

**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

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

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The Children 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, and the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

The report provides an update regarding progress made since the last Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The current work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, workshops, standing items and requested officer reports. This update report provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The current work programme for the Committee is attached as an appendix to this report.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the updated Children & 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 and 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 UPDATE ON CURRENT SCRUTINY ACTIVITY**

Since the Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, activity has taken place relating to the following:

##### Joint workshop – Pooled Funds Arrangements

A workshop was convened between the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held in January 2019. The workshop was convened to allow Members to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on proposals regarding the section 75 funding arrangements for the period of April 2019 to March 2020. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 2.

##### Future Multi -Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Workshop

Further to the future multi-agency safeguarding arrangements report presented to Committee in November 2018, members requested a workshop session be held to discuss the future arrangements. A workshop was held in January 2019, and a full report presented to committee as a separate agenda item.

##### Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review

This Task & Finish was initiated to review the quality and effectiveness of Statutory Care Plans. The first evidence sessions took place late in 2017, and it was agreed that it would be continued into this municipal year. Further evidence sessions took place in September and December 2018 and a meeting was organised between Members and the Children in Care Council in January 2019. Further sessions are being planned for early 2019.

#### **3.2 FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES**

##### Reality Check Visits

Further reality check visits will take place in the upcoming municipal year, to give members to opportunity to visit service areas and speak to frontline staff.

If members have any suggestions for visits please refer them to the Chair, Vice Chair and party spokespersons.

### **3.3 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 Party 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 and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

**Appendix 2:** Pooled Funds Workshop Report

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

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>