

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



please ask for Bernard Carter

direct line 0300 300 4175

date 14 July 2011

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 26 July 2011 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Cllrs Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman), N B Costin (Vice-Chairman), P N Aldis, Mrs S Clark, A L Dodwell, P Hollick, K Janes, I A MacKilligan, R B Pepworth and A Shadbolt

[Named Substitutes:

D Bowater, P A Duckett, Mrs S A Goodchild, Ms C Maudlin and N J Sheppard]

Co-optees: Mrs Beattie (Parent Governor), Ms Copley (Parent Governor), Ms Image (Roman Catholic Diocese), Mr Landman (Parent Governor) and Mr Reynolds (Church of England Diocese)

All other Members of the Council - on request

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members

2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 28 June 2011 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations and the nature thereof in relation to:-

- (a) personal interests in any agenda item
- (b) personal and prejudicial interests in any agenda item
- (c) any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

4. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

5. **Petitions**

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

6. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution.

7. **Call-In**

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.10 of Part D2.

8. Requested Items

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

Reports

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
9	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) To receive a verbal report from the Chairman of SACRE regarding its role and the provision of religious education in Central Bedfordshire.	*
10	Quarter Four Performance Report 2010/11 The report highlights the Quarter Four performance for the Children's Services Directorate.	* 11 - 16
11	Children's Services: The Future Role of the Council To receive a presentation regarding the future role of the Council in delivering Children's Services against the backdrop of recent education legislation.	*
12	Work Programme 2011 - 2012 & Executive Forward Plan The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.	* 17 - 34

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in The Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 28 June 2011

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman)
Cllr N B Costin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:	P N Aldis Mrs S Clark A L Dodwell P Hollick	Councillors:	K Janes I A MacKilligan R B Pepworth
Parental Co-optees:	S Beattie H Copley D Landman		
Church of England Co-optee:			
Roman Catholic Co-optee:			
Apologies for Absence:	Mrs F Image J Reynolds Cllr A Shadbolt		
Members in Attendance:	Cllr Mrs S A Goodchild Cllr M A G Versallion	Executive Member for Children's Services	
Officers in Attendance:	Mr J Brown Mr B Carter Mrs E Grant Mrs C Parry Mr B Pearson	Head of Integrated Transport Corporate Scrutiny & Research Manager Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services Assistant Director, Children's Services Operations Head of Children's Services Commissioning	

CS/11/11 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 May 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CS/11/12 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

None.

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

(c) **Any political whip in relation to any agenda item:-**

None.

CS/11/13 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the new Parent Governor Representatives, who had recently been elected to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a period of four years.

CS/11/14 **Petitions**

No petitions were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part D2 of the Constitution.

CS/11/15 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

The Chairman confirmed that no questions, statements or deputations from members of the public had been received in accordance with Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

CS/11/16 **Call-In**

Members were advised that no decisions of the Executive had been referred to the Committee under the Call-in Procedures set out in Appendix "A" to Rule No. S18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

CS/11/17 **Requested Items**

No items were referred to the Committee for consideration at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

CS/11/18 **Corporate Parenting Annual Report**

The Executive Member for Children's Services introduced his report, which set out the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel during 2010/11. The report included the Panel's own Annual Report for the same year, which outlined the delivery of Looked After Children's Services and demonstrated that it had delivered its corporate parenting responsibilities for that year.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in some detail and raised the following key issues:-

- The process of placing Looked After Children (LAC) into care;
- The Council's performance and achievements when compared with its statistical neighbours;
- The paramount importance of early intervention and the management of risk;
- The importance of good educational outcomes for LAC;
- The process of fostering/adoption and the need for mandatory training for members of the Corporate Parenting and Adoption Panels;
- The impact of homelessness;
- The impact of reduced public sector funding and organisational capacity on the Council's ability to meet its obligations with regard to LAC;
- The difficulties faced by LAC in their transition into adulthood and the support provided by the Council during this transition;
- The importance of improving access to health services for LAC; and
- The remuneration and support for Foster Carers.

Following the debate, Members of the Committee agreed to request the Council's Constitutional Advisory Group consider introducing mandatory subject specific training for members of the Corporate Parenting and Adoption Panels at the earliest possible opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION TO CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

That the Constitutional Advisory Group consider introducing mandatory subject specific training for members of the Corporate Parenting and Adoption Panels at the earliest possible opportunity.

