



---

A Report of the:  
**Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee**

# **Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2018- 19**

**June 2019**



**Cardiff Council**

---

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP



Councillor Lee Bridgeman  
(Chairperson)



Councillor Dan De'Ath



Councillor Philippa Hill-John



Councillor Heather Joyce



Councillor Linda Morgan



Councillor Stephen Cunnah



Councillor Mike Phillips



Councillor Kanaya Singh



Councillor Rhys Taylor

### Co-opted Members:



**Mrs P Arlotte**  
Roman Catholic  
Representative



**Carol Cobert**  
Church in Wales  
Representative



**Ms Rebecca Crump**  
Parent Governor  
Representative



**Karen Dell'Armi'**  
Parent Governor  
Representative

## CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I am delighted to present the committee's annual report for 2018/2019. Firstly, I would like to thank both members and co-opted members of the committee for their hard work, knowledge, and understanding of the issues and the support they have given me, which has made my job as chair a whole lot easier. I would also like to thank the scrutiny officers, who offer an amazing amount of support not only for myself but for the whole of the committee, and the witnesses who have spoken to the committee, giving up their valuable free time, especially in the task and finish inquiries.

I have been proud to chair this vital committee; there have been some new members and the committee has been involved in some really interesting training, which has enabled us to carry out our role as critical friends of the directorates aligned to CYPSC. I am delighted that the committee has had a full quota of councillors and co-opted members this year, and I know that there are other members who would like to participate in the committee, if a vacancy came about. This just shows me how important this committee is within the structure of scrutiny.

As you will see from reading this report, the committee has been involved in scrutinising some very important decisions that affect the everyday lives of young people who live in the city. As chair, I am keen to give young people a voice so to see young people given the chance to speak, at committee and as witnesses in our inquiry this year, has been both meaningful and powerful for the committee; to this end I invited a representative of the Youth Council to attend all future Committee meetings. The Youth Council accepted the invitation and agreed that its Vice Chair would undertake the role and attended her first meeting on September 11 2018. I also agreed that the representative, could actively take part in the meetings, seeking advice, challenging decisions and holding decision makers to account.

The report below highlights the key work that we have undertaken in the past year; as you will see, from June 2018 to May 2019, the committee has been very busy. I believe there are many fine examples of great scrutiny work within this report and I would like to think that you all agree. I look forward to chairing the committee again in 19/20 because, as I have previously stated, this is a vitally important scrutiny committee, which, most importantly, looks at the decisions made by this council and how they affect the lives of our children in our beautiful city.



**Councillor Lee Bridgeman**

**Chairperson of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee**

**June 2019**

## INTRODUCTION

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee plays an important role in assessing service performance and informing service and policy development across a range of Council services, including all aspects of Education, Social Care for Children, Children's Play and the Youth Service.

This report presents the Committee's main activities during 2018-19 and uses where ever possible the National Welsh Characteristics of Good Scrutiny to ensure that there are:

- Better outcomes - Democratic accountability drives improvement in public service.
- Better decisions - Democratic decision making is accountable, inclusive and robust.
- Better engagement – The public is engaged in democratic debate about current and future delivery of public services.

Between June 2018 and April 2019 the Committee Members have undertaken training in performance information and budgeting, and visited front line services. The Committee has scrutinised a wide range of topics contributing to the development and improvement of services for children and young people, a list of which is set out below under the following headings:

- **Inquiries** – Where the Committee has undertaken an examination of a topic over a period of time, resulting in a formal report to the Cabinet.
- **Policy Development** – Where the Committee has contributed to the Council's policy development processes by considering draft policy documents.
- **Pre-decision** - Where the Committee has evaluated and commented on policy proposals before they go to the Cabinet, giving the Cabinet the opportunity to know Scrutiny Members' views prior to making their decision.

- **Monitoring** - Where the Committee has undertaken monitoring of the Council's performance and progress in implementing actions previously agreed. The Committee has also set up a Budget monitoring panel.
- **Call-In** - Where a Member has invoked the Call-in procedure under the Council's constitution, to review a Cabinet decision prior to its implementation.

