

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

**This meeting
may be filmed.***



**Central
Bedfordshire**

please ask for Paula Everitt
direct line 0300 300 4196
date 26 November, 2015

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 8 December 2015 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

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

Cllrs Mrs A Barker (Chairman), G Tubb (Vice-Chairman), P A Duckett, K Ferguson, Mrs J Freeman, P Hollick, D McVicar, A Ryan, T Stock and B Walker

[Named Substitutes:

D Bowater, J Chatterley, B Saunders, D Shelvey, P Smith and T Swain]

Co-optees: Mrs Deans (Parent Governor), Mr Court (Parent Governor), Mrs Rowlands (Parent Governor), Ms Image (Roman Catholic Diocese), and Mr Morton (Church of England Diocese)

All other Members of the Council - on request

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

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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 20 October 2015 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations of interest and of 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	<p>Executive Member Update</p> <p>To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Members for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care and Housing • Education and Skills and • Health 	* Verbal
10	<p>Q2 Children's Services Budget Monitoring</p> <p>To receive a presentation regarding the directorate's capital and revenue budget monitoring information for Q2 (July to September 2015).</p>	* 15 - 22
11	<p>Annual Safeguarding Children's Board Report</p> <p>To receive the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Please note the annual report is available electronically from this link http://www.centralbedfordshirelscb.org.uk/assets/1/final_annual_report_2014_2015_amended_oct_2015-1.pdf and is not included in the Agenda pack.</p>	* 23 - 26
12	<p>Customer Relations Annual Report</p> <p>To receive the annual report regarding customer feedback in relation to the Children's Services directorate.</p>	* To follow
13	<p>Overview of the Ofsted Inspection Process</p> <p>To receive an overview of the Ofsted inspection process and prepare Members for future Ofsted inspections.</p>	* Verbal
14	<p>5 Year Plan Performance Monitoring</p> <p>To review and comment upon performance management arrangements pertaining to the 5-year plan and to scrutinise and provide guidance on the key performance indicators that should be applied to monitor the delivery of the five year plan.</p>	* To follow
15	<p>Work Programme 2014/15 & Executive Forward Plan</p> <p>The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.</p>	* 27 - 34

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 20 October 2015

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs A Barker (Chairman)
Cllr G Tubb (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:	K Ferguson Mrs J Freeman P Hollick	Councillors:	A Ryan T Stock B Walker
Parental Co-optees:	Mr S Court Mrs G Deans Mrs E Rowlands		
Church of England Co-optee:	Mr D Morton		
Apologies for Absence:	Cllrs P A Duckett D McVicar Mrs F Image		
Substitutes:	Cllrs J Chatterley B Saunders		
Members in Attendance:	Cllrs I Dalgarno Mrs A L Dodwell C Hegley T Swain M A G Versallion	Deputy Executive Member for Education and skills Deputy Executive Member for Social Care and Housing Executive Member for Social Care and Housing Executive Member for Education and skills	
Officers in Attendance:	Mrs P Everitt Mr P Fraser Mr D Galvin Mrs S Harrison Mr G Jones	Scrutiny Policy Adviser Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement Head of Financial Performance Director of Children's Services Assistant Director Children's Services Operations	

CS/15/42. Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 August 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the removal of Cllr Barker's interest for the Fostering Panel.

CS/15/43. Members' Interests

- Cllr Barker as a Member of the Adoption Panel
- Cllr A Dodwell as a Member of the Fostering Panel.
- Cllr M Versallion as a member of his family used the Music Service.

CS/15/44. Chairman's Announcements and Communications

None.

CS/15/45. Petitions

None.

CS/15/46. Questions, Statements or Deputations

None.

CS/15/47. Call-In

None.

CS/15/48. Requested Items

None.

CS/15/49. Executive Member Update

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing reported on several meetings and events she had attended and advised Members that a briefing on Supported Families would be circulated. Members were also reminded of several scrutiny briefings currently being arranged.

A Member queried when the budget analysis would be completed. The Director of Children's Services advised that work on unit costs and income had been undertaken, however the full process had not yet been completed.

The Executive Member for Education and Skills commented on his attendance at the National Children's and Adults Conference and expressed the pessimistic mood of attendees regards funding. Members were also advised that the Education Partnership Vision had been successfully launched and several schools had already signed up.

The unvalidated GCSE results had been released, showing Central Bedfordshire was 4.4% above the national average. Concern was raised at the

slow progress of some CBC schools to improve and the question was asked what steps were taken to help coasting schools? The Executive Member advised that officers stepped in to help maintained schools, however the Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for providing help to Academies. Progress would be shared with the Committee.