CS/11/19

Children's Trust Annual Report

The Executive Member for Children's Services introduced the Annual Report of the Children's Trust, which set out the progress made in delivering the priorities contained within the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the annual report in some detail and raised the following key issues:-

- The importance of good parenting and the role of the Children's Trust in supporting and promoting this fundamental issue;
- The need for early intervention, if necessary;
- The need to review the work of Children's Centres;
- The importance of religious education within schools and the need to influence emerging government policy regarding this issue;
- Recognition of the excellent work of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE);
- The need to target limited resources at greatest need;

- Breastfeeding, and the need for Children’s Centres to offer better advice regarding this issue; and
- The importance of promoting healthy lifestyles generally and the need to improve our performance in reducing childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy;

Following the debate, Members of the Committee felt it important that all of the above issues were relayed to the Children’s Trust but specifically requested that it consider undertaking an in-depth and robust review of early intervention/parenting at the earliest possible opportunity. Members also agreed to invite the Chairman of SACRE to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the issue of religious education in Central Bedfordshire schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHILDREN’S TRUST

- 1. That the Children’s Trust take due regard of the key issues raised by this Committee (as outlined above) when working with partners to deliver the priorities contained within the Children & Young People’s Plan; and**
- 2. That the Children’s Trust consider undertaking an in-depth and robust review of early intervention/parenting at the earliest possible opportunity.**

RECOMMENDATION TO SACRE

That the Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education be invited to attend a future meeting of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss the issue of religious education in Central Bedfordshire schools.

CS/11/20

Post 16 Transport Consultation

The Executive Member for Children’s Services introduced his report, which proposed further changes to the Council’s Post 16 Transport Policy for the academic year 2012/13. The report was supplemented by a presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children’s Services and the submission of an additional paper outlining the findings of a recent consultation exercise regarding the matter.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in some detail and debated the following key issues:-

- The need for the Council’s Executive to make a decision regarding these proposals before the start of the next academic year to allow sufficient (one year) notification;
- The ability of schools and colleges to fund and support (via 16-19 Bursary Fund, etc) post 16 transport themselves and the need for the Council to work with these providers to find “joined up” solutions;

- The reason why differentiation on the basis of course content was not considered appropriate;
- The strict definition of “low income” and the impact this would have on the less privileged;
- The impact the cost of transport has on take up rates and the lack of relevant statistical evidence one way or the other;
- The impact these proposals would have on those with Special Education Needs (SEN);
- The impact these proposals would have on the Council’s ambition to promote sustainable transport; and
- In difficult times, the need to focus limited resources on the most vulnerable.

No consensus was reached during the debate however the following recommendation was moved and seconded:-

That the proposed changes to the Council’s Post 16 Transport Policy (as summarised in paragraphs 14 to 18 of the Executive Member’s report) be supported by this Committee and that the Executive be informed accordingly.

Upon being put to the vote, 6 Members supported the recommendation, 2 were against and there were 4 abstentions. Accordingly the recommendation was carried.

RECOMMENDATION TO EXECUTIVE

That the proposed changes to the Council’s Post 16 Transport Policy (as summarised in paragraphs 14 to 18 of the Executive Member’s report) be supported by this Committee and that the Executive be informed accordingly.

CS/11/21

Work Programme 2011 - 2012 & Executive Forward Plan

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive, which provided details of the Committee’s current work programme and Executive Forward Plan. Members also noted and agreed a number of changes to the scheduling of items for their July and September meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Children’s Services OSC Work Programme be noted.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.30 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 26 July 2011
Subject: Quarter Four Performance Report
Report of: Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter Four performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Head of Partnerships, Performance and Workforce Development
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Quarterly Performance Report ensures that progress on the delivery of the Council's priorities is monitored.

Financial:

There are a number of performance indicators within the full corporate suite that have a financial link.

It will be important to consider any financial implications in addressing ongoing areas of under performance.

Legal:

None.

Risk Management:

Areas of ongoing underperformance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None.

Equalities/Human Rights:

It is important that consideration is given to all our Central Bedfordshire communities when considering public facing performance indicators – particularly vulnerable groups.

Community Safety:

There are Children's Services indicators that relate to ensuring children and young people are kept safe.

