



## **SCRUTINY FORUM EXECUTIVE**

Report of the  
**EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL**  
into  
**CLASS SIZES,  
FOCUSSING ON KEY STAGE 1**

**July 2000**

## EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL

<b>MEMBERS:</b>	Councillor Andrew Cooper ( <b>Chair</b> ) Councillor Mrs Marie Bower Councillor Ian Harrison Councillor Deryck Hillas
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Mr Cliff Stewart (Head of Personal and Strategic Services Resources Group)
<b>COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR:</b>	Adrian Johnson (Tel. 01484 221712)

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The Panel held an informal meeting on 8 November 1999 to agree its ways of working and work programme, and put forward the topic of Class Sizes for investigation. From the outset the Panel accepted the necessity to focus on a particular aspect, in view of the size of the topic and so it was agreed that the Panel would focus on Key Stage 1 in terms of what the Authority had done so far in meeting the Government targets.

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### 1. INFORMATION

At its first formal meeting on 30 November 1999 the Panel was supplied with a statement of progress concerning the Class Size Plan, including DfEE allocations for 1998/99 and 1999/2000, together with DfEE indicative allocations for 2000/01 and 2001/02, and Kirklees' revised bid at November 1999.

The Panel noted that, in the current financial year, 80 schools had received funding from the grant to provide additional teachers. Capital funding had also been provided for additional classrooms to accommodate additional classes; to date, Kirklees had received funding for 18 classrooms and had a bid for a further 13.

At the time of the meeting, initial projections for January 1999 showed that, without the Class Size Grant, there would be 8,035 children at Key Stage 1 in Kirklees in classes over 30. Since receiving the grant, the actual numbers in classes over 30 at September 1999 were 776 children.

The Panel was informed that the implementation of the Government's directive for one teacher and no more than 30 pupils was extremely complex, with a number of issues all having an impact, including admissions policies, appeals, mixed age classes, population mobility, early years units, and the increase in temporary teaching contracts.

The Panel was provided with a statistical analysis comparing the number of schools with classes of 31 pupils and above at Key Stage 1, as at September 1998 and September 1999. The same statistical analysis was provided in relation to Key Stage 2.

## 2. **CONCLUSIONS**

In noting the information, the Panel accepted that this showed clear evidence that the LEA was meeting the Government's targets in terms of Key Stage 1 and that it was expected these would be fully met by the target date of September 2000

Andrew Cooper  
Chair of the Education Scrutiny Panel

July 2000