

25 February 2010		ITEM 6
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION (SRE) REVIEW		
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Sue MacPherson – Portfolio Holder for Children's Services		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Accountable Head of Service: Christine Tinkler- Head of School's Provision		
Accountable Director: Jo Olsson – Corporate Director, Children, Education and Families.		
This report is Public		
Purpose of Report: To inform Children's Services Committee of the recommendations to Cabinet made by the SRE Panel following their review.		

Comment [s]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the date of the meeting (in font 16, not capitals)

Comment [s]: Please leave this for completion by Democratic Services

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the title of your report (in font 16 and in capitals) – a Cabinet Report should be consistent with the wording on the Forward Plan – see Guidelines 2.3

Comment [s]: Please state the name of the Cabinet Member and the Portfolio to which the report refers

Comment [s]: Please enter details of any Wards and Communities affected by the report. If this section is not

Comment [s]: Yes/No/Not Applicable – a 'Key Decision' is generally one affecting more than 2 wards or above £50,000

Comment [sj]: Please state the Head of Service's name and job title

Comment [sj]: Please state Director's name and job title

Comment [sj]: State whether your report is Public or Exempt. If Exempt (i.e. not to be given to the public or discussed in

Comment [sj]: Briefly set out the purpose of your report

Comment [sj]: Please provide a summary of the key points in your report

Comment [s]: The recommendations should be set out in bold in the form of the decision that the decision-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the basic background to the SRE review that overview and scrutiny undertook and seeks to inform the Committee of the ten recommendations it has made following its work.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee notes the recommendations made by the SRE Panel following their review, namely:

- 1.1 A network of SRE practitioners from schools across Thurrock be established to identify best practice with regards to sex and relationship education. The network will pool resources, foster links with the PCT and faith leaders, as well as make bids for additional funding in order to provide better quality and more engaging SRE.**
- 1.2 A permanent PHSE Lead Officer be appointed to lead the network and drive forward the PHSE agenda within schools to ensure sex and relationship education is delivered effectively within Thurrock Schools.**

- 1.3 Youth workers employed by the Council receive specific training relating to SRE, so that they can feel confident in engaging young people in Thurrock on these issues and encouraging them to access school based and non-school based sources of information and help.
- 1.4 Thurrock Council work to improve the promotion and access to young parent groups across the borough and investigate ways in which to expand the service, including the provision of joint mother and father groups.

In addition to these recommendations, the Panel seeks support and endorsement for the further recommendations of the review that affect the Council's partners, namely:

- 1.5 Schools deliver single sex lessons on SRE subjects where pupils express a desire to receive as single sex lessons.
- 1.6 Schools introduce non-teaching staff, including young parents, into SRE lessons to boost engagement and openness.
- 1.7 The Youth Cabinet be consulted in relation to Recommendations 1.5 and 1.6 and also monitor the progress and outcomes of them.
- 1.8 A targeted campaign to raise awareness of SRE among parents be undertaken so they can better understand the issues and pressures young people face today, as well as offering advice on how they, as parents, can gain confidence in providing support and advice to their children.
- 1.9 The C2U programme continue to establish itself within schools and that schools work jointly with the C2U staff to deliver SRE in the classroom that is appropriate to the SRE policy and beliefs of each school.
- 1.10 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive regular updates on the performance of the C2U service once it has established performance indicators.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Between September 2008 and December 2009, the Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Review Panel undertook detailed research and consultation into the quality and form of SRE in Thurrock Schools.
- 2.2 The Panel was constituted by the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee who wished to undertake a review into this subject to help in understanding and lowering teenage pregnancy rates in the borough.
- 2.3 The Panel consisted of Councillor Danny Nicklen (Chair) and Wendy Herd from the Conservative group and Councillor Lynn Worrall from the Labour group. Mrs. Patricia Wilson sat on the panel as a lay member.

Comment [s]: You should briefly explain why the report is on the agenda - See para. 5.3 and 5.4 of the report writing guidelines.

2.4 Further detail of the review can be found in appendix A, the review report.

3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:

3.1 The recommendations of this report were arrived at through detailed research and consultation with a wide variety of community groups. In the views of the cross party Panel, the recommendations represent well informed actions that could improve SRE in Thurrock.

3.2 The Cabinet is not obliged to agree to the recommendations and if they feel the recommendations are not agreeable for any reason, they may wish to confirm this at their meeting.

4. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

4.1 The report was submitted to expert officers in the council and representatives from NHS South West Essex prior to finalising.

4.2 The report went through Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny in February and the report was submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services for Comment.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

5.1 The review has a very positive impact upon the community, namely that the recommendations seek to improve the social, personal and economic security of residents, especially teenage parents.

5.2 The review itself included a wide variety of community groups and residents were given the opportunity to express their views and opinions on SRE in Thurrock schools and beyond. In this sense, residents have been given an opportunity to engage with the decision making process at the Council and have also been able to shape the provision of a service.

5.3 Some of the recommendations will have a financial impact that Cabinet and other partners may wish to consider in light of their budgets.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Yannick Stupples-Whyley**
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ystupples-whyley@thurrock.gov.uk

The SRE Panel has recommended that a network of SRE practitioners be established and that they can bid for additional funding. The source of the

Comment [s]: Other headings may be appropriate. The report should outline the reasoning that leads to its recommendations and **must** include:

1. a brief summary of options considered;
2. consultation outcomes
3. a risk assessment.
4. Whether the responsible cabinet members have been consulted/contributed to the report (NB professional and political advice must be clearly distinguished)

- See para.5.5 of the report writing guidelines.

Comment [jj]: This should include any consultation with Ward Members and Shadow Portfolio Holders, as well as any public or statutory consultation

Comment [a]: Please refer to Section 5.7 of the Report Writing Guidelines

Comment [sj]: This section should always be completed – if they are dealt with fully in another part of the report, they also need a brief cross reference here. The names and job titles of the officers providing the implications should be provided in full – see Guideline 6.1 and please note Democratic Services Deadlines and ensure that officers providing implications are given 5 clear working days to work on the report. Authors can write implications but they must be signed off by the appropriate officers

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.2

additional funding has not been established and any additional funding approved will impact upon the Council's resources.

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.3

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.4

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 8. If any Papers are to be placed in the Members room that relate to this report, you should also list them here

6.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **Kevin Colville**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652042**
kcolville@thurrock.gov.uk

The Children Act (2004) places the views of children, young people and families at the centre of the Children and Young People's plan. The priorities of the plan reflect the views expressed by children and young people. The "five" most important things for children and young people are:

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and learning
- Helping Others
- Having a good job and enough money

The report is promoting the furtherance of these objectives and meeting our obligations under the Children Act (2004).

6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson De'Alyn**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

The SRE Review has paid careful attention to equality and diversity issues by including a wide range of residents who were affected by the issue but who did not necessarily have easy access to the Panel and its work. The Panel undertook a number of exercises to accommodate and engage with people, including teenage fathers who could not necessarily attend meetings or access the internet where consultation material was kept.

6.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:

- Committee papers from the SRE Panel and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (obtainable at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/>)

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix A: Sex and Relationship Education Review Report

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Comment [sj]: List the Appendices referred to in the Report

Comment [sj]: Insert the full contact details of the author of the report