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**Meeting:** Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 6 October 2009

**Subject:** Work Programme 2009-2010

**Report of:** Jon Partridge, Overview & Scrutiny Officer

**Summary:** The report provides Members with their current work programme to consider any amendments that they may wish to make.

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Contact Officer: Jon Partridge (0300 300 4634)

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: n/a

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. That the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the current work programme and any amendments it may wish to make.**
- 2. That the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers whether it wishes to establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items on the draft work programme.**
- 3. That the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee approves the terms of reference agreed by the Cultural Strategy Task Force (appendix B).**

*Reason for Recommendation: So as Members of the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee can keep their work programme for the municipal year 2009 – 2010 under review to ensure it is fit for purpose. Also to inform Members of the progress made in relation to the Cultural Strategy Task Force.*

**Work Programme**

1. At its first meeting the Committee received a presentation providing an overview of the Sustainable Communities directorate and the key issues and challenges facing it. A work programme was subsequently drafted containing a number of priority items to allow officers to plan accordingly.

2. The work programme is regularly kept under review by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and officers and is amended as may be appropriate, which also includes adding further items during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists. This current agreed work programme is attached at **Appendix A**.

### **Task Forces**

3. Cultural Strategy

At its previous meeting the Committee resolved (**Minute CFL/09/23 refers**) to establish a Task Force to review the Cultural Strategy. This Task Force has been set up constituting Councillors Bowater, Dalgarno, Hollick, Goodchild and Mr D Landman and held its first meeting on 11 September 2009 to consider its terms of reference. The Terms of reference and scope of this project are attached for approval by the Committee at **Appendix B**.

4. Other Task Forces

At its previous meeting the Committee also resolved to set up task forces to scrutinise child poverty and the provision of facilities for youth. It is intended that the child poverty Task Force commence following the completion of either the Cultural Strategy or provision of facilities for youth Task Forces. There is currently no scheduled timescale for reviewing the provision of facilities for youth task force and Members are asked to consider, in consultation with the Director and Portfolio Holder, any appropriate timescales for the completion of this Task Force that they may wish to request.

The Child Poverty Strategy is currently listed on the Executive Forward Plan for 9 March 2010 and again the Committee may wish to consider, in consultation with the Director and Portfolio Holder, any appropriate timescales for the completion of this Task Force.

### **Executive Forward Plan**

5. The following items are currently listed on the Executive Forward Plan, which the Committee may wish to consider adding to their work programme:

#### **Lord Laming Action Plan**

This item is currently scheduled for the Executive meeting on 20 November 2009 and the Committee may wish to consider adding this item to their agenda on 3 November where an item is presently scheduled on the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This would enable Members to consider the implications of Lord Laming's action plan for Central Bedfordshire and the responsibilities of the Local Safeguarding Children Board in delivering the action plan.

## **Eligibility for Payments Policy**

This item is currently scheduled for the Executive meeting on 8 December 2009 and the Committee may wish to consider adding this item to their agenda for 1 December 2009. If agreed the Committee would receive a report outlining the policy which will set out the principles under which service users within Children's Specialist Services may be eligible for payments.

### **Conclusion**

6. The Committee is requested to consider the work programme attached and make any further amendments it considers necessary. Members are also requested to consider highlighting those items within the work programme where they wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work.

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Council Priorities:**

The work programme of the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee should contribute to all 5 Council priorities, and will specifically support the priority directly related to the work of the Children, Families and Learning Directorate, being educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

The work programme of the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee should also contribute to each of the priorities agreed under the Children and Young People's Plan and the five key 'Every Child Matters' outcomes for all children and young people; 'be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being'.

#### **Financial:**

None

#### **Legal:**

None

#### **Risk Management:**

None

#### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None

#### **Equalities/Human Rights:**

None

**Community Development/Safety:**

None

**Sustainability:**

None

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Appendix B - Terms of Reference for the Cultural Strategy Task Force