

# Children's Services Scrutiny Committee



## Future work at a glance

Date: June 2012

*This list is correct at the time of writing but may be subject to change.*

| <b>Standing items</b>                               | <b>Objectives and summary</b>   |
|---|---|
| Council's Forward Plan                              | An opportunity to consider relevant issues from the County Council's <b>Forward Plan</b> . Committee Members can request a briefing or highlight an item for further scrutiny.  |
| Performance Monitoring                              | <p>The Committee (<b>14 June 2011</b>) endorsed a new approach to performance scrutiny for Children's Services with indicators and targets. The new indicators should enable a better understanding of the effectiveness of different key initiatives by providing greater context and trend information.</p> <p>Performance monitoring by scrutiny is 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Amber' – indicates that there is concern about the likelihood of achieving the performance target by the end of the year; includes recommendations for action</li><li>• 'Red' – indicates that the performance target is assessed as unachievable or inappropriate.</li></ul> |
| Issues for further scrutiny / ongoing scrutiny work | <u>NEETS (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training)</u> : the <b>5 March 2012</b> committee expressed concern about national and local NEETS trends and wishes to review the current strategies being undertaken to address NEETS.   |

| <b>Scrutiny issue</b>                                | <b>Objectives and summary</b>   | <b>People providing evidence</b>  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>11 June 2012</b>                                  |   |   |
| Scrutiny review of school exclusions in East Sussex  | The review report will address a range of fundamental issues, such as why some schools in East Sussex appear to resort to exclusions more readily than elsewhere in the country.  | Review Board Members:<br>Councillors Ensor and Kenward  |
| Academies conversion update                          | To consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Latest position on academies conversion</li> <li>Implications for services provided by the local authority</li> <li>Budget implications</li> </ul>  | Hazel Cunningham,<br>Assistant Director, Children's Services, Resources                                     |
| THRIVE Transformation programme                      | Progress on the implementation of the Children's Services social care transformation programme.   | Penny Gaunt, Deputy Director of Children's Services.<br>Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Children and Families |
|  |   |   |
| <b>10 September 2012</b>                             |   |   |
| 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  |
| Children's Centres strategy*                         | Alongside the Service Review of Children's Centres currently underway, to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance information</li> <li>How successful children's centres are in reaching 'hard to reach' families and those most in need of their services</li> <li>Whether the balance of services offered is right and whether children's centres could do more to ensure all children are fully prepared for entry into reception classes.</li> <li>The impact of merging some children's centres.</li> </ul> | Debbie Adams, Children's Centres Strategy Manager   |
| Selling services to schools                          | How we are developing our approach towards selling services to schools to ensure that we discharge our responsibilities towards supporting vulnerable pupils and help to maximise educational and other outcomes for children in East Sussex.   | Louise Carter, Assistant Director, Planning and Performance Management, Children's Services                 |
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| <b>Scrutiny issue</b>   | <b>Objectives and summary</b>   | <b>People providing evidence</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>12 November 2012</b>   |   |   |
| Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report          | Highlights the work of the Local Safeguarding Board during the last year and its business plan for 2012/13. Opportunity for questions about the work of the Board, how key issues have been addressed and the Board's future work programme.  | Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance; Cathie Pattison, Independent Board Chairman; Lead Member (Children & Families) |
| Safeguarding children – Member and senior management monitoring | The Lead Member (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 any concerns and to ensure that necessary improvements are introduced.  | Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance; Lead Member (Children & Families)  |
| Targeted Youth Services*  | <p>The Committee (<b>19 September 2011</b> and 5 March 2012) requested progress updates to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• performance information; in particular how the service would measure improvements to young people's physical and mental wellbeing</li> <li>• how the service is working in each of the geographical areas;</li> <li>• NEETS (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training)</li> <li>• Raising the participation age strategy (RPA)</li> <li>• How the service reaches young people who are 'not in the system' but who would benefit from the TYS service.</li> </ul> | Brian Hughes, Acting Head of Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service.  |
|   |   |   |
| <b>11 March 2013</b>  |   |   |
| Reconciling policy performance and Resources (RPPR)             | To review and suggest improvements to RPPR in the light of the Committee's work; and, to consider the extent to which the Committee's recommendations have been accepted.   | Scrutiny  |
| Scrutiny review of school exclusions in East Sussex             | The six-month monitoring report of the scrutiny review's recommendations. The report will address a range of issues, such as why some schools in East Sussex appear to resort to exclusions more readily than elsewhere in the country.   | Review Board Members: Councillors Ensor and Kenward   |
|   |   |   |

| Scrutiny issue | Objectives and summary | People providing evidence |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
|                |                        |                           |

| Background / information reports provided to the Committee           |   | Date         |
|--|---|--------------|
| <b>Action research into the evolving role of the local authority</b> | <p><i>The importance of teaching</i> White Paper (November 2010) outlined the roles local authorities are to play as “<i>champions of children and parents in a more autonomous school system</i>” ... “<i>using their democratic mandate to challenge every school to do the best for their population</i>” ...</p> <p>This document: discusses recent research showing how local authority roles have changed; assesses the challenges faced by local authorities; and points to some emerging good practice.</p> | April 2012   |
| <b>Transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care</b>      | <p>An outline of how the new service will work in providing a smooth transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care – <i>from a users' perspective</i>. (See Children's Services Scrutiny Committee minutes <b>19 September 2011</b>).</p>  | TBA          |
| <b>School surpluses and deficits</b>                                 | <p>School balances as at 31 March 2011 and action being taken to address any excessive surpluses.</p>   | October 2011 |
| <b>Annual complaints report 2010-11</b>                              | <p>Annual Children's Services Complaints Procedure Report for 2010/11.</p>  | January 2011 |

\* Provisional date for these items

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