



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date **Thursday, 30 January 2020** Time **6.00 pm**
Venue **Meeting Room G3-G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford**

Enquiries Regarding this Agenda

Democratic Services	Kieran Robinson	01952 382061
Media Enquiries	Corporate Communications	01952 382406

<u>Committee Membership:</u>	Councillors M Boylan, I T W Fletcher, E J Greenaway, V J Holt, J Jones, A D McClements (Chair), G L Offland, J Pinter and K T Tomlinson, Co-optees S Fikeis, L Fowler, C Morgan and M Ward
-------------------------------------	--

AGENDA

- | | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Apologies for Absence | |
| 2. Declarations of Interest | |
| 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting | 3 - 8 |
| 4. Travel Assistance Policy and Transport Review Consultation
Heather Loveridge (Director for Education and Skills), Sarah Bass (Commissioning, Procurement and Brokerage), Liz Smith (School Performance and Development), and Simon Wellman (SEND 0-25) will be in attendance for this item.

The associated Cabinet report can be viewed at https://democracy.telford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1134&MId=1179&Ver=4 | |
| 5. Educational Attainment
To receive the presentation of Heather Loveridge (Director for Education and Skills). | |
| 6. Work Programme 2019/20 to 2020/21 | 9 - 18 |
| 7. Chair's Update | |

This page is intentionally left blank

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 11 March 2019 at 6.00pm in Meeting Room G3/4, Addenbrook House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Present: Councillors A D McClements (Chair); S Barnes, E A Clare, J A Francis and E J Greenaway and co-optees C Healy and M Ward.

Also Present: H Loveridge, Assistant Director: Education & Corporate Parenting; A Mason, Chair, Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board; E Smith, Service Delivery Manager, School Performance and Development; S Worthington, Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer - TWC.

CYPSC-11 Apologies for Absence

Councillors M Boylan and J Jones; Co-optee L Fowler

CYPSC-12 Declarations of Interest

Mrs M Ward declared an interest in minute number CYPSC-15 as a Governor of High Ercall Primary School.

CYPSC-13 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate record.

CYPSC-14 Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

The Committee welcomed the Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board to the Committee. The Chair of the Board provided an update of the work completed by the Board over the last year and updated the Committee on the work of the Board since the report's publication.

A discussion took place and Members asked the following questions:

Did the Board meet quarterly? It was disappointing to see low attendance by some partnership colleagues, particularly the NHS.

The Chair of the Board confirmed that the Board did meet on a quarterly basis. The Board's lay members had left for various reasons and a decision had been made not to replace these members until the new recommendations on the Boards make up where approved. In respect of the NHS, NHS England stated that Health would not attend unless there was an issue of importance to them on the agenda. CAF/CASS had not appointed a representative, but this had been pursued.

Although the number of children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan had fallen over the past year, the rates in Telford and Wrekin were still almost 50% higher than the national average. What work was being undertaken in this area to reduce this?

It was noted that although the Board would like to reduce the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan, there were very clear thresholds in place and if a child met those thresholds, then they would become subject of a Child Protection Plan. The work performed by Early Help had an effect but there were areas of deprivation in the Borough. It was important that the numbers of children subject to Plans did not reduce due to falling standards.

Were the training courses open for Members to attend?

The Chair of the Board confirmed that he had attended a number of these courses himself and had found them invaluable. Members could contact the organisers if they wished to attend any of the courses.

Members praised the introduction of the School Safeguarding Boards, especially those in primary schools. What number of secondary schools in the Borough had their own safeguarding boards?

Three or four of the Secondary Schools in the Borough had a dedicated safeguarding board, but many of the remaining schools stated that the matters that the board would deal with were managed by the School Council. The Local Safeguarding Board did not mind how the boards took place, as long as the issues were being discussed and managed.

Members suggested that those schools which did not have a dedicated safeguarding board could be encouraged to have safeguarding as a standard item on their school council agenda.

Members raised concern about Female Genital Mutilation and the importance of the NHS in identifying this.

FGM had become part of the Domestic Violence work stream. Historically, too little work had been undertaken with perpetrators of Domestic Violence, especially those who don't meet a criminal level, to tackle these issues so they do not happen again. It was noted that training on issues around Domestic Abuse was well attended. It was vital that issues like this were not looked at in silos, but to look at the effect of trauma on a child, wherever it came from. It was noted that FGM was also an incredibly difficult crime to prove.

A discussion was held regarding the child's day and support offered for families.

Had the Board been provided with a timetable of the Review by SaTH into neonatal deaths?

The Board had not been provided with a timetable. The Board had looked back on the reports from the Child Death Overview Panel to make sure that nothing had been missed during this process and confirmed that nothing significant had been found in this process. The Chair of the Board confirmed that it was his understanding that SaTH had reviewed every case put forward.

A discussion was held regarding delays in obtaining police data.

It was confirmed that critical data is received from the CATE team, who get involved at a very early stage.