### **Inquiries Reports**

- ❖ Out of County Placements – Cabinet response received
- ❖ Preventing Young People's Involvement in Drug Dealing Inquiry – Joint with Community and Adult Service Scrutiny Committee – Cabinet response approved
- ❖ Child Mental Health in Education – ongoing Inquiry

### **Committee Panels**

- ❖ Children's Services Performance reporting format - completed

### **Policy Development**

- ❖ Scrutiny of Central South Education Consortium – Joint working
- ❖ Schools Admission Policy
- ❖ Education Strategy – Cardiff 2030 - ongoing
- ❖ Cardiff Child Friendly City

### **Pre-decision Scrutiny**

- ❖ 2019-20 Budget Proposals
- ❖ Corporate Plan 2019- 2021
- ❖ Ty Storrie Children's Home – Direct Provision of the service
- ❖ Provision of English Medium primary School Places in the Llanrumney Area
- ❖ A new delivery model for Family Help and Support in Cardiff
- ❖ New School Provision to serve parts of Pontprennau and Old St Mellons
- ❖ School Admissions Arrangements 2020/21 – briefing
- ❖ New School Provision to serve parts of Creigiau St Fagans Radyr Morganstown and Fairwater – briefing

## **Performance Monitoring**

- ❖ Children's Services – Quarterly Performance Monitoring
- ❖ Education and Lifelong Learning – Schools Annual Report 2017/18 and performance reports
- ❖ Central South Education Consortium – Consortium's contribution to raising standards in Cardiff's Schools
- ❖ Regional Adoption Service
- ❖ Families First Annual Review 2017-18

## **Member Briefings**

- ❖ Estyn Inspection Report – St Peters R.C. Primary School
- ❖ Additional learning needs and educational tribunal (aln et) act 2018
- ❖ Corporate safeguarding board - policy review and progress report

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has held 12 full Committee meetings, and one joint meeting with Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee since June 2018. As a result of the consideration of over 29 reports, covering policy development, pre-decision scrutiny, monitoring progress and service area performance, the Scrutiny Committee Chairperson sent 21 letters to the Cabinet and officers, which included requests for additional information, comments, and observations on items considered at the Committee Meetings.

Also as a result of these meetings the Committee agreed to write to the relevant Cabinet Member identifying some recommendations for the Cabinet and officers to consider. The Committee received timely responses from the Cabinet to all letters that requested a response. In addition officers have provided information where requested and agreed to amend future reports in response to the Committee's requests.

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO SCRUTINY – BETTER ENGAGEMENT**

The Council's five scrutiny committees regularly invite citizens and representatives of community and third sector organisations to provide evidence at Committee Meetings and Task & Finish inquiries. During 2018/19, this Committee has received advice, comments and concerns from 52 people who have either been invited or requested attendance at Committee or Task and Finish Group meetings.

The Committee has always considered the UN Convention on the rights of the child to be centre to its work, however the Chairman felt that the Committee could help provide an opportunity for young people to express their views and ensure that decisions and actions are in the best interest of young people by attending all Committee meetings. In the summer of 2018, the Chairman extended an invitation to the Youth Council for a representative to attend all future scrutiny committee meetings. The Youth Council accepted the offer and agreed that it's Vice Chair would undertake the role and attended her first meeting on September 11 2018. The Chairman also agreed that the Youth Council representative, although not a full member of the Committee, could actively take part in the meetings, seeking advice and challenging decisions and holding decision makers to account.

The Chairman received requests for attendance and associated correspondence on a number of issues. All correspondence is reviewed and appraised prior to each relevant Committee meeting and Members are asked if they wish to raise any issues on behalf of the public or that the Chairman reads out the public questions at Committee to enable those attending to hear their question being asked and the resultant response from the Cabinet Member and or Director.

The outcome of these actions has resulted in improved engagement with young people, members of the public and interested parties.