CS/15/50. **Quarter 1 2015/16 Performance Report**

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing introduced the Q1 performance report for April to June 2015 that showed an overall strong performance by the service. Members were reminded that the new 5-Year plan would give the Committee an opportunity to refresh the KPIs included in future performance reporting.

A Member raised concern regarding the timeliness of the performance report and requested that the Committee be circulated with up-to-date information at future meetings. Members also recommended a different reporting style to present performance data.

Members also queried whether the increase in the number of schools judged to require improvement was a result of the change in inspection criteria by Ofsted. The Director advised the increase was due to a more stringent framework introduced by Ofsted and noted that three schools in this Ofsted category are three Dunstable schools which are closing.. The Director agreed to circulate a list of all schools and their most recent Ofsted inspection judgement.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That updated performance information be provided at meetings in the future.**
- 2. That a new style of performance reporting be considered for future meetings.**
- 3. That a list of schools Ofsted judgements be circulated to Members of the Committee for information.**

CS/15/51. **Fees & Charges 2016**

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing introduced the fees and charges that related to Children's Services. Arrangements for the Community Services Directorate to take over responsibility for school transport were proposed and additional information on income levels would be introduced in future reporting.

In light of the information and clarification Members of the queried: Whether a 1% increased in the school transport was sufficient to accommodate the known pressures for this service. The Director explained the school transport costs were one of the highest in the country and a benchmarking exercise to seek improvements was underway. The Executive Member for Education and Skills advised of plans to reconfigure the service which would be presented to Members.

Members also requested that the list of those services sold by the Children's Services directorate including the Teaching School be circulated to the Committee.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That all Children's fees and charges be submitted to the Committee for consideration in the future.**
- 2. That the School Charging Brochure 2015/16 be circulated to the Committee for information.**
- 3. That a report be included on the work programme regarding evaluation of the impact of the work of the Teaching School.**
- 4. That the Committee support the 1% increase for the School Transport Service and no increase for the Music Service.**

CS/15/52. Private Fostering Annual Report 2014-15

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing introduced a report outlined the Private Fostering Service and activity in 2014-15. The report formed part of the governance arrangements of the Private Fostering provision required by regulation.

In light of the report Members raised the following:

- What steps could be taken to ensure the Committee considered the Annual Report sooner. The Assistant Director, Children's Services Operations advised that reporting followed a similar pattern in other Authorities, however, the timing and scheduling of the suite of Annual Reports would be reconsidered. The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing advised she would look into the issue with the cycle of meetings which had caused delays in reporting.
- That the report did not address outcomes for Children in the Private, Fostering and Adoption Annual Reports. In response the Assistant Director agreed to include this information in future reports. The 5-Year plan would give Members the opportunity to recommend new KPI's that would support their scrutiny of this area.
- The current number of private fostering arrangements known to the directorate for which Members support in raising awareness within their Wards was welcomed.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That the timetabling of the Private Fostering Annual Report be reviewed to enable early submission to Committee.**
- 2. That performance measures and outcomes be outlined in future reports.**
- 3. That the role of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Parenting Panel to Scrutinise Private Fostering, Fostering and Adoption be examined to avoid duplication of roles.**
- 4. That cover-sheets of future annual reports include the month, review date and published date.**

CS/15/53. Fostering Agency Annual Report 2014/15

The Executive Member Social Care and Housing introduced the Fostering Annual Report 2014/15 that outlined the success in the placement of children referred for fostering and sought the support of Members to raise the profile of the Fostering Service .

In light of the report, Members queried the following:-

- The success rate in the placement of siblings into Foster Care. The Assistant Director advised that siblings were always placed together where possible although this was challenging.
- The trend in fostering breakdown. The Practice Manager advised that Social Workers worked with Foster Carer families and arranged support group sessions and activities to keep breakdowns to a minimum. All complaints received by the service were investigated and action taken where required.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That performance measures and outcomes be outlined in future reports.**
- 2. That each Member be sent fostering leaflets for distribution in their Wards.**

CS/15/54. Adoption Agency Annual Report 2014/15

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing introduced the Adoption Agency Annual Report 2014/15 that outlined the service activity and proposed development. The Assistant Director advised that of the seven children awaiting adoption placement, five had been successfully placed. A total of 29 children had been adopted in 2014/15, which was an increase on 2013/14.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That the Executive Member and officers consider how statistical information could be presented in the future.**
- 2. That lessons learnt and new ways of working be included in future reporting.**

CS/15/55. Consultation on the Council's Admissions Arrangements for the academic year 2017/18

The Executive Member for Education and Skills introduced a report on the Council's Admission Arrangements for 2017/18. The Executive on 6 October 2015 had approved the consultation process on admissions arrangements and the Committee comments and recommendations would be considered by the Director of Children's Services and Executive Member who had delegated authority to determine admission arrangements at the end of the consultation period.

