

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 2008 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	Scrutiny plays a key part in the Reconciling Policy and Resources (RPR) process and considers and provides feedback to Cabinet on the process in terms of policy steers, identified strategic risks, performance issues and financial planning	September meeting and December board
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

Item	Notes	When
Safeguarding Children – Member and Senior Management monitoring	<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>	September
Complaints report	<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>	September
Forward Plan	<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>	All meetings

<b>2. Completed reviews</b>		
<p>Scrutiny Review of the Youth Offending Team</p>	<p>Membership of the review board – Councillors Jay Kramer (chair), David Elkin, Pat Ost, Rosalyn St Pierre and Carole Shaves,</p> <p>Review carried out 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.</p>	<p>6 month update - November 2007</p> <p>Update on recommendations 7, 8 and 9 to March 2008</p> <p>12 month update – September 2008</p>
<p>Scrutiny Review of the effect of alcohol misuse on the health of children and young people.</p>	<p>Membership of the review board - Councillor Pat Ost (chair), Councillor Joy Waite, Carole Shaves, Sam Gregory</p> <p>Review carried out between September 2007 and February 2008. The aim of the review was to examine the range of policies and initiatives in place at a national and local level aimed at informing and educating children and young people about the dangers of alcohol misuse</p>	<p>Final report - March 2008</p>
<p>Tabletop Review of the Recruitment and Retention of Teachers</p>	<p>Membership: Councillor Chris Dowling</p> <p>This was 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.</p>	<p>Final report - March 2008</p>

<b>3. Ongoing reviews</b>		
Support for School Governors	Examine the current support received by school governors from East Sussex County Council	

<b>4. Future meetings</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose of report</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>		
Extended schools	At 23 March 2006 meeting members requested a update report at a later date when the development of extended schools has progressed.  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.	
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	
Special Education Needs funding	Item identified by Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee in November 2007 and request made to Children's Services Committee to receive a full report on this issue regarding the full impact that changes to the Special Educational Needs funding will have on children, schools and provision of services	
School Transport	Requested at November 2007 meeting. Report on issues around school transport in rural areas, its effect on 14-19 strategy and the extended schools programmes, and in particular how the responsibilities for school transport are shared between the Children's Services and Transport and Environment Departments.	
Equalities and Diversity	Requested at November 2007 meeting. Report on the implementation of the actions around equalities and diversity	

Item	Purpose of report	Contact
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.	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> September</b>		
Report on part time timetables	Recommendation from the YOT review that an update report regarding the effectiveness of the new guidance on limiting the use of part-time timetables by schools, particularly with regard to young people known to the Youth Offending Team.	John Hawkins & Penny Lavan
School surpluses and deficits	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.	Greg Roberts

<b>5. Future items to include in the programme at a later date</b>		
Item	Purpose of report	Contact
Children's Centres	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.  Report due – Autumn 2008	
14-19 Agenda	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	Fiona Wright

Item	Purpose of report	Contact
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	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	
Outcomes for East Sussex Children	Presentation on global data sets on children in East Sussex against the 5 outcomes for children	
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>	

**6. Request for information**

Item	Information	When provided
Remit of Education Standards Panel	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	Sent to members with November 2007 agenda
Integrated Sustainable Community Strategy	Outline of key sections which relate to Children's Services to assist members in taking part in the consultation process	Sent to members December 2007

<b>7. Visits</b>		
<b>Visit to:</b>	<b>Aim of visit</b>	<b>Date</b>
Wealden Skills Centre	Opportunity for members to see the initiative approach being taken to providing young people with vocational skills training in relation to Health & Safety, IT, Management and Marketing and Communication Skills	
Plumpton Agricultural College	Opportunity for members to see the vocational courses provided for the 14-16 year olds	
Bexhill College	Visit to look at provisions made for young people with disabilities	