

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Future work at a glance

Date: September 2012

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

Standing items	Objectives and summary
Council's Forward Plan	An opportunity to consider relevant issues from the County Council's Forward Plan . Committee Members can request a briefing or highlight an item for further scrutiny.
Performance Monitoring	<p>The Committee (14 June 2011) 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"> • '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.
Issues for further scrutiny / ongoing scrutiny work	

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
10 September 2012		
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
Selling services to schools	An opportunity to explore further developments in our approach towards selling services to schools with a focus on supporting vulnerable pupils through the Education Psychology and Behaviour Support services.	Louise Carter, Assistant Director, Planning and Performance Management, Children's Services; Fiona Wright Assistant Director (Schools, Youth and Inclusion Support)
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. This will provide an 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)

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
12 November 2012		
Local authority powers, responsibilities and roles in relation to schools.	Report and recommendations of the Joint Board (with Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee) held on 16 July 2012.	Scrutiny / Hazel Cunningham, Assistant Director, Resources
Securing educational excellence in East Sussex: tackling under-performance	This will provide an opportunity to begin to scrutinise some of the practical implications of the strategy outlined in the "Proposition for Partnership – securing educational excellence in East Sussex" report to Cabinet (24 July 2012).	Fiona Wright Assistant Director (Schools, Youth and Inclusion Support)
Children's Centres strategy*	<p>Alongside the Service Review of Children's Centres currently underway, to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance information • How successful children's centres are in reaching 'hard to reach' families and those most in need of their services • 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. • The impact of merging some children's centres. <p>(Originally considered at the committee meeting of 5 March 2012)</p>	Debbie Adams, Children's Centres Strategy Manager
Targeted Youth Services*	<p>The Committee (19 September 2011 and 5 March 2012) requested progress updates to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • performance information; in particular how the service would measure improvements to young people's physical and mental wellbeing • how the service is working in each of the geographical areas; • NEETS (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) • Raising the participation age strategy (RPA) • How the service reaches young people who are 'not in the system' but who would benefit from the TYS service. 	Brian Hughes, Acting Head of Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service.

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
THRIVE Transformation programme*	Progress on the implementation of the Children's Services social care transformation programme. (First considered at the committees on 11 June 2012 .)	Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Children and Families
11 March 2013		
Scrutiny review of school exclusions in East Sussex	The six-month monitoring report of the scrutiny review which addressed some fundamental questions about school exclusions, such as why some schools in East Sussex appear to resort to exclusions more readily than elsewhere in the country.	Review Board Members: Councillors Kenward (Chairman) and Ensor
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
10 June 2013		
Background / information reports provided to the Committee		
Transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care	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 19 September 2011).	TBA
Children's Services statutory complaints report 2011-12	This includes information about compliments and other representations for the period April 2011 – March 2012.	August 2012
Action research into the evolving role of the local authority	<i>The importance of teaching White Paper (November 2010) outlined the roles local authorities are to play as "champions of children and parents in a more autonomous school system" ... "using their democratic mandate to challenge every school to do the best for their population" ...</i>	April 2012

Background / information reports provided to the Committee		Date
	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.	
School surpluses and deficits	School balances as at 31 March 2011 and action being taken to address any excessive surpluses.	October 2011

<p>* Provisional items</p> <p>Enquiries: Scrutiny Team Author: Paul Dean, Scrutiny Manager Telephone: 01273 481751 Email: paul.dean@eastsussex.gov.uk Website: http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetings/scrchildren.htm</p> <p>Download this document: http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetings/downloadchildrens.htm</p> <p>Find scrutiny agendas and minutes on the web: http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetings/scrchildren.htm</p> <p>Accessibility help Zoom in or out by holding down the Control key and turning the mouse wheel. CTRL and click on the table of contents to navigate / Press CTRL and Home key to return to the top of the document Press Alt-left arrow to return to your previous location.</p>	Version: 21
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