performance data on educational providers, as well as past exam papers.
- We will create more flexibility in the exams systems so that state schools can offer qualifications like the IGCSE.
- We will reform league tables so that schools are able to focus on, and demonstrate, the progress of children of all abilities.
- We will give heads and teachers the powers they need to ensure discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour.
- We believe the most vulnerable children deserve the very highest quality of care. We will improve diagnostic assessment for schoolchildren, prevent the unnecessary closure of special schools, and remove the bias towards inclusion.
- We will improve the quality of vocational education, including increasing flexibility for 14–19 year olds and creating new Technical Academies as part of our plans to diversify schools provision.
- We will keep external assessment, but will review how Key Stage 2 tests operate in future.
- We will ensure that all new Academies follow an inclusive admissions policy. We will work with faith groups to enable more faith schools and facilitate inclusive admissions policies in as many of these schools as possible.

Funding and Policy Decisions by the new government

Area Based Grant

£3.9m for 2010/11. The Herefordshire Partnership reduced this by 6%, as it did across all partnership policy and delivery groups to provide funding to focus on partnership priorities, which may include priorities for children and young people. The Department for Education has reduced the allocation in year by £900, 000. . The Herefordshire Partnership is considering how this should be addressed and whether all of this should fall to in year reductions in services from the Children's Trust Area Based Grant amount. Current services covered by this grant include:

- Primary and Secondary School Literacy, Numeracy and Science Consultants, School Improvement Partners, School Improvement Intervention Funding, Behaviour and Attendance School Consultants, Designated teacher training, teaching assistant training, Special Educational Needs Coordinator training
- Connexions Service funding, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Teenage Pregnancy, Young People's Substance Misuse services, 14-19 Partnership funding
- Positive Activities funding; Children's Trust Shadow Board activities
- Healthy Schools programme
- Family Support contracts (for example with the local provider 2XL) and services, Extended Schools Start up Costs
- Child Death Review processes, Care Matters funding, Children's Social Care workforce (including training) funding
- School choice advisor, school travel advisor, Extended rights to travel funding

Some of these areas are statutory; others have been funded due to specific guidance and national programmes

Harnessing Technology Grant

c.£1.1m. A capital grant largely devolved to schools to spend on ICT. Schools Forum agreed to retain up to 25% of the primary schools share for central purchasing of primary school computer software to achieve significant savings. Last year of the grant. The government decided to cut this by 50% in year and this cut has been passed onto to individual schools

Young Peoples Learning Agency

c.£24.9m for full financial year. Revenue grants for payment to the FE Colleges, Sixth Form College, school sixth forms and work-based training providers for post 16 students.

However, £8.3m of funding has been announced for the period April 10 to July 10. Further details of revenue grants are expected shortly regarding the period August 10 to July 11.

Other Grants

Grant	source	Indicative 10/11 Budget £000	Current status / government statements
Standards Fund	Dept Education for	2,244	No info received but much of this is associated with programmes delivered by the National Strategies Programme which is being terminated on 31 March 2011.
General Sure start grant	Dept Education for	4,192 of which 60 tbc	Government has confirmed Surestart programme but details to be confirmed
Surestart local programme	Dept Education for	457	No info received – budgets shown on website
Aiming high for disabled Children	Dept Education for	562	No info received – budgets shown on website
Big Lottery		59	Due to finish in Oct 2010
Alternative Provision	Dept Education for	83	Confirmed by DFE email 7/6/10
TAMHS	Dept Education for	150	Awaiting confirmation – 2 nd year of 2yr grant
Youth Opportunity Fund	Dept Education for	90	1 st Quarter Rec'd. Grant frozen possibly joining ABG De ringed
Think Family grants (various)	Dept Education for	360	De ringed
Playbuilder (revenue)	Dept Education for	18	Revenue grants cut
Contact Point	Dept Education for	19	Only ¼ of the grant confirmed – full grant was £72,152

Grant	source	Indicative 10/11 Budget £000	Current status / government statements
Children's Workforce in Schools – M&D	Training and Development Agency (TDA) for schools	103	Unconfirmed – reduction of 11% on 09/10 allocation
Teacher Incentives	TDA	80	Unconfirmed
School Support Staff Training	TDA	59	Unconfirmed – reduction of 11% on 09/10 allocation
Workforce reform	Children's Workforce Development Council	41	Unconfirmed – reduction of 10% on last year
Leadership Succession	National College	15	Unconfirmed – funding reduced by 10%
11-19 grants			To be confirmed
Diploma Gateway	DfE	85	
EBP Grant	Young People's Learning Agency/	107	
Young Apprenticeships Cohort 6	Skills Funding Agency (formerly LSC)	54	
Young Apprenticeships Cohort 7		144	



MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	1 OCTOBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	THE FINDINGS OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT IN SWIMMING AT KEY STAGE 2
REPORT BY:	Councillor WLS Bowen, Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Group

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Purpose

To consider the findings of the Scrutiny Review into Pupil Achievement in Swimming at Key Stage 2.

Recommendations

THAT:

- (a) The Committee considers the recommendations of the review as set out below and determines whether it wishes to agree the findings for submission to the Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement) for consideration.
- (b) Subject to the review being approved, the Cabinet Member's response to the review be reported to the first available meeting after the Cabinet Member has approved their response.

Key Points Summary

- In accordance with the Committee's request a Scrutiny Review has been undertaken into pupil achievement in swimming at Key Stage 2.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Arising from previous discussion and concern about the closure of the LEA Pool, the Committee requested further information on swimming requirements forming part of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 2. This was provided to the Committee at its meeting on 6 July 2009. Arising from that meeting the Committee decided to undertake a Scrutiny Review and set the terms of reference for the review as "A Scrutiny Review be undertaken into pupil achievement for swimming at Key Stage 2 to establish base line data against which any future trend can be compared". The Committee also appointed Councillors: WLS Bowen (Chairman); MD Lloyd-Hayes; SJ Robertson and AM Toon to undertake the review.
- 2 At its meeting on 10 December 2009 further concern was expressed by the Committee that if savings were being made from the LEA Pool then assurances should be obtained that adequate

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

provision, particularly in Key Stage 2 was being provided through Halo. The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Executive of HALO on this point on 14 June 2010.

Key Considerations

- 3 The Scrutiny Review Group (Cllrs: Bowen; Robertson; Toon) met on 20 August 2010, and took into consideration information previously supplied or considered by the Committee. The Review Group were also informed about the DfES publication "Swimming Charter" which provided school, sports and recreation departments within local authorities on how to work and plan effectively, with guidance on how to encourage more children to take part in swimming.
- 4 The Review Group also considered a report by the Assistant Director: Improvement and Inclusion dated 20 August 2010 a copy of which is appended for information. The report sets out the background; the responsibilities and expectations under the curriculum; Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) child swimming accident statistics; swimming provision in Herefordshire provided through HALO and the HALO pool school swimming times. The report also collates the responses by Herefordshire schools to the question "How many children last year left school being able to swim unaided for a sustained period of time over a distance of at least 25m?"
- 5 In undertaking the review the Review Group considered a range of issues. Some of the principal points taken into consideration during the course of the review were:
 - a. School governors and heads are responsible for the delivery of the curriculum. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum Programme of Studies for KS2 Physical Education. Pupils must be taught swimming activities and are expected to be able to swim 25m by the end of KS2. (end of year 6).
 - b. Whilst swimming is part of the National Curriculum there is no duty on schools to report their KS2 swimming attainment results. Similarly there is no duty on the local authority to collect the results.
 - c. OfSTED inspections would only consider swimming as part of their judgement of curriculum provision at Key Stage 2 in the school.
 - d. The results from the question indicated that 69 schools had provided the requested data. Of the 1404 pupils that had left school, 1241 had achieved the 25m target. This represented 88% of pupils.
 - e. For a number of reasons e.g. the data hadn't been collected or it had been lost, 13 schools had been unable to provide data. From the information available the Review Group concluded that County schools were complying with the curriculum requirements to provide swimming lessons.
 - f. Asking schools for swimming data on an annual basis may help raise the profile of the KS2 swimming target. The Review Group did not wish to significantly increase the volume of data already collected by schools. It was suggested to the Review Group that a relatively quick and easy means to collect the data could be that a data entry box be added to the school information management system (SIMS). The results could then be included in the Performance Monitoring report to Committee. Any anomalies identified would then be investigated.
 - g. As statistics were not required to be kept, it was difficult to get comparisons with other authorities. However, the DfES "Swimming Charter" published 2003, cited Stockport, as part of the Stockport Sports Trust, in a good practice case study as having achieved

86% of children attaining the KS2 requirement.

