

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

9TH SEPTEMBER 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 progress towards delivering the work programme for the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council and be informed by service priorities and performance, risk management information, public or service user feedback and referrals from Cabinet or Council.

2.2 The work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

3.0 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – RECENT UPDATES

3.1 An initial work programme for the new municipal year, largely based on outstanding items from the previous year, was presented to the meeting of this Committee held on 8th July 2014. Committee agreed that “the Chair and Vice-Chair and Group Spokespersons develop the work programme further and undertake the prioritisation work outlined within the report”. Subsequently, a meeting has taken place and the resulting draft work programme for this Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

3.2 Amendments to the work programme recommended by the meeting of the Chair, Vice Chair and Spokespersons include:

Scheduled Reviews – In-depth reviews carried out during the municipal year will include:

- Safeguarding Children (Already started)
- Future Council (Options to be reviewed in detail during September and October 2014)
- Domestic Violence (to commence as soon as practicable)
- Reducing hospital admission and dependency on nursing and residential homes for older people (to commence early in 2015 – once the Safeguarding Children review is complete)

The following previously suggested topics for review will NOT be carried forward at this time:

- The detrimental effects of alcohol and how agencies can work collaboratively to reduce them
- Health Inequalities
- Services for BME Communities

Reports requested to Committee – A number of reports have been scheduled for specific Committee meetings as detailed on the work programme. Other reports have been identified as suitable for being distributed to Members outside the Committee schedule (as agreed in principle at the Committee meeting held on 8th July).

4.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS - UPDATE

4.1 Care Homes Scrutiny Review

At their meeting of this Committee held on 8th April 2014, members approved the report of the Care Homes Scrutiny Panel. Subsequently, the report was referred to the Cabinet meeting held on 7th July 2014. The following Minute was agreed by Cabinet:

A report by the Chair of the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee, provided background information on the report of the Quality Assurance and Standards of Care Homes in Wirral Scrutiny Review (appended to it), which had been approved by the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee and referred to Cabinet for further consideration.

Councillor Wendy Clements, Chair of the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee and Councillor Moira McLaughlin, Panel Member, were in attendance at the meeting and proceeded to introduce the very detailed report drawing attention to its recommendations.

Councillor Chris Jones, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health thanked the Chair and those members that had taken part in the review and indicated that this was a valuable report with great importance and welcomed further meetings with the Director and Department of Adult Social Services to discuss the recommendations detailed within the report.

Councillor P Davies echoed the comments made by Councillor Chris Jones and asked that a copy of the actions being delivered be shared with the Cabinet at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the contents and recommendations of the Scrutiny Report, ‘Quality Assurance and Standards of Care Homes in Wirral’ be supported; and

(2) officers be requested to develop an Action Plan to implement the recommendations contained within the report.

4.2 Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Review

Evidence-gathering for this review is well underway. Sessions already held include a visit to the multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) at Moreton and a series of meetings with partners from Merseyside Police, probation, health, Catch-22, third sector partners and the Council’s Family Safety Unit. Future sessions will include meetings with schools and focus groups with front-line social workers. Sessions with children and families who have experience of the system are also being planned.

4.3 Future Council

An update on the proposed arrangements for the scrutiny of Future Council options is elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting. It is anticipated that this detailed scrutiny work will be carried out during September and October, reporting back to the meeting of this Committee due to be held on 3rd November 2014.

5.0 REPORTS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

- 5.1 At the previous meeting, Committee agreed, in principle, that in order to reduce the number of agenda items at meetings, some reports will be distributed to Committee Members outside the committee schedule. In order to maintain public transparency, it was also agreed that all reports dealt with in this way will be highlighted in this report.
- 5.2 Since the last Committee meeting, no reports have been distributed to members in this way.

6.0 SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS

- 6.1 At the previous meeting, Committee agreed, in principle, for members to hold Spotlight sessions, which, in an informal setting, will enable a topic to be explored in greater detail than time would allow during a formal Committee meeting.
- 6.2 The first session was held on 14th August 2014. The Director of Public Health led a discussion regarding the framework of the NHS, entitled 'Navigating the new NHS'. The major aim of the session was to enable members to gain a better understanding of the roles of the different NHS organisations, set in the Wirral context.
- 6.3 Subsequent sessions have been arranged as follows:
- Proposals for the implementation of the Care Act 2014 – Led by Graham Hodgkinson (15th October 2014)
 - An update of the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014 – Led by Julia Hassall (27th November 2014)
 - NHS & Social Care Integration plus Vision 2018 – Led by Graham Hodgkinson (Date to be confirmed in January 2014)

7.0 ATTAINMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

- 7.1 A schedule of meetings for the Attainment Sub-Committee for the municipal year has now been set (1st September, 10th December 2014 and 4th March 2015). Outcomes from those meetings will be reported to this Committee as appropriate.

8.0 HEALTH & CARE PERFORMANCE PANEL

- 8.1 It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Health & Care Performance Panel will be held in late September or October. It is proposed that progress on the delivery of the recommendations arising from the Francis Scrutiny Review will be included as part of the agenda.

9.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The outstanding recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews for this committee relate to the following Reviews completed in the previous municipal year. The Chair, Vice Chair and Spokespersons propose that they are monitored as follows:

- Outcomes for Looked After Children – A report is scheduled to this Committee in December 2014.
- Implications of the Francis Report for Wirral - referred to the Health and Care Performance Panel for initial consideration.
- Quality Assurance and Standards in Care Homes - referred to the Health and Care Performance Panel for initial consideration.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are requested to approve the updated Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee work programme for 2014/15 as shown in the appendix, making any necessary amendments.

REPORT AUTHOR: Alan Veitch
Scrutiny Support
0151 691 8564
email: alanveitch@wirral.gov.uk