

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 February 2006

**Special Educational Needs – Strategy Monitoring Board****Purpose of Report**

1. This report provides a summary of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Strategy Monitoring Board meeting that took place on 30 January 2006.

**Background**

2. The SEN Strategy Monitoring Board meets three times a year. It confirms annually, SEN development priorities and the impact and implementation of SEN development activity.

**Monitoring the Strategy**

3. The Board considered progress in the implementation of the SEN Strategy (05-06) up to the end of December 05. A summary report is attached which includes the percentage completion of the actions within each area of development activity, an indication of whether actions were on target to meet the planned timescales and brief comments. The Board felt that progress in implementing the action plans was generally positive. As a result of the discussion, Board members identified the areas of secondary phase developments, finance, and behavioural, emotional and social difficulties to be agenda items at the next Board meeting.
4. The sixteen outcomes of the SEN Strategy are the means by which long term progress towards Wiltshire's six key objectives for SEN are measured. They are monitored at each Board meeting. Information about different outcomes becomes available at different points in the year. It was possible to update five outcomes at this meeting: attainment at the end of Key Stage 2, attainment at the end of Key Stage 4, receipt of annual review documentation by the DCE and rate of permanent exclusions and fixed term exclusions.

Key Stage 2 attainment of the bottom 20%

This showed greater improvement than the overall increase in attainment.

KS2	Performance		
English:	04-05	05-06	Trend
Average points score bottom 20%	18.7	19.2	+2.7%
Maths:	04-05	05-06	Trend
Average points score bottom 20%	18.6	19.8	+6.5%

Proportion of SEN population who gain 5 GCSEs A-G or equivalent at KS4  
This showed a pleasing improvement but the group is small – 601 young people.

<b>KS4</b>	Performance		
	04-05	05-06	Trend
% gaining 5 GCSEs A-G or equivalent	58	61	+5%

Receipt of annual review documentation by the DCE

This showed a temporary decline, due to restructuring activity, but the level is still high.

<b>Annual reviews</b>	Performance		
	04-05	05-06	Trend
% annual reviews received by the DCE	95	85	-11%

Rate of exclusion permanent and fixed term

Permanent and fixed term exclusion rates have increased. The regional benchmarking information is not yet available. Levels in the primary and special school sectors have declined. The increase relates solely to the secondary sector where targeted work is being undertaken.

<b>Permanent exclusion</b>	Performance		
	04-05	05-06	Trend
Number of pupils	82	89	+9%

<b>Fixed term exclusion</b>	Performance		
	04-05	05-06	Trend
Number of days lost	10106	11203	+11%

- Two development areas had been identified for specific consideration at this meeting: Dyslexia and Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Summary reports for these areas were circulated in advance and key officers were present to describe progress and answer questions. There was detailed discussion of the incidence, appropriate educational arrangements, training needs and strategic developments relating to both these areas of SEN. The information received about each development area was viewed positively by Board members.
- The Board considered the priorities for SEN developments for 06-09, with particular emphasis upon actions to be taken in 06-07. The key objectives for SEN, links with national strategies and Wiltshire's statement about educational inclusion remain unchanged. Many aspects included in the Strategy for SEN show significant improvement but in order to achieve the desired developments continued activity is required. This year no priorities have been removed from the Strategy. One additional area of development activity has been added, Physical and Sensory Impairment. The development document is available on request by contacting Julie le Masurier (ex.3893), it will be on the County Council website from April and is to be an agenda item at the Children, Education & Libraries Advisory Panel meeting at the end of March. The SEN Strategy Group, the DCE

officers responsible for the delivery of SEN developments, will now draw up detailed action plans relating to each of the priorities agreed by the Board.

7. The next meeting will take place on 22 May 2006. It will consider progress on the SEN Strategy up to the end of March 06, the detailed action plans for 06-07, and the particular areas of: secondary phase provision, finance, and behavioural, emotional and social development difficulties.

**Proposal**

8. The Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.

BOB WOLFSON  
Director, Department for Children & Education

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