

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6th November 2013

Work Programme 2013/14

Recommendations

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Note the updated Work Programme 2013/14 and the inclusion of additional areas of scrutiny activity or review;
- 2) Considers undertaking a site visit of Primary Inclusion Support Groups in early 2014;
- 3) Notes the outcome of the Committee's report to Cabinet on 17th October 2013; and
- 4) Considers arrangements for the 22nd January 2014 meeting and the scheduling of an additional meeting in February/March 2014.

1.0 Work Programme

1.1 The updated Committee Work Programme for 2013/14 is attached at **Appendix A**. A number of additional items were discussed by the Chair and Spokespersons on 25th October 2013 which have been added to the document.

1.2 Primary Inclusion Support Groups

Following a member request, a report on the proposed changes and diversion of funding from the Primary Inclusions Support Groups (ISGs) has been added to the Work Programme for consideration at a meeting in early 2014. The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to undertake a site visit of the ISG site to gain a first-hand experience and understanding of the sites.

2.0 Briefing Notes

2.1 There have not been any Briefing Notes circulated recently to the Committee.

3.0 Report of the Committee to Cabinet – 17th October 2013

- 3.1 At the call-in meeting Committee on 26th September 2013, members agreed to submit a letter to Cabinet outlining the key risks included in the Equality Impact Assessment, in respect of the Early Years Commissioning decision, and request that Cabinet acknowledge these risks in writing. This request was presented to Cabinet on 17th October 2013 at which members agreed to acknowledge the letter.
- 3.2 Cabinet also reaffirmed its previous request that the Committee's Chair and Spokespersons consider the tendering process and service specification for the Early Years Commissioning decision. An informal meeting to discuss the specification will be scheduled with the Chair and Spokespersons in due course.

4.0 Dates of Future Meetings

- 4.1 Future meetings of the Committee have been scheduled for 2.00 p.m. on the following dates:
- 22nd January 2014
 - 2nd April 2014
 - 3rd June 2014
- 4.2 Members will be aware that a report on the Admissions Policy and Primary School Places Provision has been scheduled for 22nd January 2014. The Committee will be asked to review the admissions criteria and consultation exercise for the Admissions Policy 2015. This will be a detailed, important and potentially sensitive piece of work that will generate a high amount of public interest
- 4.3 In light of this, the Chair has suggested that the meeting be fully dedicated to the consideration of the item and that all other items scheduled for 22nd January 2013 be deferred to an additional meeting which will be arranged for February/March 2014. Alternatively, a full day meeting could be arranged for 22nd January with the Admissions Policy item being considered in the morning and the other items scheduled for the afternoon. The Committee is asked to consider which arrangement would be most appropriate.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Work Programme 2012/13

| | Name | Contact details |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Report Author | Georgina Atkinson | georginaatkinson@warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Head of Service | Greta Needham | gretaneedham@warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Strategic Director | David Carter | davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Portfolio Holder | Councillor Jeff Clarke | cllrclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk |

**Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2013/14**

| Item | Report detail | Date of last report | Date of next report |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Questions to the Portfolio Holders / Forward Plan | Report which includes Forward Plan decisions relevant to the remit of the Committee. (Georgina Atkinson) | N/a | * Standing item for every meeting |
| Support for Children in Schools | <p>A combined report to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The latest progress of the national SEN reforms, including an update on the shortage of Additional Needs places in the county. • The new arrangements for Area Behaviour Partnerships, how these are working 12 months after becoming full WCC policy, and to consider how the Committee's previous concerns, particularly those around Key Stage 3, are being addressed. • The report to the Schools Forum setting out options for provision for those with Behavioural, Social and Emotional Difficulties. (Jayne Mumford) | 6 th November 2012 | 6 th November 2013 |
| Impact of the Pupil Premium | To assess how the Pupil Premium is being used in schools to raise attainment, looking at examples of best practice. Will also include information regarding the Performance of C&YP in National Test and Examinations report. (Claudia Wade) | N/a | 6 th November 2013 |
| Update on the Ofsted Framework | To receive a report outlining the changes and terms of reference, and subsequent implications, be presented to its next meeting on 6 th November. This would cover both Early Years provision and schools. (Claudia Wade) | N/a | 6 th November 2013 |
| Memorandum of Understanding | To ratify the Memorandum of Understanding for the Health and Wellbeing Board, Overview and Scrutiny and Healthwatch. | N/a | 6 th November 2013 |

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| Item | Report detail | Date of last report | Date of next report |
|--|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Admissions Policy and Primary Schools Places Provision | To consider the admissions criteria and the consultation exercise for the 2015 Admissions Policy. (Peter Speers) | N/a | 22 nd January 2014 |
| Organisational Health Report 2013/14 | Quarterly report to scrutinise the performance management of services that fall within the remit of Committee. Following consideration, how often would the Committee like this information – on a quarterly, six monthly or annual basis? (Wendy Fabbro) | N/a | 22 nd January 2014 |
| NEETs Update Report | The Committee requested information relating to statistical neighbours, looked after children, the legacy of pupil referral units and like to apprenticeships and work experience, with reference to the work of the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP in this area. This report will also include the draft strategy for <i>Raising the Participation Age</i> for Warwickshire. (Sophie Thompson) | 3 rd April 2013 | 22 nd January 2014 |
| Vulnerability Strategy | A strategy regarding the allocation of resources to where the greatest need was identified, using appropriate evidence and data to determine. (Sarah Callaghan) Check timescales and whether would still be valid if go to Feb/March meeting. | N/a | 22 nd January 2014 |
| Scrutiny Action Plans | To receive an update on recommendations previously submitted and subsequently agreed (or noted) by Cabinet in respect of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academies and Free Schools (Sarah Callaghan) • Children's Centres (Barbara Wallace) | N/a | 22 nd January 2014 |