- h. The Review Group questioned the involvement, interaction and co-ordination between the various local sports/swimming groups in supporting children to swim. The Review Group suggested that further exploration be undertaken by officers into whether the local partnership between public, private and voluntary sectors were making the most efficient use of their resources.
- 6 The Review Group concluded that swimming was a vital part of a child's life skills. Parents and schools should make every effort to ensure that children are taught this vital skill for the child's safety and the safety of others.
- 7 Based on the limited data available the Review Group concluded that the figure of 88% be used as a local comparator for future benchmarking and trend monitoring.
- 8 The recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review of Pupil Achievement in Swimming at Key Stage 2 are:
 - (a) **that 88% be used as a local comparator for future benchmarking and trend monitoring;**
 - (b) **that Officers be requested to investigate the least disruptive means for schools to submit swimming data on an annual basis;**
 - (c) **results from the data collected should be included in the Performance Monitoring report to this Committee and any anomalies should then be investigated as the Committee considers appropriate;**
 - (d) **officers should investigate whether the local partnerships between public, private and voluntary sectors were making the most efficient use of their swimming resources.**

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Swimming At Key Stage 2 by the Assistant Director: Improvement and Inclusion.

Background Papers

- None.

SWIMMING AT KEY STAGE 2

Report By: Kathy Roberts – Assistant Director: Improvement and Inclusion

Purpose

1. To provide information on the swimming requirements as part of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 2, and provision made for this by Herefordshire Local Authority.

History to this Subject

2. Children's Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6 July 2009 considered a report on Swimming at Key Stage 2. The Committee were informed that the Authority did not hold records of pupil achievement for swimming at Key Stage 2. The Committee requested that data be sought; a scrutiny review be undertaken into pupil achievement for swimming at Key Stage 2 to establish base line data against which any future trend can be compared, and established the membership of the review group namely Cllrs: WLS Bowen (Chair) MD Lloyd-Hayes, SJ Robertson and AM Toon.
3. At its meeting on 11 December 2009 Children's Services Scrutiny Committee considered the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2009/10. During debate concern was expressed that if savings were being made in swimming (the agenda report indicated LEA pool £26k) and the Committee requested assurances that adequate provision, particularly for KS2 pupils, was being provided through HALO. The Committee requested a briefing note on this issue.

Financial Implications

4. Maintained schools are not permitted to charge parents for the cost of providing swimming lessons that take place wholly or mainly during school hours, or for the cost of transport to and from the lesson. No charge can be made for lessons or transport outside school hours where the lesson is part of the National Curriculum. There is nothing to stop schools asking for voluntary contributions to cover the cost of school activities, but it must be made clear that no child will be treated differently, or left out of the activity, because their parent is unable or unwilling to make the contribution.
5. The cost of hiring swimming pools can be a major problem for schools where there is an uncoordinated approach. In the DCSF Swimming Charter it is suggested that Local authorities can help schools to overcome this burden at little cost by providing an authority-wide service that schools can buy back from them. In doing so local authorities should:

- where possible, buy pool access during off-peak time when costs are reduced, or negotiate reduced rates;
- buy pool access at end of term for top-up programmes in order to cut costs;
- seek partnerships with pool management companies to provide summer programmes.

Background

6. National Curriculum Requirements:

Swimming is not only a healthy activity, but also acts as an essential life-skill. Swimming and water safety are statutory activities at Key Stage 2, designed to ensure children are able to swim unaided over a distance of at least 25 metres. Swimming is also one of nine workstrands within the national PE, School Sport and Club Links strategy.

7. The National Curriculum Programme of Studies for Key Stage 2 Physical Education states that pupils should be taught the knowledge, skills and understanding through a range of physical activities, including swimming activities. Swimming activities and water safety must be taught unless pupils have completed the full key stage 2 teaching requirements in relation to swimming activities and water safety during key stage 1.
8. Pupils with Special Educational Needs should have the opportunity to engage in the swimming curriculum, whilst those with particular gifts in this area should receive appropriately differentiated provision.
9. In Herefordshire there is a variety of practice in terms of delivery, with some schools offering swimming from Key Stage 1 and others at Key Stage 2 only. If the Programmes of Study are completed in KS1, schools do not have to offer swimming at KS2. The Local Authority does not keep records of pupil achievement for Swimming at Key Stage 2. Neither does OFSTED report on this area of a school's provision although very occasionally an inspector will accompany a school swimming lesson. Schools do not have to keep performance data on swimming. Schools will, however, usually report on pupil's achievements in swimming as part of the child's individual annual report to parents.
10. It is the responsibility of each Governing Body to ensure that schools deliver the National Curriculum, which includes swimming. The Local Authority has a duty to advise Governors on their statutory responsibilities. OFSTED inspections make a judgement on the effectiveness of leadership and management, pupil outcomes and the effectiveness of provision. This includes judgements on '*the effectiveness of the governing body in challenging and supporting the school so that weaknesses are tackled decisively and statutory responsibilities met*', '*the extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles*', and '*the extent to which the curriculum meets pupils' needs*'. The sanction for schools not complying with their statutory duty could be an inadequate judgment for governance, and a curriculum which fails to help

children adopt healthy lifestyles would also place the school at risk of an unsatisfactory judgement. OFSTED do not look at swimming per se, so these judgements would be based on a range of contributing factors.

11. In terms of facility provision and access The Swimming Charter states that an effective local authority should consider:
 - the location of any new pools to ensure that the pools available to schools meet the access needs (including disabled access) of all pupils;
 - which elements of the curriculum can be delivered away from the pool to achieve economies of scale; and
 - supplying help with teaching, training, changing supervision, life guarding etc.
12. National statistics available from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) for 2005 (most recent data available) indicate that thirty nine children died from drowning that year. Twenty one of these deaths were children aged 7 or younger, six aged 8-11, and twelve aged 12-14.

Provision:

13. Following the Cabinet decision to discontinue the LEA Pool, the management of Hereford HALO Leisure Pool put in place plans for the permanent provision of Key Stage 2 swimming at the Hereford HALO Leisure Pool. Schools are able to bring more pupils to the HALO pool (up to 60) than was possible at the LEA Pool, which was limited to a maximum of 50 pupils.
14. Since September, HALO report that a total of two schools have raised specific issues which the management has acknowledged and dealt with.
15. The Hereford HALO Leisure Pool Manager has arranged a meeting each term for headteachers of all the schools that use the pool to attend to discuss any issues they have and to develop the service provided. The first meeting was attended by two headteachers and the second by 4 headteachers. Existing commitments in Head teacher's diaries, and the heavy workload of Heads prevented some from attending. Halo have responded to this providing two meetings at different times of the day, to allow for more flexibility in attendance. for the following meeting on 19 May 2010. Attendees at previous meetings were positive about the arrangements that the management had put in place and the opportunity to work with the management on developing the provision. Feedback indicates that schools have generally been impressed with how responsive Halo have been to resolve any practical issues.
16. HALO reports that Headteachers and school teachers have reacted positively to a proposal by HALO to provide training for those teachers who accompany pupils to the pool. At the moment, they have no obvious role while the

children are being taught by the pool's instructors. The training will allow school teachers, under the direction of the swimming instructors to contribute to lessons. Children attending KS 2 swimming are often at very different stages of ability, with some children already at, and in advance of the KS2 standard of swimming 25 metres. The active involvement of school teaching staff will allow swimming instructors to focus on improving the skills and abilities of those pupils who need it most, in order to reach the standard required.

