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

September 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: 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: '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.

East Sussex County Council

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Topic Issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence	
19 September 2011			
Reconciling policy, performance and Resources (RPPR)	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	
Targeted support to young people	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.	Brian Hughes, Acting Head of Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support Service (County-wide)	
	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.		
	The report will cover the three strands of support: '1-2-1' case work, deprived areas and universal access.		
Transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care	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.	Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Children and Families	
	Elected Members are often approached for help and advice in difficult transition cases and therefore this topic is of particular interest. This initial report, detailing the transition process, will help determine whether further scrutiny is needed.		
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)	

Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
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.	Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance Independent Chairman (Cathie Pattison) Lead Member
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
	Scrutiny Manager
	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. 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

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	 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: 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. Update report on work being done by the department around succession planning and head teacher appointments (November 2010). 	
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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