

## **RESPONSE TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL 12 JANUARY 2011**

### **1. Circulate details of Speech and Language Therapy Strategy to Members:**

At present the Local Authority fund speech and language therapy (SALT) within mainstream schools, whilst the provision for our Special School is funded by the Primary Care Trust. Simon McKenzie, Head of Service, Learning Difficulties and Disability, is leading on developing a Speech and Language Therapy strategy for children up to 18 years old and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in education up to the age of 25. Early Years, Health Services, Headteacher representatives, Bracknell & Wokingham College and other key agencies have agreed to be involved in developing this.

The group has met to develop a draft strategy which is planned will be completed by June 2011. Key to developing this strategy will be identifying the needs and resources available in order to ensure a consistent approach to the provision of SALT throughout a child / young person's life. The strategy will identify the responsibilities of the respective agencies and is intended to lead to the joint commissioning of SALT services. In the meantime specialist speech and language support continues to be available through Berkshire East Community Health Services.

### **2. Follow up Member concerns about the quality and type of work set for excluded pupils with school governing bodies:**

The Department continues to ensure schools are aware of their responsibilities for the education of excluded pupils. Meetings with Headteachers and Local Authority officers to discuss exclusions provide an opportunity for schools to be reminded of their statutory duties. Parents are not responsible for making educational provision for their excluded child, but are expected to cooperate with schools in this regard. Where a pupil is given a fixed period exclusion of a duration of up to five school days the school should set work for the pupil to complete and make arrangements for it to be marked.

For fixed period exclusion of six days or more, the school has a duty to arrange suitable full-time taught educational provision from and including the sixth school day of the exclusion.

A recent edition of the Bracknell Forest Governor newsletter (Spring 2011) reminded governors of their statutory duties under section 100 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. 'The governing body needs to ensure that the education (of excluded pupils) is being monitored and this can best be done through Headteachers reporting to governors'.