

**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Tuesday, 25 September 2018**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Children and Families Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Update</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in co-operation with the three other Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. Some initial ideas for a work programme are attached as an appendix to this report, based on issues which were of interest to members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the municipal year 2018/19.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to:

- Note the report
- Approve the proposed Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19, making any required amendments.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

To ensure members of the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny 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 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN**

The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- The Wirral Plan pledges
- The Council's transformation programme
- The Council's Forward Plan
- Service performance information
- Risk management information
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from Cabinet / Council

The specific Wirral Plan pledges and associated strategies of particular relevance to the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

<b>Pledge</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Children are Ready For School	<a href="https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf">https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf</a>
Young People are ready for Work and Adulthood	<a href="https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf">https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf</a>
Vulnerable Children Reach Their Full Potential	<a href="https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf">https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf</a>
Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence	<a href="https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Domestic%20Abuse%20Strategy.pdf">https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Domestic%20Abuse%20Strategy.pdf</a>

### 3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

Good practice suggests that, in order to maximise the impact of scrutiny, it is necessary to prioritise proposed topics within the work programme. Members may find the following criteria helpful in providing a guideline towards ensuring that the most significant topics are prioritised:

Principles for Prioritisation	
Wirral Plan	Does the topic have a direct link with one of the 2020 pledges?
	Will the review lead to improved outcomes for Wirral residents?
Public Interest	Does the topic have particular importance for Wirral Residents?
Transformation	Will the review support the transformation of the Council?
Financial Significance	Is the subject matter an area of significant spend or potential saving?
	Will the review support the Council in achieving its savings targets?
Timeliness / Effectiveness	Is this the most appropriate time for this topic to be scrutinised?
	Will the review be a good use of Council resources?

By assessing prospective topics using these criteria, the Committee can prioritise an effective work programme that ensures relevance and the highest potential to enhance outcomes for residents.

### 3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that the work programme will be delivered through a combination of:

- Scrutiny reviews undertaken by task & finish groups
- Evidence days and workshops
- Committee reports provided by officers
- Standing committee agenda items, for example, performance monitoring and financial monitoring
- Spotlight sessions
- Standing panels (where deemed necessary)

As some of the selected topics may well cut across the Wirral Plan themes, it is anticipated that some of the scrutiny topics may be of interest to members of more than one committee. In these circumstances, opportunities for members of more than one committee to work jointly on an item of scrutiny work will be explored.

Regular work programme update reports will provide the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

### 3.4 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

#### Work Planning Workshop

An informal work planning workshop for members took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018. This was planned as an opportunity to meet with the Corporate Director for Children services, Paul Boyce and for members to receive an update on the changes made since the Ofsted report in 2016. Members also received an overview of the new management structure and an informal discussion took place to suggest new items for the work programme.

#### Reality Check Visit to Cheshire Lines

A reality check visit for members took place on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The purpose of the visit was to visit the new Childrens' services hub in Cheshire Lines and gave members the opportunity to see the effects that the Co-Location was having on staff and services. Members were also given the opportunity to view and receive a demonstration of the Agile Working Equipment. A detailed report of this visit is available as a separate agenda item.

#### Mental Health Commissioning Workshop

A joint workshop for members of both the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee took place on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018, with a repeat session being held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

The purpose of the workshop was to involve members in the proposed 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies' (IAPT) re-tender, and the future overall mental health procurement exercise. The sessions proved to be very insightful and helped both Members and commissioners to gain a deeper understanding of the current challenges and improvements needed in the service. There were a number of areas where attending Members were able to provide comments and suggestions to Wirral Health and Care Commissioning, which helped shape the look of the new service specification. An overview of the workshop is attached as **Appendix 2** to this report

#### Clinical Senate Workshop

Clinical Senates are forums of multi-disciplinary clinical leadership, which work with patients and the Public to provide independent advice on issues that will transform healthcare, better integrate services and ensure future Clinical configuration of services based on the considered views of local Clinicians and the best interest of patients.

A joint workshop for members of both the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee took place on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018, so that Members were able to gain an understanding of the Clinical Senate and how it may benefit future work programme items.

A detailed overview of the workshop, and how the Clinical Senate may assist members in future decision making, is attached as **Appendix 3** to this report.

### Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review

This Task & Finish was initiated to review the quality and effectiveness of Statutory Care Plans and Special Guardianship Orders.

The First evidence sessions took place in October and December 2017, and it had been agreed that this would be continued in this Municipal Year.

A meeting concluded on 1<sup>st</sup> August reconfirmed the scope and plans. It was agreed that members would conduct a more in-depth review than previously advised. A plan to look at individual care plans and conduct one to one interviews has been approved and the first session will take place in September 2018.

## **3.5 Forthcoming Activities**

### Scrutiny of Risk

In the previous municipal year, a number of Members highlighted the need for scrutiny to consider risk as part of the scrutiny work programme. To develop Members' understanding of risk and risk management, a 'Risk and Scrutiny' workshop will be delivered for all Overview & Scrutiny Members in October 2018. Proposals for how scrutiny considers risk as part of the scrutiny work programme can then be developed through Member feedback.

### Mental Health Workshop – Children

At the Mental Health Commissioning Workshop held in July, it was proposed that the Clinical Lead would hold a further workshop for members of Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee. It was suggested that members would like to look further at Mental Health Provision for children in Wirral, specifically at 'future in mind'. A date has yet to be confirmed for this, but it will be scheduled soon.

## **3.6 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

In line with the remit of the Committee and the principles for prioritisation, as described above, Members are requested to suggest possible topics for inclusion in the work programme. Committee Members should also consider how best to further develop the work programme in advance of the next scheduled Committee meeting in November. This could be achieved by Committee providing delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Spokespersons to provide further detailed input to the work programme development.

## **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**

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

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**APPENDICES:**

**Appendix 1:** Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

**Appendix 2:** Mental Health Commissioning Workshop Report

**Appendix 3:** Clinical Senate Workshop Report

**REFERENCE MATERIAL - SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date