

**Select Committee on Children's Services - 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2006**

**Report of the Lead Officer to the Committee**

**Working Groups of the Select Committee**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To note the arrangements made in respect of Working Groups set up by the Committee for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

**Background**

2. At its meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006, the Select Committee on Children's Services appointed the following Standing Working Groups for the 2006/07 Municipal Year for the purposes indicated:-
  - Corporate Parenting - to scrutinise arrangements for discharging the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities, including the "out of Borough placements" priority.
  - School Support - to ensure schools receive appropriate support and advice from the Council.
  - Health Issues - jointly with the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care, to discharge the Council's strategy responsibility for health and scrutiny; and
  - Listening to Children and Young People - an informal group including children's representation and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to meet across the Borough to engage with and consult young people.
3. The machinery for the operation of the Health Issues Working Group is to be determined in conjunction with the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care.
4. The Committee also noted that it would be necessary to appoint the following, time-limited, Working Groups to consider the issues below:-

- Processes for consultation on school closures
  - Schools' funding
  - Government Green Papers and White Papers as necessary.
5. The Lead Officer to the Committee, in consultation with the Chairman, was authorised to determine the composition and membership of the standing Working Groups in the light of Members' responses to a paper circulated asking them to state the Working Groups on which they preferred to serve. In view of the need for the Consultation Working Group to meet speedily, in the light of consultations on proposed school closures currently taking place, the appointment of Members to serve on that Working Group was dealt with in the same manner.
6. Accordingly, Member and Chairmanship appointments have been made as follows, Lead Officers to the respective groups are also indicated, together with dates of meetings:

Corporate Parenting Working Group

Councillors Mrs. Coulter (Chairman), Ms. Boleyn, Mrs. Pearce, Rogers, A. Turner; Ms. Bradley, Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Simms, together with Councillor Simms (Children's Champion) as a co-opted member.

Lead Officer: Pauline Sharratt (Assistant Director of Children's Services, Children and Families)

Date of Meeting:

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2006 at 6.00 p.m. in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

School Support Working Group

Membership: Councillors Nottingham (Chairman), Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Dunn, Johnston, C. Wilson; Mr. Hatton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Smith, Mr. Taylor, Ms. Verdegam, Rev. Wickens

Lead Officer: Jane Porter (Assistant Director of Children's Services, Early Years)

Dates of Meetings:

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 at 6.00 p.m. at a venue to be arranged  
Development Centre

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 at 6.00 p.m. in Committee Room 3 at the Council House

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 at 6.00 p.m. in Committee Room 2 at the Council House

## Health Issues

Select Committee on Children's Services Membership: Councillors Nottingham, Johnston, Ms. Partridge, Rogers, C. Wilson

Lead Officer: Pauline Sharratt (Assistant Director of Children's Services, Children and Families)

Dates of Meetings: to be agreed

## Listening to Children and Young People Working Group

Membership: Councillors Ms. Boleyn (Chairman), Ahmed, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Pearce, A. Turner; Ms. Bradley, Mr. Hatton, Mrs. Simms, Mr. Taylor, Councillor Mrs. Walker (as Cabinet Member for Children's Services) together with Councillor Simms (Children's Champion) as a co-opted member.

Lead Officer: Cindy Peek (Assistant Director of Children's Services, Partnership Working)

Dates of Meetings:

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 at 6.00 p.m. at Saltwells Educational Development Centre

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 at 6.00 p.m. in Committee Room 3 at the Council House

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 at 6.00 p.m. in Committee Room 3 at the Council House

## Consultation Working Group

Membership: Councillors Nottingham (Chairman), Ahmed, Ms. Boleyn, Mrs. Dunn, Ms. Partridge; Mr. Lynch, Mr. Smith, Ms. Verdegam, Rev. Wickens.

Lead Officer: Ray Watson (Assistant Director of Children's Services, Resources and Planning)

Dates of Meetings:

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 in Committee Room 2 at the Council House

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2007 in Committee Room 2 at the Council House (please note change from 23<sup>rd</sup> January)

## **Finance**

7. The costs involved with holding the Working Groups above will be met from existing resources.

## **Law**

8. The power to appoint Committees is set out in Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

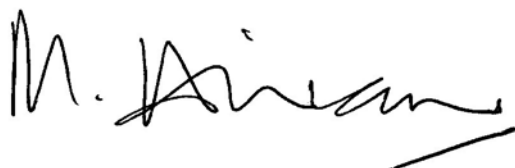
9. Working Groups have no powers of their own, but except for the Consultation and School Support Working Groups, the Working Groups above have been appointed by the Select Committee on Children's Services to advise and recommend the Select Committee on matters pertinent to the requirements of the Children Act, 2004. In relation to the School Support Working Group, Ofsted inspections of schools are governed by Section 5 of the Education Act, 2005. In relation to the Consultation Working Group, the statutory provisions of regarding consultation on school organisation proposals are contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and regulations and guidance made thereunder.

### **Equality Impact**

10. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.
11. It is proposed that children and young people will be consulted directly through the Listening to Children and Young People Working Group. Their views, as stakeholders, will also be considered by the Consultation Working Group. It is not envisaged that they will have a direct involvement with the other Working Groups.

### **Recommendation**

12. That the information in this report be noted.



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### **Lead Officer to the Committee**

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### **List of Background Papers**

13. Minutes of the meeting of the Select Committee on Children's Services held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006.
14. Letter from the Lead Officer to the Select Committee on Children's Services to Members of the Committee dated the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2006, notifying them of appointments to the respective Working Groups.