

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 13th November 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Update
REPORT OF:	Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher

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.

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. A work programme is 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 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

- 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:

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

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

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 on 1st 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 November 2018.

Scrutiny of Risk

In the previous municipal year, a number of Members highlighted the need to consider risk as part of the scrutiny work programme. To develop Members' understanding of risk and risk management, a 'Risk and Scrutiny' workshop was delivered to 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

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. This was also held in October 2018. The workshop gave members an in-depth look at Mental Health Provision for children in Wirral, specifically at 'Future in Mind'.

A detailed report is included in Appendix 1 to this report

3.5 FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Urgent Care Special Meeting

A special meeting between the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Adults and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to discuss to discuss Wirral CCG's urgent care consultation, and proposed options. This Special Meeting is scheduled for 12th November

Reality Check Visits

A further programme of Reality Check Visits is due to commence prior to the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January. These visits will take place approximately every 8 weeks and give members an opportunity to directly engage with frontline staff. Findings from these visits are then presented at each committee so that members can consider any recommendation.

Budget Scrutiny

As part of the Committees work programme for the year, it was agreed that a workshop for Members of the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be held in early December to scrutinise the savings options, and a report of the outcomes will be presented to the Committee in January 2019. Committee will then agree the workshop report with any recommendations for Cabinet as part of the decision making process. Members will be notified of the arrangements in due course.

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 January. 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:

'Future in Mind' Workshop Report

Appendix 2:

Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

REFERENCE MATERIAL - SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date