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## **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**

### **Report of the Lead for Law and Governance**

#### **Annual Scrutiny Programme 2020/21**

##### **Purpose**

1. To consider arrangements for the Annual Scrutiny Programme during 2020/21.

##### **Recommendations**

2. That the Committee note that the annual report, as agreed at the last meeting, will be submitted to the Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020.
3. That, following consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Officers, the Lead for Law and Governance be authorised to confirm the future programme of scrutiny business for this Committee following the meeting of the Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020.
4. That the arrangements for a scrutiny review of the Dudley MBC and partner response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, as set out in paragraphs 9 to 13, be noted.

##### **Background**

5. The Committee's annual scrutiny report for 2019/20 was considered at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The report and minutes of that meeting are available on the [Committee Management Information System](#).
6. The annual report included ongoing items for inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2020/21. In view of the cancellation of meetings during April, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual report will now be presented to the Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020.

7. A proposed calendar of meetings for the 2020/21 municipal year will also be considered by the Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020. Once the programme is confirmed, consultation will take place with the Chair, Vice Chair and Officers to confirm the programme of scrutiny business for the remainder of this municipal year.
8. The Committee has the flexibility to amend its programme of business at any time due to changing circumstances and any issues that might arise during the municipal year.

#### Future Scrutiny Review of Dudley MBC and Partner Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

9. At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a full scrutiny review of the response of the Council and partners to the COVID-19 pandemic in due course.
10. This will form the basis of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee's programme of business for the 2020/21 municipal year. The scrutiny review will take place over a series of meetings, each with a specific theme or themes.
11. Members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee will act as the 'core membership' for undertaking the review. Members of other Scrutiny Committees (including the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee), experts and other attendees will be invited to contribute to the review, depending on the theme(s) under consideration.
12. Recommendations arising from the scrutiny review should aim to guide and assist all Directorates and Partners in future planning and responding to any further Pandemics.
13. A meeting will be held with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each Scrutiny Committee to brief them on the scope and timing of the scrutiny review in due course. This will be co-ordinated by the Democratic Services Team.

#### Finance

14. The costs of operating the Council's scrutiny arrangements are being contained within existing budgetary allocations.

#### Law

15. 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.

16. Scrutiny powers relating to health are included in the Health and Social Care Acts 2001 and 2012, and associated Regulations and statutory guidance. The Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the Council powers to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables local authorities to scrutinise other partners. Much of this legislation is consolidated in the Localism Act 2011.

### **Equality Impact**

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

### **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

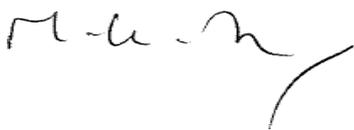
18. Overview and scrutiny work is primarily administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required. Any proposals to develop the Council's overview and scrutiny functions have to be set in the context of the resources available and the organisational capacity to support scrutiny work.

### **Commercial/Procurement**

19. Individual items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme may have commercial implications, which will be reported to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

### **Health, Wellbeing and Safety**

20. Reports to Scrutiny Committees will consider the impact on the health, wellbeing and safety of the Borough's citizens. This is consistent with building stronger, safer and more resilient communities in line with the Dudley Vision and to protect our residents' physical, and emotional health for the future.



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### **List of Background Documents**

[The Council's Constitution](#) – Article 6 and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules  
Scrutiny Reports and Minutes available on the [Committee Management Information System](#)