

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

9 MARCH 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 present the items due to be considered at the Committee's next meeting to be held following the Annual General Meeting of Council.

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 meeting the table below lists the potential items to be considered and the invitees due to attend.

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Children's Social Services Overview Report	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities Laura Kinsey, Head of Safeguarding and Family Support	Overview report of Children's Social Services	

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Strategic Approaches to the Support of Vulnerable Children	Deborah McMillan, Corporate Director – Education and Transformation Cllr Huw David, Deputy Leader Nicola Echanis, Head of Strategy Commissioning and Partnerships Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager - Inclusion	The Directorate have been developing more strategic approaches to supporting all of the vulnerable groups of learners and there have been some significant early benefits to adopting these approaches. Report would cover what the Directorate have learned from the pilot phase of these developments and provide an opportunity for Officers to discuss with the Committee the potential for further developments and mechanisms to embed these approaches. This report incorporates information on Exclusions and the Fair Access Strategy and the Multi-Agency Vulnerable Groups Strategy.	
Annual Forward Work Programme	None	Forward Work Programme proposed items and related Information	

Extra Items for Consideration

- 4.2 The list below contains potential items as yet to be decided for the 2016-17 forward work programme. The prioritisation and timings of these will be agreed at the Committee meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

Topic	Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Strategic Approaches to the Support of Vulnerable Children	The Directorate have been developing more strategic approaches to supporting all of the vulnerable groups of learners and there have been some significant early benefits to adopting these approaches. Report would cover what the Directorate have learned from the pilot phase of these developments and provide an opportunity for Officers to discuss with the Committee the potential for further developments and mechanisms to embed these approaches. This report incorporates information on Exclusions and the Fair Access Strategy and the Multi-Agency Vulnerable Groups Strategy.	Deborah McMillan, Corporate Director – Education and Transformation Cllr Huw David, Deputy Leader Nicola Echanis, Head of Strategy Commissioning and Partnerships Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager - Inclusion

Children's Social Services Overview Report	Overview report of Children's Social Services	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities Laura Kinsey, Head of Safeguarding and Family Support
Children with Disabilities	<p>Report on the developed options approximately two thirds of the way through the consultation process so that Members can provide views on the options as a consultee and also monitor the consultation process. Report to include:</p> <p>a) details of cost comparisons for future respite care; should the care continue in Bakers Way and adaptations made against costs of moving the provision elsewhere; b) details of staffing provision relating to an increase to 52 week residential care, due to the fact that this would require a substantial change for staff in their working patterns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing • Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities • Laura Kinsey, Head of Safeguarding and Family Support Pete Tyson, Planning and Contract Management Officer
Residential Remodelling	To review the way residential care is provided and to consider options and alternative ways of delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing • Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities • Laura Kinsey, Head of Safeguarding and Family Support
Schools Strategic Review	Options and Appraisal planned for July, followed by consultation on options - Possibly Committee receive before goes to Cabinet and out to consultation and the outcome of consultation once again before Cabinet between September & December? Aim is for January 2017 decision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah McMillan, Corporate Director – Education and Transformation • Cllr Huw David, Deputy Leader • Nicola Echanis, Head of Strategy Commissioning and Partnerships Sue Roberts, Group Manager – School Improvement
Child Sexual Exploitation	Members have tasked Cllr Martyn Jones as 'Champion' on this issue – continued communication with Cllr Jones will enable a link with the Joint task Group which will can in turn feedback to the Committee if required. Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee are also looking at this subject in detail – care needs to be taken not to duplicate this work, (Scrutiny Committee already have a Champion on this Cabinet Committee who could also feedback on this subject as necessary). - Committee requested in July 2014 that the item be put on as an item post March in the 2016-17 Annual FWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing • Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities • Laura Kinsey, Head of Safeguarding and Family Support Elizabeth Walton-James, Group Manager - Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

<p>Permanency and Placement</p>	<p>Monitoring of action plans – what outcomes have been achieved as a result of this preventative work? What evidence is there to support this? Eg. 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. Detail regarding the joining up of the two strategies into one – update on reorganisations and restructures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing • Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities • Laura Kinsey, Head of Safeguarding and Family Support
<p>Annual School Performance</p>	<p>Annual school performance report from CSC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah McMillan, Corporate Director – Education and Transformation • Cllr Huw David, Deputy Leader • Cllr Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member, Childrens Social Services and Equalities • Sue Roberts, Group Manager – School Improvement • Paul Wolstenholme, Bridgend Link Adviser • Robert Hopkins, Head of Service, CSC • Nicola Echanis, Head of Strategy Commissioning and Partnerships Hannah Woodhouse, Managing Director - CSC Cllr Chris Elmore - Chair of Joint Committee - CSC
<p>Youth Engagement and Progression Framework</p>	<p>Following its meeting in September 2015, the Committee concluded that they receive the Outcome Report and Action Plan resulting from the Youth Review Consultation.</p> <p>The Committee also requested that they receive further information as to how the FE College were engaging and assisting schools regarding reducing the number of young people becoming NEET.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah McMillan, Corporate Director – Education and Transformation • Cllr Huw David, Deputy Leader • Nicola Echanis, Head of Strategy Commissioning and Partnerships • Mark Lewis, Partnership Manager Integrated Partnership Support Team
<p>Member and School Engagement Panel</p>	<p>Response from Corporate Director - Education and Transformation and Managing Director - CSC to Committee's Annual Report from MSEP. (January 2016).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah McMillan, Corporate Director – Education and Transformation • Cllr Huw David, Deputy Leader Hannah Woodhouse

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

8.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Note the topics due be considered at the next meeting of the Committee to be scheduled at the Annual General Meeting of Council;
- (ii) Determine the invitees to be invited to attend, any specific information it would like the invitees to provide and any research that it would like the Overview & Scrutiny Unit to undertake in relation to this meeting.

Andrew Jolley,
Assistant Chief Executive – Legal & Regulatory Services

Contact Officer: Rachel Keepins, Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: 01656 643613

Email: rachel.keepins@bridgend.gov.uk

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

Postal Address: Democratic Services - Scrutiny
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None