

**Central Bedfordshire Council**

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**04 March 2015**

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**Work Programme 2015-16 & Executive Forward Plan**

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**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 has recently agreed a number of key principles relating to ways of working, these include:-
  - **Minimising duplication**
  - **Focusing on requested items**
  - **Focusing on outcomes and the 5-year plan**
3. 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.
- 4. In light of these principles 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. Also enclosed at **Appendix B** is a list of reports where other bodies are accountable for performance or the committee has little influence over a report that will be considered in public elsewhere and have been removed from the work programme.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces**

- 5. 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**

- 6. 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
Commissioning of New School Places in Biggleswade and Arlesey for September 2017	05 April 2016
New Lower School Places in Fairfield Parish	05 April 2016
Non Key Decisions	Indicative Exec Meeting date
Q3 Performance	05 April 2016

### **Corporate Implications**

- 7. 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**

- 8. 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.

9. 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>