17. As an ASA approved training centre, the Hereford HALO Leisure Pool management has secured two training days, to be funded by the ASA, which school teachers can attend at no charge.
18. The adoption of the more rigorous national standard still incorporates a badge scheme, which encourages and rewards children for their achievements at different levels. As a national standard, provided by qualified staff at an ASA approved training pool, this helps the LA, headteachers, pupils and parents can be assured of the quality of swimming instruction pupils are receiving and the standards they are meeting. However, currently some schools have raised complaints about the number of different swimming teachers that children experience and the lack of systematic delivery of badges and certificates.
19. The next phase is to introduce the National Plan and the national swimming awards to schools and the pupils swimming at the Hereford pool. This will bring all schools/pupils swimming at the pool in line with the other schools across the county, who use the other HALO pools in Herefordshire, and across 1,000 other swimming programmes nationwide.
20. There are 12 National Swim awards in total. They are designed to develop water confidence, effective stroke technique and a wide range of aquatic skills. The awards are all based on continuous assessment.
21. In the summer term the ASA regional co-ordinator will be hosting a meeting for Headteachers and teachers responsible for school swimming at HALO, Hereford Leisure pool, to provide information about the National Plan and the award scheme to all schools across the county. The plan is to implement the new scheme from September 2010 at the Hereford pool. The Local Authority will be represented at this meeting.
22. At the December 2009 meeting of the Children's Services Swimming Scrutiny, information was requested on "the level of support provided by the Council through HALO to pupils in achieving Key Stage 2 swimming".
23. The timetable below sets out the provision HALO provides for schools to undertake swimming lessons. Schools book termly and the pool is generally fully booked.

Monday	10.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	Whole Pool
Tuesday	9.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	"
Wednesday	10.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	"
Thursday	9.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	"
Friday	10.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	"

The table in Appendix 3 reflects the provision for the Spring Term 2010 in Halo pools. This provision may change termly, as some schools timetable swimming in particular terms.

Outcomes

24. Each primary school in Herefordshire was asked the question "How many children last year left school being able to swim unaided for a sustained period of time over a distance of at least 25m?" Out of the 82 primary schools (including the Steiner Academy) 69 have provided us with the requested information and this is shown in table 1. Overall, 88% of year six children were able to swim the expected target minimum of 25 metres at the end of the academic year 2009/10. Schools with a low proportion of pupils able to swim by the end of KS2 gave various reasons for this: pupil absence, pupil disruption in provision transport or closure of LEA pool.

Appendix 1 represents the data collated in numerical form.

Appendix 2 represents the data in a percentage graph.

25. Five schools are unable to provide any data, and nine schools have yet to submit data despite several requests. Of the five schools unable to provide any data, the reasons are as follows:
- Two schools do not hold any records, although swimming is taught.
 - Three schools provide swimming at KS1 only. This includes one Infant School.
 - **All** schools have confirmed that swimming is taught.
26. It is probable therefore that more than 88% of children have achieved this standard in swimming. Since the drafting of this report, HALO have confirmed that more schools are fully utilising the use of their facilities. Seventy Primary schools made use of HALO facilities during the Spring term 2010.

RECOMMENDATION: that the information in the report be noted and, in accordance with the terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review, the Chairman of the scrutiny review consider whether this information be used as the basis for establishing a baseline against which any future trend can be compared.

Appendix 1**HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS SWIMMING STATISTICS**
Table 1

		2009 2010		
	NAME OF SCHOOL	Number who achieved target	Number of children who left school	Percentage
1	Almeley	6	12	50
2	Ashfield Park	52	62	84
3	Ashperton	20	20	100
4	Bosbury	28	28	100
5	Brampton Abbotts	16	20	80
6	Bredenbury	6	8	75
7	Bridstow	12	12	100
8	Broadlands	15	39	38
9	Brockhampton	22	24	92
10	Burghill	12	12	100
11	Burley Gate	16	20	80
12	Canon Pyon	8	8	100
13	Clehonger	10	15	67
14	Clifford	8	10	80
15	Colwall	28	29	97
16	Cradley	16	16	100
17	Dilwyn	3	3	100
18	Eardisley	13	17	76
19	Eastnor	11	12	92
20	Ewyas Harold	21	22	95
21	Garway	17	18	94
22	Goodrich	15	16	94
23	Gorsley Goffs	25	26	96
24	Hampton Dene	36	38	95
25	Holme Lacy	4	4	100
26	Holmer	42	47	89
27	Ivington	13	15	87
28	Kings Caple	9	9	100
29	Kingsland	22	24	92
30	Kingstone & Thruxton	28	31	90
31	Lea	9	9	100
32	Ledbury	51	68	75
33	Leintwardine	18	18	100
34	Little Dewchurch	5	5	100
35	Llangrove	11	12	92
36	Longtown	9	9	100
37	Luston	17	19	89
38	Marden	13	14	93
39	Marlbrook	42	49	86
40	Michaelchurch Escley	11	13	85
41	Mordiford	20	20	100
42	Much Birch	18	21	86

Further information on the subject of this report is available from

Kathy Roberts – Head of Improvement and Inclusion

Tel: 01432 260804

43	Much Marcle	12	12	100
44	Orleton	20	25	80
45	Pembridge	15	15	100
46	Pencombe	6	6	100
47	Peterchurch	13	13	100
48	Shobdon	5	6	83
49	St James' Kimbolton	10	10	100
50	St James' Hereford	16	18	89
51	St Martin's	47	54	87
52	St Mary's Fownhope	12	13	92
53	St Mary's Credenhill	23	25	92
54	St Peter's	21	21	100
55	St Thomas	42	42	100
56	St Weonard's	11	11	100
57	Staunton-on-Wye	6	6	100
58	Steiner Academy	21	21	100
59	Stoke Prior	10	16	63
60	Stretton Sugwas	9	14	64
61	Sutton	8	8	100
62	Trinity	70	75	93
63	Walford	20	22	91
64	Weobley	28	31	90
65	Weston-under-Penyard	13	14	93
66	Whitbourne C E Primary School,	13	13	100
67	Whitchurch	20	21	95
68	Wigmore School (Primary Division)	24	26	92
69	Withington Primary School,	1	5	20
	Totals	1241	1404	88

