

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN SUB-COMMITTEE

23RD SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	<i>COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 As this is the first meeting of the newly created Children Sub-Committee, this report proposes that members develop a work programme for the remainder of the 2015/16 municipal year.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The terms of reference for the Children Sub-Committee are detailed in an earlier report on this agenda. It is suggested that the Children Sub-Committee develops an annual work programme in order to prioritise the topics which members may want to scrutinise within the remit of the Sub-Committee. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council and be informed by service priorities and performance, risk management information and public or service user feedback.

2.2 In determining items for the scrutiny work programme, good practice recommends the following criteria could be applied:

- Public Interest – topics should resonate with the local community
- Impact – there should be clear objectives and outcomes that make the work worthwhile
- Council Performance – the focus should be on improving performance
- Keeping in Context – should ensure best use of time and resources

3.0 THE WORK PROGRAMME

3.1 The work programme could be made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This provides the Sub-Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

3.2 Prior to this first meeting of the Sub-Committee, the Chair, Vice Chair and Spokespersons proposed the following items for inclusion on the agenda for this evening's meeting:

- 'Giving Wirral children the best start in life'
- School standards report including impact on 'narrowing the gap'
- Children social care reorganisation

3.3 A further item, which has yet to be scheduled, was also proposed for a future meeting:

- Exception reports highlighting positive and negative aspects arising from school Ofsted inspection reports

3.4 In addition, the last meeting of the Attainment Sub-Committee, held on 4th March 2015, agreed the following resolution:

The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and support during the year and noted the suggestions of the Director of Children's Services in respect of arranging visits to schools with the widest gap in attainment as well as schools which had been more successful in narrowing the gap between students from disadvantaged backgrounds and others to be added to the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year.

3.5 Members are requested to propose any further items within the remit of the Sub-Committee for inclusion on the work programme.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members are requested to develop a work programme for the Children Sub-Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year.

REPORT AUTHOR: Alan Veitch
Scrutiny Support
0151 691 8564
email: alanveitch@wirral.gov.uk