

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

21ST SEPTEMBER 2015

AGENDA ITEM 5
PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To set out a proposed work programme for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 To agree the proposed shortlist of topic areas as shown at Appendix 1 for inclusion on its work programme; and
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1 above, to develop the draft 'scopes', outcomes and timescales to be determined at the next meeting of this Committee.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 13th July 2015, a proposed approach to assist the Committee in drafting a work programme was set out and agreed¹ (albeit, it was recognised that the 'approach' would be an evolving one and may / will be subject to refinement moving forward).
- 3.2. At the same meeting Committee Members agreed a long list of possible topic areas and authorised the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to

¹ Agreed approach – the approach was also approved by the Council's other Scrutiny Committees as part of the July 2015 round of scrutiny meetings

undertake a more detailed review to inform the Committee in producing a shortlist of topics at its September 2015 meeting. The long list of possible topic areas are set out below:

- Central South Consortium
 - Impact on attainment/leadership
 - Impact School Challenge Advisors
 - Benefit of School to School working
- Governor Support
- Safeguarding and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Looked After Children – where performance is in the bottom quartile compared to the rest of Wales and the operation of the Regional Adoption Service
- Early intervention and prevention services – impact of the Team Around the Family service
- Special Educational Needs / Additional Learning Needs Fund
- Seren Programme
- Educational outcomes for vulnerable groups
- the Youth Offending Service.

3.3 Using the above lists, Section 4 sets out the work undertaken in formulating a proposed shortlist of topic areas.

4. PROPOSED SHORTLIST OF TOPIC AREAS

- 4.1 Further to the meeting held on the 13th July 2015, Council officers have applied a series of questions, as set out in the 13th July 2015 report, to each of the possible long list of topic areas. The results of this process are set out at Appendix 1.
- 4.2. As Committee Members will note, although each topic area on the long list as shown at paragraph 3.2 above, are worthy of review, by applying the series of questions it has been possible to prioritise and in doing so, produce a shortlist.
- 4.3 Since this time, Council officers have considered the shortlist of topics, in consultation with the Chair, the results of this work have been incorporated into Appendix 1.
- 4.4 Based on this, Members are requested to:
- 4.4.1 Consider the proposed shortlist of topic areas as shown at Appendix 1.
- 4.4.2 Set out a timetable for the delivery of the Work Programme and the method of scrutiny to be applied to each agreed topic area at the next meeting of this Committee.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The Council's Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed a revised approach to work programming at its meeting on the 13th July 2015.
- 5.2 The revised approach has been used to formulate a work programme that aims to demonstrate the rationale for topic selection together with the intended outcome(s) from the Committee's work.
- 5.3 It is recognised that the revised approach is in its infancy and will need to be subject to Member and Officer reflection moving forward to ensure it is fit for purpose.

APPENDIX 1

Possible topic		Is it in line with a corporate priority?	How well is the service performing?	Does it represent a high financial risk?	Is it identified as a strategic risk?	Is scrutiny likely to impact in service improvements or other measurable benefits?	Will the outcome involve additional expenditure and is it likely that such resources will become available?	Is the scrutiny activity timely – will changes be possible at this stage?	Include as a shortlisted topic?
Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
<u>CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM (CSC)</u> - Impact on attainment / leadership - Impact of school challenge advisors - Benefit of school to school working	CSC up date included on the 21 st September 2015 agenda. Consideration to be given to further / other areas for scrutiny to examine following Committee receiving this up date.								To be determined