SCHOOLS TEACHING SWIMMING AT KS1 ONLY

1	Leominster Infants' School,			
2	Lord Scudamore School,			
3	Riverside Primary School			

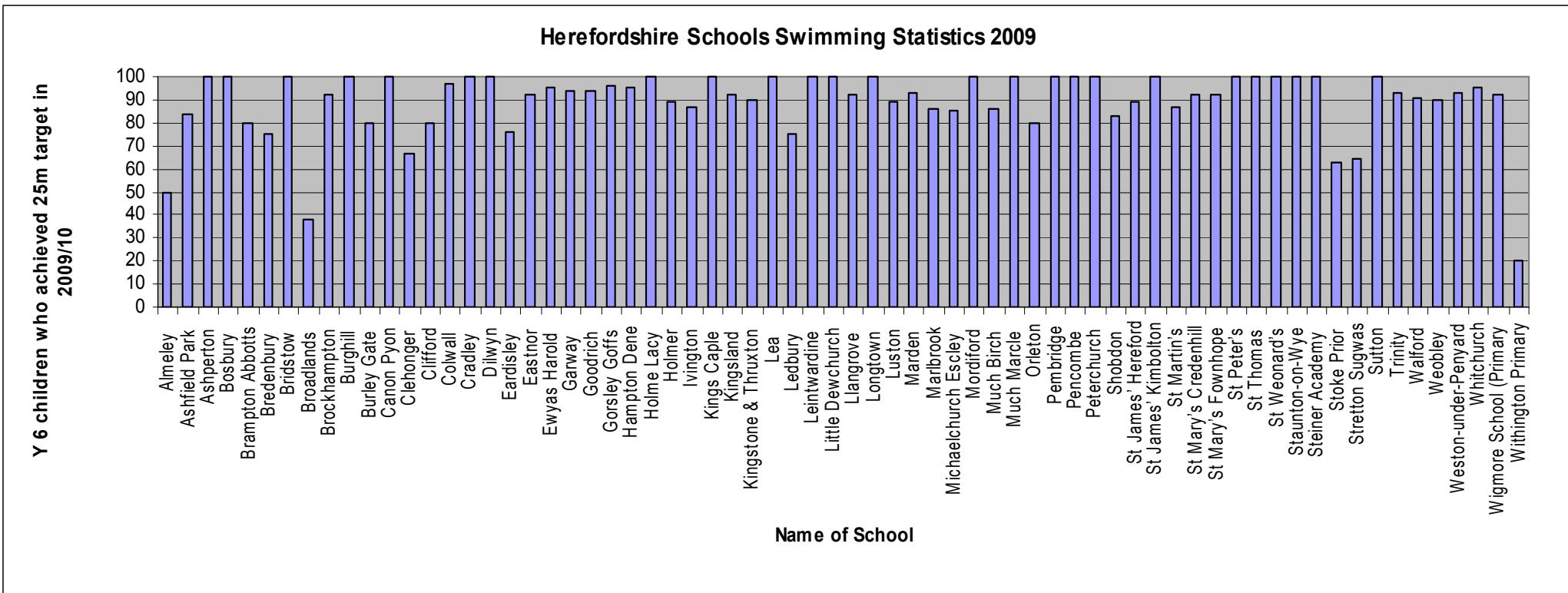
HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS SWIMMING STATISTICS - FULL INFORMATION AWAITED

1	Kington Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
2	Leominster Junior School,	TBA	TBA	
3	Lugwardine Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
4	Madley Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
5	Our Lady's R C Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
6	St Francis Xavier's R C Primary School,	unavailable		
7	St Joseph's R C Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
8	St Michael's C E Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
9	St Paul's C E Primary School,	unavailable		
10	Wellington Primary School,	TBA	TBA	

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Kathy Roberts – Head of Improvement and Inclusion

Tel: 01432 260804

APPENDIX 2



APPENDIX 3**Herefordshire Schools using HALO Facilitates March 2010**

Ashperton	Ledbury
Barrs Court School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Bosbury	Ledbury
Brampton Abbotts	Ross
Bredenbury	Leominster
Bridstow	Ross
Broadlands Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Burley Gate	Leominster
Clehonger CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Colwall	Ledbury
Dilwyn	Leominster
Eardisley	Leominster
Eastnor	Ledbury
Ewyas Harold Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Garway	Ross
Goodrich	Ross
Gorsley Goffs	Ross
Hampton Dene	Ledbury
Holme Lacy Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Holmer CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Ivington	Leominster
Kimbolton	Leominster
Kings Caple Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Kingsland	Leominster
Kingstone and Thruxton Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Lea	Ross
Ledbury	Ledbury
Leominster Infants	Leominster
Leominster Juniors	Leominster
Little Dewchurch CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Longtown Community Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Lord Scudamore Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Luston	Leominster
Madley Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Marden	Leominster
Marlbrook Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Michaelchurch Escley Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Mordiford CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Much Birch CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Much Marcle	Ledbury
Orleton	Leominster
Our Lady's RC Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Pencombe	Leominster
Peterchurch Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Riverside Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Shobdon	Leominster
St Francis Xavier	Leominster

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Kathy Roberts – Head of Improvement and Inclusion

Tel: 01432 260804

St James CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
St Josephs	Ross
St Martins Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
St Mary's, Credenhill	Leominster
St Mary's, Fownhope	Ross
St Michaels, Bodenham	Leominster
St Pauls CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
St Thomas Cantilupe CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
St Weonards	Ross
Stoke Prior	Leominster
Staunton-on-Wye Endowed Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Stretton Sugwas CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Sutton	Leominster
The Brookfield School and Specialist College	Hereford Leisure Centre
The Hereford Academy	Hereford Leisure Centre
The Minster - Not regularly	Leominster
Wellington	Leominster
Weobley PS	Leominster
Weston Under Penyard	Ross
Whitebourne	Leominster
Withington Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Kathy Roberts – Head of Improvement and Inclusion

Tel: 01432 260804



MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	1 OCTOBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2010/2011
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To scrutinise the capital budget position for 2010/11 for the Children & Young People's Directorate.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

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

Key Points Summary

- A reduction in some capital grants, following central Government announcements of funding cuts, has resulted in capital schemes and grants being halted or reduced in scope.
- Riverside Primary School – options to meet the funding gap caused by the original contractor going into liquidation.
- Other than for urgent health and safety work, the planned capital maintenance programme has been halted due to significant expenditure needing to be incurred on urgent and essential work to remove or clean up asbestos and also to replace pipe work to Low Propane Gas (LPG) tanks in response to Health & Safety Executive advice.

Alternative Options

- 1 This 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 As requested at the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2010, this is an exception report on the key areas of progress, achievement and challenge within the capital programme for 2010/11.

Planned capital expenditure for 2010/11 is £31,739,000.

Key Considerations

4.1 Reductions in grant income following central Government announcements of funding cuts:

- Schools' Harnessing Technology grant has been reduced by 50% to £543k.
- SEN/14-19 Targeted Capital grant has been reduced by £660k to £7,340k
- Early Years grants for Children's Centres and improvements to the quality of and access to private, voluntary and independent sector early years provision, has been reduced by £530k to £1,225k. This will result in rethinking how children's centres services can be provided in the north Hereford City area and it will reduce the Local Authority's ability to provide early years settings in the private, voluntary and independent sector with grants to improve quality and access to provision.
- Playbuilder –. This capital grant was unringfenced in June. The Local Authority was to receive £607k, but this is likely to be reduced and the Local Authority is waiting for the Government to confirm exactly what the 2010/11 grant will be. In July, the Local Authority submitted to the Government details of 11 play schemes that we have been developing with community groups across Herefordshire. All of these schemes are on hold until the exact amount of funding is announced by the Government. Even then, as whatever grant we get will be unringfenced, the Herefordshire Partnership will need to determine whether the funding should still be used for the Playbuilder schemes.

4.2 Riverside Primary School

As reported to the Committee previously, the scheme has incurred extra costs, predominantly as a direct consequence of the original contractor going into liquidation and a new contractor having to be taken on to complete the scheme:

Direct additional contractor costs due to the original contractor going into liquidation	£1,012,000
Vacant site security	£88,000
Remedial works required to original contractors work	£117,000
Additional ICT costs	£104,000

Additional professional fees connected with receivership work – re-measuring work required for new contractor tender specifications, production of new tenders and variations to the scheme. It is therefore possible that this figure will reduce as Asset Management and Property Services is in discussion with AMEY Consulting..	£511,000
Total	£1,832,000

However, the following options have been identified to fund the consequences of the contractor going into liquidation:

Payment of performance bond by insurers	£674,000
Capital receipt from disposal of land at Riverside for development	£600,000
Sale of mobile classrooms used during construction	£400,000
Capital Receipt Reserve	£158,000
Total	£1,832,000

