

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee County Council

Date of Committee 15th May 2007

Report Title Annual Report of the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Summary The Annual Report summarises the work undertaken by the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the last 12 months.

For further information please contact: Michelle McHugh
Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 01926 412144
michellemchugh@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees Children, Young People and Families OSC
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Cllr Seccombe, Cllr Burton
- Chief Executive
- Legal Victoria Gould
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers David Carter, Marion Davis
- District Councils
- Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

County Council - 15th May 2007.

**Annual Report of the Children, Young People and Families
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Report of the Chair of the Children, Young People and
Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Recommendation

The Council is recommended to

- 1) Comment on the work undertaken by the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the last 12 months
- 2) Suggest items for consideration by the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2007/08.

All Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to present an Annual Report to the County Council, on a rolling programme. Enclosed is the Annual Report for the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, summarising the work that we have undertaken during 2006 and highlighting future areas of work for 2007/08.

CLLR RICHARD GRANT
Chair of the Children, Young
People and Families Overview
and Scrutiny Committee

Shire Hall
Warwick

16 April 2007

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PROTECTION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Foreword by Cllr Richard Chattaway Chair of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee. 2006 saw many changes, both structurally and culturally. The Council undertook a massive organisational restructure, with 9 Departments being transformed into 6 Directorates, Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny became Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny and the Chairmanship of the Committee also changed; and I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks Cllr Haynes for all his hard work as Chair of the Committee. The Review of Scrutiny also provided a valuable opportunity to reflect upon the way that the Committee works and consequently embrace a new way of working.

Amongst these changes the Committee undertook some important work, which this report summarises. One particular success was the work undertaken in relation to the efficiency savings options for the Community Protection Directorate. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Cabinet and will realise a total efficiency saving of approximately £504k, starting with a part year saving in 2007/08. I am optimistic that successes such as this can be built on next year.

During 2007 the Committee will aspire to implement the recommendations from the Review of Scrutiny. A member workshop will be held to ensure the work programme is member led; we will endeavour to increase public engagement by holding meetings in community locations and scrutinising issues that really matter to the people of Warwickshire; and we will continue to develop and improve by learning from good practice.

There are some significant issues for the Committee to look at during 2007 and the new duties under the Police and Justice Act will ultimately impact upon the work of Committee. However, I have every confidence that as Councillors and Officers understanding of the purpose and process of Scrutiny matures, the influence of the Committee will continue to grow.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that it would not be possible for the Committee to do its job effectively without support. Therefore I would like to use this opportunity to say "thank you" to the many Officers of the Council that have worked for and supported the Committee during 2006, and to other authorities and organisations that have helped with information and advice.

Did you know?

- The West Midlands has been officially recognised as England's best performing region of Fire and Rescue authorities for 2005/06
- Policing Minister Tony McNulty has described Warwickshire Police as a beacon and inspiration to other forces for pushing ahead with Neighbourhood Policing.
- RT Hon Gordon Brown MP Chancellor of the Exchequer praised the Retail Enforcement Pilot, trialled by the Warwickshire Partnership and led by Warwickshire County Councils Trading Standards Service, as successfully reducing the burden upon businesses.

REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The remit of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee is:

“To review and or scrutinise the provision of public services in Warwickshire relating to community safety including Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards, Emergency Planning, crime and disorder reduction, drug and alcohol misuse and policing and criminal justice.”

Membership of the Committee from 9th May 2006 is as follows:



Cllr Appleton



Cllr Haynes



Cllr Shilton
*Liberal
Democrat
Spokeperson*



Cllr Booth



Cllr Kirton



Cllr Timms



Cllr Chattaway
*Chair + Labour
Spokeperson*



Cllr Longden



Cllr Vereker



Cllr Doody
*Conservative
Spokeperson*



Cllr Perry



Cllr Wells
Vice Chair

SUMMARY OF WORK 2006

We have considered and advised on a number of issues throughout the year.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