CYPSC-15 Education Attainment

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director: Education & Corporate Parenting and the Service Delivery Manager: School Performance and Development to the meeting. The Committee received a presentation on school results from 2016 / 17 and 2017/18.

A discussion took place and Members asked the following questions.

Were the Early Years hubs located around the Borough?

It was confirmed that the hubs were located around the Borough. The hubs would include schools, childminders and providers and would provide opportunities to share effective practice and to provide flexible childcare to meet the needs of families..

Had many children been withdrawn from KS2 tests?

This had not been raised as a significant issue recently, although it was acknowledged that tests often put a lot of pressure on children. New Ofsted inspection framework was being developed which aimed to take the pressure off the use of tests.

Although it was encouraging to see results above the national average in many areas, what support was being put in place in respect of maths?

It was confirmed that there were several schemes in place. The maths curriculum had recently changed and there had been a period of adjustment. It had been acknowledged that some children were struggling with the language of maths, so work had been put in place around this. A Member stated that there had been improvement in the synergy between primary schools in the methodology of teaching maths, which was having a positive impact at secondary level.

Concern was expressed that children were having to take repeated practice tests before the final exams. Many children had raised concerns that they were taking too many tests. Members noted that once children reached secondary school, the new school would assess the children again.

How was the Early Investment team tackling the word gap?

This was still in the early stages of development, the Department for Education had recently announced a Professional Development offer which aimed to support Early Years providers to address the word gap. Telford and Wrekin would benefit from this funding although the final amount was not yet known. The programme would run from September this year..

School improvement services had been very successful in primary schools, how good was sharing good practice at secondary level?

It was noted that schools within each Academy trust support each other. There was also a secondary heads forum which was well attended and encouraged sharing ideas. It was

noted that there was not an active secondary teaching school in the Borough. The Severn Teaching School works very well in the primary sector.

How had the re-grading of KS4 GCSE bedded in?

It was noted that schools had struggled with the 4 / 5 level distinction however, they are now more familiar with grading. It had been a big adjustment for schools.

Did the attainment figures include all children on role or just the children who had taken the test? Concern was expressed that some schools had asked children not to attend for the day of the test to improve the overall scores.

It was confirmed that all children on role were entered to tests. There was a national initiative taking place in respect of 'off-rolling' and this was one of OFSTEDs focuses.

It was noted that phonics did not work for every child.

OFSTED had also raised this as an issue and adjustments should be made to the curriculum to meet every child's needs. A range of techniques should be used by teachers.

Were there figures available for the results of children who had left care?

Results were broken down into several categories, such as children who had English as an Additional Language (EAL), Pupil Premium children and children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Care Leavers were not specifically looked at, although they would be eligible for public premium. SEND children within Telford and Wrekin do well, as do EAL children. Pupil Premium children do better in the Borough than the national average, although there remains a gap to peers.

CYPSC-16 Review of the Young Carers Service – Recommendations Report

The Chair advised that the report summarised the evidence that had been heard during the last Committee and the provisional recommendations made by the Committee at that time.

Members considered that recommendation 1 – that schools should include a question about young carers on their enrolment form, should be qualified that it was not necessary to complete this information. Members were advised that a child's status as a young carer was included in their school passport.

Members agreed that recommendation 2 – link governors should be established in every school for young carers, could be incorporated within a governor's existing role, for example to become the link governor for looked after children and young carers.

Subject to the inclusion of the above amendments, Members agreed the recommendations and that they should be presented to the relevant cabinet member for discussion.

CYPSC-17 Chairs Update

The Chair advised that this was the final meeting of the Committee before the Council elections in May 2019.

Members stated that they remained concerns about the impact of exclusions, particularly unofficial exclusions, on children and highlighted this as their preferred focus of work in the next municipal year.

The meeting ended: 7.43pm

Chairman:

Date:

This page is intentionally left blank

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
30 JANUARY 2020**

WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20 AND 2020/21

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE (STATUTORY
MONITORING OFFICER)**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider and agree the Committee’s work programme for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee agree items for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 work programme (Appendix 1); and
- 2.2 That the Committee agree meeting dates for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 municipal years.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	No	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	Borough Wide
DELIVERY DATE	The 2019/20 and 2020/21 [two year] work programme should be delivered in-year before the 2021/22 municipal year begins.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	There are no direct financial implications foreseen as part of adopting the recommendations contained in this report. However, Scrutiny has a role in ensuring that local government is effective and accountable. This includes undertaking reviews and challenging and monitoring performance. There is provision for the cost of supporting the Scrutiny function in