4.3 Other schemes with an expected outturn of £500k in 2010/11

Scheme	2010/11 Forecast £'000	Spend to end period 4 £'000	Comments
Hereford Academy	13,256	3,250	Work in progress scheme on schedule both time and budget
Earl Mortimer College (Minster College replacement school)	4,171	1,902	New building opened to pupils and staff on 9 th September. Work continues now to develop the external areas, following the demolition of the old buildings.
Co-location	3,328	246	7 schemes are progressing, the largest based in Bromyard
Schools' Devolved Capital Programme	2,050	1,163	Devolved allocation of capital funding to schools
Intervention Centres	1,673	208	14 schemes at high schools are progressing well.
Primary Grant	1,500	82	£1million on the amalgamation of Leominster's junior and infants school and £500k on match funding schemes bid for by other primary schools.
Targeted Capital Fund for rural development of 14 – 19 curriculums.	675	76	Rural funding towards plant and equipment costs
Capital maintenance works	600	105	Annual programme of maintenance works at various sites, committed on a highest need first basis. The original planned programme is now 'on hold' due to a number of significant health and safety issues which have need to take priority. The Asset Management &

			<p>Property Services Team have completed a majority of the electrical works that were planned and will continue to do anything of a health and safety nature but all other works are stopped. The reason for the increased pressure on this budget can be attributed to -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work to remove or clean up from asbestos works 2. A request from the Health and Safety Executive to renew pipe work to LPG tanks following a serious incident in the North of England (we have 23 schools with LPG tanks)
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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:	1 OCTOBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2010/11
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To report on the monitoring of the Children's Services revenue budget for 2010/11 at the end of quarter one. To provide comparisons to 2009/10 budget and outturn so that Scrutiny Committee can assess and comment upon the budget management of Children's Services.

Recommendations

THAT the Committee comments and scrutinises the figures contained herein.

Key Points Summary

- The current projected outturn is an over-spend of £590k. This is largely due to increased pressures within Safeguarding, particularly the need to use independent provision to meet the needs of children and young people, and related spending on children with complex needs.
- The financial constraints are increasing and pose particular challenges for Children's Services where much of the work is statutory in nature and in many cases has been grant funded until now. Some grants have already been cut or un-ringfenced and further changes are anticipated to come into effect from April 2011.
- The proposed restructure model of the Children and Young People's Directorate (CYPD) has been completed and is in consultation from 8th September to 7th October 2010. The restructure will rationalise service delivery to re-focus available resources and deliver savings to meet the anticipated cuts from the autumn strategic spending review.
- The current restructure will not be the final outcome and further changes are expected over the next two to three years as additional service changes are made to meet the new focus and financial constraints of the new government.
- The budget setting process for CYPD for 2010/11 included a full review of all budgets and resulted in revised budgets reflecting a more accurate budgeted cost of the service delivery. A savings target of £857k was included within the central directorate budget (3.6% of total budget).
- The interim Director of Children's Services (DCS) tasked all Heads of Service with finding 10% savings and these have more than covered the savings target but are not sufficient

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

to cover the additional pressures largely due to increasing numbers of children and young people requiring independent provision. The savings comprise a combination of vacancy management, contract reviews and seeking opportunities to generate income for services where appropriate. In respect of income generation it is anticipated that the benefits from this will arise in 2011 and beyond.

- The 2009/10 financial year showed an average increase in numbers of children in either agency fostering or residential placements of 9 from 30.8 for 2008/09 to 39.8 for 2009/10, a 29% increase. Figures for April to July of 2010/11 show a further average increase of 1.4 children (3.5%), however this does not yet include two sibling groups (each comprising 3 children) who were placed in independent placements during August.
- Some grants and funding bodies have already been stopped by the new government and many grant funding streams are due to end at 31 March 2011. Decisions by the new government which may affect either the continuation of grants or levels of funding going forward will follow the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. Further changes are inevitable but cannot be predicted at the current time.

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 Appendices A to C provide an overview of the budget sources and areas of expenditure. With 2009/10 comparative figures.
- 4 For additional information Appendix D shows in a graphical format the changing profile for numbers of looked after children and proportion of local authority spend (budget and forecast by service delivery area).

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 2010/11 versus 2009/10 reports last year excluding corporate recharges for ease of comparison.
- 6 Please note that to ensure consistency with other corporate reports all overspends have been shown in brackets (), under-spends are shown as positive figures. This is a change of approach from last year and brings consistency of format between Council and PCT reports.

Local Authority Expenditure

- 7 Appendix A shows the budget and forecast expenditure for 2010/11 with 2009/10 comparisons. The forecast outturn currently projects an overspend of £590k. Details of the principal variances between outturn and budget are provided in the following section:

- 8 External agency fostering and residential placement costs continue to rise. An additional £508k has been allocated to this budget in 2010/11 to reflect the additional numbers of children. However during August there were some significant increases in the numbers of children looked after. Some of these were short term placements but the forecast overspend reflects the additional cost for two sibling groups (x 3 children each) in independent placements for the balance of the year.
- 9 The fostering and other looked after children costs budget has increased due to additional support costs to specific families (£50k) and increased payments to kinship carers (£50k). This has been partially offset by reduced numbers of young people requiring supportive lodging saving £55k and using available grants to help to fund Halo leisure passes for looked after children.
- 10 Family Assessment and Support shows an under spend of £55k relating to savings in special guardianship costs based upon current numbers of children (but offset by increased kinship care costs). In addition there are approximately £52k of adoption costs relating to agency fees for two hard to place children. Other savings to offset the increase have been identified through contract savings and reductions in section 17 budgets spend.
- 11 The Children with Disabilities team (non joint agency managed cases) is expecting savings of £19k due to staff vacancies. Safeguarding staffing costs show an under spend versus budget of £17k.
- 12 The forecast does not include the anticipated additional cost for the interim social workers who are being brought in to deal with the increased numbers of referrals and resolve issues highlighted in the recent unannounced inspection. A bid has been made for an additional £75k of funding to cover these costs to the corporate centre.
- 13 The Complex Needs Solution budget (formerly known as JAM) has historically under spent its budget, although to a diminishing extent year on year. The budget for 2010/11 has been set at the same level as for 2009/10 however additional numbers of cases are being considered year on year which create commitments for up to 7-8 years at a very high cost per case. Current case numbers cannot be managed within the existing financial budget and there is a predicted over-spend of £300k for both the local authority and DSG funded elements. As this commitment is likely to increase in 2011/12 and beyond additional funds will be sought from all three parties (LA/ DSG/PCT) and also all options to reduce costs explored. The Children's Commissioning Group, made up of representatives from the directorate and integrated commissioning have established an initial event involving a variety of staff, including school representatives to develop a strategy to enhance Herefordshire's provision and reduce the reliance on independent provision.
- 14 Children's Services has made a successful bid for extra funds to bring in additional resources in placement planning, commissioning and contract management. This will enable the work identified in point 13 above to be done in addition to further work on contracts to deliver further savings.
- 15 Savings in Special Educational Needs the Education Welfare service and School Improvement (c£150k in total) all relate to staff vacancy management and the maximisation of available grants to offset Local Authority costs.
- 16 The Youth Service is currently expecting to spend to budget but is exploring opportunities to generate income from outdoor activities as a way of offsetting the need to make cuts in

this area.

