

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 2007/08 programme**

<b>1. Standing Items</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>When</b>
Announcements	Update, for information, on any matter of significant public or member concern listed not on the agenda elsewhere.	All meetings
Quarterly Performance Monitoring reports against the Council Plan	<p>These reports provide a summary of the Council's performance for the parts of the Council within the remit of this Committee. The performance measures are reported in the following ways:</p> <p>Amber - where there is concern about the likelihood of the performance measure achieving its target by the end of the year, together with recommendations for action.</p> <p>Red - where the performance measure is assessed as inappropriate or unachievable by the end of the year.</p>	All meetings (except September)
Reconciling policy and resources	A revised Reconciling Policy and Resources (RPR) process was agreed by Cabinet in August 2006 to include scrutiny at every stage.	Process begins at September meeting with an additional meeting usually in December
Local Safeguarding Children Board	<p>The committee received a report at the 26 September 2006 meeting on the arrangements for the establishment of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the business plan for 2006/07.</p> <p>The committee requested that it receive the Safeguarding Board business plan and annual report on an annual basis.</p>	September meeting

<p>Safeguarding Children – Member and Senior Management monitoring</p>	<p>The Lead Member for Children and Families and senior managers with Children's Services carry out a series of visits to the social care duty teams and conduct quarterly file audits to ensure that services to safeguard children are properly co-ordinated and managed effectively.</p> <p>Annual report to the committee outlining the findings of these visits and audit checks. Opportunity for the committee to monitor concerns and ensure improvements are put in place where necessary</p>	<p>September meeting</p>
<p>Complaints report</p>	<p>An annual report is presented to the committee on the number of complaints received by the department, the stage at which they were rectified, common themes identified from the complaints and the action being taken as a result of them.</p> <p>The report is used by the committee to identify key issues for future monitoring or to consider as a future scrutiny review.</p>	<p>September meeting</p>
<p>Forward Plan</p>	<p>The Council's Forward Plan is appended to each committee agenda. The purpose of this is to enable members to identify and highlight relevant issues for scrutiny. Options for dealing with items identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request a briefing paper to be sent to some or all committee members.</li> <li>• Request an item on a future scrutiny committee agenda to address specific questions raised by committee members.</li> <li>• Suggest that the item or elements of it be considered for a more in-depth scrutiny review.</li> </ul>	<p>All meetings</p>

<b>2. Completed reviews</b>		
Scrutiny Review of the Youth Offending Team	Review carried out by members between September 2006 and March 2007. The aim of the review was to establish how effective the work of the YOT has been with regard to youth crime prevention and the role that partnership working had had in this.	6 month update - November 2007  12 month update – June 2008
<b>3. Ongoing reviews</b>		
Scrutiny Review of the effect of alcohol misuse on the health of children and young people.	At the 20 June 2007 meeting the committee agreed that a future review would be carried out on a key health issue. The review board at its first meeting decided that the review would consider alcohol misuse and the effect that it has on the health of children and young people.  Membership of the review board - Councillor Pat Ost (chair), Councillor Joy Waite, Carole Shaves, Sam Gregory	Review to report findings in March 2008
Tabletop Review of the Recruitment and Retention of Teachers	At the 20 June 2007 meeting the committee agreed that a short desktop review would be carried out to assess the current national and local situation with regard to the recruitment and retention of teachers.  The findings from this review will be presented to the Committee to enable it to assess whether or not a full scrutiny review in this area is required.  Membership: Councillor Chris Dowling	Review to report findings in due course

<b>4. Issues for future meetings</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose of report</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
Teenage pregnancy rates	<p>Issue raised at away day in October 2007 that teenage pregnancy rates in rural areas, while not being at the level in urban areas, is increasing at quite a rate</p> <p>Opportunity to bring to together a range of organisations working in this field and discuss how this issue is being tackled.</p>	
Youth Development Service	Following a report to the June 2007 meeting on the Youth Development Service the Committee asked for a further update report. The report to include the results of the Youth Offer mapping exercise, the final judgement on the Enhanced Youth Inspection and an update on progress towards the target for accredited outcomes.	
Review of Behaviour Support	<p>A report on the outcomes of the review of the Behaviour Support Service and the proposals for change from April 2007 were presented the Lead Members for Learning &amp; School Effectiveness and Children &amp; Families on 5 September 2006. The changes resulted in the secondary behaviour support services being positioned within the integrated area teams to enhance support to young people with severe behavioural issues and their families.</p> <p>The committee will have an opportunity to assess how successful these changes have been and if the initial aims of them have been met.</p>	Nathan Caine
Obesity in children	Issue raised at away day in October 2007. Opportunity to consider the work of the Healthy Schools Programme in relation to this and assess how effective it has been	

<b>5. Future items to include in the programme at a later date</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose of report</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Extended schools	<p>At 23 March 2006 meeting members requested a update report at a later date when the development of extended schools has progressed.</p> <p>An area of concern identified by members is the accessibility to extended school activities by those children in rural areas who rely on the school bus to transport them to and from school.</p>	
Children's Centres	<p>Following a report to the June 2007 meeting on Children's Centres the Committee asked for a further update report. The report to include an update on Phase 3 funding and outcomes, particularly in relation to the impact of Children's Centres on improving the start for children at primary school level.</p> <p>Report due – Autumn 2008</p>	
School surpluses and deficits	<p>At the September 2007 meeting of the Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee a report on school surpluses and deficits. The report outlined school balances at 31 March 2007 and the action being taken to address excessive surpluses. Agreed that reports on this matter now be presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Report due – September 2008.</p>	Greg Roberts
14-19 Agenda	<p>Presentation on this at the Away day in October 2007. Members asked to be kept up to date on this as it develops. Members raised concerns at the away day about the capacity and skills of teachers and how transport issues across the county could have a detrimental effect on young people being able to access courses</p>	Fiona Wright
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	<p>Report on the strategy and policy presented to the committee at September 2007 meeting. Members requested that action plan being developed to support the strategy be presented to the committee</p>	

<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose of report</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Common Assessment Framework	<p>This will be fully implemented in April 2008 and will potentially be a big lever for change. There is concern though that it could create a big demand for services. Committee to look at the Framework and the impact that it has had on officers, clients and services, after it has been in place for a year</p> <p>Report due – June 2009</p>	

Request for info:

Remit of Education Standards Panel	<p>Issue raised at Away day in October. Members asked for a paper outlining the remit of the Panel. Asked that an annual report to committee from the Panel on following the GCSE results</p>	<p>Sent to members with November 2007 agenda</p>
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