## Scrutiny Review – Better Decisions

Wales Audit Office (WAO)'s February 2016 inspection report included the following recommendations, which impacted on Scrutiny in Cardiff:

- Develop an approach to cross-cutting scrutiny (given the increasing nature of collaborative service delivery and governance, and the Wellbeing of Future Generations agenda).
- Consider scrutiny's role in addressing the strategic challenges facing the Council at this point in time.
- Ensure that any vacancies on scrutiny committees are filled quickly.
- Consider webcasting scrutiny committees.

In response to the recommendations the Scrutiny Committees have implemented a range of improvement actions and incorporated in to the Council's Corporate Plan.

Arrangements to scrutinise cross-cutting issues that have been developed by this Committee, including:

- Joint task and finish group looking into Drugs.
- Joint scrutiny with neighbouring authorities on issues including the Regional Adoption Service and the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service.
- Joint Committee for the scrutiny of the Director of Social Services Annual report 2018-19

The Scrutiny of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act - The Council's Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee has formal responsibility for scrutinising the Cardiff Public Services Board. However, each of the other Council scrutiny committees can scrutinise specific Public Services Board issues falling under its terms of reference. This Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the Public Service Boards on its three to five year partnership with Unicef UK to ensure that

all Cardiff's public services aim to embed children's rights throughout the services provided across the city.

Vacancies are allocated to political groups under political proportionality rules, and are discussed on a monthly basis with Party Group Whips. Vacancies that have been unable to be filled by a particular political group have been offered to other political groups and independent councillors. Throughout this municipal year the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee has had a full Membership.

Webcasting facilities are in place in County Hall and in the City Hall Chamber, allowing some Scrutiny committee meetings to be webcast. The Management Statement of Action directed the introduction of webcasting of committee meetings to include one scrutiny committee meeting per month from December 2016. In April 2019 the Council extended its contract for Webcasting to enable all Committee meetings to be webcast, if held in Committee Room 4 of County Hall.

In addition the Scrutiny Committee have developed and implemented a performance indicator "The number of external contributors to Scrutiny meetings" to highlight the breadth and depth of evidence heard by scrutiny members. As at the 31 March 2019 scrutiny committees have received evidence directly from over 3831 external witnesses.

## **Committee Member Development – Better Decisions**

Scrutiny is a Member-led function whose success is closely linked to the capacity and development of the Members that sit on Scrutiny Committees. The Scrutiny Team therefore worked closely with colleagues across the Council to provide a continuous range of opportunities for Members to build or refresh their Scrutiny skills, and to extend their knowledge and insight into a range of issues relevant to their Scrutiny role.

During the year Scrutiny services have organised a number of training events to enable the new Scrutiny members to gain an overview and understanding of their roles, activities and scrutiny processes.

In addition, the Members attend pre-Committee meetings to discuss, analyse and understand the issues being considered, and where necessary ask for further clarification of information. From this, the Members can also established a number of “lines of inquiry” for the meeting.

## Highlights from the Committee's work during 2018/19

This section of the Annual Report presents highlights of the Committee's activities during 2018 -19. The report identifies what the scrutiny committee was trying to achieve in each piece of scrutiny, and what it actually achieved.

### Task & Finish Group Inquiries – Better outcomes

A key part of the Committee's work is the identification and investigation of key areas of concern, to enable better outcomes for public services and drive improvement in service provision. These can often be areas which a Directorate is not actively working on, or which are cross cutting in nature, involving several Directorate and partner organisations. The outputs from these investigations are reported back to the lead Cabinet Member for consideration, and – where appropriate – the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

### Out of County Placements

---

This inquiry was requested by three Cabinet Members, the Committee Chairman and supported by all Committee Members at the work programme forum meeting.

The terms of reference of the Inquiry was agreed as:

- To review the provision of out of county placements, the types of provision, cost and impact on resources
- To identify gaps in local provision, social services, and education that result in the need to place children out of county.
- To identify the barriers to providing additional support in Cardiff and the impact on looked after children in being placed outside Cardiff.

