

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017 /18

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

6TH SEPTEMBER 2017

AGENDA ITEM No. 5
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2017/18 MUNICIPAL YEAR

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members on issues for consideration when preparing a work programme for the Children and Young Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

2. RECOMMENDATION

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

- 2.1 Agree on issues for inclusion on the Committee's Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2017/18 (as set out in **Appendix 1**) and as informed by the work of the Committee during 2016/17; and,
- 2.2 Agree the establishment of a Joint Working Group comprising Members of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee in respect of 'Delivering Integrated Family Support Early Intervention and Prevention Services in RCT' (with the first report being delivered to this Committee on the 11th October 2017).

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 There is a requirement to devise and publish a Work Programme for each of the Council's Scrutiny Committee as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules). Each Committee is responsible for setting and agreeing its own Work Programme.
- 3.2 It is important that all Members have the opportunity to put forward items for consideration and it should be noted that the draft work programme is only provided as a basis for discussion.

- 3.3 In consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee together with appropriate Council Officers an initial list of work topics for 2017/18 has been compiled for Members' consideration (as set out at Appendix 1).

4. DEVISING A SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/18

- 4.1 To assist Members' thinking when agreeing their work programme, key sources of information that may be helpful are set out below:-

Service areas within the remit of the Committee

- 4.2 The Terms of Reference for the Committee is to undertake the Overview and Scrutiny role in connection with scrutinising services that support the Children and Young People of our communities. The Committee considers Children's Social Services as well the Education

Overview and Scrutiny 2016/17 Annual Report

- 4.3 Through its work during 2016/17, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee identified a number of areas for on-going attention in 2017/18, as set out in the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report for 2016/17. These were:-

- To Monitor the progress of the Governor Support Service
- To Monitor the Director of Social Services Annual Report.
- To Monitor the Annual Complaints Report
- To Monitor the Outcomes for Children Looked after, along with the performance outcomes of education for free school meal pupils.

Shortlisting Topics

- 4.4 Members involved in Scrutiny must be selective and ask particular questions to identify only the very best topics for more in-depth consideration. It will be important for Scrutiny Committees to show why it has been decided to conduct a review into a particular topic and Members will need to consider the arguments both for and against including a topic on the Work Programme before making a decision.
- 4.5 As a result of the above, there will no doubt be the need for Members to balance the desire to examine a large number of topics with the likelihood of securing greater impact through focussing on a small number of items in more detail.

4.6 In addition to the information noted at Appendix 1, other principles to take account of when considering topics include:

- Public Interest: the concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
- Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the County Borough;
- Duplication: work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort; and
- Balance: achieve a balance between pre-decision scrutiny, policy development and performance monitoring.

Establishment of a Joint Working Group

4.7 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs & Vice Chairs, held on the 5th July 2017, it was agreed that a Joint Working Group would be established comprising Members from the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee in respect of Delivering Integrated Family Support Early Intervention and Prevention Services in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

4.8 Members are requested to agree the establishment of the Joint Working Group and for Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to receive a presentation in respect of this item at its meeting on the 11th October 2017.

Pre-Scrutiny

4.9 On the 10th July 2017, opportunity will be given to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and invited Chairs and Vice Chairs to consider the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Cabinet over the 2017/18 Municipal Year to ascertain if there are any topics that can undergo pre-scrutiny by this Committee

Flexible Work Programme

4.10 In having regard to the above sources of information together with the local knowledge and insight of Members, the Committee may also wish to consider building some flexibility into the Work Programme to be able to accommodate specific referrals, for example, from Cabinet, Audit Committee or the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee.

5. VENUES

- 5.1 As part of the Council's proposals to improve its arrangements for public participation in its overview and scrutiny process, we are committed to identifying opportunities for receiving evidence outside the formal Council Headquarters, for example, in schools or other more informal settings.
- 5.2 However, Members will need to consider the practical requirements of taking a committee to an alternative location such as accessibility and/or available services and amenities. Therefore, suggestions can be agreed following a full assessment of the proposed venue.

6. KEY QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERS

- 6.1 Attached at Appendix 1 for consideration is the draft work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18.
- 6.2 The Committee is asked to consider whether it is in agreement with the proposals and whether there are any issues Members would wish to see included.

Service Area/theme	Date and Venue of Meeting	Possible topic	Is scrutiny likely to impact in service improvements or other measurable benefits? Yes/No	Cabinet Member(s) to be invited Yes/No	Include as a shortlisted topic? Yes/No
Children's Services Education	12th July, 2017 (Children's Services) To be held at the Council Headquarters, Clydach Vale 26th July 2017 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of Service Areas by Tony Garthwaite Director of Social Services Annual Report Overview of Education by Officers	Yes		
	6th September, 2017 (Children's Services) Venue: Chambers 27th September 2017 (Education)	Pre – Scrutiny Annual Social Services Complaints Report Pre Scrutiny of Cwm Taf Safeguarding Report School Attendance Performance Figures Key stage Performance Figures Looked After Children Outcome Report To receive finding of the Working group in respect of Sanitary			

Education		Provision in primary and secondary Schools (Interim Report)			
	11 th October, 2017 Children's Services Venue: to be agreed	Report in respect of Delivering Integrated Family Support early intervention and prevention services in RCT (Zoe Lancelott) (This is to be a joint piece of work between Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Children and Young People)			
	25 th October 2017 Education	EOTAS/PRU Outcomes Pupil Engagement			
Children's Services	8 th November , 2017 (Children's Services) Venue: to be agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption Agency Report Report on housing availability for vulnerable children (Accommodation for homeless 16 – 17 year old children) 	Yes Yes		

Education	20 th November 2017 (Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Governance Feedback from SEREN CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM 			
Children's Services	6 th December 2017 Venue: to be agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Carer Support UPATE Report from CAMHS 			
Education	20 th December 2017- (Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusions School Based Counselling 			
Children's Services	10 th January 2018 Venue: to be agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on Missing Children with in RCT 			
Education	24 th January 2018 (Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent KS4/5 Outcome Data and Categorisation 			
Children's Services	7 th February Venue: to be agreed				

<p>Children's Services</p> <p>Education</p>	<p>7th March 2018</p> <p>Venue: to be agreed</p>	<p><i>Preparation for Scrutiny Annual Report</i></p>			
	<p>21st March 2018</p>	<p>School Organisation</p> <p>Admissions</p>			