

REPORT TITLE	Reality Check Visit – Family Matters
REPORT OF	Head of Intelligence – Statutory Scrutiny Officer Business Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the outcomes of a Reality Check Visit to Family Matters held on the 22nd July 2019. The Reality Check Visit was commissioned as part of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee's agreed work programme for the municipal year.

Members of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the contents of the report and consider any recommendations arising from it.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee:

Note the contents of the report and agree any recommendations arising from the Reality Check Visit

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

For the Committee to endorse the work of the scrutiny workshop and to consider any recommendations moving forward.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1** 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:
- 3.2** 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.
- 3.3** There will be no direct relationship between each visit. Therefore, Members may volunteer to participate in any particular visit.
- 3.4** 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.
- 3.5** Each visit will comprise a maximum of six members supported by a scrutiny officer. A visit will usually take a maximum of 2 hours.

3.6 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.

3.7 The findings from each visit will be reported to the next meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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: Reality Check – feedback report

Background Papers

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date