

**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Wednesday, 3 July 2019**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>REALITY CHECK VISIT TO MERSEYSIDE POLICE – FEEDBACK REPORT</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE (SCRUTINY TEAM MANAGER) BUSINESS SERVICES</b>

**Report Summary**

Committee members have previously agreed the principle of undertaking a series of Reality Check visits by small groups of members to enable those members to engage directly with frontline staff. This report provides feedback from a visit to Merseyside Police on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Recommendation/s**

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the report.
- 2) Considers any points to be learned prior to the next of the Reality Check visits.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

The reality visit and subsequent recommendations will enable Committee members to complete part of the Committee's work programme.

### **2.0 Other Options Considered**

Not Applicable

### **3.0 Background Information**

#### **Principles of Reality Check visits**

Key to the success of scrutiny is the ability of members to check evidence from a variety of sources. While members routinely receive reports from senior management and have access to performance monitoring reports, it is suggested that greater access to frontline staff and service users would enable scrutiny members to triangulate evidence with other sources and would give members greater confidence in the outcomes of their scrutiny work. It was, therefore, agreed at the meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee to establish a programme of Reality Check Visits through which scrutiny members could engage independently and directly with frontline staff.

Key operating principles for the visits include:

- A programme of visits will be scheduled and will form part of the Committee's work programme. A visit will normally take place approximately every eight weeks. Visits will be set or amended taking into account the programme of externally set scrutiny by Ofsted and the Department of Education.
- There will be no direct relationship between each visit. Therefore, Members may volunteer to participate in any particular visit.
- Prior to each visit, a short briefing note will be prepared to inform members of the function of the service area, background information and any issues directly relevant to the Ofsted report.
- Each visit will comprise a maximum of six members supported by a scrutiny officer. A visit will usually take a maximum of 2 hours.
- The visits will give Members the opportunity to talk directly to staff so they can understand their perspective of the service. Members will be able to ask questions directly, for example, on caseloads, support offered to staff, auditing of cases and the outcomes for children and families.
- The findings from each visit will be reported to the next meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Resource Implications: ICT, Staffing and Assets**

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

#### **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.

**Report Author:**           **Anna Perrett**  
Scrutiny Officer  
0151 691 8564  
email: [annaperret@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:annaperret@wirral.gov.uk)

#### **Appendices:**

##### **1. Reality Check Visit to Merseyside Police - Feedback Report**

#### **Background Papers**

#### **Subject History (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
N/A	