

**Select Committee on Lifelong Learning – 10th November 2005**

**Report of the Lead Officer**

**Appointment of Working Groups**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To propose the establishment of Working Groups for the remainder of the municipal year.

**Background**

2. At its last meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a Working Party to consider responses to the Department for Education and Skills Green Paper 'Youth Matters' and that the remit of the working group also include consideration of support for the development of the strategic direction for services to young people, and endorsed the principle of working groups to consider the Primary Schools Review and the implications of the Children Act. Members were circulated to indicate their preferences for membership of the working groups.
3. In view of the timescales, I have consulted the Chair and arrangements have been made for the Working Group on Youth Matters to meet as soon as possible, with the following membership:-
  - Councillor Johnson
  - Mrs. Roe
  - Councillor Dunn
  - Joe Guest
  - Councillor Ryder
  - Captain Martin (Diocese of Worcester)
4. Most Members expressed a preference for serving on a working group considering the Primary Review and in the circumstances, following discussions with the Chair, I am suggesting that this is an issue which should not be referred to a working group, but should be considered by the full Committee, at special meetings if necessary.
5. So far as the preparatory work for Children's Services is concerned, again following discussions with your Chair, the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and the Director of Children's Services, I am recommending that the Committee establishes two working groups with the following terms of reference and outline work programmes.

### Planning and Developing Children Services

“To advise the Council and Cabinet and support the Cabinet Member and Director of Children’s Services in developing and implementing appropriate strategies and policies for Children Services in the future”.

The work plan would include:-

- Researching best practice
- Reviewing progress against the project plan
- Assisting in the development of key policies and strategies, including Joint Commissioning, an accommodation Strategy, developing Children’s Trust concepts
- Reviewing and advising on resource levels

### Reviewing Select Committee Terms of Reference

“To recommend to the Cabinet and Council the Terms of Reference for a Select Committee related exclusively to Children’s Services, to be effective from the start of the next municipal year”.

Amongst the issues the Working Group will need to consider are:-

- How the “Every Child Matters” outcomes are specifically incorporated
- Relationship with the School Organisations Committee and Schools Forum.
- Avoiding, whenever possible, duplication with other Select Committees.
- The continued scrutiny of support to Schools, (consideration of School Ofsted Reports) and School Performance generally
- The approach to the Extended Schools Agenda
- Children’s Centres
- Role and input of voting/non voting representatives

Consideration will also need to be given to those Services which are currently the responsibility of this Committee but which, in future will not be part of Children’s Services (e.g. Libraries, Community and Adult Education).

6. Based on Members’ previous indications, and following further discussions with the Chair, I am suggesting that the following appointments to the proposed working groups:-

Planning & Developing  
Children Services

Councillor Rogers  
Councillor Coulter  
Councillor Boys  
Councillor Hart  
Mrs Simms  
Mrs Hewitt-Clarkson  
Mr. Hatton  
Councillor Ridney

Reviewing Term of Reference

Councillor Pearce  
Councillor Rahman  
Councillor Wright  
Rev. Wickens  
Mr Nottingham  
Mr Smith  
Councillor Ridney

Members of the Youth Matters Working Party may wish to join one of these groups when the work of that Working Party is concluded.

### **Finance**

7. The cost of supporting the proposed Working Groups will be met from existing budgets.

### **Law**

8. Select Committees are appointed under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do any thing that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to any of its statutory functions including the appointment of Working Groups

### **Equality Impact**

9. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

### **Recommendation**

10. It is recommended that the Committee appoints two working groups with the Terms of Reference and outline work plans as set out in paragraph 5 and with membership as set out in paragraph 6.



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**Mike Williams**  
**Lead Officer**

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