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| Item | Report detail | Date of last report | Date of next report |
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| Role of the Director of Children's Services | To assess the robustness of arrangements in place for the dual role of the Director of Children's and Adult Services. Report that went to Safeguarding Children Board is already available – do members want to consider it at 22 January instead? (Wendy Fabbro) | N/a | 2 nd April 2014 |
| Priority Families Initiative | <p>The Council has identified more than 900 of the hardest to help families who will be targeted for intervention by the programme. More than 400 families are already being worked with and the scheme remains on track to meet the local authority's target of turning around 805 families in the County by April 2015. Areas to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many families are involved and how are families identified? • How will it make a difference? How has it made a difference so far? • What funding is available to support this initiative? • Where are Warwickshire in comparison to other authorities? • Is the Council on track to achieve the April 2015 target? • How does the initiative link with the Child Poverty Strategy and the support provided by Children's Centres? How is the initiative being monitored and evaluated? • How will be programme be sustained beyond 2015? (Nick Gower-Johnson) | N/a | 2 nd April 2014 |
| Integrated Disability Service | To consider the impact of the savings programme on the priorities and service delivery. (Jayne Mumford) | N/a | 2 nd April 2014 |
| Adoption Process and Scorecards | Government requirement that the County Council speeds up the adoption process. Invitation to the meeting to be extended to the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel. Possible Task and Finish Group review once the Committee has considered the report. | N/a | 2 nd April 2014 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has/will be the impact of the Government’s desire to ensure children and young people are adopted quickly? • What approach has been taken in Warwickshire? • What is the long term impact of adopting children and young people more quickly? • How does the service compare regionally and nationally? • What further legislative changes are expected? How is will impact on the adoption service? • How are the views of children and families sought and fed into service provision/development? • What would be the implications of outsourcing? (Sue Ross) | | |
| <p>Children’s Centres Service Delivery Outcomes</p> | <p>To undertake the Committee’s previous recommendation for the Children’s Centres Select Committee:</p> <p><i>That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board monitors the key service delivery outcomes, as defined by the Learning and Achievement service, and the extent to which these are achieved by the Children’s Centre providers.</i></p> <p>The Committee to receive a performance report in order to monitor outcomes. First update to include detail regarding the award of the contract and the key service delivery outcomes that have been set. (Barbara Wallace)</p> | <p>23rd August 2013</p> | <p>2nd April 2014 – not yet on Forward Plan, check timescales with BW.</p> |
| <p>Child Poverty Strategy</p> | <p>To monitor the implementation of the Strategy through the action plan to ensure actions and developments are being achieved on target and are making a difference.</p> | <p>N/a</p> | <p>3rd June 2014 – TBC following further research</p> |

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| | <p>Areas to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the final strategy been approved? What are the timescales involved? • Review the action plan and monitor progress against it. • What outcomes are expected as a result of the strategy? • How have the views of children and families been sought and fed into the strategy? (Julie Smith) | | |
| <p>Educational provision for 14-19 Year Olds</p> | <p>To examine the developments being made to address skills shortages and ensure children and young people have the opportunities and support needed to develop the employability and life skills they need for the future employment. Areas to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What provision and support is available to young people (either in schools, by the youth support service or other methods) to develop life skills? • Are the development of life skills and employability skills included as part of the school curriculum? • How are young people prepared for the world of work? • What initiatives have been implemented and how effective have they been? • What support is provided by sixth forms, colleges and other further education providers? • Do schools work in partnership with local businesses on developing life skills for young people and the skills needed for employment? • Has an Employability Charter been developed and promoted within Warwickshire? If so, what has been the impact of its development so far? • What is the involvement of the CWLEP/City Deal and how will it impact on skills shortages and developing employability skills? • How are the views of children and families sought on current provision and how do they feed into future service provision/development? (Sarah Callaghan) | <p>N/a</p> | <p>3rd June 2014</p> |

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| Implications of the Budget | Funding reductions over the next four years could potentially result in unmanageable demand. How will this be addressed? The Committee to monitor how this will be addressed within a reduced budget, in order to sustain statutory requirements and meet the Corporate Ambitions. (Wendy Fabbro) | N/a | 3 rd June 2014 |
| Performance of Warwickshire C&YP in National Tests and Examinations 2013 | To consider the annual update on the school attainment. (David Bristow) | 20 th June 20112 | TBC |
| Warwickshire Education Services (WES) Trading Update | To assess the progress of WES and the competitiveness of the LA's offer to schools. (Craig Cusak) | 30 th January 2013 | TBC |
| Academies | <p>To undertake the Committee's previous recommendations from the Academies Task and Finish Group:</p> <p><i>The Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>investigate whether the School Improvement team has sufficient capacity to ensure it can carry out its role;</i> • <i>consider if further scrutiny of services to vulnerable children is required; and</i> • <i>request a report on the LA's strategy for addressing the risks to both insufficiency and oversufficiency of school places.</i> (Sarah Callaghan) | 30 th January 2013 | TBC |

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Briefing Notes

| Item | Briefing Note detail | Date requested | Date circulated |
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