



Children's and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 3rd July 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work programme update report
REPORT OF:	Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher

REPORT SUMMARY

The Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the three other Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme. This work programme 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.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. Some initial ideas for a work programme are attached as an appendix to this report, based on issues which were of interest to members of the Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the municipal year 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the proposed Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19, making any required amendments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Children's & Families Overview & Scrutiny 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 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

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

The specific Wirral Plan pledges and associated strategies of particular relevance to the Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

Pledge	Strategies
Children are Ready For School	https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf
Young People are ready for Work and Adulthood	https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf
Vulnerable Children Reach Their Full Potential	https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf
Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence	https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Domestic%20Abuse%20%20Strategy.pdf

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

Good practice suggests that, in order to maximise the impact of scrutiny, it is necessary to prioritise proposed topics within the work programme. Members may find the following criteria helpful in providing a guideline towards ensuring that the most significant topics are prioritised:

Principles for Prioritisation	
Wirral Plan	Does the topic have a direct link with one of the 2020 pledges?
	Will the review lead to improved outcomes for Wirral residents?
Public Interest	Does the topic have particular importance for Wirral Residents?
Transformation	Will the review support the transformation of the Council?
Financial Significance	Is the subject matter an area of significant spend or potential saving?
	Will the review support the Council in achieving its savings targets?
Timeliness / Effectiveness	Is this the most appropriate time for this topic to be scrutinised?
	Will the review be a good use of Council resources?

By assessing prospective topics using these criteria, the Committee can prioritise an effective work programme that ensures relevance and the highest potential to enhance outcomes for residents.

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that the work programme will be delivered through a combination of:

- Scrutiny reviews undertaken by task & finish groups
- Evidence days and workshops
- Committee reports provided by officers
- Standing committee agenda items, for example, performance monitoring and financial monitoring
- Spotlight sessions
- Standing panels (where deemed necessary)

As some of the selected topics may well cut across the Wirral Plan themes, it is anticipated that some of the scrutiny topics may be of interest to members of more than one committee. In these circumstances, opportunities for members of more than one committee to work jointly on an item of scrutiny work will be explored.

Regular work programme update reports will provide the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

3.4 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

3.5 Transfer of Scrutiny Work Programme Items

A number of work programme items for previous municipal year(s) have been carried over onto the work programme for 2018/19. The following may be of interest to members:

Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review

This Task & Finish was initiated to review the quality and effectiveness of Statutory Care Plans and Special Guardianship Orders.

The First evidence sessions took place in October and December 2017, and it has been agreed that this will be continued in this Municipal Year.

Further Sessions will give Members of the Task & Finish Groups an opportunity to review randomly selected anonymised care plans. This will include meetings with Social Workers, Team Managers, Independent Reviewing Officers, a Head Teacher Representative, Foster Carers and Special Guardians. A focus group will also be held with Children and Young People.

3.6 Forthcoming Activities

Reality Check Visit to Cheshire Lines

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, greater access to frontline staff and service users gives members greater confidence in the outcomes of scrutiny work.

It was agreed at the Meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee held in June 2017 to establish a programme of Reality Check Visits.

The first reality check visit for the Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee is planned for a future date. At the Agenda Setting Meeting, it was agreed that this should take the form of a visit to Cheshire Lines where Children's services are now based.

The visit will focus on the impact and effect that co-location to Cheshire Lines has had on Children's Services. Members will also get the opportunity view the new Agile Working Equipment and consider how this has changed working conditions and practice.

Mental Health Commissioning Workshop

A joint workshop for members of both the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny

Committee is planned for July 2018 (the original workshop date of 7th June 2018 was postponed at the requested of Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) stating that further discussions regarding the procurement process were required in advance of the workshop).

The purpose of the workshop will be to involve members in the proposed 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies' (IAPT) re-tender, and the future overall mental health procurement exercise. A feedback report on this workshop will be presented to members at a future meeting.

Clinical Senate

Clinical Senates are forums of multi-disciplinary clinical leadership working with patients and the Public to provide independent advice on issues that will transform healthcare, better integrate services and ensure future clinical configuration of services based on the considered views of local clinicians and the best interest of patients.

It is proposed that members of both the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee take part in a joint workshop to gain an understanding of the Clinical Senate and how it may benefit future work programme items. This joint workshop is scheduled to take place in July 2018

3.7 SCRUTINY OF RISK

In the previous municipal year, a number of Members highlighted the need for scrutiny to consider risk as part of the scrutiny work programme. To develop Members' understanding of risk and risk management, a number of 'risk awareness sessions' will be delivered early in the municipal year. Proposals for how scrutiny considers risk as part of the scrutiny work programme can then be developed through Member feedback.

3.8 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

It was agreed by the Chair and Party Spokespersons that a workshop would be convened for members for Thursday 21st June 2018. All members of the Committee were invited to discuss work priorities for the Municipal Year. The outcomes from the workshop will be discussed as part of this agenda item, for committee to agree on a work programme for the municipal year.

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: Children’s and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

REFERENCE MATERIAL - SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date