

**Children Sub Committee**  
**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Children Sub Committee – work programme update</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Chair of the Committee</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report explains the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. At the meeting of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC), held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the Children Sub Committee was re-established for the 2016/17 municipal year. The Sub Committee needs to define an annual work programme, which should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee. Clearly the work programme of the Sub Committee should supplement, not duplicate, the work programme of the parent committee, the People OSC.

This report describes the process to enable members to deliver and manage the work programme for the municipal year. This process provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The initial list of potential topics includes a number of items highlighted during the previous municipal year. This list can be supplemented by other items which members may want to propose.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

1. Members are requested to approve the proposed Children Sub Committee work programme for 2016/17, making any required amendments, including suggestions for additional items.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Children Sub Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

### 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 3.1 DEVELOPING A SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- The Wirral Plan pledges
- The Council's transformation programme
- The Council's Forward Plan
- Service performance information
- Risk management information
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from Cabinet / Council

To maximise impact, scrutiny should ensure that topics of significance are prioritised in the work programme. The Wirral Plan pledges and associated strategies of particular relevance to the Children Sub Committee are:

Pledge	Strategies
Children are ready for school	Wirral's Strategy for children, young people and families <a href="https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf">https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf</a>
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	

Members are requested to propose items for inclusion on the work programme for the municipal year. In order to assist this process, the following paragraphs show a list of items which formed part of the work programme for the previous municipal year but still remain relevant followed by a list of relevant items which are already included on the work programme of the parent committee.

### 3.2 RELEVANT ITEMS FROM THE CHILDREN SUB COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE PREVIOUS MUNICIPAL YEAR

The following items formed part of the work programme of the Children Sub Committee for the previous municipal year. Members may want to continue to include some of these items for the new year:

Item	Format	Context
School Standards report: Outcomes for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	Report	This report is provided on an annual basis and will be available at the September 2016 meeting.
School Standards report: Attainment at GCSE and A Level	Report	This report is provided on an annual basis.
Exception reports highlighting positive and negative aspects arising from school Ofsted inspection reports	Report	Historically, a summary of school Ofsted reports have been reported to the Children Sub-Committee (or previous committee).
School strategies to narrow the attainment gap	Member visits	It had been proposed that visits to a variety of schools would give members an overview of the strategies employed to narrow the attainment gap. (Subject to available capacity).
Devolution of the Further education budget and the apprenticeship framework	Report	Raised at the December 2015 meeting, it was proposed that this item be referred for inclusion in the 2016/17 work programme. (Subject to available capacity).
Children Social Care reorganisation – follow-up (arising from the Safeguarding scrutiny report)	Workshop / task & finish group	The Safeguarding Children Scrutiny report was completed in December 2015. Recommendation 16 of that report stated: <b>“Recommendation 16 – Social Care re-organisation: Follow-up investigation by members</b> The Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources is requested to enable scrutiny members to arrange a follow-up session / workshop to evaluate the effectiveness of the re-organisation once the new Specialist services social care teams are embedded. The review, which will include front-line staff and possibly parents and families, will also monitor the success of the plans to achieve improved retention of staff”.
Complaints report for Children’s Services	Report	This report is provided on an annual basis and is scheduled for the December 2016 meeting.
Special Guardianship Orders	Report	Further to a recommendation made in the Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Report, the Sub-Committee received a report on Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) in March 2016. The Director informed the meeting that further work would take place regarding the use of SGOs and a further report would be provided to the Sub Committee.

### **3.3 RELEVANT ITEMS FROM THE PEOPLE OSC WORK PROGRAMME**

The People OSC (8<sup>th</sup> September 2016) has agreed that the following items should form part of the work programme of the main committee:

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Looked after children - Follow-up review	Evidence Day(s)	Sept / Oct 2016	Liz Davenport
Children ready for school	Task & finish group	To be agreed	Deborah Gornik
Children Safeguarding Annual Report	Committee Report	28 Nov 2016	Simon Garner / Bernard Walker

### **3.4 OUTCOMES OF THE OFSTED REPORT FOR WIRRAL COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Ofsted inspection of Wirral's Children's Services was undertaken in July / August 2016. The report is due to be published shortly and is likely to provide a useful source of potential topics. The Ofsted report will be presented as a separate item on this agenda. Once published, members may want to add some of those topics to their work programme.

### **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

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date