

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee: Work programme at a glance

UPDATED: November 2009

Please note that this list is correct at the time of writing but may be subject to change. The order in which items are listed does not necessarily reflect the order they will appear on the final agenda for the meeting.

Standing Items	Objectives and summary
Announcements	Update, for information, on any matter of significant public or member concern listed not on the agenda elsewhere.
Cabinet Forward Plan	<p>Opportunity for members to identify and highlight relevant issues from the Plan for scrutiny to consider. Members can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - request a briefing paper to be sent to committee members, - request an item on a future scrutiny committee agenda to address specific questions raised
Quarterly Performance Monitoring reports against the Council Plan	<p>Exception report providing a summary on the performance targets relating to the ASC department which are not currently on target. Opportunity for members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - question and challenge action being taken to bring the target back on track - request a more detailed report on the issue - consider carrying out a scrutiny review on the issue
Committee work programme	<p>Opportunity for members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider the items programmed in for future meetings - highlight any additional issues they wish to add to the programme

Topic Issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
December 2009 - RPR Board (including Q2 monitoring report)		
Reconciling policy and Resources (RPR)	Opportunity for members to comment on the proposed savings in the department and to consider whether these are in line with the policy steers.	Matt Dunkley, Director of Children's Services
March 2010		
Standing items as listed on page one		
Reconciling policy and Resources	Opportunity for members to consider the action taken by the department in response to scrutiny comments earlier in the process. Also provides an opportunity for members to highlight ways of improving scrutiny involvement in the process in the future	Matt Dunkley, Director of Children's Services
Scrutiny review of the effect of alcohol misuse on the health of children and young people	Final update report on progress in taking forward the recommendations outlined in the final report by the review board. Committee requested a more detailed evidence based report be submitted Report also to include a more detailed breakdown of the data available on drugs in East Sussex. Police representative to be invited to present the information.	Vicky Finnemore, Operations Manager, Children's Services Department
Scrutiny review of support for school governors	Initial update report on progress by the department in taking forward the recommendations outlined in the final report by the review board.	Peter Davidson, Governor Services Manager
Scrutiny Review of Governing Body Clerks	Initial update report on progress by the department in taking forward the recommendations outlined in the final report by the review board.	Peter Davidson, Governor Services Manager
Reducing teenage pregnancies	Update on the number of teenage pregnancies in the county and the ongoing work to reduce this figure. Report to include information on conception rates for all ages, so that the teenage figures can be put in context.	
Safeguarding Children – Member and Senior Management oversight	Update report requested in September 2009 on the increased trends on the number of referrals and care proceedings the department is managing and the impact this is having on staff and budgets. Report to include updated figures and a breakdown of where referrals are coming from	
Youth Development Service (YDS)	Report on the progress to date on redeveloping the service following a previous departmental review and the implementation of a new strategy and core mission statement for the service	

Topic Issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
June 2010		
Themed meeting – Special educational needs		
Access and Disability Service	Report to focus on how the service is working in practice following the amalgamation of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Team and the Disability Team and the impact that the amalgamation has had on service users accessing educational and social care provision	
Aiming High for Disabled Children	Report to focus on the take up of provision of short breaks for disabled children and their families following the development of Aiming High for Disabled Children	
Autism	Report to focus on the number of children in East Sussex with autism, the services available to support them, whether demand for support in this area is increasing and if so, how this demand is being met.	
Special Education Needs funding	Update report on the impact that changes to the Special Educational Needs funding will have on children, schools and provision of services	
September 2010		
Children's Centres	Report to focus on take up at Children's Centres and the impact centres are having on improving outcomes for children.	
Reintegration and Secondary Behaviour Support Service	The Behaviour Support and Reintegration Service have now been brought together as one team, with a geographical operational split (one team in the west and another in the east) Report to concentrate on how the combined service is working in practice and the outcomes of further reviews on the Primary Behaviour Support Service, Pupil Retention Grant and Pupil Referral Units.	
Recruitment and Retention of Teachers	Update report on the issues highlighted by the previous tabletop review. A key concern is around succession planning and future head teacher appointments.	

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