

**UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAM : CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND
LIFELONG LEARNING OSC**

POSITION AT THE END OF THE 2008/09 MUNICIPAL YEAR

New Reports to assist in monitoring the Committee's work programme

It was agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs Group in September 2008 to use the following reports to monitor the work programme for each Scrutiny Committee. The last item on each Scrutiny Committee agenda should be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

Report 1 - Monitoring Report for Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

This report will list all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It will also include items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report will give a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

Report 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will include members having the opportunity to ask for new Items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

Report 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report will, for each scheduled Committee meeting, list those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

Report 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

REPORT 1
MONITORING REPORT FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
CHILDREN'S SERVICES & LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE : 2008 / 2009

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
2006	Report on the Support Given to Schools Pre- and Post-Ofsted Inspections	Panel Review		Final Report produced April 2007. Implementation of recommendations to be monitored by Standards sub-committee.	
2006	Fostering Service Review	Panel Review		Final Report produced March 2008. Report discussed by Cabinet on 10th December. Implementation of recommendations to be monitored at a later date.	
Oct 2007	Youth Outreach Review	Panel Review	Report agreed Nov 2008	Final Report to Scrutiny Committee on 11th Nov. Report discussed by Cabinet on 10th December.	
July 2008	Update on Special Schools	Officer reports		Report to Committee 11th Nov. OSC members to visit schools.	
July 2008	Transition from Children's to Adult Social Services	Officer Report		Report to Committee 16th March. Item deferred until meeting in June 2009	
July 2008	NEET rates (Not in education, employment or training) - in particular, what has been the impact of specific projects aimed at NEETs?	Officer Report		Report to Committee 13th Jan.	Complete
July 2008	Behavioural Issues and Exclusions	Officer Report		Report to Committee 11th Nov.	Complete
July 2008	Committee Structure and Governance Arrangements in Children's Services	To be agreed	Report due June 2009	Report being produced to detail all committees / panels / working parties / outside bodies for Children's Services. Data being gathered.	
July 2008	Literacy Levels in schools at the end of Key Stage 2	Panel Review	Report due June 2009	Draft scope form agreed by Committee on 11th Nov. Data gathering has commenced with visits to schools.	
July 2008	School Funding	To be agreed		Notice has been given that the Committee intend to scrutinize School Funding during the 2009 / 10 municipal year.	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
Oct 2008	Wirral Music Service	Officer Report		Committee requested a further report during a budget savings debate on the Wirral Music Service on 28th October 2008. Item on agenda for 13th Jan 2009.	(13/01/09) Agreed that Annual report on Music Service to be produced - for a future meeting.
Nov 2008	Early Years Education	Officer Report		Item requested by Sheila Clarke (11th Nov meeting). Item on agenda for 13th Jan 2009. Item deferred until 16 th March.	Complete
Nov 2008	Private Fostering	Officer report		Item discussed by OSC on 11th Nov 2008. Members requested another report in one year's time. As a result of the Ofsted Annual Performance Letter, it was agreed on 13/01/09 that a report would be produced for the March meeting. However, this report will now be deferred until a future meeting.	
Nov 2008	Wirral Adoption Service	Officer Report		Item discussed by OSC on 11th Nov 2008. Further reports to be produced on the Adoption service in the future, including Special Guardianship.	
Jan 2009	Teenage Pregnancy	Panel Review??		Item requested by Sheila Clarke (13 th Jan meeting). The OSC meeting on 16/03/09 agreed to receive an officer report at the June meeting. (A similar report will go to Cabinet on 09/04/09).	
Jan 2009	Child protection	Officer report		As a result of the verbal report on 'The Impact of the Baby P Case' given by Howard Cooper (13/01/09), it was agreed that a further update report would be produced in the future.	
March 2009	Proposed Children in Care Council	Officer report		A future progress report will be produced on the Children in Care Council	

REPORT 2
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME
CHILDREN'S SERVICES & LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE : END OF 2008/09

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Completion Date
The identification of deprivation and the impact on learning outcomes	Tom Harney and supported by OSC meeting on 16/03/09	Consider for inclusion on the work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year	
Impact of alcohol on children	Frank Doyle and supported by OSC meeting on 16/03/09	Possible joint scrutiny work with Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	
Surplus in school budgets (held by some schools)	Tony Smith	Consider for inclusion on the work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year	
Member's visits to Children's homes (see report from 13/01/09 meeting)	Item deferred from the meeting on 16/03/ 09.	Officer report	

REPORT 3
PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR
CHILDREN'S SERVICES & LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE : 2008 / 2009

Meeting Date	Topic Description
02/06/08	Committee Work Programme for 2008 / 9 Consultation on Informal Adult Learning Performance Monitoring Report for 2007 / 8 Children's Complaints - Evaluation and Monitoring Assessing Children's Social Care
16/0908	School Standards - Presentation on headline results Committee Work Programme 2008/9 Q1 Performance Monitoring Report Children's Services - Complaints Procedures
11/11/08	Final report from the Youth Outreach Scrutiny Panel Update on Special schools Behavioural Issues and Exclusions Children in Care Private Fostering Fostering and Adoption Services Inspection Reports Financial Monitoring Report Performance Management Report
13/01/09	Secondary School Review NEET rates (Not in education, employment or training) - in particular, what has been the impact of specific projects aimed at NEETs? Update on Music Service Actions resulting from the Baby P case Annual Performance Assessment

Meeting Date	Topic Description
16/03/09	Member's visits to Children's homes (see report from 13/01/09 meeting) Early Years Education - Update on Sure Start Children in Care Council Adoption service Contracts report Complaints Monitoring Capital Programme Financial Monitoring Report Performance Management Report – Quarter 3

REPORT 4
PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS
CHILDREN'S SERVICES & LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE : END OF 2008/09

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report to Committee
Literacy Levels at Key Stage 2	Councillors Sheila Clarke (chair) Frank Doyle Tony Smith	Draft scope agreed at OSC meeting on 11th Nov. Data gathering has commenced. Visits to three primary schools have taken place; one further visit is due to take place later in March. 'Interviews' with key officers have also commenced; others are due to take place during March / April.	June 2009