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Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 27 September 2022

6.00 pm

Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Democratic Services: Kieran Robinson 01952 382061

Media Enquiries: Corporate Communications 01952 382406

Committee Members: Councillors K S Sahota (Chair), M Boylan, S P Burrell, I T W Fletcher, J Jones, A D McClements, K T Tomlinson, and B Wennington
Co-optees S Fikeis, L Fowler, C Morgan and M Ward

	Agenda	Page
1.0	Apologies for Absence	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.0	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	(3 - 6)
4.0	Terms of Reference 2022 - 2023	(7 - 14)
5.0	Work Programme 2022 - 2023	(15 - 16)
6.0	Chair's Update	

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 5 May 2022 at 6.00 pm in Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Present: Councillors I T W Fletcher, J Jones, A D McClements, K S Sahota and K T Tomlinson.
Co-optee: M Ward

Also Present: Councillor S A W Reynolds (Cabinet Member Children, Young People, and Families)

In Attendance: R Phillips (Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy), K Robinson (Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)), S Wellman (Director: Education & Skills)

Apologies: Councillors M Boylan, S Fikeis, L Fowler and B Wennington
Co-optees S Fikeis, L Fowler

29 Declarations of Interest

Prior to this item, an election of a Chair for the meeting was held. Councillor Kuldip Sahota was proposed. Upon being put to a vote, it was:

RESOLVED that – Councillor Kuldip Sahota act as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

30 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

31 Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership (TWSP) Annual Report 2020/21.

The Committee received the annual report of the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership (TWSP).

The report was the last that would be produced in the format presented; the next would focus on safeguarding outcomes.

It had been a challenging year for the partnership but all partners had risen to the occasion to maintain effective safeguarding. In order to do so, separate children's and adults safeguarding boards had been re-established. It was

noted that safeguarding had to be more flexible, especially in the cases of those who did not meet statutory safeguarding thresholds.

Children's services were commended for their Ofsted achievement.

Following the presentation, Members posed a number of questions:

With the pandemic, was there any additional support needed for safeguarding or anything that had to be done differently?

People were being checked on in person and by phone to ensure that nobody dropped off the radar, a lot of work in particular was done to ensure children remained in education. The Borough had been keen to enable vulnerable children to continue to access in person education throughout the pandemic. There was a strong service for children missing education with a support team carrying out regular visits to identify and check on those missing school.

In terms of child mental health, capacity in provision remained a concern and there had been some Covid anxiety around returning to classrooms, which had led to some missing school. As a result of the pandemic, there had also been a rise in children entering Reception with speech and language issues.

What training was there for teachers to enable them to better support children after these tough years?

There were a number of providers supporting and training teachers in managing the complex needs of children. In schools, there were designated safeguarding leads, governors, and safeguarding boards who were well placed to recognise support issues and any need for action.

The report highlighted one case of the threshold for the mortality programme being met, however, the review for the case had not taken place. Had it taken place yet?

The review had taken place.

Were there areas that were particularly hard hit by the pandemic?

At the start of the pandemic, the executive of the Safeguarding Partnership had carried out two reviews of safeguarding effectiveness in the context of Covid. Both reviews concluded that despite the demands of the pandemic, safeguarding could be done properly. Technology in particular had enabled smarter working to face up to the challenge.

Did partners bring reports to partnership meeting or did partners sit and discuss issues?

It was a genuine partnership; all had a stake in safeguarding and in children's safety. The Board's strength was that its members all worked together and, typically, children were known to multiple agencies. This allowed information sharing and informed decision making.

Members received an update, on the School Streets working group recommendation, from the Director: Education & Skills.

Cabinet had commented on the ambitions of school streets aligning with Cabinet's priorities and recognised the considerable work of scrutiny in producing the recommendation report. Cabinet was keen to investigate the policy, engaging with schools and residents, before formally moving forward with it.

Schools had been under significant pressure as a result of Covid-19 and were only just recovering. In the interest of schools, it was thought that recovery should be allowed to continue, unabated by the pressures a new policy could pose. The engagement phase had begun and officers would assess costs, funding, feasibility for the initial pilot.

A discussion followed:

Had officers carried out any work on the eligibility criteria for the trial scheme?

This work was to be done but a number of factors would be investigated such as site suitability, school willingness, community buy-in, and operating options.

Members reaffirmed their support for the scheme, noting in particular the health benefits of an active lifestyle for both children and their parents. The environmental benefits of the scheme were also noted.

33 Chair's Update

Work programming for the new municipal year was underway and the new work programme would be presented at the first meeting of the Committee in the new year.

The meeting ended at 7.08 pm

Chairman:

Date: Tuesday, 27 September 2022

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Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

27 September 2022

Terms of Reference 2022 - 2023

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Rae Evans, Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance and Customer Services
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe, Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Democracy
Report Author:	Kieran Robinson, Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 382061 Email: kieran.robinson@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	None
Key Decision:	No
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee – 27 September 2022

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

1.1 Review and agree the amended Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To set out the terms of reference for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee outlined at Appendix A.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Constitution requires that Full Council should agree at its Annual Meeting the Terms of Reference for each of its Committees to enable the Council to efficiently conduct its business.
- 3.2 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 19 May 2022, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference.
- 3.3 The Terms of Reference forms part of the Constitution and was approved by Full Council in that context on 3 March 2022.
- 3.4 There is one minor change suggested to the Terms of Reference (shown in red on Appendix 1) to provide clarity around the process for appointment of a Chair for the Committee. It notes that the Chair is appointed by Full Council (in line with the Constitution) but sets out that a Vice-Chair may be appointed by a majority decision of the Committee.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1 For the Committee to review its terms of reference.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are none.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 No key risks arise from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Constitution requires that the Terms of Reference be reviewed on an annual basis. The Council is required to comply with the Constitution. This report demonstrates compliance with this requirement.

