

BEST VALUE REVIEWS - UPDATE

Report By: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

1. To consider the progress made on the seven Best Value Reviews conducted between 2000 and 2004.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Report

3. Five best value reviews of the Education Service were carried out between 2000 and 2002:
 - Pupil Admissions and Exclusions
 - Provision and Distribution of School Places
 - Education Welfare Service
 - Education Services for Schools
 - Medical and Behavioural Support Service and Pupils Educated by Parents
4. All the reviews have been completed and Stage 4 Improvement Plans and progress reports submitted to Education Scrutiny Committee, as shown at Appendix 1. In all cases, significant improvements have been implemented through changes made to the information provided to the service users and to processes and procedures. All action items considered to be high priority have been implemented and many minor changes have also been made.
5. Since further improvements will be as a result of either new legislation or through Council Performance Management and therefore will be reported in their own right, no further updates to Education Scrutiny Committee are planned for these reviews.
6. Two reviews, each comprising one third of the Education Directorate, were conducted during 2003 and 2004. The review of the Inspection, Advice and School Performance Service completed Stage 3 in March 2004. The current Committee Work Plan shows that the Improvement Plan will next be considered in March 2005. A separate report detailing the progress of the review of Special Educational Needs Provision and Support Services is included elsewhere on the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee consider the progress made since the Best Value Reviews conducted between 2000 and 2004 within the Education Directorate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Various individual Best Value Review reports.