

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

UPDATED: January 2010

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 |
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| 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 |
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| 8th March 2010 | | |
| Standing items as listed on page one | | |
| 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 | |
| Reducing teenage pregnancies | Update on the number of teenage pregnancies in the county and the ongoing work to reduce this figure. Report to includes 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 | Fiona Johnson, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance |
| 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 | Scrutiny Team/Matt Dunkley, Director of Children's Services |
| Lunch break | | |
| 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 |

| 7th June 2010 | | |
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| 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 | |
| NEET briefing to be held after committee meeting – invite to all members | | |
| 7th September 2010 | | |
| Annual report of Local Safeguarding Children Board | The committee receives the Safeguarding Board business plan and annual report on an annual basis. | Fiona Johnson, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance |
| Annual report - Safeguarding Children – Member and Senior Management monitoring | The Lead Member for Children and Families and senior managers with Children's Services carries 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. Opportunity for the committee to monitor concerns and ensure improvements are put in place where necessary | Fiona Johnson, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance |
| Annual Complaints report | Report outlines 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. The report is used by the committee to identify key issues for future monitoring or to consider as a future scrutiny review. | Caryl Sequeira, Complaints Manager |

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| Annual report - School surpluses and deficits | The report outlines school balances at 31 March each year. Report to highlight the number of schools with a surplus or deficit and what percentage these are of their overall budget. Report to also highlight the number of schools who are managing their budgets well. | Greg Roberts, Manager, Strategic Finance |
| 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. | |
| Departmental Value for Money Review | Feedback to the committee on the outcomes, and subsequent changes to services, following the departmental value for money reviews carried out during the year | |
| 9th November 2010 | | |
| Virtual College | Report outlining the outcomes achieved since the establishment of the virtual college to work with pupils who have been permanently excluded or for whom a school place is not appropriate [link with Reintegration report in September?] | Nathan Caine – Operations Manager, Reintegration and Behaviour Support Services (West) |
| 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. | |
| Scrutiny review of support for school governors | Final 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 | Final 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 |

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