Sustainability:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the Committee notes and reviews Quarter Four performance.**

Background

1. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
2. The following provides an overview of the performance position for Quarter 4 and the 2010/11 outturn position.
3. The provisional outturn results for 2010/11 are:
 - 3 indicators are Green;
 - 1 indicator is Amber; and
 - 2 indicators are Red.
4. The indicators that are Amber and Red are detailed below and in Appendix A:
 - NI 68 - The percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments (Red)
 - NI 73 - Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Red)
 - NI 75 - Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Amber)

Performance Summary

5. The Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people is good. Key indicators measuring assessment timeliness, stability and review have remained on target to year end 2011. Despite additional numbers of social workers, increased pressures on Children's Social Care frontline social work teams have impacted on our ability to achieve our target for the ratio of referrals to initial assessments (NI68). 30% more initial assessments have been completed this year, totalling 1574. The planned replacement of the Integrated Children's System client database, with improved recording practices should help to resolve these issues in future.
6. Regular monitoring enables Children's Services to ensure that current performance reflects consistent application of thresholds for access to services and assessment for children in need and those in need of protection. This demonstrates continuing availability of the service for those most vulnerable, rather than solely pursuing targets.

7. Performance at Key Stage 2 remained the same as last year. Action is being taken to target key areas of improvement in Key Stage 2 and to support the transition midway through the Key Stage from lower to middle schools.
8. Final results indicate that 54.2% of students at Key Stage 4 achieved 5A*-C including English and mathematics. This represents an improvement of 4% compared with 2009. These figures place Central Bedfordshire above the national average and improving faster than the national rate of improvement, but 4.4% below that for statistical neighbours (ranked 11 out of 11). Five schools are part of the second year of the national Gaining Ground programme. This gives access to extra support and challenge through additional School Improvement Partner (SIP) time, peer support from another school and some national programme support. Good progress is being made in developing use of data, improving the quality of learning and development of middle leadership.
9. During the year 11 schools have been judged to be outstanding, bringing the total number of Outstanding inspections to 63 - an increase of seven from last year. Schools judged outstanding are not now routinely inspected; instead, Ofsted carries out an interim assessment based on a desk top analysis.
10. Mill Vale Middle School is in an Ofsted "Notice to Improve" category. The latest monitoring data shows improvement in teaching and learning.
11. Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on 9th February 2011. In consultation with the Church of England Diocese, a Local Authority Statement of Action and a school action plan have been drawn up identifying support from an Outstanding Church of England school and an additional community school.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive 12 July 2011 - (Quarter 4 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

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Seasonal = Compared To The Same Time In The Previous Year
 Qtr on Qtr = Compared To Previous Qtr
 Annual = Compared To A Fixed Point In Previous Year

Indicators	NER Statistical Neighbours	Unit	Good is	Outturn 09/10	Quarter 1 Apr - Jun	Quarter 2 Jul - Sept	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec	Quarter 4 Jan - Mar	Trend Comparison	Outturn 10/11	Performance Judgement (Q) compared with (Q)	Target 10/11	Comments
NI 59 - The percentage of initial assessments within seven working days of referral	59.0%	%	High	86.7%	96.2%	95.0%	95.1%	99.6%	Qtr on Qtr	95.7%	↑G	85.0%	Initial assessments are an important indicator of how quickly services can respond and assess the circumstances of a child thought to be at risk of serious harm or in need of social care intervention. As the assessments involve a range of local agencies, this indicator also shows how well multi-agency working arrangements are established in local authority areas given the service has seven working days to complete them. Performance remains above target.
NI 62 - The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year	11.7%	%	Low	9.2%	1.1%	2.3%	4.1%	5.7%	Seasonal	5.7%	↑G	10.0%	Performance is very good. This indicator is an important measure of the stability of care placements that a child or young person has experienced. On the whole stability is associated with better outcomes – for example placement instability can negatively impact upon a child or young persons educational outcomes. Proper assessment of a child's needs and an adequate choice of placements are essential if appropriate stable placements are to be made. The services priority remains the recruitment and retention of carers.
NI 67 - The percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed	94.4%	%	High	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Qtr on Qtr	100%	●G	100%	Reviews are a key element in ensuring that Child Protection Plans and effective interventions are monitored, reviewed and progressed as a means of ensuring children are safe and protected. As a result, delivering timely reviewing is a priority within the Conference and Review Service. The 100% target continues to be achieved.
NI 68 - The percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments	61.3%	%	High	68.2%	53.1%	67.0%	58.6%	51.5%	Qtr on Qtr	56.2%	↓R	65.0%	This indicator is below target because of changes in recording procedures and systems. A significant increase in the number of referrals made to the service by partner agencies and members of the public has also contributed. 1574 initial assessments were completed this year, this is approximately a 30% increase compared to the year ending March 2010. This demonstrates that there is the capacity and ability to respond effectively to requests for social care intervention. The planned replacement of the Integrated Children's System client database, with improved recording practices should help to resolve these issues in future.

