

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee

30th June 2015

SUBJECT:	Children Sub-Committee
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	Clare Fish (Strategic Director of Families & Wellbeing)

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report enables members to approve the terms of reference and nominate the membership to the Children Sub-Committee (formerly known as the Attainment Sub-Committee) for the 2015/16 municipal year.

2.0 CHILDREN SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR

2.1 The Attainment Sub-Committee was established in December 2013 as a successor to the 0-19 Standards Sub-Committee. The remit of the Sub-Committee focussed largely, although not exclusively on educational attainment of young people. This meant that a significant proportion of the Sub-Committee's time was spent on scrutinising issues relating to educational achievement, performance of schools and their progress relating to narrowing the gap.

2.2 The Chair and Spokespersons of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee have recently reflected upon the progress made by the Sub-Committee since its introduction. The priorities of the Attainment Sub-Committee have been reviewed with officers. It is now proposed that the Sub-Committee should re-focus its priorities to ensure that the key outcomes for children, as detailed in the Departmental Plan (2015/16), are scrutinised effectively:

“Ensure that children are ready for school; young people are ready for work and adult life and that children and young people feel safe and are safe”.

“Transform our approach to Early years and Children's Centres delivery”.

“Implement and embed our new model of delivery for children's social care, with an emphasis on the child's journey”.

“Review and re-position the Council's relationship with schools to ensure priorities are delivered, including closing the attainment gap”.

- 2.3 In order to reflect those outcomes, it is proposed that the work priorities for the Sub-Committee will not only focus on educational outcomes, including those described in paragraph 2.1 above, but will also include broader issues for children such as foundation years, school readiness and children's social care. This will reflect the broader determinants of outcomes for young people. As a consequence, and to reflect this approach, it is proposed that the Attainment Sub-Committee be re-named as the Children Sub-Committee. The proposed terms of reference for the Sub-Committee are attached as an appendix to this report.
- 2.4 As with the Attainment Sub-Committee it is proposed that the Children Sub-Committee will be established on a politically proportionate basis. This will mean that the membership for the 2015/16 municipal year will be Labour 4; Conservative 2; Liberal Democrat 1. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee for the municipal year will be nominated at the first meeting of the Sub-Committee. Deputies can be nominated as detailed in the terms of reference.
- 2.5 The initial intention is that a minimum of three formal meetings of the Sub-Committee will be held during the municipal year, with meetings suggested in September, December and March. Additional meetings can be arranged if required.
- 2.6 Initial suggestions for topics for the work programme include:
- 'Giving Wirral children the best start in life' – an officer report prior to possible task and finish work.
 - Exception reports highlighting positive and negative aspects arising from school Ofsted inspection reports – regular officer reports.
 - Standards report regarding outcomes for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, GCSE and A Levels, including impact on 'narrowing the gap'. – officer report.
 - Children social care – progress report regarding implementation of the new delivery model.

Further topics for the work programme will be discussed by members at the first meeting of the Children Sub-Committee.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 N/A

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 N/A

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 N/A

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 N/A

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 It is expected that officer support for the Attainment Sub-Committee will be met from within existing resources.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 N/A

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?
(c) No because of another reason which is: The report is for information to Members and there are no direct equalities implications at this stage.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/A

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 N/A

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Committee approves the terms of reference for the Children Sub-Committee.

13.2 Committee is requested to make the appropriate nominations for members and deputies to the Children Sub-Committee.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 The recommendations will ensure that the previous work of the Attainment Sub-Committee can continue for the forthcoming municipal year, reinforced by a broader remit to enable the scrutiny of topics relating to the outcomes for young people.

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APPENDICES:

Terms of reference for the Children Sub-Committee