

Meeting:	Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	Wednesday 31 March 2009
Subject:	Officers' Update Report on Performance in Gaining National Healthy Schools Status
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Paul Clark (Director of Childrens Services)
Portfolio Holder:	Christine Bednell (Childrens Services Portfolio Holder)
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

## **SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report sets out key points and an update in relation to performance issues in gaining National Healthy Schools status.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a) That the report, and the proposals for improvement, be noted.
- b) That the Sub-Committee make any additional recommendations for improvement they think fit.
- c) That the Sub-Committee decide whether further action on this topic be required, subject to the options set out in "main options" in the body of the report.

## **SECTION 2 - REPORT**

### Background

In July 2007 members agreed that performance issues would be considered by the sub-committee on a “by exception” basis. The specific criteria for the “by exception” items at committee having been agreed, it was concluded that for the sub-committee to function most effectively key information should be raised and discussed at committee – focusing directly on improvement – and that the reports being despatched to committee should reflect this commitment.

As such this report contains a number of answers, provided by officers, to a set of questions that are identical to those asked for all other “by exception” issues brought up at committee, the intention being that the same quality of information be made available to members on all topics, without the presumption being placed upon officers to provide a great deal of onerous written documentation.

### Current situation

This report is being provided to give members an insight into performance issues identified by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at a recent meeting.

This report presents officers’ responses to a standard set of questions relating to the issue under discussion.

### Why a change is needed

In performance terms, it has been established that this issue meets the “by exception” criteria established by Performance and Finance to govern which issues are considered by the Sub-Committee. As such, there is a significant need established for improvement.

### Main options

Findings and recommendations pertaining to this issue will be discussed at committee. Members may:

1. Make comments and recommendations as appropriate, and decide to escalate the issue to Overview and Scrutiny, for that committee to commission work on the subject.
2. Make comments and recommendations as appropriate, and resolve to consider the item again only insofar as it meets the “by exception” criteria in the future.
3. As above, but request that performance information on this issue be – where possible – be made available monthly to permit the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to monitor this matter closely.

The option to request that another report to be made available to the next meeting of the sub-committee will not be available, as performance issues are only escalated to this body if they meet the “by exception” criteria on each occasion the committee comes to consider the relevant item.

Other options considered

Not applicable

Recommendation: - that the improvement information presented below be considered by members of the sub-committee, for recommendations to be made and, if necessary, for issues to be escalated to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.

**Considerations**

Resources, costs and risks: none

Staffing/workforce: none

Equalities impact: none specific

Legal comments: none

Community safety: none

Financial Implications: none

**Performance Issues**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Officer comment</b>
<p>Currently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Harrow schools are registered to participate in the National Healthy Schools programme</li><li>• 29 schools have the new National Healthy Schools status and 20 schools received the original award but do not have the new standard yet and so are not included in national data;</li><li>• 11 schools are underway this term and should gain National Healthy Schools status by December 2008;</li><li>• 64 schools (93%) are projected to gain National Healthy Schools status by December 2009;</li></ul>	<p>Harrow met national targets for the previous Healthy Schools award before the programme changed to National Healthy Schools status.</p> <p>Harrow did not meet the December 2007 target for the new National Healthy Schools status.</p> <p>There is a new target for December 2009 of 75% of schools attaining National Healthy Schools status.</p> <p>The percentage of schools attaining National Healthy Schools status is not now RAG rated by OFSTED.</p> <p>The timing to apply for self validation for National Healthy Schools status is determined by schools' own action plans and priorities.</p> <p>It is not a statutory requirement on schools, although it is an award that</p>

<p><b>Update (March 2009):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>since November, 7 schools have gained NHSS</b></li> <li>• <b>there is a target of 10 schools to be validated by Easter or as soon as possible afterwards – all have been contacted and offered individual support</b></li> <li>• <b>50% of the schools targeted for July and Dec completion are attending central training this term</b></li> </ul>	<p>allows schools to evidence good practice in this aspect of their work.</p> <p>Self validation is now through an on-line process.</p> <p>The Local Authority receives limited funding to support schools in the validation process and to quality assure the assessment process.</p>
<p><i>How will performance be improved?</i></p>	<p>Additional support is being provided by the relevant Curriculum Adviser to schools seeking validation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing revised exemplars to support on-line self validation</li> </ul> <p><b>Update (March 2009): Exemplars have been given out and these are about to be further updated to support schools in completing the audit, with good practice from schools.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying termly cohorts of schools for targeted support and providing central training for lead teachers from those schools</li> </ul> <p><b>Update (March 2009): Cohorts have been identified and schools contacted with target dates and an offer of central training and support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involving School Improvement Partners to encourage schools to focus on attaining National Healthy Schools status</li> </ul> <p><b>Update (March 2009): SIP partners were briefed and had individual summaries in December. They have recently been updated on the position of their schools.</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing funding for teacher release to complete the on-line validation</li> </ul> <p><b>Update (March 2009):</b> <i>schools have been offered supply cover to attend the support sessions provided in the spring term – with further funding for well being provided on successful completion of the audit.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying “Lead Teachers” to provide additional support to schools</li> </ul> <p><b>Update (March 2009):</b> <i>We currently have a consultant for 14 days, funded by the national programme, to support the programme in Harrow.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying cut off two dates per term for the completion of on line self validation and submission to the Quality Assurance panel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Update (March 2009):</b> <i>Dates were agreed and publicised to schools. Feedback from schools is positive about deadlines.</i></p>
<p><i>What resources are being put in place to deliver these improvements?</i></p>	<p>No additional funding is available to enhance the current support plan or for a range of officers that might promote particular aspects of the National Healthy Schools programme.</p> <p>There has been some re-prioritisation in the Service Plan to provide the additional support referred to above.</p>
<p><i>How, if at all, will other PIs or services be affected – positively or negatively – either by this performance, or by any redirection of resources to alter this performance?</i></p>	<p>The Curriculum Adviser who provides the support for Healthy Schools also leads on and supports other key Local Authority priorities, e.g. the roll out of <i>Miss Dorothy.com</i>, <i>pupil voice</i>. Any further redirection to Healthy Schools will impact on the support to those</p>

	other priorities.
<i>How are residents and service users impacted?</i>	<p>There is very limited direct impact on residents.</p> <p>Schools not actively working towards national Healthy Schools status may have less external evidence of their work in key aspects of the <i>Every Child Matters</i> agenda.</p>
<i>How will the success of the improvement plan be monitored?</i>	<p>Termly reporting of schools attaining National Healthy Schools status is reported.</p> <p>School OFSTED reports provide an external evaluation of schools work in this area. Outcomes of school OFSTED reports are collated by the Achievement and Inclusion Service.</p>
<i>How are the service / council's finances affected by this performance issue and by the steps put in place to improve performance?</i>	Levels of National Healthy Schools status is a performance indicator in a range of external inspections
<i>What impact will there be on partners (statutory and otherwise)?</i>	The Primary Care Trust (PCT) is also monitored for this indicator.

### **SECTION 3 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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