



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME – POTENTIAL ITEMS 2016/17

This paper sets out the items that have been identified as potential items for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee during 2016/17. At this meeting Members will need to prioritise which items to include on the 2016/17 work programme.

This document contains suggestions arising from the following sources:

- Standing Items on the Committee's Agenda;
- Issues Arising from the 2015/16 Annual Report/Issues carried forward from Previous Inquiries;
- Suggestions and ideas put forward by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee;
- Information from relevant Service Areas;
- Relevant extracts from the current Corporate Plan 2016-18; and
- Performance Information/Issues Arising from Correspondence Reports

Standing Items on the Committee's Agenda:

- Budget 2017/18
- Quarterly performance reports
- C&YPSC Annual Report 2016/17
- Correspondence Reports
- Schools Annual Report – Performance report

Issues Arising from the 2015/16 Annual Report/Issues carried forward from Previous Inquiries:

- National & Regional Adoption Service
- Schools causing concern – Phase 2
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – response from Cabinet and further review
- Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 – series of briefing papers on each work stream

Information from Relevant Service Areas:

Education

- Education 2020 – Aiming for Excellence – Progress/Update Report
- Looked After Children – Finalised Results (available October 2016)
- Consortium Delivery Plan
- Youth Service – Progress/Update Report
- Draft Admission Policy 2018-2019
- 21st Century Schools Programme – Update Report

Children's Services:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – End of Financial Year Progress Report
- Early Help & Prevention Strategy – End of Financial Year Progress Report

Suggestions and ideas put forward by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee:

Education related

- Education - NEETS – how other cities in England tackle this, ESTYN consistently say Cardiff's figures are too high and at the last committee meeting it was admitted that resources are not enough. Can we do things differently?

- Young people not in education employment or training (NEET), prevention and what *actually* works (Global), an appraisal (again some research) consulting with various agencies, voluntary groups and organisations.
- Sufficiency of (future) school placements primary and secondary for young people across Cardiff.
- Sufficiency of (future) school placements for those young people identified with severe hearing and language difficulties, across Cardiff.
- Educational prospects of white working class boys in Cardiff schools.
- Task and Finish topic: Educational provision of excluded pupils
- School catchment areas and admissions policies
- School federation
- Education provision for asylum seeking refugee children, schools well being programmes in Primary and secondary education

Children's Services Related

- Children's Services - Listening event – not completed last year
- Welsh Government funding for young people's mental health services and preventative support. How are Cardiff Council's children's services working in partnership with the voluntary and health sectors to utilize this extra funding?
- Families first programme that is newly overseen by children's services and the impact to children young people and families - in particular what are the next step for third sector as it is in its final year, and how does this fit with children services outcomes going forward

Other

- A short scrutiny into the numbers of girls in Cardiff affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). To include how to identify and prevent the practice and education of ethnic minorities in prevention of the crime of FGM.

Extracts From The Corporate Plan 2016-2018:

Priority 1: Better education and skills for all

Improvement Objective 1.1: Every Cardiff school is a good school

In order to achieve the above the Council will:

- Deliver the Schools Organisation Programme including the completion of Band A investment projects by 31 March 2019
- Contribute to the development of a regional 'Central South Wales networked learning community', run by schools for schools by September 2017, focused on improvements in the quality of leadership, teaching and learning
- Implement the requirements of the new curriculum for Wales - 'Successful Futures' - by September 2021, commencing with the introduction of the Digital Competence Framework in all Cardiff schools by September 2016
- Implement the new statutory framework for supporting children and young people with additional learning needs, in accordance with the legislative framework, by 2021
- Turn around the performance of the minority of Secondary Schools that are causing concern by July 2018
- Improve and sustain the expertise of Cardiff schools in Mathematics and English, increasing capacity in teaching and learning at all levels
- Address the persistent impact of poverty on attainment and the marked variations between schools in the attainment of FSM pupils

Improvement Objective 1.2: Looked after children in Cardiff achieve their potential

In order to achieve the above the Council will:

- Embed key elements of the Corporate Parenting Strategy in collaboration with partners by March 2017

Priority 2: Supporting vulnerable people

Improvement Objective 2.1: People at risk in Cardiff are safeguarded

In order to achieve the above the Council will:

- Improve the system for protecting children from significant harm by implementing new Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangements for managing referrals by June 2016
- Improve the recruitment and retention of children's social workers, ensuring the Council achieves and maintains a vacancy rate for children's social workers below 18% by March 2017
- Implement key elements of the Cardiff Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy in collaboration with partners by March 2017
- Work towards Cardiff becoming a 'Child Friendly City' by March 2017
- Complete roll out of the second phase of a specialist training programme regarding the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Introduce and deliver within the school curriculum a WJEC accredited "Challenging Extremism" module to raise awareness and prevent radicalisation

Improvement Objective 2.3: People in Cardiff are supported to live independently

In order to achieve the above the Council will:

- Improve the effectiveness of transitional support for disabled and vulnerable children approaching adulthood

Priority 3: Creating more jobs and better paid jobs

Improvement Objective 3.3: All young people in Cardiff make a successful transition into employment, education or training

In order to achieve the above the Council will:

- Improve multi agency arrangements:
 - to ensure the early identification of children and young people at risk of not progressing to ongoing education, training or employment after leaving school; and
 - to ensure that identified children and young people receive early and appropriate support
- Strengthen and extend the existing 'lead worker' model to directly support the transition of young people from school into employment, utilising European Social Fund resources to extend capacity for the next 3 years
- Improve information sharing and tracking systems between partners for young people pre and post 16 by September 2016
- Implement the Welsh Government Youth Guarantee and Cardiff Commitment to ensure appropriate progression routes for all learners by September 2016
- Enhance the range of opportunities for young people to develop employability skills and secure employment in Cardiff

Performance Information:

Issues Arising from Quarter 4 Performance Report (considered by C&YPSC – 17 May 2016) – *text in italics is quotes from letters from the Chair to the relevant Cabinet Member.*

Children's Services

- Increase in referrals into Children's Service – *“had had a detrimental impact on the percentage of referrals with decisions made within one day”.*
- New set of Performance Indicators for 2016/17 – *“undertake further briefings on the new performance measures in the near future”.*
- CSSIW inspection report on Children's Services – *“the Committee requested a copy of the relevant action plans that address the recommendations, so that*

it can monitor the Directorate's implementation of the actions, and assess that the outcome addresses the concerns identified in the inspection report".

Education

- *To recap, this letter requests several actions, requests for information and recommendations, as follows and requires:*
 - *A copy of the action plans which have been developed and include the areas that the Estyn letter highlighted.*
 - *Details of the plans to improve the admissions procedure across all schools, to be provided with the next quarterly performance report.*
 - *A breakdown, by number, of the different reasons for pupils to be not in education, training or employment;*
 - *A detailed briefing and actions focussing on the "wider capped points score" and Level 2 threshold.*

Correspondence Report – Future Actions 2015/16

Correspondence report – 15 March 2016

- *Child Health and Disability progress report - resolved "to continue to monitor"*
- *New Model for Children's Play - resolved "awaiting business plans; Further report to be presented to Committee"*

Correspondence report – 14 June 2016

- *Further monitoring reports on the level of social worker vacancies – resolved "Continue to monitor".*
- *Accommodation of youth offending service and looked after children service – resolved "Further briefing to be issued"*

- Education and Consortium Delivery Plans 2016-2018 – resolved “*Receive further reports in June / July*”
- Quarter 3 performance – resolved “*To monitor the provision of information*” on Cardiff commitment to youth engagement and progression; and a progress report on Biometric school meals