- 17 The PPD staff budget now reflects the transfer of the business support staff for Safeguarding into the centralised CYPD business support function. Savings in year are due to vacancies being held particularly within the performance team in order to cover the costs of the posts previously funded by Contact Point grant (this grant is being withdrawn during 2010/11) and the initiative has been stopped.
- 18 Home to school transport costs are reflecting savings as a result of the recent route reviews with 62 routes being rationalised down to 41. This will generate in year savings of approximately £117k with other savings arising from actual invoices being lower than estimated costs.
- 19 The Community Operations budget has been increased year on year to reflect the new senior management structure which has been put in place to deliver locality working. Some locality grants have been unringfenced and savings of £196k are anticipated as a result of being able to utilise these grants and charge some costs to other grants. This is a one off benefit as the future of the Think Family grants post 31/3/11 is still unclear.
- 20 Central Management costs show a predicted over spend of £81k, which relates to the recruitment of a new DCS and incremental costs for the interim DCS.
- 21 The target saving forecast has been reduced as a result of savings identified and reported across the directorate. £300k of the balance to be found relates to additional funding currently held centrally but which is anticipated will be transferred to CYPD.
- 22 Other central costs include additional HR support costs (£35k) for the restructure work and expected budget adjustment in respect of corporate travel savings (£20k)

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 23 The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2010/11 (based on pupil numbers of 22,564) at a total £90.304m. This is £10k more than the planning assumptions used to set school budgets. Recoupment of grant for the Hereford Academy is estimated at £2.987m although this has yet to be confirmed by the DfE.
- 24 Herefordshire received a 3.6% cash increase in DSG compared to the national average increase of 4.1% - the difference is due to falling pupil numbers and represents a loss of grant of £813k and amply demonstrates the continuing financial impact of falling pupil numbers. The changes in pupil numbers are set out below:

Pupil Numbers	2010/11	2009/10	Difference	%
Primary	12,001	12,119	-118	-1.0%
High	9,209	9,266	-57	-0.6%
Special	231	219	+12	+5.5%
Other	1123	1148	+25	+2.2%
Total	22,564	22,752	-188	-0.8%

- 25 Overall primary budgets have increased by 3.2%, high school budgets by 3.6% and special school budgets by 5.8%. Due to falling pupil numbers in individual schools almost half of Herefordshire schools received percentage budget increases of less than the 2.3% teachers' pay inflation and less than general inflation.
- 26 Indicative funding increases for 2011/12 and 2012/13 were published prior to the general election and indicated that all schools will be expected to have to find 0.9% efficiency savings. Announcements on DSG funding allocations for 2011/12 are not due until the autumn however it is clear that all schools face a much tighter settlement and for schools with falling rolls budget reductions will be inevitable

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Average
Increase per pupil	4.3%	1.9%	2.3%	2.1%
Cost pressures	3.1%	1.9%	1.3%	1.6%

Table: DfE published Indicative DSG increases and cost pressures

- 27 Cost pressures have already been identified within the Joint Agency Management budget for children with complex medical, social and educational needs and a £300k overspend in the cost allocated to DSG is forecast in 10/11. Revaluations of school business rates (after school budgets had been issued) has resulted in increased costs of £198k. The DSG 2009/10 under-spend of £128k has been allocated to meet the increased costs for Pupil Referral Units introducing the minimum 25 hour tuition from September 2010. All of these additional costs are expected to feed through into 2011/12 and given the expected reduced DSG settlement in the autumn, difficult budget decisions will be necessary.

Academies

- 28 The government initially offered the opportunity for outstanding schools to opt into the academies programme. This is now available to all maintained schools upon the introduction of the Academies Act. There will be a financial impact on both the DSG and the local authority budget if schools opt for Academy status. It is estimated that for a large high school the local authority budget will be top sliced by between £250k and £300k and the DSG reduced by approximately £225k for a full year. The top-slice of local authority budgets is based on the budget for school improvement and strategic management and is estimated by the DfE at £270 per pupil. This is comparable with Gloucestershire (£299 per pupil) and Worcestershire (£317 per pupil).
- 29 The DSG will be reduced in-year for schools taking academy status in 10/11 however the LA budget will not be reduced until 2011/12. The DfE will be consulting authorities on the final methodology for academy recoupment in the autumn. Depending on the number of schools opting for academy status there could be a significant financial impact on both the DSG and LA budget although this cannot be calculated accurately until the numbers of schools transferring are known. The potential impact of academies has been included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy so that the potential cost is recognised in the budget process.

Grant Funded Expenditure

- 30 To provide members with a full overview of the use of grants by the Directorate Appendix C sets out the major grant funded activities.

- 31 The three principal funding streams for Children's Services (other than Council and DSG) are the Area Based Grant for which there is a budget of £3.689m, Standards Fund (DCSF) of £17.611m and Surestart for which the grant is £5.217m for 2010/11.
- 32 In addition following the abolition of the Learning Skills Council (LSC) and the creation of the new Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) all funding for post 16 education is passed through the Council to the relevant colleges.
- 33 The DCSF is also providing £360k in various grants this year from its Think Family programme as well as other minor programmes.
- 34 Children and Young People's Directorate receives various grants from the Children's Workforce Development Council and the Training and Development Agency which encompass the development of both teaching and non-teaching staff totalling £426k,
- 35 It has already been confirmed that the Contact Point grant is being withdrawn and it has also been confirmed that there will be no Playbuilder revenue grant (originally £18k allocated). As previously reported there are likely to be further changes to grant funding as a result of the comprehensive spending review which will impact on 2011/12 – with possible implications for 2010/11.

Community Impact

- 36 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

- 37 These are contained in the body of the report. The projected outturn is based upon results to the end of July 2010.

Legal Implications

- 38 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

- 39 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 and some of the work in terms of the restructure and establishment of a Herefordshire approach to address the use of independent placements. Vacancy management will be closely monitored to ensure that the affects on service delivery and staff workloads are carefully assessed and regularly reviewed.

Consultees

- 40 Not applicable

Appendices

Appendix A – Budget and Projected Local Authority Expenditure for 2010/11 with 2009/10 Comparatives

Appendix B – Budget and Projected Dedicated Schools Grant Expenditure for 2010/11 with 2009/11 Comparatives

Appendix C – Major Grant Funded Activities

Appendix D – Numbers in Children's Agency Residential and Fostering Placements / CYPD Forecast Spend 2010/11

Background Papers

None identified.

Appendix A
Budget and Projected Local Authority Expenditure for 2010/11 with 2009/10 Comparatives

£'000	2009/10			2010/11		
	Local Authority Net Expenditure (excluding corporate recharges)		Variance to Budget * ¹	Current Budget * ¹	Projected Outturn	Variance to Budget * ¹
	Budget	Actual	* ¹			
External Agency Placements	2,827	3,508	(681)	3,335	3,691	(356)
Fostering & other Looked After Children costs (LAC)	1,920	2,144	(224)	2,158	2,197	(39)
Children with Disabilities (non JAM cases)	681	632	49	652	633	19
Family Assessment and Support	2,062	2,052	10	2,231	2,176	55
Safeguarding Staff Costs (including social workers)	4,318	4,361	(43)	3,836	3,819	17
Sub total Safeguarding	11,808	12,697	(889)	12,212	12,516	(304)
Complex Needs Solutions (formerly JAM)	825	791	34	878	1,178	(300)
Early Years (non grant funded)	77	65	12	72	76	(4)
Education Welfare Team	188	203	(15)	217	207	10
Improvement & Inclusion Mgmt	362	347	15	376	376	0
Special Educational Needs	810	773	37	941	932	9
School Improvement Service	997	1,088	(91)	1,017	886	131
Youth Offending Team	341	321	20	320	320	0
Youth Services	1,123	1,061	62	1,074	1,074	0
Sub Total Inclusion & Impr.	4,723	4,649	74	4,895	5,049	(154)
Children's Services ICT	(49)	49	(98)	53	53	0
Planning, Performance Mgmt	826	701	125	1,285	1,188	97
Property / Asset Management	746	730	16	767	767	0
School Admissions & Transport	5,232	4,471	761	4,827	4,659	168
Sub Total PP&D	6,755	5,951	804	6,932	6,667	265
Community Operations	102	121	(19)	301	105	196
Central Management Costs	228	238	(10)	197	278	(81)
Staff Severance Costs	916	927	(11)	766	766	0
Target Saving	(160)	(95)	(65)	(857)	(400)	(457)
Misc Other Central costs * ²	(269)	(248)	(21)	(357)	(302)	(55)
Sub Total Central CYPD	715	822	(107)	(251)	342	(593)
Total Local Authority Net Expenditure	24,103	24,240	(137)	24,089	24,679	(590)

*¹ Adverse (overspend) variances shown in brackets (), favourable (under spend) as positive

*² Recharges

Appendix B

Budget and Projected Dedicated Schools Grant Expenditure for 2010/11 with 2009/10 Comparatives

