

**Children Sub Committee
Wednesday, 8th March 2017**

REPORT TITLE:	Children Sub Committee – work programme update
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee

REPORT SUMMARY

This report updates members on progress towards delivering the work programme for the Children Sub Committee as agreed for the 2016/17 municipal year. The report also takes account of discussions relating to scrutiny of the implementation of the Ofsted improvement plan. Clearly the work programme of the Sub Committee should supplement, not duplicate, the work programme of the parent committee, the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. Members are requested to approve the proposed Children Sub Committee work programme for 2016/17, making any required amendments, including suggestions for additional items and changed priorities.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Children Sub Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME

Existing items on the work programme, agreed at the previous meeting of the Sub Committee on 8th February are:

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Merseyside Police – Role in safeguarding procedures	Verbal report	To be agreed	
Outcomes of the audit of case files in children’s social care	Report	To be agreed	
Governance arrangements and the role of scrutiny in safeguarding	Report	To be agreed	
Devolution of the Further education budget and the apprenticeship framework	Report	To be agreed	
Quality Assurance process of care plans	Report	To be agreed	

Further items proposed at the workshop held on 7th November 2016 to discuss the implementation of the Ofsted improvement plan included:

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Monitoring the key milestones of the Improvement Plan	Report	Standing item	
Reviewing the performance data tracker	Report	Standing item	
Early intervention / prevention, including the application of thresholds, partnership arrangements and the operation of MASH	Possible task & finish group	To be agreed	
The management of care plans and related performance; leaving care and IROs	Possible task & finish group	To be agreed	
Competent skilled workforce and the quality of social work practice	Possible task & finish group	To be agreed	
Scrutiny's place in long-term governance arrangements	To be agreed	To be agreed	
Follow-up to the original Looked after children scrutiny review (August 2013)	To be agreed	To be agreed	
Follow-up to the previous Safeguarding scrutiny review (December 2015)	To be agreed	To be agreed	

Prioritisation of these items plus the addition of any further items would assist in the planning and delivery of the work programme. It is now proposed that a further workshop will be held, hopefully during March 2017, to help members define an effective work programme for the Children Sub Committee, particularly in its role while the Improvement Board is in place.

In order to manage the work programme more effectively, it has been agreed that some meetings will be dedicated to scrutiny of Ofsted improvement-related issues while other meetings will focus on other issues within the remit of the Sub Committee. It is proposed that, for the remainder of the municipal year, meetings will be arranged as follows:

Meeting date	Agenda Items
8 th March	Other issues
5 th April	Ofsted improvement-related scrutiny

3.2 RELEVANT ITEMS FROM THE PEOPLE OSC WORK PROGRAMME

The People OSC has confirmed that the following items should form part of the work programme of the main committee:

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Safeguarding governance - Scrutiny's relationship with the LSCB and other safeguarding bodies	Workshop	To be agreed	
Looked after children - Follow-up review	Evidence Day(s)	Deferred until post-Ofsted planning for scrutiny is complete	Liz Davenport
Children ready for school	Task & finish group	Deferred	Deborah Gornik

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES

None