Seasonal = Compared To The Same Time In The Previous Year
 Qtr on Qtr = Compared To Previous Qtr
 Annual = Compared To A Fixed Point In Previous Year

Indicators	NER Statistical Neighbourhoods	Unit	Good is	Outturn 09/10	Quarter 1 Apr - Jun	Quarter 2 Jul - Sept	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec	Quarter 4 Jan - Mar	Trend Comparison	Outturn 10/11	Performance Judgement (Q) compared with (Q)	Target 10/11	Comments
Published Ofsted school and college classifications (new inspections in period shown in brackets)	-	No.	-	Total	248 (22)	247 (9)	247 (13)	247 (18)	Qtr on Qtr	Total	New	-	There are 247 current inspection results for schools and colleges in Central Bedfordshire - this includes some schools that have two inspection outcomes; for example lower schools have an inspection outcome for Early Years as well as one for the statutory age group. Inspections published within the reporting period e.g. Quarter 4, are shown in brackets. There have been eighteen reports published by the end of the reporting period. Over the year there has been an increase of schools judged to be outstanding. In this quarter, two schools currently have an Ofsted "Notice to Improve" – Mill Vale Middle School and Ashton Middle School (inspected 09/02/2011). Mill Vale is showing some signs of improvement and impact in terms of a strengthened Senior Leadership Team and some improvement in teaching and learning. The priority now is to ensure that pupil progress data reflects the improvements in teaching and learning. Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on 9th February 2011. In consultation with the Church of England Diocese, a Local Authority Statement of Action and a school action plan have been drawn up identifying support from an Outstanding Church of England school and an additional community school.
				Outstanding	58 (3)	58 (2)	62 (5)	63 (1)		63 (11)			
				Good	145 (17)	145 (4)	137 (4)	132 (10)		132 (35)			
				Satisfactory	51 (14)	42 (3)	46 (4)	50 (6)		50 (14)			
NI 73 Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)	75%	%	High	73%	2 (1)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (1)	Yr on Yr	2 (2)	●R	82%	Performance at Key Stage 2 remained the same as last year. Action is being taken to target key areas of improvement in Key Stage 2 and to support the transition midway through the Key Stage from lower to middle schools.
				Inadequate	1 (1)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (1)		Inadequate			
NI 75 Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold)	58.6%	%	High	54.2%	-	-	-	-	Yr on Yr	-	↑A	56% (Academic Year 09/10)	Final results indicate that 54.2% of students at Key Stage 4 achieved 5A*-C including English and mathematics. This represents an improvement of 4% compared with 2009. These figures place Central Bedfordshire above the national average and improving faster than the national rate of improvement, but 4.4% below that for statistical neighbours (ranked 11 out of 11). Five schools are part of the second year of the national Gaining Ground programme. This gives access to extra support and challenge through additional School Improvement Partner (SIP) time, peer support from another school and some national programme support. Good progress is being made in developing use of data, improving the quality of learning and development of middle leadership.
				Inadequate	1 (1)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (1)		Inadequate			

Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 26 July 2011
Subject: Work Programme 2011 – 2012 & Executive Forward Plan
Report of: Chief Executive
Summary: The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

Contact Officer: Bernard Carter, Overview & Scrutiny Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The work programme of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities.

