

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 1st July, 2019

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance

Annual Scrutiny Programme 2019/20

Purpose

1. To consider items to be included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20.

Recommendations

2. That the items to be scrutinised by this Committee, as contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2019/20, be noted.
3. That the Committee confirm the programme of business as outlined in paragraph 10 of this report, subject to the need for flexibility to reflect any changes that might arise during the municipal year.
4. That the Committee approves proposed arrangements for joint meetings of the Children's Services and Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees to be held to consider items as outlined in paragraph 11 of the report submitted.
5. That the Committee consider the establishment of Working Group(s) and composition of membership of the Group(s) to enable informal consideration and formulation of recommendations to this Committee in relation to the items outlined in paragraph 11 of the report submitted.
6. That the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to make all the necessary arrangements to enable this Committee to undertake its programme of scrutiny work during the 2019/20 municipal year.
7. That the terms of reference for the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the Appendix to the report submitted, be noted.

Background

8. The terms of reference specific to this Committee are set out in the Appendix attached to the report submitted. Meetings of this Scrutiny Committee have been scheduled during 2019/20 to carry out scrutiny reviews and consider any other items of business during the municipal year. All Scrutiny Committees will also undertake detailed scrutiny of the Council's revenue budget proposals in November.

9. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board met on 12th June, 2019 to give consideration to items for inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Plan.
10. Following consultation, the items listed below are proposed for consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20, at the programmed meetings:
 - Monday 1st July, 2019
Children's Services Update
Annual Scrutiny Programme 2019/20
Child Health Profiles
School Readiness
 - Thursday 26th September, 2019
Children's Services Update
Annual Independent Reviewing Officer Report
Social Care System Replacement
Annual Safeguarding Children Report and Vulnerabilities
Outcomes from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection
Outcomes from the Youth Offending Inspection
Provisional Pupil Performance in Dudley Schools 2019
 - Thursday 14th November, 2019
Children's Services Update
Annual Corporate Parenting Board Report and Corporate Parenting Strategy
Medium Term Financial Strategy
Improvement Plan Update and Performance Information
Annual Comments Compliments and Complaints Review
 - Thursday 30th January, 2020
Children's Services Update
Annual Education Performance Report
Annual Virtual School and Looked After Children Report
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
Early Years Transformation Academy
 - Thursday 5th March, 2020
Children's Services Update
Annual Adoption and Fostering Report
Wider Inclusion Strategy
Improvement Plan Update and Performance Information
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 – Review of Local Safeguarding Arrangements.
Annual Report and draft Scrutiny programme 2020/21
11. It is also proposed that a joint meeting of the Children's Services and Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees be held on dates and times to be determined to consider the following Items:-
 - To be arranged July 2019
 - Children and Young People Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

- Transformation and Services for Children that are Looked After
- Updates on the Multi-Specialty Community Provider (MCP)
- SEND Development Session

To be arranged January 2020

- Updates on the Multi-Specialty Community Provider (MCP)
- Joint Safeguarding Arrangements

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee will also consider this proposal at its meeting on 10th July, 2019.

12. The Committee has the discretion to establish Working Groups at the first meeting of the municipal year or during the year to meet on an 'ad hoc' basis if this becomes necessary during. Where Working Group(s) are appointed consideration also be given to composition of membership.

Subject to Working Group(s) of this Committee being established it is proposed that these be held on the following dates to consider the following items:-

Wednesday 23rd October, 2019

- Elective Home Education
- Pupil Performance in Dudley Schools

Monday 9th December, 2019

- Obesity
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Monday 3rd February, 2020

- Future Safeguarding Arrangements

13. The Committee is requested to consider the proposed programme of business as outlined above taking account of the need for flexibility due to changing circumstances and any issues that might arise during the municipal year.
14. Subject to the views of the Committee at this meeting, the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will make the necessary practical arrangements for the Committee to conduct its agreed programme of work during 2019/20.
15. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny). The associated Scrutiny Procedure Rules are contained within Part 4 of the Constitution which also contains the terms of reference for the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. These terms of reference are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Finance

16. The costs of operating the scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

17. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

Equality Impact

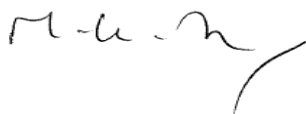
18. Provision exists within the Council's scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Transformation

19. The issues referred to in this report are administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required.

Commercial Implications

20. This report has no impact on the Council's potential to commercially trade. Individual items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme may have commercial implications, which will be reported at the relevant Committee meeting.



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List of Background Papers

The Council's Constitution
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Reports and Minutes

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Membership

11 Councillors, 5 voting Church and Parent Governor Co-opted representatives.

Terms of Reference

In accordance with any relevant statutory requirements and the Annual Scrutiny Programme:-

- (a) To contribute to policy development by carrying out the scrutiny of matters falling within the functions of the People Directorate relating to Children Services and the portfolio of the relevant Cabinet Member(s).
- (b) To undertake in-depth scrutiny investigations/inquiries.

To consider and determine any items that are called in for scrutiny in accordance with the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules.

To submit reports and recommendations to the relevant decision taker(s).