



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date **Tuesday 17 July 2018** Time **6.00pm**
Venue **Meeting Room G3, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

Enquiries Regarding this Agenda:

Democratic & Scrutiny Services	Stacey Worthington	01952 382067
Media Enquiries	Corporate Communications	01952 382407

Committee Membership: Councillors S Barnes, E A Clare, J A Francis, E J Greenaway, **K R Guy (Chair)**, J Jones, J A Pinter, S J Reynolds and K L Tomlinson
Co-Optees: Mrs C Healy, Mrs S Fikeis, Mrs L Fowler, Mrs C Morgan, Mrs S Osman, and Mrs M Ward

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** Appendix A
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 16 May 2017.
4. **Work Programme Report and Terms of Reference** Appendix B
To agree the Work Programme 2017-18; and the Terms of Reference for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the delegation from Council on 24 May 2017.
5. **Chair's Update**

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 16 May 2018 at 6.00pm in Meeting Room G3/4, Addenbrook House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT 7

Present: Councillors K Guy (Chair); S Barnes, E A Clare, J A Francis, E J Greenaway and co-optees Sherrel Fikeis, Carolyn Healy, Mel Ward.

Also Present: Jo Britton; Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services; Tilly Heigh; Service Delivery Manager: Service Improvement, Children's Safeguarding & Early Help; Clive Jones: Director of Children's and Adult Services; - TWC, J Tangey, Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer - TWC.

CYPSC-09 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Janice Jones, J A Pinter, Hilda Rhodes, Karen Tomlinson; Co-optees Lynn Fowler, Carol Morgan

CYPSC-10 Declarations of Interest

None

CYPSC-11 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2017

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate record with one amendment to include Cllr Karen Tomlinson, who was in attendance for the meeting.

CYPSC-12 Children and Family Services Improvement Plan Following Ofsted SIF June- July 2016 – Further Progress Update

The Chair introduced the item and received the report and full action plan that provided additional, comprehensive information on performance following the discussion at the Committee meeting on 6 February 2018. It was proposed that this would enable the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider progress regarding the Service Improvement Plan following the Ofsted Single Inspection framework (SIF) in June – July 2016.

The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Member for Adults and Children's Early Help and Support, the Director of Adult and Children's Services, the Assistant Director; Children's Safeguarding and the Service Delivery Manager for Children's Safeguarding.

The Committee noted that the Telford & Wrekin Council's SIF took place between 13 June and 7 July 2016, and the report was published on 26 August 2016. Verbal feedback received from the inspection team was that they could see that significant improvements had been made, and that the Council should '*keep doing what you are doing*' to achieve consistently good services.

11 recommendations for improvement were made and a Service Improvement Plan was presented and agreed by Ofsted on 11 January 2017. A summary of activity and impact against each of the 11 recommendations was presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 6th February 2018, together with information about the new ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) framework which would be used for future inspections. A full copy of the original action plan with updates on actions and performance was requested by the Committee and was attached at Appendix A to the report, updated with end of year performance for 2017-18.

It was highlighted that under the new ILACS framework, Children's Safeguarding/ Services anticipated an inspection during 2019. An additional two day focussed visit from Ofsted would take place at any time. The theme for the visit had been discussed with the Regional Lead Inspector and would be confirmed in the rescheduled Annual Conversation with the Ofsted Regional Director on 21st May 2018. A One Minute briefing on the new inspection framework was circulated. It was reported that the themes for the two day visit had to be selected by the Council as a recognised area for improvement. The Officers felt that this was a more proportionate response from Ofsted, more on course with day to day practice and pilot inspections so far had been 80% with frontline practitioners. The annual self-evaluation had been updated for the annual conversation on 21 May and this would focus on the Council's self-awareness and areas identified where more focus was needed.

The Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding summarised the detailed plan, addressing one of the issues that the Committee had raised previously regarding case supervision; it was highlighted that there was a keen sense of upward trajectory in terms of improvement in consistent and regular supervision. Quality assurance was key to continuous improvement and there had been a significant culture shift in understanding the importance of audit activity. Ofsted would look at a selection of cases that had been audited.

