

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
15 JANUARY 2014**

WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORT AND 2014/15 WORK PROGRAMME

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the Working Group of the Panel reviewing school places and invites the Panel to consider its Work Programme for 2014/15.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Panel:

- 2.1 **notes the progress achieved to date by its Working Group reviewing School Places; and**
- 2.2 **considers its Work Programme for 2014/15.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 To keep the Panel up to date regarding the activities of its Working Group reviewing school places and to consider its Work Programme for 2014/15.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

School Places

- 5.1 A Working Group of the Panel has been established to undertake a review of the Council's arrangements for planning and providing places for children in Bracknell Forest's schools, to include the school admissions process and national comparisons.
- 5.2 The Working Group has met on three occasions to date. It received an introductory briefing and considered the scope of the review at its first meeting. The school admissions process was considered at the second meeting and the capital programme, new housing developments and demographic trends were addressed at the third meeting.
- 5.3 Future work will include school place planning anomalies and the timescales, processes, issues and learning associated with amending designated school areas.

2014/15 Work Programme

5.4 The Panel is invited to suggest topics for inclusion in its 2014/15 work programme which will be developed in the coming months. The existing Work Programme for 2013/14 is attached at Appendix 1 for reference together with a list of topics previously reviewed by working groups of the Panel.

**6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS / EQUALITIES
IMPACT ASSESSMENT / STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES /
CONSULTATION**

6.1 Not applicable.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont – 01344 352283
e-mail: richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Andrea Carr – 01344 352122
e-mail: andrea.carr@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

The work programme for Overview and Scrutiny in 2013/14 is shown on the following pages. The work programme will necessarily be subject to continual refinement and updating.

| CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL | |
|--|---|
| 1. | <p>Monitoring the performance of the Children, Young People and Learning Department</p> <p>To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and on complaints received). Monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of Looked After Children, and the implications for service delivery and resources; • Schools' performance, particularly secondary schools; • The action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel, in particular an update on the transfer from Primary to Secondary education. |
| 2. | <p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p> <p>To selectively contribute to the formulation of new policies in advance of their consideration by the Executive. To include education transport.</p> |
| 3. | <p>2014/15 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Children, Young People and Learning budget proposals for 2014/15, and plans for future years.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Schools Governance</p> <p>To complete the review of the arrangements being made to ascertain and achieve effective governance in all schools. The review focuses on the importance of sound governance, the support given to school governors, and the effect of the new legislation concerning local authority and community representation on governing bodies.</p> |
| 5. | <p>The Provision of School Places</p> <p>To review the Council's arrangements for planning and providing places for children in Bracknell Forest's schools, to include the school admissions process and national comparisons. One focus of the review might be the greater complexity introduced by the Academies and Free Schools legislation.</p> |

| FUTURE PROPOSED REVIEWS | |
|---|--|
| <u>Children, Young People and Learning</u> | |
| 1. | <p>Substance Misuse</p> <p>Further to the 2012-13 review by the Adult Social Care and Housing O&S Panel, to review actions to minimise substance misuse by children and young people.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Supporting Disadvantaged Children and Families</p> <p>To review the implementation of the Child Poverty Strategy, together with the Council's arrangements for the Government's initiative on 'Troubled Families'.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Youth Services</p> <p>To review the plans and outcomes of the Youth Service provision.</p> |

Completed Reviews

| Date Completed | Title |
|-----------------------|--|
| December 2003 | South Bracknell Schools Review |
| May 2004 | Review of Community & Voluntary Sector Grants |
| February 2006 | Review of School Transfers and Performance |
| March 2006 | Review of School Exclusions and Pupil Behaviour Policy |
| January 2007 | Review of Youth Provision |
| February 2007 | Review of Library Provision |
| October 2008 | English as an Additional Language in Bracknell Forest Schools |
| April 2009 | Children's Centres and Extended Services in and Around Schools in Bracknell Forest |
| January 2010 | 14-19 Years Education Provision |
| January 2011 | Safeguarding Children and Young People |
| January 2012 | Common Assessment Framework |
| July 2013 | School Governance |