

DECISION-MAKER:	SCRUTINY PANEL A		
SUBJECT:	4 th MEETING OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS INQUIRY		
DATE OF DECISION:	3 MARCH 2011		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE		
AUTHOR:	Name:	Dorota Goble	Tel: 023 8083 3317
	E-mail:	dorota.goble@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			

SUMMARY

The final meeting of the Primary School Educational Attainment for Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) Inquiry will consider the emerging recommendations of the inquiry.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) The panel is recommended to consider the draft recommendations shown in Appendix 1 and agree any amendments, deletions or additional recommendations.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the panel to formulate agree recommendations and key findings at the end of the inquiry process to formulate the final report to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (OSMC).

CONSULTATION

2. Stakeholders have been consulted throughout the inquiry process. The Head of Standards, the Principal Officer for Prevention and Inclusion, the NHS Commissioner for Children's Healthcare and Associate Director for Children and Families, Solent Healthcare and parent representatives were involved in providing evidence to the panel between November 2010 and January 2011.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None

DETAIL

4. The draft recommendations attached in **Appendix 1** have been developed following evidence from witnesses to the panel including representatives from school standards, Solent Healthcare, Southampton PCT, head teachers, Parents in Partnership and the ADHD Awareness Group.
5. The recommendations have been drawn together considering existing budget constraints alongside the changing landscape of provision in health and special needs given the pending Special Needs White Paper, the changing health agenda and emerging outcomes from existing reviews.

6. Members are asked to consider the draft recommendations and agree if they wish to make any amendments or add any new recommendations within the scope of the inquiry.
7. Once the emerging recommendations are agreed these will be used to form the structure of a final scrutiny report for the Primary School Educational Attainment For Children With Special Needs Inquiry by the chair of Panel A, to be presented to OSMC in May 2011. The report of the scrutiny panel will then be presented to the Cabinet in June 2011.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

8. Not applicable

Revenue

9. Not applicable

Property

10. Not applicable

Other

11. Not applicable

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

12. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Other Legal Implications:

13. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

14. None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1	Emerging draft recommendation from the Primary School Educational Attainment For Children With Special Needs Inquiry
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Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
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Background Documents

None

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

	None	
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Background documents available for inspection at:

FORWARD PLAN No: Not applicable **KEY DECISION?** No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Not applicable
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APPENDIX 1

Primary School Educational Attainment For Children With Special Needs Inquiry: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To ensure there is a continuum of support to meet the needs of children at different times and through different services. Consideration should be given to support those families that have the most complex needs through a multi-agency approach to include all key services such as health, education and social care.
2. SCC, in partnership with others, to provide a centrally co-ordinated signposting to all SEN information, advice and services. There should be one clear point of contact for:
 - Providers including Health and Schools - for specialist and outreach support, key contacts, to share best practice examples, training and raising awareness
 - Parents, families and children - for support groups, advice on options, help choosing the right services to meet their needs and to make comments, compliments and complaints
3. Ensure there is recognition for and awareness of achievements in supporting and reducing SEN gap, including those areas outside of the SEN definition such as ADHD.
4. To agree a cross-agency protocol for parent/family involvement and transparency in options and decision-making for special needs care and support to ensure communication is maintained between all agencies and families
5. Within new structures for health delivery following government legislation and outcomes from recent reviews, the imminent SEN white paper and given existing budget constraints some key areas should be focussed on to ensure the good work with SEN is maintained and potentially increased, particularly in relation to:
 - Ensure the pupil premium is used to support vulnerable children
 - Continue the increased focus on early intervention and support
 - Maximise the joint power of personalised budgets and pupil premium to work most effectively for those in need
 - Ensure that within closer join-working arrangements the strengths of the social model for special needs are not lost within the medical model
6. Recognising the transition of the Public Health role to local authorities Southampton City Council to consider developing mechanisms to support the establishment of an ADHD multi-agency group for the city.