

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 3 JULY 2017

WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT & COMMISSIONING

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider and agree the Committee's work programme for 2017/18.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee agree its Terms of Reference (Appendix 1)
- 2.2 That the Committee agree items for the 2017/18 work programme (Appendix 2); and
- 2.3 That the Committee agree meeting dates for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Terms of Reference for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is attached. On 25 May 2017, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to approve its own Terms of Reference. Scrutiny Management Board have endorsed the Terms attached at Appendix 1 for agreement.
- 3.1 The suggestions shown in Appendix 2 were considered by the Scrutiny Management Board on 20 June 2017 and referred to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to decide which issues should be included in the Committee's Work Programme.
- 3.2 Scrutiny Management Board allocated a baseline of four formal meetings during the municipal year for scrutiny of items on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee's work programme. This allocation does not include informal or sub-group meetings which may be held to gather evidence as part of a review, briefing meetings or regional/external scrutiny meetings.
- 3.3 The work programme will be flexible to allow for important issues which emerge during the year to be scrutinised. However, if a new topic is added to the work programme, consideration must be given to removing an existing item to avoid the workload becoming unmanageable and losing focus.
- 3.4 Scrutiny Management Board also re-asserted previous agreement that any items remaining at the end of the work programme period should automatically be removed so that future work programmes are fresh and focused on current issues

and concerns. If an issue remains of concern it may be submitted for re-consideration in the next work programme.

4.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 There are no specific equal opportunity impacts arising from this report. Equal Opportunity issues will be considered as part of any scrutiny work.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

5.1 There are no specific environmental impacts arising from this report. Environmental impacts will be considered as appropriate to the topics in the work programme.

6.0. LEGAL COMMENT

6.1 Overview &Scrutiny (O&S) for local authorities was introduced as part of the modernisation of local government in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000. It required every local authority to have at least one O&S committee, to: hold the Executive to account; undertake policy development and review; monitor and improve performance; investigate issues of public concern; and carry out external scrutiny including the NHS.

6.2 Establishing a work plan as set out in this report contributes to the requirement of the overview and scrutiny committee to; investigate the policies of the Council's executive and their implementation, issue reports accordingly which draw attention to any shortcomings and make recommendations as appropriate.

SAD – 22.5.17

7.0 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7.1 Scrutiny members are asked to agree the work programme in the context of the Council's priorities.

8.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

8.1 There is an opportunity to focus the work programme on fewer topics and in more depth in areas of policy development where scrutiny can have a greater impact. There is a risk that too many topics are kept in the work programme so that it loses focus and impact.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Scrutiny has a role in ensuring that local government is effective and accountable. This includes undertaking reviews and challenging and monitoring performance. Support for the committee and the work programme are managed within existing resources. The financial implications of any recommendations made by Scrutiny should be considered as part of reports as relevant.

TS – 26.5.17

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific ward implications arising from this report.

11. PREVIOUS MINUTES

11.1 None.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 None

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Committee will be made up of 9 elected members from the Scrutiny Assembly, appointed at Annual Council in line with the political balance of the Council, and co-opted scrutiny members. The Committee may include co-opted scrutiny members but they must not exceed the number of elected members. Vice-Chairs may be appointed by majority decision of the Committee.
2. The Parent Governor and the Catholic and Anglican diocesan representatives will have statutory voting rights on education matters as set out on the Local Government Act 2000. Other co-optees will not have voting rights.
3. In addition to the standing co-optees, the Committee may appoint additional co-optees for one-off reviews to supplement the skills, knowledge and experience of the Committee on that particular issue.
4. If the Chair and Vice Chair are unable to attend a meeting the Members present will elect a Chair for the meeting.
5. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Directors, Assistant Directors and Service Delivery Managers will attend the Committee at the request of the Chair. Representatives from other organisations may be invited to attend.
6. The Committee will be the main mechanism by which Scrutiny members will scrutinise and monitor the planning and performance of the Council's services to children and young people and the Council's Corporate Parenting role. The Committee may also scrutinise the services of partner organisations in accordance with national legislation.
7. The Committee will consider matters referred by the Scrutiny Management Board, and will exercise discretion as to whether a suggestion falls within the remit of the Committee to scrutinise.
8. The meetings will follow the principles of scrutiny i.e. no party whip will be applied and a constructive, evidence based approach will be used.
9. All Scrutiny Committee meetings will be held in public, unless exempt information is being considered or discussed. Scrutiny Committees may appoint sub-groups to carry out investigative work as part of a review and these sub-groups may hold informal meetings but will report back their findings to the Scrutiny Committee.
10. From time to time members may become privy to information of a confidential nature. If this happens, members must maintain this confidence. Members are unable to request personal/confidential information from Officers about an individual or family.
11. The meetings will be administered by Scrutiny Services and Democratic Services. Frequency of meetings will be agreed by the Committee as necessary to carry out the work programme.

