

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee: Future work at a glance

May 2011

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
Council's Forward Plan	An opportunity to consider relevant issues from the Forward Plan. Committee Members can: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• request a briefing on any item• highlight an item for further scrutiny to address specific questions.
Quarterly Performance Monitoring reports against the Council Plan	Performance monitoring by scrutiny is now largely undertaken as part of individual scrutiny reviews and only by the scrutiny committee on an exception basis. When the committee requests an overview, a quarterly performance monitoring report is added to the agenda. These reports summarise the Council's performance of those activities within the committee's terms of reference. Key service targets assessed as 'amber' or 'red' would automatically be included in any report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Amber' – indicates that there is concern about the likelihood of achieving the performance target by the end of the year; includes recommendations for action• 'Red' – indicates that the performance target is assessed as unachievable or inappropriate.
Committee work programme (this document)	An opportunity for committee members to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• consider the items programmed in for future meetings• amend the programme.

Topic Issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
14 June 2011		
Accountability of school improvement	Report relating to the role of the county council in holding schools to account. To cover: withdrawal of the School Improvement Partners, impact of recent budget cuts to the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service, national changes to league tables and school governance (including implications for the Local Authority Clerking Service)	Penny Gaunt, Deputy Director of Children's Services
Overview of performance indicators in Children's Services	Details on the new performance indicators for each of the policy steers and how these will now be taken forward in each department	Di Francombe, Planning and Performance Manager
Behaviour and Attendance Service	Overview of the Behaviour and Attendance Service including the impact of legislation, trends in fixed and permanent exclusions at primary and secondary levels and future service developments.	Nathan Caine, Head of Behaviour and Attendance Service
Scrutiny Review of Key Stage 2 Mathematics	Update on progress in taking forward the recommendations of the scrutiny review board.	Nina Siddall, Head of Standards and Learning Effectiveness (0-11)
19 September 2011		
College Central (the virtual college)	<p>The Local Authority has a duty to provide suitable education for pupils who do not attend a mainstream school. College Central, established in September 2010, helps the council fulfil this responsibility. It is a 'virtual college' which co-ordinates courses and provision for young people with the aim of reintegrating pupils into mainstream schools as quickly as possible.</p> <p>The March 2011 scrutiny committee requested a report on the outcomes achieved by pupils involved in College Central since its inception so to be able to assess the extent to which this initiative is meeting its aims.</p>	Nathan Caine, Head of Behaviour and Attendance Service
Local Safeguarding Children Board	Annual report highlighting the work of the Local Safeguarding Board during the last year and the Business Plan for 2011/12. Opportunity for members to consider the work of the Board, how key issues have been addressed and the work programme for the forthcoming year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance - Independent Chairman (Cathie Pattison) - Lead Member

Topic Issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
Safeguarding Children – Member and Senior Management monitoring	The Lead Member for Children and Families and senior managers in Children's Services visit social care duty teams and conduct quarterly file audits to ensure that services to safeguard children are properly co-ordinated and managed effectively. This report outlines the findings from these visits and audit checks to enable scrutiny to monitor concerns and ensure any necessary improvements are introduced.	- Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance - Lead Member
Targeted support to young people	<p>Changes to Children's Services funding have affected the way that the department provides targeted support to young people. The Youth Offending Team, Youth Development Service, Connexions Intensive Personal Advisors, Youth homelessness, Teenage Pregnancy and the Substance Misuse service are being integrated into a single service with the title: Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service.</p> <p>The committee's Reconciling Policy and Resources board (January 2011) asked the committee to consider the new model of targeted support so as to be able to assess the extent to which the new service is meeting the needs of young people.</p> <p>The report will cover the three strands of support: '1-2-1' case work, deprived areas and universal access.</p>	Mac Heath, Head of Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support Service (County-wide)
Transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care	<p>The transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care Services can be a stressful time for both clients and their families as changes are made to the type and level of services that are provided.</p> <p>Elected Members are often approached for help and advice in difficult transition cases and therefore this topic is of particular interest. The March 2011 committee requested an initial report detailing the transition process to help determine whether further scrutiny is needed.</p>	Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Children and Families
Reconciling policy and Resources (RPR)	To review and make recommendations on Children's Services policy steers and to establish a review Board to scrutinise the more detailed portfolio plan as it emerges later on in the year.	Scrutiny
21 November 2011		

<i>Topic Issue</i>	<i>Objectives and summary</i>	<i>People providing evidence</i>
December 2011/January 2012		
Reconciling Policy and Resources review board		
12 March 2012		
Reconciling policy and Resources (RPR)		Scrutiny Manager

Information reports provided to Members (date sent)	
School surpluses and deficits	School balances as at 31 March 2010 and action being taken to address excessive surpluses (August 2010).
Annual complaints report 2009-10	Annual Children's Services Complaints Procedure Report for 2009/10 (September 2010).
Recruitment and Retention of Teachers	<p>A mini scrutiny review in 2007/08 assessed the position on recruitment and retention of teachers nationally and locally. An update in November 2008 showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity and sustainability concerns of the School Recruitment Workforce Team had been addressed • Exit questionnaires were consistent with those used by ESCC staff • Teacher vacancies were not an issue in East Sussex. <p>Update report on work being done by the department around succession planning and head teacher appointments (November 2010).</p>
Support for young carers	Number of young carers in East Sussex, the impact of their caring responsibilities and details of support available (November 2010).
Reducing teenage conceptions	Latest data and the work being done across the county to help reduce teenage conceptions (February 2011).
Perinatal mental health services in East Sussex	The publication of an Ofsted inspection report on safeguarding prompted the scrutiny committee to request an update on the development of services that provide specialist care for women with mental health difficulties from pre-conception and pregnancy through to the first year after giving birth (April 2011).
Reduced timetables	Results of the latest audit of schools on the usage of reduced timetables (due September 2011).

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