
**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee –
Monday 14th March 2022**

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance

**Feedback from the Joint Children and Young People and Health
and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees Working Group.**

Purpose

1. To provide feedback from the Joint Children and Young People and Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees Working Group meeting held on 14th February 2022.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Committee considers the following proposals: -
 - That subject to the reappointment of Working Groups, the Consultant in Public Health, Head of Service for Healthy Communities, Places and Workforce be requested to present the highlights of the 0 to 19 Needs Assessment to a future meeting.
 - That the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing be requested to submit two separate reports on obesity and child poverty to a future meeting of the Joint Working Group, to include the actions proposed to deal with both issues and the services currently provided Borough wide to deal with child poverty; data in relation to the National Childhood Measurement Programme; details of the work conducted with partners and peers in order to reduce child poverty and obesity; data in terms of numbers of those suffering child poverty and obesity and definitions of those in poverty and apprenticeships; evidence of work conducted in other Authorities that had a positive impact on reducing child poverty and identifying partners to be interviewed by the Joint Working Group.

Background

3. At its meeting on 14th June 2021, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed to re-appoint Working Groups to comprise all Members of the Committee.
4. The Working Groups are designed to enable issues, within the remit of the Committee and that were included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme, to be scrutinised in-depth and in a less formal setting than the main Committee.
5. At the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 10th November 2021, arising from the presentation of the Dudley Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020/21, Members requested that a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group be established to consider detailed issues concerning the demographic and health equalities section of the report. Members also suggested that the Members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee should also be invited to attend the meeting.
6. On the 14th February 2022 there was a joint meeting of the Children and Young People and the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees Working Group when Members considered a presentation on children and young people inequalities, with a particular focus on child poverty and obesity.
7. Throughout the presentation Members made comments and asked questions and responses were provided accordingly.
8. Arising from the presentation, Members suggested that scrutiny on both child poverty and obesity continue with a particular focus on the following: -
 - The actions proposed to deal with child poverty and obesity
 - The services currently provided Borough wide to deal with child poverty.
 - Data in relation to the National Childhood Measurement Programme.
 - Details of the work conducted with partners and peers in order to reduce child poverty and obesity.
 - Data in terms of numbers of those suffering child poverty and obesity.
 - Definitions of those in poverty and apprenticeships.
 - Evidence of work conducted in other Authorities that had a positive impact on reducing child poverty.
 - The identification of partners who would be interviewed by Members as part of the deep dive exercise.
9. Members also requested that the highlights of the 0 to 19 Needs Assessment be presented to a future meeting for consideration.

Finance

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

Law

11. 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.
12. Working Groups are not Committees as defined by Section 101 of the Local Government Act, 1972 and will not have delegated powers and can only make recommendations. As such Access to Information Procedure Rules referred to in the Constitution will not apply to meetings of these Groups.

Risk Management

13. There are no risks identified arising from this report. The Council is committed to adopting best practice in its management of risk. It aims to ensure risk is maintained at an acceptable level in order to maximise opportunities and demonstrate that it has given full consideration of the implications of risk to the delivery and achievement of its outcomes, strategic aims and priorities.

Equality Impact

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

Human Resources/Organisational Development

15. There are no direct Human Resources/Organisational Development implications arising from this report.

Commercial/Procurement

16. There are no direct commercial/procurement implications arising from the contents of this report.

Council Priorities

17. Dudley operates a One Council ethos to build on effective and dynamic organisation aligned to its three core principals to grow the economy and create jobs; create a cleaner and greener place and support stronger safer communities.
18. The work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee would contribute to key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme.



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List of Background Papers

The Council's Constitution