

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 April 2015

Internal Audit – Children’s Directorate

Reason for the Report

1. The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee recently received a letter from the Chairperson of the Council’s Audit Committee, Sir Jon Shortridge. The letter raised some concern that the Audit Committee had expressed at its meeting on 19 January 2015. This report provides the Committee with a copy of this correspondence together with details of the actions undertaken since the receipt of the letter. A copy of the Audit Committee’s letter is attached at **Appendix A**.

Issues

2. The Audit Committee asked that this issue be raised with the Chair of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to seek assurance that the committee is aware of these matters and scrutinising and measuring the improvements in such areas within Children’s Directorate.
3. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee and Cllr Richard Cook, subsequently met to and agreed to write to the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families, copy attached at **Appendix B** to help address the serious issues that were raised at the Audit Committee.
4. The Chair’s also agreed that the Scrutiny Committee would continue to monitor this matter through regular contact with Directorate management and that the Audit Committee will continue to receive Internal Audit reports.

Way Forward

5. Members are invited to consider the correspondence attached to this report Councillor Richard Cook, Committee Chairman will briefly comment on the correspondence.

Legal Implications

6. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

7. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications.

Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to consider the contents of the letters attached at **Appendix A & B** and provide the Cabinet Member and Director of Children's Services with any comments or concerns.

MARIE ROSENTHAL

County Clerk and Monitoring Officer

30 March 2015