12. The Chair of the Committee, or his/her representative, will provide and present reports and recommendations of the Committee to the Council's Cabinet or other relevant organisations.

13. The Committee will set its own work programme. The main task of the Committee will be to scrutinise the planning and performance of children and young people's services and the Committee can look at any issues within the service area. The following points may be taken into consideration when considering the work programme each year:

- areas where significant change is proposed and the potential impacts
- performance in areas where significant change has been implemented;
- areas of financial overspend;
- areas receiving a high level of budgetary commitment;
- areas where there is a high level of user dissatisfaction;
- reports and action plans produced/agreed with external inspectors;
- areas that are key issues for the public or have become a public interest issue covered in the media.

14. All Committee members should undergo the Corporate Parenting Training offered by the Council.

15. Members of Committee should act as champions for children and young people in the care of the authority and raise awareness of the issues facing children and young people in care with other elected members and members of the public.

16. The quorum required for a meeting is 3 elected members.

Finance & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee – 2017/18 work programme

Topics

| Topic | Method | Scoped? Y/N | Timescale | Cabinet Member | Assistant Director | Other Participants | Expected Outcome/Impact |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Youth unemployment and NEETS | | N - Originally a suggestion from Cabinet Member. Resubmitted to include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest position on youth unemployment • Figures on apprenticeships • Implications of apprenticeship reforms | | Education and Skills | Business, Development and Employment | | |
| School Organisation/Places | | N | Planned 2016/17 but will start early July 2017. | Education and Skills | Education & Corporate Parenting | | |
| Education Attainment | | Y – Monitoring | Reviewed annually | Education and Skills | Education & Corporate Parenting | | |

| Topic | Method | Scoped? Y/N | Timescale | Cabinet Member | Assistant Director | Other Participants | Expected Outcome/Impact |
|---|---------------|--|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Multi-Agency Working Against CSE | | Y - Annual review with focus on improved collection/analysis of CSE data; strategy for communicating information to the public; TWSCB framework for auditing impact of actions; data on convictions for CSOs | Rescheduled September 2017 | Children's & Adult's Early Help and Support | Children's and Adult Services | T&W Safeguarding Children Board | |
| Ofsted Improvement Plan - Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers 2016/ | | Y- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of IROs • Turnover of social workers • Return interviews • Meet with foster carers Includes CiC dashboard | | Children's & Adult's Early Help and Support | Children's and Adult Services | | |
| Educational progress of children from troubled | | N Suggestion put forward for | | Education & Skills | Education & Corporate Parenting | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| families compared to progress of children in long term foster placements. | | 2016/17 work programme (Steve Rayner) but not prioritised. Item not resubmitted | | | | | |
| LSCB Annual Report | | In previous years the Annual Report has been presented to Scrutiny after HWB | | Children's & Adult's Early Help & Support | Children's and Adult Services | T&WSCB | |

Monitoring Activity

| Due Date | Date Circulated | Topic | Assistant Director and Responsible Officer | Outcome |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------|
| | | LSCB Annual Report | Children's and Adult Services | |
| October 2017 April 2018 | | Education attainment | Education and Corporate Parenting | |

Meeting Plans

| Meeting Dates | Meeting Type | Items | Cabinet Member | Assistant Director or Other Participants |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|---|---|
| 3 July 2017 | Committee | Work Programme and Terms of Reference School Organisation Plan | Education and Skills | Education and Corporate Parenting |
| 12 September 2017 | Committee | Multi-Agency Working Against CSE – Annual review of implementation | Children's and Adult's Early Help & Support | Children's and Adult Services |