Child protection cases, children in care and child protection plans were looked at regularly in every audit undertaken and there were two types of audit; fuller audits or more streamlined audits. Management oversight was always considered. It was reported that there were two different types of supervision; an electronic recording system where a manager supervised a specific case and monthly supervision which was more reflective and developmental. More ways were being found to measure supervision. There were lots of options on a child's electronic file for managers to have a conversation with the social worker as well as regular management feedback and ongoing day to day management oversight.

There was still work to do on management oversight including oversight of IROs who were there for checks and balances. There were child protection action planning meetings that other practitioners had observed and feedback had been positive on how the meetings were conducted, how the families were included and the understanding of risk.

In terms of management oversight and IRO oversight – these had been separated out for greater transparency. If any cases came back as inadequate they were reported to the Quality Assurance meeting and continued to be on the list until they were no longer inadequate.

The Committee had a discussion and raised the following questions:

Why was there still a big variance in the IROs case loads? It was confirmed that one IRO had been in post for a month since the beginning of the year and the case load was still building. Another IRO had recently been appointed and had been in post for one month. In terms of management oversight and IRO oversight – these had been separated out for greater transparency. If any cases came back as inadequate they were reported to the Quality Assurance meeting and continued to be on the list until they were no longer inadequate.

The Committee asked if there was a large number of inadequate cases – it was confirmed that there were full case audits and other case audits with a particular focus with 4-5 key themes. The most recently audit had included 28-30 files of which 2-3 were found to be inadequate. However, it was noted that the measure of inadequate was specific to the Council and it was unlikely that the cases would not be found inadequate by Ofsted.

The Committee sought clarity on audit outcomes; it was noted that a whole raft of aspects were taken into account; outcomes for child, good engagement of families, good multi-agency working, assessment/ planning quality, statutory visits, good quality placements that children were happy in. The complexity that the Social Workers were working with was highlighted. For a case to be inadequate, there would normally have to be failure across a number of aspects.

The Committee asked about the outcomes for children – what processes were followed if inadequacy was found and how were they assured that the child was safe. It was confirmed that if any concerns about practice were raised, it would be escalated to the Service Delivery Manager who would take action immediately. This had happened a couple of times and it came to light that it was due to aspects of the case that hadn't been recorded.

The audit model was rigorous, not only did all team managers and all IROs with their Service Delivery Managers, the Assistant Director and Director of Children's Services participate but an audit was also done every quarter by the lead Cabinet Member and the Chief Executive of the Council. It was acknowledged that the shift in culture to that of receiving feedback took time. It was also good for managers to maintain a hands on approach and to have a clear understanding of the social workers approach. Triangulation was well implemented and ensured a broader, truer picture of what was going on.

It was noted that social workers valued the feedback, especially the senior managers as it provided an opportunity for reflection and for social workers to demonstrate their commitment to their job and to the families they were supporting. The Assistant Director would also write individually to social workers to acknowledge where things had gone well.

The Director of Adult's and Children's Services highlighted that learning reviews were conducted to understand why and where practice improvement was needed, and the training needs around this. It was all documented and therefore anybody could see remedial actions taken and on child's file the conversations were shared between the managers and social worker.

Ofsted would take a view on the quality of the Council's quality assurance process. A key strength in the last Ofsted was that the service was self-aware and recognised the areas that required improvement.

The Committee questioned the Council's performance in relation to return home interviews (RHI). Figures showed that although 98% of eligible children and young people were offered RHI and 96% took up the offer of RHI's, only 56% were completed on time.

The Assistant Director explained that some children went missing over 2-3 days and each one could trigger a new episode. The Council was looking at a better way of working, focussing on what was important for the children and young people and that was independent of the case holder. A resource had been allocated to undertake the independent interviews so some improvement was expected soon. Unknown cases were a particular challenge – it was a key performance measure. There were issues that were out of the Council's control; some children did not want interviews, but they had the opportunity to have them if wanted. There were children that repeatedly ran away from home and this was an indicator in terms of risk, however, there was a robust response, especially where care placements were involved.

It was noted that it was an issue in terms of complexity. Improvements had been made and interviews were completed outside of 72 hours timescale which was set as best practice. The Committee suggested that it would be valuable to see numbers of interviews that were completed, including outside of the timescale.

The Committee questioned the rates of advocacy. Officers confirmed that 100% of children that requested advocacy received it but it was hard to show in data about issue resolution. A lot of work was done to resolve issues before the formal complaint procedure was instigated. The Advocacy Service looked into issues/ areas and had discussions with the young person.

