

Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee

Future work at a glance

Date: November 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	<p><u>Transition from Children’s Services to Adult Social Care</u>: First discussed at Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee on 19 September 2011.</p> <p>A joint Review Board is to be established to consider how the service is working to provide a smooth transition from Children’s Services to Adult Social Care, and other changes that affect this service.</p>

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
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)	<p>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.</p> <p>The Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources Board will meet in January 2013 and report its findings to the March committee.</p>	Scrutiny
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.
Safeguarding children: Member and senior management involvement	The scrutiny committee (10 September 2012) considered the process of quality assurance and monitoring systems for a variety of children's services, in particular the role of the Lead Member and senior managers in monitoring visits and audits. This report will highlight the key outcomes from Lead Member visits taking account of the request of the committee's request to report on the most critical findings.	Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguarding

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
10 June 2013		
9 September 2013		
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
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report	Highlights the work of the Local Safeguarding Board during the last year and its business plan for 2013/14. 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; 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)
November 2013		

Background / information reports available to the Committee		Date available
Skills and Employability Capital Project	This briefing describes a project that is about to invest in the 'learning and skills infrastructure of East Sussex' with the aim of supporting the development of a highly skilled workforce and provide access to more sustainable employment.	October 2012 (available)
Local authority powers, responsibilities and roles in relation to schools.	Report and recommendations of a joint scrutiny board (with Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee) held on 16 July 2012. The report is available on the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee agenda (6 November 2012)	Oct 2012 (available)
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 (available)
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> This document: discusses recent research showing how local authority roles have changed; it assesses the challenges and highlights good practice.	April 2012 (available)

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