		<p>the Council's budget framework and the work programme will need to be managed within those resources, any variance that arises will be reported as appropriate as part of the Council's financial monitoring process.</p> <p>The financial implications of adopting recommendations made by the Scrutiny function should be considered as part of specific reports proposing those recommendations.</p> <p>Scrutiny also plays an important part of the budget consultation process which is reflected in the work programme and is a key piece of work which feeds into the Council's overall budget strategy</p> <p>RP – 8/1/2020</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes/No	<p>Overview & Scrutiny for local authorities was introduced as part of the modernisation of local government in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000. It required every local authority to have at least one O&S committee, to: hold the Executive to account; undertake policy development and review; monitor and improve performance; investigate issues of public concern; and carry out external scrutiny including the NHS.</p> <p>Establishing a work plan, and resources as set out in this report will assist O&S to effectively meet its objectives.</p> <p>AL - 16/1/2020</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 In order to ensure that the scrutiny function of the Council is effective, it

is good practice for each Scrutiny committee to set a work programme for the municipal year. The work programme suggestions shown in Appendix 1 were considered by the Scrutiny Management Board on 12 November 2019 and referred to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to decide which issues/topics should be included in the Committee's Work Programme, subject to further scoping. In making decisions about the work programme, the Committee should consider any feedback from both Senior Managers and Scrutiny Management Board and the following "Criteria for Scrutiny":-

- How far scrutiny can realistically change or influence things;
- The extent to which residents or businesses are affected by the issue;
- How well the Council and Partners are performing in the area; and
- What else is happening to avoid duplication or wasted effort.
- The extent to which triangulation of information can take place through the input of service users/frontline providers

1.3 The Committee should, in making decisions about the work programme, also consider the over-arching priorities for scrutiny as set by the Scrutiny Management Board on 12 November 2019:-

- The Environment;
- Housing; and
- Mental Health.

1.4 Scrutiny Management Board has not allocated a baseline for formal meetings during the municipal year for scrutiny of items on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee's work programme. The Committee should seek to schedule a provisional programme of formal meetings during each municipal year covered by the 2019/20 and 2020/21 work programme. This schedule does not include informal or sub-group meetings which may be held to gather evidence as part of a review, briefing meetings or regional/external scrutiny meetings.

1.5 The work programme needs to be flexible to allow for important issues which emerge during the year to be scrutinised. However, if a new topic is added to the work programme, consideration must be given to removing an existing item to avoid the workload becoming unmanageable and losing focus.

2.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 None.

3.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

3.1 Scrutiny Handbook.

Report prepared by Kieran Robinson, Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer. Telephone: 01952 382061

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee – 2019/20 and 2020/21 Work Programme

Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
Children Safeguarding Improving Practice – An approach to enabling all children to live safely at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Families – Protecting Children Strengthening Families – Early Help 	New - SMT	Children’s Safeguarding		Children Safeguarding Improving Practice – An approach to enabling all children to live safely at home

Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
Children with Learning Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to improve services for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families • How do we improve our work with families to develop care packages • Meeting demand for EHCPs and how the appeal process is managed Special School Places and provision in mainstream schools	New – Scrutiny Chairs	Education & Corporate Parenting	The Working Group of Officers and Heads need to complete preliminary work before presenting to Scrutiny. To accommodate this, it is therefore recommended that the meeting to scrutinise the development of Post-16 SEND offer is held at the end of March.	Children with Learning Disabilities
Mental health provision for Children & Young People (Joint with Health & Adult Care)	Review of early intervention activity	New – Scrutiny Chairs	NHS		Mental health provision for Children & Young People (Joint with Health & Adult Care)
Care Leavers Covenant	Development of policy to support opportunities and support for care leavers including work with local businesses	New – Scrutiny Chairs	Children’s Safeguarding & Family Support		Care Leavers Covenant

Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
Travel Support for Children & Young People	Development of policy (at the time of the suggestion, consultation taking place).	New – Cllrs Ian Fletcher & Jayne Greenaway	Education & Corporate Parenting		Travel Support for Children & Young People
Bullying in Schools	<p>Procedures and policies in place in respect of bullying in school, particularly violent or racial incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many incidents were recorded. <p>How were they managed.</p>	From Committee	Education & Corporate Parenting	<p>This matter is regarded as outside of the remit of the local authority. Bullying is primarily monitored by Ofsted while policy and complaints are handled directly by schools.</p>	Bullying in Schools

Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
School Exclusions	<p>In depth review of school exclusions, including unofficial exclusions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers in the Borough by school. Junior & Secondary. • Home educated numbers. Further details regarding reasons for home education. • Provisions for excluded children* <p>Not scoped</p>	<p>From Committee</p> <p>* New – Scrutiny Chairs</p>	Education & Corporate Parenting	<p>It has been recommended that a review of school exclusions is delayed until after action plans under the 'Belonging Strategy' have been fully rolled out. A conference on this matter will be held in early March; it will be attended by all head teachers and the researcher whose work the strategy is based upon. Therefore, SMT recommend considering exclusions around Easter – mid to late April.</p>	School Exclusions
Educational Attainment	<p>Considered annually. Includes CiC results.</p>	Monitoring	Education & Corporate Parenting		Educational Attainment

Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
LSCB Annual Report	In previous years the Annual Report has been presented to Scrutiny after HWB.	Monitoring	Children's Safeguarding / Organisational Development & Delivery		LSCB Annual Report

This page is intentionally left blank