Financial:

n/a

Legal:

n/a

Risk Management:

n/a

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

n/a

Equalities/Human Rights:

n/a

Community Safety:

n/a

Sustainability:

n/a

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. **that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
 - (a) **considers and approves the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;**
 - (b) **considers the Executive Forward Plan; and**
 - (c) **considers whether it wishes to add any further items to the work programme and/or establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items.**

Work Programme

1. Attached at Appendix A is the currently drafted work programme for the Committee.
2. Also attached at Appendix B is the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan so that Overview & Scrutiny Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. Those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference are shaded in light grey.
3. The Committee is now requested to consider the work programme attached and amend or add to it as necessary. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

Task Forces

4. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members may also wish to consider how each item will be reviewed i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

Conclusion

5. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendments/additions they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they may wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work.

Work Programme for Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2011 - 2012

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
1.	26 July 2011	<p>Quarter 4 Performance Monitoring</p> <p>Children's Services: The Future Role of the Council</p> <p>Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)</p>	<p>To consider performance monitoring information for the last quarter of 20010/11</p> <p>To receive a presentation regarding the future role of the Council in delivering Children's Services against the backdrop of recent education legislation</p> <p>To receive a verbal report from the Chairman of SACRE regarding its role and the provision of religious education in Central Bedfordshire.</p>	Subject to the availability of the SACRE Chairman
2.	6 September 2011	<p>Disability Provision</p> <p>Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report</p> <p>Foster Carer Allowances</p>	<p>To consider a review of disability provision</p> <p>To consider the annual report from the Local Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p>To consider an options paper regarding foster carer allowances</p>	

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
		Leaving Care Allowance	To consider an options paper regarding leaving care allowance	
		Fostering, Adoption & Private Fostering	To consider annual reports for Fostering, Adoption & Private Fostering	
3.	18 October 2011	Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring	To consider the directorate's budget monitoring information for the first quarter of 2010/11.	
		Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the first quarter of 2011/12	
4.	29 November 2011			
5.	20 December 2011	Children & Young People's Plan	To consider the half year monitoring report of the Children & Young People's Plan	
6.	17 January 2012	Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring	To consider the directorate's budget monitoring information for the second quarter of 2010/11.	

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
		Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the second quarter of 20011/12	
		Children's Health	To receive a presentation regarding children's health	
7.	28 February 2012			
8.	17 April 2012	Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring	To consider the directorate's budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2010/11.	
		Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the third quarter of 20011/12	
9.	22 May 2012			

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**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Key Decisions
1 July 2011 to 29 June 2012**

- 1) During the period from **1 July 2011 to 29 June 2012**, Central Bedfordshire Council plans to make key decisions on the issues set out below. “Key decisions” relate to those decisions of the Executive which are likely:
- to result in the incurring of expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant (namely £200,000 or above per annum) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - to be significant in terms of their effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the area of Central Bedfordshire.
- 2) The Forward Plan is a general guide to the key decisions to be determined by the Executive and will be updated on a monthly basis. Key decisions will be taken by the Executive as a whole. The Members of the Executive are:

Cllr James Jamieson	Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Executive
Cllr Maurice Jones	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources
Cllr Mark Versallion	Executive Member for Children’s Services
Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing
Cllr Ken Matthews	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development
Cllr Brian Spurr	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services
Cllr Mrs Tricia Turner MBE	Executive Member for Economic Partnerships
Cllr Richard Stay	Executive Member for External Affairs

- 3) Those items identified for decision more than one month in advance may change in forthcoming Plans. Each new Plan supersedes the previous Plan. Any person who wishes to make representations to the Executive about the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made should do so to the officer whose telephone number and e-mail address are shown in the Forward Plan. Any correspondence should be sent to the contact officer at the relevant address as shown below. General questions about the Plan such as specific dates, should be addressed to the Committee Services Manager, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ.
- 4) The agendas for meetings of the Executive will be published as follows:

Meeting Date	Publication of Agenda
15 March 2011	03 March 2011
05 April 2011	24 March 2011
31 May 2011	19 May 2011
12 July 2011	30 June 2011
23 August 2011	11 August 2011
4 October 2011	22 September 2011
15 November 2011	3 November 2011
6 December 2011	24 November 2011
10 January 2012	22 December 2011
14 February 2012	2 February 2012
27 March 2012	15 March 2012
15 May 2012	3 May 2012

Central Bedfordshire Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 July 2011 to 29 June 2012

Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 15.06.11

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
1.	Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan -	To consider and formally adopt the Biggleswade town centre strategy and masterplan as a supplementary planning document.	12 July 2011	Non statutory consultation – July 2009 comprising public exhibition Non statutory consultation – 3 July to 27 August 2010, 4 public exhibitions in addition to web and print consultation methods Formal statutory consultation – February to March 2011 for a period of five weeks	Biggleswade town centre strategy and masterplan	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 11/06/11 to Contact Officer: Liz Wade, Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration Email: liz.wade@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6288
2.	Delivering the Rural Development Programme in Central Bedfordshire -	To make a decision regarding provision of a loan to BRCC for up to £500,000 to support cash flow in the delivery of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) for the Greensands Ridge area.	12 July 2011		A copy of the proposed Loan Agreement will be appended to the report.	Cllr Maurice Jones Comments by 15/06/11 to Contact Officer: Helen Shore, Head of Business Investment and Marketing Email: helen.shore@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6527

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
3.	Business Case for Integrated Children's ICT System Improvement -	To consider the business case for the procurement of a replacement Integrated Children's System and improvement of related processes and workflows.	12 July 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 11/06/11 to Contact Officer: Clive Jones, Assistant Director Customer and Systems Email: clive.jones@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4168
4.	Consultation on Central Bedfordshire's draft Approach to Parking Management -	To consider the consultation on Central Bedfordshire's draft Approach to Parking Management.	12 July 2011	Members and Town and Parish Councils Exhibitions at Priory and Watling House Tuesday 6 June 2011	Draft Approach to Parking Management	Cllr Brian J Spurr Comments by 11/06/11 to Contact Officer: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director Highways & Transport Email: basil.jackson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6171
5.	Budget Management - Provisional Outturn 2010/11 -	To provide information on the budget outturn as at 31 March 2011.	12 July 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 11/06/11 to Contact Officer: John Unsworth, Interim Assistant Director of Finance Email: john.unsworth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
6.	Steppingstones Hostel -	To seek approval to dispose of Steppingstones Hostel, Lancot Drive, Dunstable.	12 July 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 18/06/11 to Contact Officer: Ian Brown, Interim AD Assets or Peter Burt, MRICS, Head of Property Assets Email: ian.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5711 or peter.burt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5281
7.	Post 16 Transport Policy -	To approve the draft policy to be implemented from September 2012.	23 August 2011	Consultation to run between 9 May 2011 and 24 June 2011. Workshops to be held with schools, colleges, neighbouring authorities and Youth Parliament.	Report Consultation forms and feedback Draft policy Equality Impact Assessment	Cllr Mark A G Versallion Comments by 22/07/11 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Learning and Strategic Commissioning Email: sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5522
8.	Community Engagement Strategy -	To endorse the refresh of the Community Engagement Strategy.	23 August 2011		Report	Cllr James G Jamieson Comments by 22/07/11 to Contact Officer: Ian Porter, Assistant Director Policy, Partnerships & Performance Email: ian.porter@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6529

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
9.	Commissioning the Providers of Care at Four Extra Care Scheme Courts in Central Bedfordshire -	To approve the Social Care, Health and Housing recommendation for recommissioning the providers of care at four Extra Care Scheme Courts in Central Bedfordshire.	23 August 2011	Residents, relatives and Housing Providers have all been involved, and relatives of the residents will be included in the assessment of tenders.	Tender Document Report	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 22/07/11 to Contact Officer: Elizabeth Saunders, Assistant Director Commissioning Email: elizabeth.saunders@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6494
10.	Award of Contract: 24/7 Community Alarm and Emergency out of hours telephone call handling service -	To award the contract.	23 August 2011		Tender report	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 22/07/11 to Contact Officer: Basil Quinn, Housing Asset Manager Performance Email: basil.quinn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5118
11.	Annual Report of Bedford and Central Bedfordshire Adult Safeguarding Board -	To receive the Annual Report of Bedford and Central Bedfordshire Adult Safeguarding Board.	23 August 2011	Partners on the Safeguarding Board on the 14 June 2011.	Annual Report	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 01/08/11 to Contact Officer: Ed Thompson, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Email: ed.thompson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5146

