

**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Thursday, 24 January 2019**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Children and Families Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Update</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in co-operation 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.

The work programme is 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. A work programme are attached as an appendix to this report, based on issues which were of interest to members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the municipal year 2018/19

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to:

- Approve the proposed Children 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 & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

## 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 and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

Pledge	Strategies
Children are Ready For School	<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	<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>
Vulnerable Children Reach Their Full Potential	<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>
Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence	<a href="https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Domestic%20Abuse%20%20Strategy.pdf">https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Domestic%20Abuse%20%20Strategy.pdf</a>

### 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:

<b>Principles for Prioritisation</b>	
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**

#### 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 session took place in October and December 2017, and it had been agreed that this would be continued in this Municipal Year.

A meeting concluded in August 2018 reconfirmed the scope and plans. A plan to look at individual care plans was approved and the first session took place in December 2018. Further sessions with stakeholders and the Children in Care Council are planned for early 2019.

#### Budget Scrutiny

A workshop for Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held in early December to scrutinise the savings options and a detailed report of the outcomes has been published as a separate agenda item.

#### Reality Check Visit to St. Catherine's Hospital

Due to concerns raised regarding external stakeholder participation in multi-agency safeguarding, a visit to St. Catherine's Hospital in Birkenhead was organised. Members were given the opportunity to visit the facility and speak to officers and clinicians responsible for Children Looked After (CLA). A detailed version of this report has been published as a separate agenda item.

#### Urgent Care Special Meeting – Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny

A special meeting of Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held to discuss Wirral CCG's urgent care consultation and proposed options. Members of Children & Families OSC were invited to attend to ask questions. This Special Meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November. The full minutes for this meeting can be found at [wirral.gov.uk](http://wirral.gov.uk)

#### Call In – Pooled Funds Arrangements Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny

A call in meeting for the pooled funds arrangements was held by Adult Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. To consider the decision taken by the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board (Cabinet Committee) on 16 October 2018 relating to 'Wirral Health and Care Commissioning Pooled Fund Arrangements'. Again, members of Children & Families OSC were invited to attend to ask questions. The full minutes for this meeting can be found at [wirral.gov.uk](http://wirral.gov.uk)

### **3.5 Forthcoming Activities**

#### Pooled fund Arrangements

A joint workshop between Adult Care and Health and Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committees is scheduled for January 2019 to discuss the future arrangements and Section 75 agreement for the Wirral Health and Care Commissioning Pooled Fund.

#### Reality Check Visits

Further reality check visits will take place in the upcoming municipal year, to give members to opportunity to visit service areas and speak to frontline staff. If members have any suggestions for visits please refer them to the Chair, Vice Chair and party spokespersons.

#### Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Further to the Future Multi-Agency safeguarding arrangements agenda item presented to Committee in November 2018, members requested a spotlight session be held to discuss the future arrangements. A workshop has been scheduled for January 2019, and a full report will be presented to committee in February 2019.

### **3.6 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

In line with the remit of the Committee and the principles for prioritisation, as described above, Members are requested to suggest possible topics for inclusion in the work programme. Committee Members should also consider how best to further develop the work programme in advance of the next scheduled Committee meeting in November. This could be achieved by Committee providing delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Spokespersons to provide further detailed input to the work programme development.

### **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