

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee specific Terms of Reference

To scrutinise, measure and actively promote improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of children and young people, including:

- School Improvement
- Schools Organisation
- School Support Services
- Education Welfare & Inclusion
- Early Years Development
- Special Educational Needs
- Governor Services
- Children's Social Services
- Children & Young People's Partnership
- Youth Services and Justice
- Children's Play Services

To assess the impact of partnerships with and resources and services provided by external organisations including the Welsh Government, Welsh Government Sponsored Public Bodies, joint local government services and quasi-departmental non-government bodies on the effectiveness of Council service delivery.

To report to an appropriate Cabinet or Council meeting on its findings and to make recommendations on measures which may enhance Council performance and service delivery in this area.

Within their terms of reference, Scrutiny Committees will:

General

- review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection;
- with the discharge of any of the Authority's functions;
- make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet;
- consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;

- exercise the right to 'call-in', for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet, Cabinet Members and designated senior officers;
- Receive and consider reports from statutory external inspectors or auditors referred to them; and
- act in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Specific functions

Scrutiny Committees will:

- i. review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet and/or committees and employees both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- ii. review and scrutinise the performance of the Authority in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or service areas;
- iii. question members of the Cabinet and committees and/or employees about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- iv. make recommendations to the Cabinet and/or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- v. review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- vi. question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

Resources

Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the resources made available to them.