

## Draft Scope Document

**Review Title:** Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review  
**Responsible Committee:** Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

1. Contact Information:	
<b>Panel Members:</b>  The Chair and members of the task & finish group will be agreed at the commencement of the new municipal year  Councillors present at the scoping session: Alan Brighthouse David Burgess-Joyce Angela Davies Chris Meaden Walter Smith	<b>Key Officers:</b>  Departmental officers - to be agreed  Officers present at the scoping session: Sheila Murphy (Interim Social Care Improvement Lead) Janet Simon (Children's Social Care) Julia Hassall (Director of Children's Services) Alan Veitch (Scrutiny Officer) Patrick Torpey (Scrutiny Officer)
2. Review Aims:	
<b>Wirral Plan Pledge/s:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Vulnerable children reach their full potential</li></ul> <b>Review Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To review the quality and effectiveness of Statutory Care Plans (scope will include children looked after, children with care orders and children with special guardianship orders).</li><li>To measure the extent to which Statutory Care Plans:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Are individualized</li><li>Have stretching targets</li><li>Are outcome and goal focused</li><li>Are regularly reviewed and up to date</li><li>Are shared with young people and reflect their wishes and feelings</li></ul></li></ul> <b>Scrutiny Outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members will receive assurance about the quality and effectiveness of the Statutory Care Plan process.</li><li>Identify areas for service improvement and make recommendations to this effect.</li><li>Ensure service user feedback is incorporated within the outcomes of the review.</li></ul>	
3. Review Plan	
<b>Review Approach: Workshop, Evidence Day, Task and Finish?</b> The Task & Finish Group will undertake the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Meetings with relevant Council Officers (see below)</li><li>Meetings with external stakeholders (see below)</li><li>The Panel will invite Young Inspectors from the Children and Young People's Reference Group to gather views and opinions of a sample of looked after children.</li></ul> <b>Review Duration:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It is planned to complete the review within three months.</li></ul> <b>Scheduled Committee Report Date:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Children and Families O&amp;S Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li></ul>	

**Scheduled Cabinet Report Date:**

- Cabinet, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**4. Sources of Evidence:****Key Witnesses:****Wirral Council Staff:**

- Social Workers (ranging in experience)
- Team Managers
- Head of Quality, Performance and Improvement, CYPD (Carly Brown)
- Independent Reviewing Officers

**External Stakeholders:**

- Head Teachers representative
- Safeguarding lead with the Clinical Commissioning Group (Helen Healey)

**Service Users**

- Foster Parents
- Children in Care

**Supporting Papers / Documentation:****Documents will include:**

- Young Persons Guide to Care Planning
- Staff training documents – including “What Makes A Good Social Worker” document being developed by Wirral Children in Care Council
- Sample of anonymised care plans
- An evidence pack including relevant learning from case file audits, data and statistics on foster care placements / school changes / social worker changes.

**Involvement of service users / public:**

- The views of service users, in this case a sample of looked after children will be captured through interviews by Young Inspectors from the Children and Young People's Reference Group.

**5. Key Communications:****Cabinet Member:**

- The scope document will be shared with the relevant portfolio holder at the start of the review (Portfolio folder for Children's Services, Cllr Bernie Mooney).
- The draft report will also be discussed in advance of being finalised by the task & finish group, before being presented to the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee for approval.

**Press Office:**

- The scope document will be sent to the press office on approval.
- The final report will be referred to the press office for information.