- Full Year and Half Year Performance
- Corporate Business Plan Targets
- 2006 / 2007 Efficiency savings progress

POLICY

- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- Domestic Violence Strategy
- Consumer Advice Policy for Trading Standards
- Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan

IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY

Anti Social Behaviour - On 8th February 2006 we held a single issue meeting focusing on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire. Members were able to question a panel of expert representatives from the main agencies dealing with anti-social behaviour in Warwickshire. We identified a number of issues including:

- A need to engage with the local Criminal Justice Board in developing strategies to deal with anti-social behaviour
- A need to establish more robust communication systems within communities to highlight both specific incidents of anti-social behaviour and the good work which is being undertaken to address these.

We asked the Cabinet to support the use of the extra resources allocated to the Community Safety Budget to raise the priority of the issues identified, and at its meeting on 4th May 2006, the Cabinet agreed. We will continue to track the outcomes and impact of this.

Community Protection Directorate Efficiency Savings – The Cabinet, at its meeting on 6th April 2006, asked us to consider and discuss the full range of options available for realising efficiency gains for the Community Protection Directorate over the medium term. We scrutinised the issue at two meetings and then asked the Strategic Director of Community Protection to produce a further report detailing options for a rolling programme of efficiency savings. On the basis of this report we recommended to Cabinet that the aerial contract with West Midlands Fire Service be terminated and that 2 hybrid appliances be purchased. The Cabinet accepted our recommendations, which will realise a total efficiency savings of approximately £504k, starting with a part year saving in 2007/08

Safer Neighbourhood Policing – We invited Chief Superintendent David Whitehouse (Warwickshire Police) to a single issue meeting of the Committee in October to discuss Safer Neighbourhood Policing. The purpose of the meeting was to “scrutinise” how the proposed community engagement element of safer neighbourhood policing would be implemented and delivered. The Committee concluded that there was a need to establish what currently worked in each area and build on existing structures. We have invited Chief Superintendent David Whitehouse to attend a future meeting to report on the progress of neighbourhood policing.

Older Peoples Safety – We decided to undertake a review to investigate whether mechanisms are in place to ensure the risk of an older person who lives independently coming to harm is reduced. The Committee established a working group to scope the review. The working group have undertaken some initial research and consultation activities to feed into a single issue meeting on 21st February 2007. Activities carried out by the working group have included consulting older people throughout Warwickshire and visiting Merseyside Fire and Rescue as an example of best practice. The outcomes of this scrutiny will feed into the Older Peoples Strategy for Warwickshire.

OTHER



We requested that a seminar be arranged by Trading Standards to inform Members of the work carried out by the service. Members explored advice and enforcement to protect the vulnerable, age restricted sales and the food chain.

Police and Justice Act 2006

Local Government Overview and Scrutiny Committees were given new powers and responsibilities when the Police and Justice Act 2006 became law in November 2006.

The key points include:

- A new duty for all Local Authorities to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP)
- Reform of CDRPs by summer 2007. Including the following requirements:
 - To define roles and responsibilities of partners,
 - To involve Cabinet Member in strategic planning,
 - To hold Face the People Sessions,
 - To produce a 3 year plan which is updated annually
 - To adopt the National Intelligence Model
- A Community Call for Action from Spring 2008 (CCfA for Community Safety Issues will apply to District Councils only)

The first two points will have an impact upon the work of the Community Protection OSC.

Did you know? The Rugby Policing Manifesto Scrutiny Panel is regarded by the Local Government information unit as an example of best practice for Scrutinising CDRPs

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME 2007

The Committee will be holding a Member workshop in April 2007 to identify issues for the work programme. Issues which are likely to be a high priority for the Committee in 2007 include:

- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- Review of Neighbourhood Policing
- Regional Control Centre (Fire and Rescue)
- Local Area Agreement
- Integrated Risk Management Plan

Finally, we will use the outcomes of the Review of Scrutiny to promote our work, engage members of the public and key stakeholders, and ultimately to have an impact upon the delivery of public services in Warwickshire.