

Overview and Scrutiny Committee**24th October 2006****Report title:** Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**Report of:** Chair of Overview and Scrutiny**Ward(s) affected**

All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To propose a change to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme. This would involve reviewing school exclusions in Haringey rather than reviewing strategic commissioning in the Children's Service, as originally decided.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel amend its initial work programme., commissioning a review on school exclusions, to replace the review of strategic commissioning in the Children's Service.

Report authorised by: Chair of Overview and Scrutiny**Contact officer:** Geoff Woodham**Tel:** 020 8489 6933**E-mail:** geoff.woodham@haringey.gov.uk**3. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:**Background papers

- Report to Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Board – Joint Commissioning

To access these papers, or discuss this report, please contact Geoff Woodham as indicated above.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 When the Committee agreed the initial scrutiny programme for this municipal year, it decided to set up a Scrutiny Review Panel to scrutinise strategic commissioning within the Children's Service. Further research and discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the service Director concerned, has revealed that this subject was a complex one, consultants had already reported on a commissioning framework and proposals for implementation were at an advanced stage. The agencies involved had already agreed a structure for implementing strategic commissioning and the work being done was being overseen by the Haringey Strategic Partnership for Children and Young People, on which the various agencies were represented. It was apparent, that work on strategic commissioning was too far advanced for scrutiny involvement to be an effective use of members' skills and time, and it was deemed unlikely that scrutiny would add value to what was already being done.
- 4.2 The possibility of scrutinising what has been done so far was discussed, but it was considered that for such a review to be meaningful and successful, it was essential for strategic commissioning to have been in operation for at least a year, so that any problems would be apparent and could be looked at. In the circumstances it was agreed that, before taking any decision about scrutinising strategic commissioning, consideration be given to whether there were any other areas of work on the scrutiny programme which might be more likely to add value and would benefit from immediate investigation.
- 4.3 One area of work which could benefit from scrutiny involvement is school exclusions. This is an extremely important facet of the "Every Child Matters" agenda and, with the support and help of schools, the Council is keen to ensure that its arrangements are efficient, cost effective, take account of best practice and, most importantly, the needs of pupils. The Youth Service is looking at what needs to be done to introduce a "step change" and would welcome scrutiny members' involvement in this difficult area. Clearly exclusions is an area where a scrutiny review could help to add value to council services. It is therefore recommended that a Scrutiny Review Panel be commissioned to look at this topic rather than at strategic commissioning.
- 4.4 Attached to this report is a position statement on school exclusions which has been prepared by the Children's Service.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel amend its initial work programme., commissioning a review on school exclusions, to replace the review of strategic commissioning in the Children's Service.

6. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL COMMENTS

N/A

7. Equalities Implications

N/A

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix A - Position Statement on schools exclusions.