The Committee asked about the impact of the change of provider for the Independent Visitor in May 2018. The Officers confirmed that it had been delivered by the Children's Society but it was jointly commissioned with other West Midlands authorities. It went out to tender and a contract had recently been agreed. Detailed planning for what the service would look like was being undertaken and the lead Commissioning Authority recognised that they hadn't been monitoring this as tightly as it should have been. There was a new lead Commissioner in place.

The Committee questioned the low performance in terms of the strategy discussions and meetings where agencies were involved in ensuring decisions were complaint with the

Department of Health guidance 'Working Together' and informed by comprehensive information from partner agencies. Performance was 39% 2017-18 and in March 53%. Officers reported that it was a challenge in terms of partner agency presence and obtaining the required information. In most circumstances not all partner agencies would be at the table and there was under reporting. A new way of capturing this information was needed to move forward and an update would be provided when the item returned to Committee in the new Municipal year.

The Committee noted that there was an action to identify and include specific communities where private fostering arrangements were more prevalent and organisations which were likely to have contact with privately fostered children. Officers acknowledged that this was likely to have come from national data; no specific communities had been identified. The Officers welcomed the Committee's request for this information which would go to the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board.

The Committee asked about care leavers living in Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) as the Committee was of the understanding that HMOs were not appropriate accommodation for care leavers but there was now an action in the plan to review risks and for risk assessments to be carried out for people in HMOs which seemed to be a change of approach. Officers explained that it was undesirable for care leavers to be accommodated in HMOs but it was necessary that there was an action around risk assessments for any young people who were in HMOs because some wanted to remain in HMOs. The Assistant Director confirmed that she would provide the Committee with numbers of care leavers who wished to remain. Following on from this this the Committee was also keen to know about the numbers of children who wanted to remain in foster care and what action was being put in place to support the parents and child. It was noted that it was a big decision for parents ; it was their personal choice. The Committee was assured that the Council did everything it could to support the decisions. 98% of care leavers were in appropriate accommodation and HMOs were not included in this.

The Committee asked that the additional information/ updates requested be provided in 6 months' time. The Committee agreed that they were pleased with the update on Ofsted and would return to this as a substantive item after the next Ofsted inspection in 2019.

The Officers left the meeting at 6.54pm

CYPSC-13 Work Programme 2017-18

It was noted that suggestions for the work programme for 2018-19 had been sought from the Scrutiny Assembly, Cabinet Members, Senior Managers and key local organisations. The suggestions would be considered by Scrutiny Management Board on 5th June. Scrutiny Management Board would be asked to consider what the over-arching priorities for Scrutiny in 2018/19 should be and would also be mindful that 2018/19 was an election year and any

reviews would need to be completed by the end of December 2018 at the latest to enable preparation of final reports to Cabinet before the pre-election period in March 2019.

Items that had not been prioritised this year included children Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs). One of the members had looked into this recently and provided an update that the figures for Telford & Wrekin were now well below the national average.

The Committee agreed that they would be interested in looking at the numbers of students taking elective home education and whether this was on the rise; nationally there had been an increase. Members felt it would be useful to see the numbers and how it was audited.

Mental health in young people; the Committee agreed that the transition between mental health services from young people to adults was a potential issue. It was noted that this was an ongoing item on the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee work programme and Joint HOSC in terms of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service 0-25s which covered Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. A note of when this item was to be considered by Health and Adult Care Scrutiny and Joint HOSC would be provided for Members.

The Committee discussed educational progress for those in receipt of pupil premium and pupil premium plus and how schools made arrangements with parents. It was acknowledged that this was within the remit of Ofsted that should be holding schools to account and therefore it would not be submitted for inclusion on the work programme for 2018-19.

CYPSC-14 Chair's Update

The Chair reported that dates had been identified for the informal meeting with the CATE team which followed up on the recommendations made during the Scrutiny Review of CSE and Multi-Agency Working. Members agreed for this to take place on 5th June 2018. The meeting with the CATE team had been postponed from March, due to the increasing pressure that the CATE team were under arising from the intense media speculation at the time.