Possible topic		Is it in line with a corporate priority??	How well is the service performing?	Does it represent a high financial risk?	Is it identified as a strategic risk?	Is scrutiny likely to impact in service improvements or other measurable benefits?	Will the outcome involve additional expenditure and is it likely that such resources will become available?	Is the scrutiny activity timely – will changes be possible at this stage?	Include as a proposed shortlisted topic?
Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
<u>GOVERNOR SUPPORT</u> - Training and retention	- To review the training arrangements in place for governors and assess the impact this is having; and - To understand the reasons why governors leave their roles, identify opportunities to improve retention rates and identify opportunities to raise awareness of the role of a school governor to increase applications for such roles	Yes (links to the Education priority area)	Would be determined / assessed as part of a review	No	No	Possibly	Unknown	Yes	Yes??
<u>SAFEGUARDING</u>	- To monitor implementation of recommendations made by the WAO in its review of the Council's arrangements for the safeguarding of children in 2014/15	Yes (links to the Children's Services priority area)	Would be determined / assessed as part of a review	Yes	Yes	A scrutiny review would enable appropriate challenge in this area to ensure that the Council's arrangements are fit for purpose	It is considered that implementation of the recommendations would be accommodated within existing resources	A scrutiny review would enable appropriate challenge in this area to ensure that the Council's arrangements are fit for purpose	Yes??

Possible topic		Is it in line with a corporate priority?	How well is the service performing?	Does it represent a high financial risk?	Is it identified as a strategic risk?	Is scrutiny likely to impact in service improvements or other measurable benefits?	Will the outcome involve additional expenditure and is it likely that such resources will become available?	Is the scrutiny activity timely – will changes be possible at this stage?	Include as a proposed shortlisted topic?
Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
<u>SAFEGUARDING (continued)</u>	- Evaluate the impact that the MASH initiative has had to date on helping to prevent the need for escalation and referral to Children's Services	Yes (links to the Children's Services priority area)	Would be determined / assessed as part of a review	Yes (particularly if more children require support from Children's Services)	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Not at this point due to the MASH only recently going LIVE (a 2016/17 work programme topic?)
<u>LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC)</u>									
- Regional Adoption Service	- Evaluate the impact that the Regional Adoption Service has had to date	Yes (links to the Children's Services priority area)	Would be determined / assessed as part of a review	Yes (particularly if less adoptive parents were to be approved meaning other care support arrangements would be required)	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Not at this point due to the new service only recently going LIVE (a 2016/17 work programme topic?)
- Where LAC performance is amongst the worst in Wales / below the Wales average (14/15)	- Review one / a selection of performance indicators to establish the specific actions being taken by the service to address and consider areas for improvement	As above	As above	LAC represents an area of significant spend for the Council	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	????

Possible topic		Is it in line with a corporate priority?	How well is the service performing?	Does it represent a high financial risk?	Is it identified as a strategic risk?	Is scrutiny likely to impact in service improvements or other measurable benefits?	Will the outcome involve additional expenditure and is it likely that such resources will become available?	Is the scrutiny activity timely – will changes be possible at this stage?	Include as a proposed shortlisted topic?
Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
<u>EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION</u> - Team Around The Family	- Evaluate the impact of the service in preventing the need for escalation of referrals to Children's Services;	Yes	Would be determined / assessed as part of a review	The area of Children's Services represents an area of significant spend for the Council	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes??
<u>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)</u>	- Review of the timeliness that statements are issued / finalised	Yes	Need to check latest performance information	No?	No	No	Unknown	No	????
<u>ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS FUND</u>	- Improved understanding of the funding available, its allocation and use	Yes	Would be determined / assessed as part of a review	??	No	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Up date provided to committee rather than a scrutiny review?
<u>SEREN PROGRAMME</u>	- Up date report provided to the Committee on the outcomes delivered by the Seren Programme for 2014/15	Yes	Would be determined as part of the report up date	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Up date provided to committee (in 2016/17?) rather than a scrutiny review?

Possible topic		Is it in line with a corporate priority?	How well is the service performing?	Does it represent a high financial risk?	Is it identified as a strategic risk?	Is scrutiny likely to impact in service improvements or other measurable benefits?	Will the outcome involve additional expenditure and is it likely that such resources will become available?	Is the scrutiny activity timely – will changes be possible at this stage?	Include as a proposed shortlisted topic?
Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
<u>EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS OF CHILDREN</u>	- Review the education performance results for a vulnerable group e.g. children supported through the YOS, to identify opportunities to support improvement	Yes	Would be determined / assessed as part of a review	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	???
