

THE ASSEMBLY

3 MARCH 2004

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

REPORT OF MEETING – 14 JANUARY 2004 | FOR INFORMATION

This regular report on the work of the Scrutiny Management Board is submitted under Article 2, Paragraph 9.2 of the Constitution.

Summary

This report summarises the key work of the Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 14 January 2004:

Performance Indicators – The Board has been monitoring lowest quartile Best Value (BV) PIs and will continue this process in 2004/05.

Number of Staff on the Establishment – Report from the Interim Head of Organisational Development and Employee Relations (HODER) setting out the establishment figures for 1 May 2000 to 9 December 2003, and the reasons for continuing inaccuracies in the vacancy figures (see below for further detail).

Health and Social Care Partnership Arrangements Scrutiny Panel – The Board asked the Panel to conclude its investigation and to produce a short, open report based on knowledge to date.

Housing Associations Scrutiny Panel – The Board welcomed the Panel's draft final report, which will be submitted to the Assembly on 7 April 2004.

Anti Social Behaviour – The Board agreed to give priority to this in the list of future Scrutiny Panels.

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Number of Staff on the Establishment

The Board received a report setting out the establishment figures (white collar, manual, school based staff and vacancies) for 1 May 2000 – 9 December 2003, an explanation of these figures for each department and the reasons for the continuing inaccuracies in the vacancy figures.

The Interim Head of Organisational Development and Employee Relations (HODER) reported on the action being taken to resolve the inaccuracies. Responsibility for updating the figures is being devolved to departments and the process will be audited by the centre, with support from the Oracle team. The Board noted that the Oracle system itself is stable. The officers are committed to ensuring the data is 100% accurate by May 2004.

The Board expressed concern at the ongoing problems and their knock-on effects, emphasising that the situation must be resolved by the target deadline of May. They requested that HODER ask Heads of Service to provide her with the number of posts/vacancies in their service areas, to be collated for submission to the Board on 24 March 2004. Any Heads of Service who fail to do this will be required to attend the Board to explain why.

Background papers used in the preparation of this report

Minutes of the Scrutiny Management Board – 14 January 2004