

PROGRESS ON THE JOINT AREA REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Report By: Sue Fiennes, Director of Children's Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To advise the Scrutiny Committee on progress on the recommendations in the Joint Area Review (JAR).

Financial Implications

2. The allocation of £100 k. for JAR improvement in the 2006/07 budget is being used to commission external support to ensure best practice is applied.

Background

3. The performance indicators which are agreed to be used to check outcomes from improvement activity are the subject of the attached report from April to August 2006 (Appendix 1).
4. The summary report to the GOWM (Government Office – West Midlands) Improvement Board on 26th September, 2006 is attached (Appendix 2).
5. The success criteria for Herefordshire Council were agreed by the Board on 26th September and they are attached (Appendix 3).
6. The Cabinet Member and Directorate Management Team are members of the Board. It is chaired by the Deputy Director, Children & Learners, GOWM, and includes the Children's Services Advisor, GOWM, the Business Relationship Manager, CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection), the Head of Performance in the Council and a Senior Manager from the Primary Care Trust.
7. The focus of the Board is the progress and outcomes on the rest of the plan and project, and performance management improvement.
8. The three key issues which require on-going action:
 - Staffing capacity in relation to social workers.
 - The development of short breaks for children with disabilities and their families.
 - The wider workforce strategy.

Further information on these areas will be given at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Scrutiny Committee accept the report and indicate any further detail they require to consider.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- JAR Improvement Plan previously circulated.