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
12.	Budget Management Report - Quarter 1 -	To consider the quarter 1 budget management report.	4 October 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 03/09/11 to Contact Officer: John Unsworth, Interim Assistant Director of Finance Email: john.unsworth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
13.	Economic Development Plan including the Approach to All Age Skills -	To recommend to full Council to approve the Central Bedfordshire Economic Development Plan.	15 November 2011	13 week consultation from 8 June 2011, to include focus groups, workshops, key stakeholder meetings and web based consultation.	Draft final Economic Development Plan	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 14/10/11 to Contact Officer: James Cushing, Head of Economic Policy Email james.cushing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4984
14.	Budget Management Report - Quarter 2 -	To consider the quarter 2 budget management report.	6 December 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 05/11/11 to Contact Officer: John Unsworth, Interim Assistant Director of Finance Email: john.unsworth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
15.	Review of Central Bedfordshire Council Library Service -	Approval is sought to: A: agree the Central Bedfordshire vision for the Libraries Service; and B: agree a sustainable model of future Library Service provision.	6 December 2011	Throughout May/June a series of focus groups and workshops with service users and partners and stakeholders. From July – September/October a formal consultation for a minimum of 13 weeks on the vision and potential service delivery models.	Emerging vision, core service offer and aspiration Libraries Service Review Report Outcomes from consultation process Equality Impact Assessment	Cllr Brian J Spurr Comments by 05/11/11 to Contact Officer: Kate McFarlane, Head of Community Regeneration & Adult Skills Email: kate.mcfarlane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5858
16.	Gypsy & Traveller DPD -	To recommend to Council the adoption of the Gypsy & Traveller DPD.	10 January 2012	Statutory LDF consultation process and Examination by Planning Inspector.	Gypsy & Traveller DPD (DLF North)	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Plan Email: richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105
17.	Award of the Housing Responsive Maintenance and Void Repairs Contract -	To award the housing responsive maintenance and void repairs contract.	10 January 2012		Report	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Basil Quinn, Housing Asset Manager Performance Email: basil.quinn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5118

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
18.	Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2012-2013 -	To adopt the Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2012-2013.	27 March 2012	Strategic Assessment & Partnership Plan will be considered at the Community Safety Partnership Executive meeting in November/December, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Local Strategic Partnership.	Strategic Assessment Priorities & Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012-2013	Cllr Brian J Spurr Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager Email: jeanette.keyte@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5232
19.	Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2012-2013, Age Restricted Sales Plan 2012-2013 and the Health and Safety (as a Regulator) Service Plan 2012-2013 -	To approve the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2012-2013, Age Restricted Sales Plan 2012-2013 and the Health and Safety (as a Regulator) Service Plan 2012-2013.	27 March 2012		Central Bedfordshire Enforcement Policy; FSA Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement; Food Law Code of Practice (England); HSE Section 18 Standard on Enforcement	Cllr Brian J Spurr Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Susan Childerhouse, Head of Public Protection (North) Email: susan.childerhouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4394
20.	Budget Management Report - Quarter 3 -	To consider the quarter 3 budget management report.	27 March 2012		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 26/02/11 to Contact Officer: John Unsworth, Interim Assistant Director of Finance Email: john.unsworth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
NON KEY DECISIONS						
21.	Quarter 4 Performance Report -	To highlight key Quarter 4 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council.	12 July 2011		None.	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 11/06/11 to Contact Officer: Ian Porter, Assistant Director Policy, Partnerships & Performance Email: ian.porter@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6529
22.	Options for determining Fostering Allowances -	To consider the options for determining Fostering Allowances.	23 August 2011		None.	Cllr Mark A G Versallion Comments by 22/07/11 to Contact Officer: Catherine Parry, Head of Safeguarding and Children in Care Email: catherine.parry@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6441

Postal address for Contact Officers: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ

**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Decisions on Key Issues**

For the Municipal Year 2011/12 the Forward Plan will be published on the fifteenth day of each month or, where the fifteenth day is not a working day, the working day immediately proceeding the fifteenth day, or in February 2012 when the plan will be published on the fourteenth day:

Date of Publication	Period of Plan
15.04.11	1 May 2011 – 30 April 2012
13.05.11	1 June 2011 – 31 May 2012
15.06.11	1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012
15.07.11	1 August 2011 – 31 July 2012
15.08.11	1 September 2011 – 31 August 2012
15.09.11	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2012
14.10.11	1 November 2011 – 31 October 2012
15.11.11	1 December 2011 – 30 November 2012
15.12.11	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012
13.01.12	1 February 2012 – 31 January 2013
14.02.12	1 March 2012 – 28 February 2013
15.03.12	1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013

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