The meeting ended: 7.48pm

Chairman:

Date:

NOTE: Subsequent to the Committee meeting an Inquiry into CSE was agreed by full Council on 24 May 2018. The Inquiry changed how things stood as it was likely that the scrutiny process from 2015/16 would be looked at by the inquiry. The Chair received advice from the Monitoring Officer that it was inappropriate for the committee to be talking to the CATE team in the way that had been planned at this stage, particularly as the terms of reference and conduct of the Inquiry had still to be set. Follow up to the Scrutiny Review on CSE would remain in abeyance until the inquiry process had run its course.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
17 JULY 2018****WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19****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 2018/19.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee agree its Terms of Reference (Appendix 1)
2.2 That the Committee agree items for the 2018/19 work programme (Appendix 2); and
2.3 That the Committee agree meeting dates for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	No	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	Borough Wide
DELIVERY DATE	The 2018/19 work programme should be delivered in-year before the pre-election period begins.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes/No	Scrutiny has a role in ensuring that local government is effective and accountable. This includes undertaking reviews and challenging and monitoring performance. There is provision for the cost of supporting the Scrutiny function in the 2018/19 budget and the work programme will need to be managed within those resources, any variance that arises will be reported as appropriate as part of financial monitoring. The financial implications of any recommendations made by Scrutiny should be considered as part of reports as relevant.

		Scrutiny also plays an important part of the budget consultation process which is reflected in the work programme and is a key piece of work which feeds into the Council's overall budget strategy TS – 8.6.18
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes/No	Overview & Scrutiny 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. Establishing a work plan, and resources as set out in this report will assist O&S to effectively meet its objectives. SAD – 14.05.18
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Terms of Reference for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is attached at Appendix 1. On 24 May 2018, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to approve its own Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 The suggestions shown in Appendix 2 were considered by the Scrutiny Management Board on 5 June 2018 and referred to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to decide which issues should be included in the Committee's Work Programme. In making decisions about the work programme, the Committee should consider any feedback from both Senior Managers and Scrutiny Management Board and the following "Criteria for Scrutiny":-
- How far scrutiny can realistically change or influence things;
 - The extent to which residents or businesses are affected by the issue;

- How well the Council and Partners are performing in the area; and
 - What else is happening to avoid duplication or wasted effort.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The work programme needs to 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.
- 1.5 The Committee should be mindful that 2018/19 is an election year and any reviews will need to be completed by the end of December 2018 at the latest to enable preparation and agreement of final reports to Cabinet before the pre-election period begins in March 2019.

2.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 2.1 None.

3.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 3.1 Scrutiny Handbook.

Report prepared by Stacey Worthington, Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer. Telephone 01952 832067.

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.

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee – 2018/19 work programme

Key:-

* New Suggestion

+ Resubmitted from the 2017/18 work programme

Ongoing review or monitoring

	Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
*	School Transport	How are children getting to school? How far are they travelling? What issues do schools experience (congestion, parking complaints) What support might Schools like (help to set up walking buses, safer bike routes to school)? What are parents experiences of the school run, especially where siblings go to different schools? What best practice is out there both within the borough and outside, that we can all learn from?	NEW – From Scrutiny Co-Optee	Education & Corporate Parenting		

	Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
*	What is the take up of free nursery places and how can we help more parents to use their free hours?	Some parents don't claim because the system of registration and re-registration is cumbersome and requires access to the internet which many of those families most in need of this support may not have. Also, nurseries find that the income does not cover their costs so they don't promote the scheme or help parents to apply. Whilst it is acknowledged that this is mainly a failing of how a national policy is being implemented, there may be things that can be done locally to help parents or feedback to government to make a difference.	NEW – From Scrutiny Co-Optee	Education & Corporate Parenting		
+	Multi Agency Working Against CSE	Monitoring of Review Outcomes NB A number of individual suggestions have been made to ensure that a CSE update remains on the work programme.	Monitoring	Children's Safeguarding / Organisational Development & Delivery		
	Educational Attainment	Considered annually. Includes CiC results.	Monitoring	Education & Corporate Parenting		

	Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
	LSCB Annual Report	In previous years the Annual Report has been presented to Scrutiny after HWB.	Monitoring	Children's Safeguarding / Organisational Development & Delivery		
	Children's Safeguarding Performance Dashboard	Developed following annual monitoring of Ofsted Action Plan	Continuing work started 2016/17 - Monitoring	Children's Safeguarding		