Clarity was sought regarding the criteria for parental preference and catchment area that had caused confusion for some parents. The Executive Member advised that parental preference did not feature in the admissions criteria and would only be offered subject to capacity. The Director explained that schools

worked closely in localities to ensure the system worked fairly. Reassurances were provided that there was no scope for schools to 'cherry pick' students.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. The Executive Member for Education and Skills update the Committee on the outcome of the Council's Admission Arrangements for the Academic Year 2017/18.**
- 2. That school catchment area criteria for all wards be circulated to the Committee.**

CS/15/56.

Securing Economic, Personal and Social Success with Young People – The Youth Support Service Annual Report (2014/15)

The Head of Partnerships, Community Engagement and Youth Support introduced a report on Securing Economic, Personal and Social success with Young People – The Youth Support Service Annual Report. The report outlined the wide range of services delivered and managed to support youth in the Directorate. The report had also been circulated to partner organisations. The service fulfilled the council's duty to track the youth who are NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training). It had helped and had built good relationships with schools, colleges and youth offending teams. The service had been successful in the numbers of youth supported and engaged in further education, training, work experience and other activities.

In light of the report and clarification sought, Members raised the following queries:-

- What help was available to youth that had completed college but were unable to find work. The Head of Partnerships advised that Business and Regeneration Directorate took the lead in providing support to people over the age of 18 and there are strong links with the Youth Support Service to deliver this.
- Whether those children that entered a form of training, work experience or volunteering received a certificate to help them obtain work. The Head of Partnerships advised that all training and volunteering activities are accredited. Informal learning is measured using a national framework supported by the government's Centre for Youth Impact. It was noted that the long term cost to society of young people who were NEET is significant, both in financial terms and other ways such as: worklessness, drug and alcohol misuse, crime and premature mortality.
- What performance targets were used for the Youth Offending Service? The Head of Partnerships advised that the Youth Justice Board receives data on first time entrants to the criminal justice system, custodial sentences and re-offending rate, but do not set targets for any of these measures, however, local targets are on track. Local performance is better than national and regional averages for each of these measures.
- What volunteering opportunities existed for the youth. The Head of Partnerships advised that short, medium and long term volunteering opportunities were available and accredited using the V-Inspired framework.
- It was noted that services provided by the Youth Support Team are accessed by members of the Traveller community and that there had been

a recent significant increase in demand from the growing number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

RECOMMENDED

1. That the Committee continue to receive an Annual Report for The Youth Support Service.
2. That a further report be submitted to the Committee that includes joint work with the Business and Regeneration directorate to provide information and advice and guidance to young people to inform their career choices and support them into employment, including those that transition into adulthood (i.e. those over 18).

CS/15/57. **Work Programme 2015/16 & Executive Forward Plan**

The Chairman advised the following items would be discussed at the December meeting of the Committee and the Work Programme would be amended appropriately:-

- Q2 Budget report
- Local Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report
- 5-Year Plan
- Strategy for the provision of SEND places in Central Bedfordshire

Prior to consideration of the strategy for the provision of SEND places a Member suggested that the Committee visit Biggleswade and Dunstable SEND provision to inform the discussion.

RECOMMENDED that the work programme be approved subject to the amendments detailed in the minutes above.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 1.25 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

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Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2015/16 Budget Monitoring Q2 – July to September 2015

Revenue

Key points to note (see link to the Executive report for details):

- The 2015/16 forecast outturn is to overspend by £1.282M after the use of £1.2M of Earmarked Reserves brought forward from 2014/15 (excluding Schools).
- Overspends in the Operations directorate included Intake & Family Support (£422k), Children in Care & Care Leavers (£264k), LAC Placement Costs (£754k), Fostering & Adoption (£356k) offset by savings in Early Intervention and Prevention (£259k) and Children with Disabilities (£124k)
- Total debt for Children's Services is £762k of which £429k is debt over 61 days.