KF 31.08.2022

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no ward implications.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 None.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 This report does not have any climate change or environmental implications.

14.0 Background Papers

14.1 The Council Constitution.

15.0 Appendices

A Children & Young People Scrutiny - Terms of Reference

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by
Legal Services

Date sent
12/08/2022

Date signed off
31/08/2022

Initials
KF

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership

1. The Committee will be made up of elected members from the Scrutiny Assembly, as appointed at Annual Council in line with the political balance of the Council, and co-opted scrutiny members.
2. The Committee may appoint co-opted scrutiny members but they must not exceed the number of elected members.
3. The Parent Governor and the Catholic and Anglican diocesan representatives will have statutory voting rights on education matters as set **out in** the Local Government Act 2000. Other co-optees will not have voting rights.
4. In addition to the standing co-optees, the Committee may appoint additional co-optees for one-off reviews to supplement the skills, knowledge and experience of the Committee on that particular issue. (Subject to the number of co-opted scrutiny members not exceeding the number of elected members.)
5. **The Chair is appointed at the Annual General Meeting of full Council. A Vice-Chair may be appointed by majority decision of the Committee**
6. The quorum required for a meeting is 3 elected members.
7. All Committee members should undergo the Corporate Parenting and Child Sexual Exploitation training offered by the Council (including any refresher training).
8. Members of Committee should act as champions for children and young people in the care of the authority and raise awareness of the issues facing children and young people in care with other elected members and members of the public.

Functions

9. The Committee will be the main mechanism by which Scrutiny members will scrutinise and monitor the planning and performance of the Council's services to children and young people and the Council's Corporate Parenting role, including but not limited to the following key areas
 - Early years and child care
 - All aspects of education including schools and academies, school improvement, school/college transport, training and apprenticeships, behaviour and attendance, further education
 - Children's Centres
 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
 - Positive activities for young people
 - Safeguarding and child protection (including exploitation)
 - Corporate Parenting

Appendix A

- Looked After Children and Care Leavers
- Fostering and adoption
- Teenage pregnancy
- Supported accommodation and lodgings
- Supported employment for young people
- Youth Services
- Youth Offending Service
- Youth unemployment, NEETs
- Family Support

10. The Committee will set its own work programme. The following points may be taken into consideration when considering the work programme each year:

- areas where significant change is proposed and the potential impacts
- performance in areas where significant change has been implemented;
- areas of financial overspend;
- areas receiving a high level of budgetary commitment;
- areas where there is a high level of user dissatisfaction;
- reports and action plans produced/agreed with external inspectors;
- areas that are key issues for the public or have become a public interest issue covered in the media.

11. The Committee will consider matters referred by the Scrutiny Management Board, and will exercise discretion as to whether a suggestion falls within the remit of the Committee to scrutinise.

Meeting Administration and Proceedings

12. The Committee procedure rules as set out in the Council's Constitution apply to this Committee.

13. The meetings will follow the principles of scrutiny ie no party whip will be applied and a constructive, evidence based approach will be used.

14. If the Chair and Vice Chair (if appointed) are unable to attend a meeting the Members present will elect a Chair for the meeting.

15. All Scrutiny Committee meetings will be held in public, unless exempt information is being considered or discussed. Scrutiny Committees may appoint sub-groups to carry out investigative work as part of a review and these sub-groups may hold informal meetings but will report back their findings to the Scrutiny Committee.

16. The meetings will be administered by Scrutiny Services and Democratic Services. Frequency of meetings will be agreed by the Committee as necessary to carry out the work programme.

17. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Executive Directors, Directors and Service Delivery Managers will attend the Committee at the request of the Chair. Representatives from other organisations may be invited to attend.

Sensitive and Confidential Information

18. From time to time members may become privy to information of a confidential nature. If this happens, members must maintain this confidence. Members are unable to request personal/confidential information from Officers about an individual or family.
19. Information obtained as a result of membership of the Committee is sensitive and should be treated as being confidential by members.

Reporting Arrangements

20. The Chair will provide regular updates to meetings of the Scrutiny Management Board to inform the other Scrutiny Chairs of performance and budget issues relating to the remit of their Committees.
21. The Chair of the Committee, or his/her representative, will provide and present reports and recommendations of the Committee to the Council's Cabinet, Full Council or other relevant organisations when necessary.

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Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Suggest by	Directorate	Comments
Children & Young People				
Educational Attainment	Annual update on educational attainment within the Borough.	Standing item	Education & Skills	Autumn/Winter 2022 – Committee item
Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report	Annual presentation of the board's Annual Report.	Standing item	Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership	Spring 2023 – Committee item
Youth Mental Health Services	Reviewing access and provision of services, and transition to adult services.	Health Scrutiny Committee	Multiple	Refer to Health Scrutiny Committee work programme for more information
Belonging Strategy	A follow-up from the scene-setting presentation received during 2021/22 to review the impact of the strategy.	SMT / Committee	Education & Skills	Autumn/Winter 2022 – Committee item
Family Safeguarding Model	A review of the impact of the Family Safeguarding model approximately one year post-implementation	SMT / Committee	Children's & Family Safeguarding	Summer/Autumn 2022 – Committee item

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