

**REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

21 JANUARY 2016

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL AND REGULATORY
SERVICES**

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) present the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held on 9 March 2016;
- b) present a list of further potential items for prioritisation by the Committee.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 25 February 2015 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

3.1 At its meeting on 29 July 2015, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined its Annual Forward Work Programme for 2015/16.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

Meetings of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1 In relation to the Committee's next scheduled meeting to be held on 9 March 2016, the table below lists the items to be considered and the invitees due to attend.

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Residential Remodelling	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities	To review the way residential care is provided and to consider options and alternative ways of delivery.	Detail research / To be confirmed

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
	Laura Kinsey, Head of Safeguarding and Family Support Natalie Silcox, Group Manager, Childrens Regulated Services		
Education of LAC	Deborah McMillan, Corporate Director – Education and Transformation Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing Cllr Huw David, Deputy Leader Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities Laura Kinsey, Head of Safeguarding and Family Support Sue Roberts, Group Manager – School Improvement Bev Jones, Team Manager, LACE Representative Headteacher – Virtual Head - advocate for LAC	Priority arisen out of Business Planning Process – IP2 Working Together To Raise Ambitions And Drive Up Educational Achievement – Joint report between Education and Children’s Social Services providing evidence of the work that is being undertaken and the support that is being provided to target and raise educational performance for children in care.	

Extra Items for Consideration

4.2

- a) Permanency and Placement Strategy and Early Help Strategy Updates - Monitoring of action plans – what outcomes have been achieved as a result of this preventative work? What evidence is there to support this? E.g. Reduced numbers of CIN/LAC, reduced number of placements, increase in adoptions. Budget reduction CH25: Reduction in Safeguarding LAC numbers and related reduction in costs.
- a) Detail regarding the joining up of the two strategies into one – update on reorganisations and restructures
- b) Schools Task Group - Outcome of consultation and any proposed decision going before Cabinet;
- c) Exclusions in Schools – Deferred from 11 May meeting due to report containing insufficient information;

- d) Nursery Education Years Provision – as yet the Directorate do not know if this will be considered this year – if so, the Committee will need to consider it a priority and factor it into the FWP;
- e) Child Sexual Exploitation – Members have asked that this be considered as a priority item in the next Annual FWP after March 2016;
- f) Equality in Schools – is being considered by the Equalities Committee but has been raised as an issue specific to schools with issues around its education/training under PSE, (links also to other areas and issues of PSE);
- g) Report on the Consortia - detailing what services are being transferred to them
- h) Childrens Change Programme (Could just be a presentation outside of Committee);
- i) Teenage Pregnancies – Possible LSB project.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.3 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the ‘corporate parent’ therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.¹
- 4.4 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how the services within the remit of their Committee affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee can therefore assist in these areas.
- 4.5 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The work of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 None

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 None.

8. Recommendations

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association ‘*If this were my child... A councillor’s guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers*’, June 2009

8.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Note the topics due to be considered at the meeting of the Committee for 9 March 2016 and confirm if it requires any additional specific information to be provided by the invitees listed or the Overview & Scrutiny Unit;
- (ii) Revisit and consider the list of future potential items for the Committees Forward Work Programme and reprioritise as the Committees feels appropriate.

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Background documents: None