Revenue

Key points to note (cont):

The main overspends can be grouped as follows:

- £694k the use of agency staff mitigating the AYSE programme, vacant posts, maternity and sickness absences across the directorate offset where possible by holding vacant posts
- £140k Leaving Care for young people aged 16 and 17 who want to live more independently.
- £258k Secure Accommodation for 3 young people subject to Section 25 of the Children's Act 1989.
- £179k Allowances including Adoption and Residential Orders (now Child Arrangement Orders)
- £69k Inter agency adoption costs
- £319k Residential Care Home Payments
- £14k Independent Foster Agency

These have been offset further by savings identified in contracts, and reducing funding to Family Meeting Service and Childcare Panels in Early Intervention and Prevention

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Revenue

Key points to note (cont):

- The table below indicates the upward trajectory and pressure on the budget

	Total as at Sept 2015	Total as at Sept 2016	% Increase / Decrease
Number of LAC	272 (10 UASC)	289 (30 UASC)	6%
In-House Placements	103	113 (5 UASC)	10%
Independent Placements	94 (1 UASC)	84 (10 UASC)	(11%)
Special Guardianship Orders	102	129	26%
Child Protection Plans	176	180	2%
Children in Need	1387	1258	(9%)
Number of Referrals (YTD)	1135	1293	14%

Revenue Forecast Outturn

	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance after Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Director CS	115	115	0
Programme Management	277	448	0
AD – CSO	22,312	23,365	754
LAC Placement Costs	9,144	10,312	747
AD – C&P	3,821	3,745	(188)
AD – Education Support Services	1,476	1,785	71
Transport	7,639	7,648	9
Partnerships	593	650	0
Sub Total	45,377	48,068	1,393
DSG Contribution to Central Support	(719)	(719)	0
ESG contribution to Central Support	(637)	(637)	0
Other Schools Budgets	0	(189)	(111)
Total Children Services	44,021	46,523	1,282
Schools Individual Budgets	86,733	86,733	0
Supported by DSG/EFA	(86,733)	(84,242)	0
Total Schools	0	2,491	0
Total Children's Services	44,021	49,014	1,282

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Capital Position

Key points to note:

- The capital budget for 2015/16 is £31.3m (£2.7m net).
- Forecast gross expenditure outturn is to spend £29.8M, below the original budget by £1.5M due to the annual review of projects within the New School Places programme. The Council contribution of £2.1M to the New School Places Programme is no longer required for 2015/16.
- All but two projects, Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation are funded wholly by grant receipts that have no expenditure deadline.

Capital Outturn

Scheme Title	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
New School Places	28,151	25,578	(2,573)
2 year old entitlement	0	180	180
Temporary Accomodation	400	400	0
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	460	460	0
Schools Access Initiative	200	200	0
Alternative Secondary Provision (Free School)			
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	200	200
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,100	2,790	690
Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)			
Short Breaks	0	0	0
Children's Services	31,311	29,808	(1,503)

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Central Bedfordshire Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
8 December 2015

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: ANNUAL REPORT

Report of Councillor Carole Hegley, Executive Member for Social Care and Housing (carole.hegley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Advising Officers: (Sue Harrison), Director of Children's Services (sue.harrison@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) and Alan Caton (OBE), Independent Chair of the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (alan.caton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Drafting Officer: (Karen Oellermann), Assistant Director, Commissioning and Partnerships (karen.oellermann@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Purpose of this report

To provide the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to review the work of the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. scrutinise and comment on the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-2015.
2. note the key messages and priorities for keeping children safe that have been communicated to key partners and stakeholders.

Background

1. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) is the statutory guidance that sets out the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and it provides a framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to monitor the effectiveness of local services.
2. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 states that the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and the promotion of the

welfare of children in the local area and that this should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This has been done and the Annual Report has been submitted to this Committee for further scrutiny.

3. The statutory guidance states that the Annual Report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.
4. The report should also list the contributions made to the LSCB by partner agencies and details of what the LSCB has spent, including on Child Death Reviews and Serious Case Reviews. All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. The guidance states that Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies.
5. This report shows how LSCB partners have worked together and individually to keep children safe, deliver agreed Board priorities and meet the legal duty to:
 - coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
 - ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.
6. This year the Annual Report has also included a section setting out key priorities and messages for partners and stakeholders for keeping children safe in Central Bedfordshire (see section 6, page 28).

