

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

8TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT:	<i>COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on the current position regarding the Committee's work programme. Some new suggestions toward managing the extensive list of work programme items are also proposed. Consideration is given to the need for flexibility in the work programme, particularly in terms of scrutinising options arising from the Future Council Programme in September.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee is responsible for proposing the Committee's work programme for the year. It is suggested that the work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council and should be informed by:

- Service Performance information
- Risk management information
- Service priorities including any planned service changes
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from the Executive

2.2 In determining items for the Scrutiny Work Programme, good practice recommends the following criteria should be applied:

- Public Interest – topics should resonate with the local community
- Impact – there should be clear objectives and outcomes that make the work worthwhile
- Council Performance – the focus should be on improving performance
- Keeping in Context – should ensure best use of time and resources

3.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS - UPDATE

3.1 Care Homes Scrutiny Review

A review of 'Quality Assurance and Standards in Care Homes' has been undertaken by a panel of members, who assessed how the quality of care homes in Wirral is currently monitored. At the previous meeting of this Committee, held on 8th April 2014, the report was approved and referred to Cabinet. It envisaged that the report will be included on the Cabinet agenda at its meeting on 7th July.

3.2 Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Review

This Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillors Moira McLaughlin (Chair), Mike Hornby, Cherry Povall, Denise Roberts, Jean Stapleton. Two meetings were held in March to determine the scope for the review and receive an officer presentation regarding safeguarding processes. Due to the election period, it has not been possible to make any further progress with this Review. However, evidence-gathering work is due to re-commence shortly.

4.0 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – FUTURE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The updated work programme for this Committee, as at the end of the previous municipal year (2013/14) is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.2 All incomplete items have been transferred onto the 2014/15 work programme document, which is shown as Appendix 2. It will be necessary for members to further prioritise these outstanding items and determine how best to deal with each. One option is for the Group Spokespersons to undertake this work prior to the next meeting of the Committee in September.
- 4.3 At the meeting held on 28th January 2014, members of this Committee resolved that a review regarding domestic violence will “now be undertaken at a later date”. At a recent meeting of Group Spokespersons, it was agreed to propose that the domestic violence scrutiny review should now commence as soon as possible.
- 4.4 Members will be aware of the Future Council programme and a separate report is available elsewhere on this agenda. However, in planning the work programme of this Committee, members need to retain sufficient capacity to scrutinise options emerging from the Future Council process, initially during September and October.
- 4.5 It is currently not proposed to commence any further in-depth reviews until those reviews described above are complete.

5.0 PROPOSED CHANGES TO WORK PLANNING FOR THE COMMITTEE

- 5.1 It has been recognised by Members that the remit of this Committee is extensive. This has resulted in some meeting agendas in the past being lengthy. There is also concern among Members that some issues which should be scrutinised in more depth may be overlooked. Therefore, it is proposed to introduce, on a trial basis, two new ways of working.
- 5.2 During the previous municipal year, Committee Members benefited from three sessions led by health partners who described the services provided by their organisation and the key challenges faced. It is therefore proposed to introduce up to six sessions during the municipal year for members to meet in an informal setting. These sessions, titled Spotlight sessions, will enable a topic to be explored in greater detail than time would allow during a formal Committee meeting. However, a short summary of the session would be provided to the next available Policy & Performance Committee meeting allowing any formal discussion and resolutions to be agreed. Initial topics which may be suitable for this new approach include:
 - An overview of the NHS architecture

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- An update of the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014
- Proposals for the implementation of the Care Act 2014

5.3 In order to reduce the number of agenda items at meetings, it is proposed that some reports will be distributed to Committee Members outside the committee schedule. These reports will typically be those which are for noting. However, once Members have read the reports, they will have the opportunity to request that the Chair includes an item on the next meeting agenda if appropriate. In order to maintain public transparency, it is also proposed that, all reports dealt with in this way, will be highlighted in this report (the Work Programme update) in the future.

6.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The outstanding recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews for this committee relate to the following Reviews completed in the previous municipal year:
- Outcomes for Looked After Children
 - Review of Co-optees
 - Implications of the Francis Report for Wirral
 - Quality Assurance and Standards in Care Homes

Updates regarding the progress with implementing those recommendations will be made available in due course.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the report and the appendices, making any necessary amendments to the work programme for 2014/15.
- 7.2 Committee is requested to authorise Group Spokespersons to develop the work programme further and undertake the prioritisation work outlined in paragraph 4.2.
- 7.3 Committee is requested to approve the proposed changes to improve the effectiveness of the work of the Committee, as outlined in paragraph 5. The effectiveness of the changes will be reviewed by this Committee in February 2015.

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