£'000	2009/10			2010/11		
	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)		Variance to Budget	Current Proj.	Outturn	Variance to Budget * ¹
	Budget	Actual	Budget * ¹	Budget	Outturn	Budget * ¹
Grant Income	(84,526)	(84,526)	0	(87,346)	(87,346)	0
Primary Schools	38,802	38,797	5	40,008	40,008	0
High Schools	36,162	36,155	7	37,480	37,480	0
Special Schools	3,777	3,788	(11)	4,006	4,006	0
Schools Related Expenditure (inc Contingency & carry fwd) * ²	182	247	(65)	170	170	0
Less LSC Income	(2,750)	(2,750)	0	(2,884)	(2,884)	0
Sub total Schools Spending	76,173	76,237	(64)	78,780	78,780	0
Special Needs Banded Funding	534	600	(66)	477	477	0
Complex Needs Solutions (formerly JAM)	878	791	87	878	1,178	(300)
Fees to Independent Schools (for Special Educational Needs)	341	289	52	477	477	0
Nursery Education Funding	2,888	2,880	8	2,944	2,944	0
Pupil Referral Units	924	910	14	944	944	0
Schools Admissions & Planning	200	204	(4)	166	166	0
Special Educational Needs Support Teams	1,563	1,464	99	1,619	1,522	97
Travellers Children	139	101	38	128	101	27
Early Years Support	536	419	117	479	479	0
Inter authority recoupment	(5)	165	(170)	95	95	0
Other Misc Expenditure	497	608	(111)	359	359	0
Total DSG Central Expenditure	8,495	8,431	64	8,566	8,742	(176)

*¹ Adverse (overspend) variances shown in brackets (), favourable (under spend) as positive

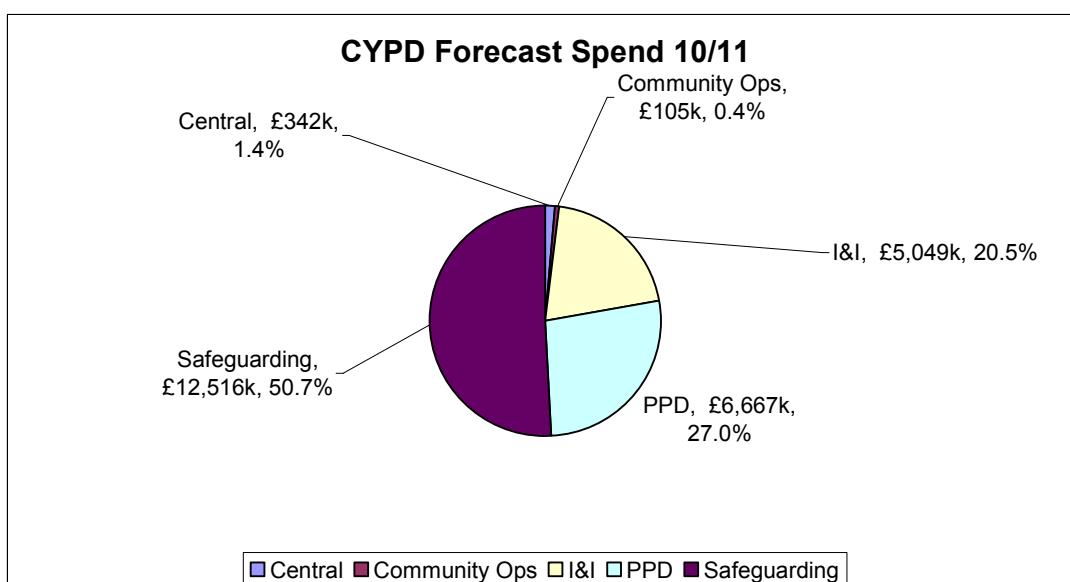
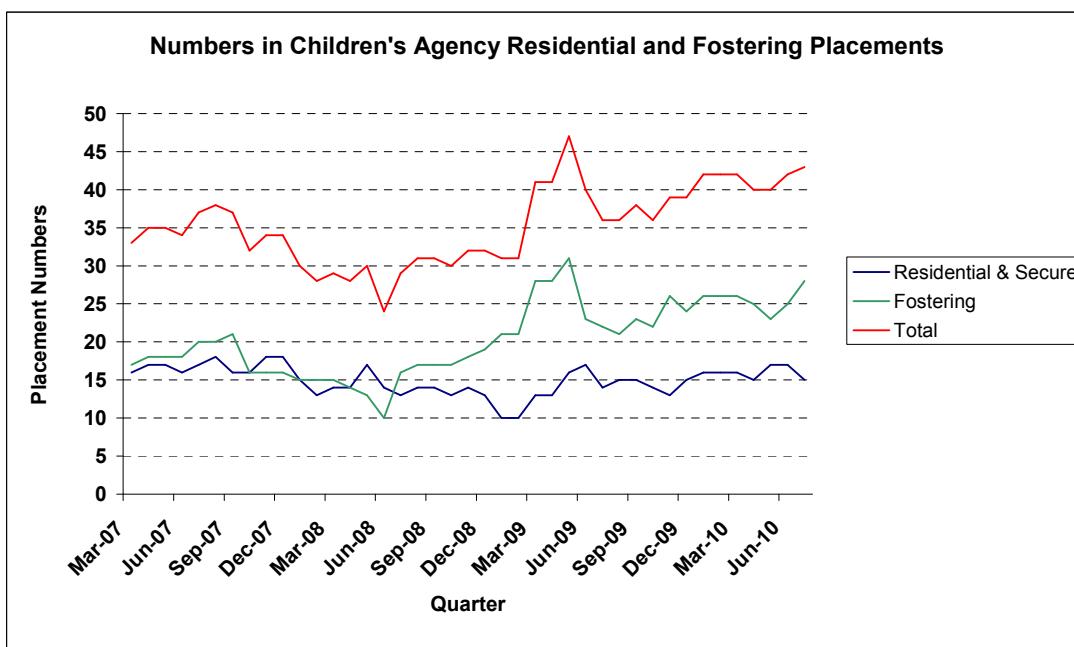
Appendix C
Major Grant Funded Activities

£'000 Grant Funded Expenditure	Funding / Source	2009/10			2010/11		
		Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Current Proj.	Variance to Budget
Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	ABG	148	148	0	99	99	0
Other Community Operations Support	ABG	114	113	1	337	337	0
Extended Schools Start Up	ABG	668	666	2	314	257	57
Other Schools Support	ABG	918	866	52	737	737	0
Connexions	ABG	1,470	1,470	0	1,394	1,394	0
School Travel	ABG	111	111	0	130	130	0
Teen Pregnancy	ABG	96	94	2	83	83	0
Children & Adolescent Mental Health	ABG	202	202	0	197	197	0
Substance Misuse	ABG	70	68	2	44	44	0
Other Safeguarding Children	ABG	511	502	9	289	289	0
Other ABG	ABG	211	279	(68)	65	65	0
Total Area Based Grant		4,519	4,519	0	3,689	3,632	57
Children's Centres	DfE	2,490	2,490	0	2,590	2,590	0
Other Early Years	DfE	1,583	1,583	0	2,627	2,627	0
Total Surestart Grant		4,073	4,073	0	5,217	5,217	0
Special & Beacon Schools	DfE	1,929	1,929	0	1,904	1,904	0
School Development Grant	DfE	5,183	5,183	0	5,393	5,393	0
Other Devolved Schools Stds Fund	DfE	2,066	2,066	0	2,581	2,581	0
Extended Schools	DfE	513	513	0	722	722	0
Support to Music Services	DfE	220	220	0	220	220	0
One to one tuition	DfE	383	383	0	729	729	0
Other non-devolved Stds Funds	DfE	1,300	1,300	0	1,798	1,798	0
School Standards Grant	DfE	4,193	4,193	0	4,264	4,264	0
Total Standards Fund		15,787	15,787	0	17,611	17,611	0
Community Ops (Think Family) various	DfE	349	349	0	360	360	0
Training & Development *¹	Various	482	482	0	426	426	0
YPLA*²	YPLA	0	0	0	8,222	8,222	0