Council Priorities

7. This report shows how partners are working together to support the Council's priority to promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

8. The Council has obligations to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board under the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015). The appended annual report is prepared in

accordance with the guidance for annual reports and must be presented for consideration by the Chief Executive.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications as a result of this report. The Annual Report of the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board sets out how the key partners fund the working arrangements of this statutory partnership. This includes the contributions of Central Bedfordshire Council where the partnership support is hosted.

Equalities Implications

10. Public bodies have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
11. The Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board provides a range of best practice, policies, procedures and training to ensure that professionals working with children, young people and families have the support and information they need to work with vulnerable families, including those with disabilities and those from different ethnic groups.
12. The Board priorities include a strong focus on equality issues related to domestic abuse, adult mental health problems and child sexual exploitation. Other initiatives have included work in schools and other educational settings focussed on:
 - digital safety Child Sexual Exploitation, gangs and weapons, personal safety and around the PREVENT agenda (Counter terrorism and domestic extremism)
 - hate crime with officers and staff working with vulnerable young people encouraging them to report any incidents directly.
 - A review of policies. The update has considered children in specific circumstances such as Abuse Linked to Spiritual and Cultural Beliefs/Faith Groups and Supporting Individuals Vulnerable to Violent Extremism: Practice Guidance
13. A need for improved understanding about diversity and what that means for the families they are working with has been identified.
14. The future focus of the Board will include young people who may be at risk and vulnerable as a result of disabilities, caring responsibilities, radicalisation and female genital mutilation.

Conclusion and next Steps

15. The last year has again brought a raft of changes for partners to grapple with, whilst retaining a focus on working together to keep children safe. This report provides an opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny members to provide their views and feedback to the LSCB on the LSCB annual report and partners' impact on safeguarding children and young people in Central Bedfordshire.

Appendices

The following Appendices are provided through an electronic link:

[Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-2015](#)

[Working Together 2015](#)

Background Papers

16. None

Central Bedfordshire Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

08 December 2015

Work Programme 2015-16 & Executive Forward Plan

Report Author: Jonathon Partridge, Head of Governance

Advising Officer: Paula Everitt (paula.everitt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Purpose of this report

The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan. It also updates Members on recent conversations resulting in the refresh of the work programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and approve the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;
2. Consider the Executive Forward Plan; and
3. Consider 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.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

1. At previous meetings the Committee has expressed a desire to focus on its work programme so that it provides a balance of those items on which the Executive would be grateful for a steer in addition to those items that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) wishes to proactively scrutinise.
2. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Panel also recently agreed the importance of a number of key principles relating to ways of working, these included:-
 - the importance of defining desired outcomes of OSC items;
 - the need for the work programme to provide a balance of mandatory reports requiring consideration by OSCs, items in the Executive Forward Plan and those items that Members wanted to include as related to the outcomes of the 5-year plan; and
 - the importance of receiving reports in a timely fashion.

3. In light of the principles highlighted above it was agreed to undertake a review of scrutiny agenda-setting that would be trialled by the Children's Services OSC. Following the Committee meeting in October 2015 the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Executive Members and the Director were invited to review the work programme. Members were also invited to recommend additional items that they would like to receive at OSC. As a result of this meeting the work programme was amended to reflect the following principles:-

Minimising duplication

4. Where other bodies were accountable for performance or the committee had little influence over a report that would be considered in public elsewhere these were removed from the work programme. Examples included Fostering and Private Fostering Annual Reports. Whilst these reports contain important information it was felt that Members could attend other meetings, which were held in public so the integrity of openness and transparency was not in question. Members would be made aware of these reports and where they had a concern a specific report could be requested by any Member of the Council to be received by the OSC. A list of such reports is included at **Appendix B**.
5. It was agreed that in order to maintain transparency, where a report would not otherwise be made available in public (such as the customer relations annual report) they would continue to be provided to the OSC until a suitable alternative could be found.

Focus on requested items

6. As a result of minimising duplication Members were able to identify a small number of items to be requested for inclusion on future agendas. This enabled more of a balance of those items that were Executive-led and those that were Committee-led. These were as follows:-
 - a. Teaching school;
 - b. Speech and language service;
 - c. Health and Wellbeing Board, scrutinising the delivery of strategic priorities for children and young people; and
 - d. Transformation of Children's Services.

Focusing on outcomes and the 5-year plan

7. Members were asked to reflect on the outcomes that had been identified for the items on the work programme. Where outcomes were not clear these were updated to reflect what Members hoped to achieve. These have been updated in light of conversations and Members are invited to continue to reflect and update these in OSC meetings in order to provide a steer for officers on the content of reports.