*¹ included Contact Point 09/10 - grant being withdrawn during 2010/11

*² YPLA income now passes to colleges via LA following closure of LSC 31/3/10

APPENDIX D





MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	1 OCTOBER 2010
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 subject to any comment or issues raised by the Committee the Committee work programme be approved and reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Introduction and Background

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for overseeing, co-ordinating and approving the work programmes of the Committee, and is required to periodically review the scrutiny committees work programmes to ensure that overview and scrutiny is effective, that there is an efficient use of scrutiny resources and that potential duplication of effort by scrutiny members is minimised.
2. The work programme, set out at appendix 1, may be modified by the Chairman following consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Director in response to changing circumstances.
3. Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, the Chairman may consider calling an additional meeting to consider that issue.
4. 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.
5. To enable the Committee to track the result of previous recommendations Appendix 2 is attached for information only. Where possible this includes a comment by the relevant officer on the current position concerning the issue at the time of going to print.

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

Background Papers

- None identified.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme - 2009/10
For consideration by Committee on 1 October 2010

Friday 22 October 2010 at <u>9.30am</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years and Primary School performance – Update. (pupil and school) • Herefordshire School Task Group – Further Update • Update on Directorate Reorganisation. • Performance Digest (including unvalidated exam results). • Issues for Scrutiny raised from the seminar on 17 May 'Children's Trust Be Healthy Outcome Group' • Mobile ICT Working – Update • Referral and Assessment Inspection – Outcome • Committee Work Programme.

10 December 2010 at 10.00am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues for scrutiny raised from the seminar on 4 October. • Performance Digest. • Consider the draft revised Children and Young Peoples Plan • Update following Safeguarding Peer Review • Validated Examination Results – (a detailed report e.g. to cover school by school; girl /boy; looked after children; traveller, etc) • Capital Budget Monitoring. • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Committee Work Programme.
Scrutiny Reviews	--

Member Seminar	
<p>Note: All Councillors will be invited to a seminar based on one of the Every Child Matters themes on 7 February 2011 (afternoon)</p> <p>Possible Theme: Making a positive Contribution</p>	

11 March 2011 at 10.00am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues for scrutiny raised from the seminar on 7 February and other associated key issues e.g. links to NEET (Not in Employment or Training). • Further update on Directorate Reorganisation. • Capital Budget Monitoring. • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Performance Digest • Committee Work Programme.
Scrutiny Reviews	--

June/July 2011 at 10.00am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on KS 2 School Swimming Performance. • Capital Budget Monitoring. • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Performance Digest • Committee Work Programme.
Scrutiny Reviews	--

Possible future items on:

- *Policy developments from new government and how to respond to them as an LA and family of schools (see minutes June 2010)
- 'Be Healthy' issues (obesity / alcohol / lifestyle/housing/ CAMHS/ psychology service) also consider inviting members from Health Scrutiny. (see minutes June 2010)
- The 14 – 19 Strategy
- Foundation and Academy Schools
- Governance arrangements for the Children's Trust and partnerships.
- Delivery plans to be submitted to Committee for the Children and Young People Plan.

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

Suggested themes or Issues identified by the Director for future agendas

Date	Subject
To be confirmed	Economic Well Being: 14-19 Strategy.
To be confirmed	Positive Contribution: Targeted / Integrated Youth Services
To be confirmed	Enjoy and Achieve: Attendance Herefordshire and its comparators

APPENDIX 2

Progress in response to recommendations made and issues requiring action raised by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

Committee date: 19 March 2010

Safeguarding Arrangements.....	
Recommendations	Response/Action
1. in view of the range of services covered in questions 7 and 8 a Member briefing note be provided expanding on the various elements covered and, following consideration of the briefing note, the Chairman consider placing an item on the work programme for future discussion;	Briefing note issued to Members on 5 August 2010
2. The Committee recommends that a seminar be arranged in the near future to remind all members of their duties as Corporate Parents; and	Seminar being arranged for 1 November 2010.
3. A Member briefing note be provided setting out the number of pupil transfers requested due to bullying.	Data being collated and analysed.

Revenue Budget Monitoring	
Recommendations	Response/Action
That the report be noted and a Member briefing note be provided indicating the take up of the Music Services and cross correlating the results with the take up of free schools meals.	Briefing report prepared and sent to Members 9 September 2010

Performance Digest	
Additional Actions	Response/Action
1. a briefing note be provided on Pupil Admission Numbers / surplus school capacity once these have been confirmed for 2010/11.	Briefing note issued to members on 5 August 2010. Information is also available via the Council's web site.

Committee date: 14 June 2010

Idea Safeguarding Peer Review Update	
Recommendations	Response/Action
RESOLVED: that the Committee recommend that the Cabinet Member(s) concentrate on the priority areas identified by the Safeguarding peer review and report on progress to the Committee in 6 – 9 months time.	<p>Issue discussed with Cabinet Members on 26 August 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plan established. • Milestones on target. • Some responses integrated into the unannounced inspection action plan. <p>Logged in the work programme for 10 December 2010.</p>

Annual Report by Cabinet Members	
Recommendations	Response/Action
2. a Member Briefing note be produced setting out the statistics on children at risk from parents and parents at risk from children.	Briefing note sent to Members 9 September 2010.

School swimming Update	
Recommendations	Response/Action
1. Halo Leisure be invited to give a further update on school swimming performance in one years time;	Invitation has been extended and the item has been logged in the work programme for June/July 2011.

<p>2. It is recommended that Halo continue to compile a database on pupil/ school swimming attainment;</p> <p>3. It is recommended that Halo continue to expand the training of teachers to assist in giving swimming lessons; and</p>	<p>Both Committee suggestions have been forwarded to Halo for consideration.</p>
<p>4. A Members briefing note be provided on the take-up of free swimming and outline how Halo have managed the increase in patronage.</p>	<p>Halo consider that this has now been overtaken by the withdrawal of Government funding.</p>

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2009/10	
Recommendations	Response/Action
<p>1. it is recommended the Cabinet Member(s) take steps to ensure that all grant funding obtained is fully utilised and that it is done in an efficient, effective and timely way to ensure there is minimal repayment to the grant making body; and</p>	<p>Financial review and monitoring has been improved – budgets are updated and reviewed on a monthly basis and discussed both with DLT and Cabinet Members.</p>
<p>2. a Member briefing note be provided setting out those funding streams or projects that are ring-fenced and the effect of the recent announcements from national government.</p>	<p>Briefing note issued to members on 5 August 2010.</p>

Capital Budget Report 2009/10	
Recommendations	Response/Action
<p>1. The Committee recommend that a full report on how major school building projects had been administered e.g. Riverside Primary School be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that learning and good practice was being incorporated into future projects.</p>	The Recommendation has been passed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of its work programme.
<p>2. The Committee recommend to the Cabinet Member(s) that the feasibility work being undertaken to provide Blackmarston and Barrs Court Special Schools with additional accommodation be progressed as quickly as possible; and</p>	This is still in progress.
<p>3. In view of the national budget on 22nd June which it is anticipated will have implications for capital budgets a Member briefing note be provided setting out the major changes and their likely effect on projects.</p>	A report will be prepared (or incorporated into the normal capital budget) once the Comprehensive Spending Review has been announced on 20 October 2010.

Performance Digest year end 2009/10	
Recommendations	Response/Action
<p>1. Committee recommends that Cabinet Member(s) consider an earlier implementation date for the 24/7 emergency telephone response required to meet National Indicator 51; and</p>	Work in progress.

<p>2. Committee recommends that closer working arrangements be brought about between the CAMHs and child psychology service.</p>	Work in progress
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