8. In addition to focusing on outcomes it was agreed to restructure the agenda into three sections based on the focus of the 5-year plan. Future agendas will be separated into four sections to permit a clear focus on the priorities of the 5-year plan as follows:-
 - a. cross-cutting matters;
 - b. protecting vulnerable children;
 - c. promoting children's health; and
 - d. education and skills.

9. In light of conversations and the principles outlined above the revised work programme is attached at **Appendix A**. The Committee is requested to consider the work programme and the indicated outcomes and to amend or add to it as necessary.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces

10. 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.

Executive Forward Plan

11. Listed below are those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference contained in the latest version of the Executive Forward Plan. The full Executive Forward Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at the link at the end of this report.

Item	Indicative Exec Meeting date
Determination of the Proposal to Recommission Primary Specialist Provision for Autistic Spectrum Condition in Dunstable.	12 January 2016
Council's Admissions Arrangements for the Academic Year 2017/18.	12 January 2016
Non Key Decisions	Indicative Exec Meeting date
Treasury Management Strategy	12 January 2016
Draft Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan	12 January 2016
Draft Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account 2016/17	12 January 2016
Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan, Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2019/20 and HRA Plan	9 February 2016
Q3 Revenue, Capital and HRA	9 February 2016

Corporate Implications

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

there are no direct implications arising from this report the implications of proposals will be details in full in each report submitted to the Committee.

Conclusion and next Steps

13. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendment/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. 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.
14. Following the initial meeting to review the OSCs work programme it is intended to review this approach following the Overview and Scrutiny meeting in March 2016.

Appendices

Appendix A Children's Services OSC Work Programme.

Appendix B Items being considered elsewhere that may be of interest

Background Papers

Executive Forward Plan (can be viewed at any time on the Council's website) at the following link:-

<http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=577&RD=0>

Appendix A

Children's Services OSC Work Programme (2015/16)

OSC date	Report Title	Outcomes we are seeking to achieve	5-year theme
28 January 2016	Draft Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan	To receive a report on the Draft Budget 2016/17 and MTFP	Other or cross-cutting
28 January 2016	Q2 Performance	To consider performance monitoring information for the first quarter of 2015/16.	Other or cross-cutting
28 January 2016	Children and Adolescence Mental Health Service (CAMHS) presentation by ELFT on service provision	To raise awareness of Children and Adolescence Mental Health Service provision by the new provider.	Promoting children's health
28 January 2016	Schools Resilience Annual Report	To receive an annual report regarding school's resilience in relation to the Children's Services directorate	Other or cross-cutting
28 January 2016	Exam results	An overview of KS2/A-Levels results and an opportunity to discuss how the Council (and Members as governors) can influence schools on their future approach to improve performance.	Education & Skills
15 March 2016	School Exclusion Update	To raise awareness of the Council's policies in relation to school exclusions and comment on changes/ trends contained within the report.	Education & Skills
15 March 2016	Q3 Budget Monitoring Report	To receive a presentation regarding the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2015/16.	Other or cross-cutting
15 March 2016	Education Partnership Vision	To receive a 6 month update on the implementation of the Education Partnership Vision.	Education & Skills
15 March 2016	Transformation of Children's Services	To redesign the service and reduce the number of children from the early years stage onwards that are required to be taken into care.	Other or cross-cutting
15 March 2016	Schools Visits and Journeys Annual Report	To raise awareness of training and monitoring offered to schools and ensure that schools have been compliant.	Education & Skills
15 March 2016	Strategy for Provision of SEND places in Central Bedfordshire	To Scrutinise the impact of the proposed Strategy for the provision of SEND places	Protecting vulnerable children
15 March 2015	HWB strategic priorities	To help Members understand the strategic priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and to scrutinise the extent to which Health and Wellbeing Board has delivered on those priorities, including giving every child the best start in life.	Promoting children's health
TBC	Teaching School		Education & Skills
TBC	Speech and Language Service		Protecting vulnerable children

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Appendix B

Report Title	Lead group	Indicative date
Public Health Annual Report	Health and Wellbeing Board	March
Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life	Health and Wellbeing Board	Mid January
Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report	Children's Trust	Mid September 2016
Children and Young People's Plan Annual Report	Children's Trust	Mid September 2016
Fostering Annual Report	Corporate Parenting	Early July 2016
Private Fostering Annual Report	Corporate Parenting	Early July 2016
Adoption Annual Report	Corporate Parenting	Early July 2016
Change to religious designation (Totterhoe Lower School)	Executive	Mid January 2016

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