- To consider plans and proposals to provide improved provision and determine the effectiveness of these improvement in addressing Cardiff high levels of out of county provision.
- To report the findings of the Committee to the Cabinet.

The report of the Task and Finish Group was presented to The Full Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Cabinet on 5 July 2018. The report contained 19 recommendations from the Task and Finish Group, with overarching themes of prevention, workforce, practice and commissioning.

The cabinet response approved by Cabinet on the 15 November 2018 , which will be addressed through current Improving Outcomes for Children Work programme or will be developed as new work streams. The overarching themes can be described as follows:

- a) The implementation of a coherent, evidence based model of early help and family support;
- b) securing a competent, confident, supported and empowered workforce, employed on permanent contracts, accountable for their practice, and equipped with the tools to do their jobs;
- c) embedding high standards of social work practice including the full implementation of the Signs of Safety framework;
- d) effective supply of accommodation care and support through the implementation of an enhanced Cardiff in-house fostering service and delivery of a commissioning strategy for residential care which will provide sufficiency of the right types of placement in Cardiff.

Together these themes, and the detailed actions beneath them, provide a whole system response for the most vulnerable children and families in the City.

The Cabinet response welcomed the Committee's recommendations all the recommendations have been accepted or partially accepted. The response also stated why some of the very specific recommendations need to be considered more as "in principle" direction due, for example, to the imperative to consider the needs of each child individually in deciding on a suitable placement. The implementation of the committee's recommendations have been aligned with the workstreams being delivered at the core of the Improving Outcomes for Children

programme. The recommendations, alongside other analytical work is underway within the directorate, and has helpfully re-emphasised the need to address workforce and practice improvement as well as enhance the supply side issues. Substantial work is already underway to create more placement provision in Cardiff and to address early help and support for families.

In June 2019 the Cabinet will consider the Council's vision is to open new children's homes in the city, so it can have access to the right type and level of support and ensure Cardiff children live in Cardiff. The aspiration is to open five new children's homes in Cardiff by December 2019.

Also in June 2019 Cabinet it is anticipated that it will consider a report setting out a 3 year strategic plan to deliver excellent outcomes in children's services. It will set out how the Council and partners will develop prevention, improve practice, support and develop the workforce, improve the range of service offers and achieve improved performance.

The 2019/20 budget proposals included a number of savings which had been identified through the implementation of the inquiries recommendations, these included:

- Commissioning arrangements £1M
- Improved Council Residential provision £1.5M
- Preventative models £0.5M

## **Preventing Young People's Involvement in Drug Dealing – Joint Task Group with Community and Adult Services**

---

In response to a letter (dated 27 June 2017) from Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Cllr Lynda Thorne, a joint CYPSC/ CASSC Task Group has been holding Task and Finish inquiries into drug dealing in Cardiff. The scope of the inquiry called for close examination of the situation in the Butetown and Grangetown areas in particular. The first meeting took place on 17 October, 2017 and the Task Group is chaired by Cllr. Saeed Ebrahim.

The Task Group reviewed the evidence gathered from discussions with a wide range of witnesses including Council Members and officers (including Youth Service); third sector organisations; Community Safety Board Members; schools; Cardiff & Vale UHB; residents and community representatives; and Probation. The Members also reviewed a number of publications and reports, and developed, distributed and analysed a community survey to gain a snapshot of opinion across Cardiff. Arising from this, a number of key findings were identified from which a number of recommendations were agreed,

The recommendations of the Task Group were endorsed by both Scrutiny committees and commended to Cabinet for implementation, in consultation with the community safety board and organisations within the wider Cardiff partnership arrangements. The recommendations in the report have been shared with partner agencies for consideration and have been discussed at the community safety delivery board.

The Cabinet at its meeting on 18 April 2019 agreed that of the 19 recommendations, 12 have been accepted, 6 accepted in principle and 1 to follow (Recommendation 17). The response to each recommendation is detailed in the Appendix to the report, with an explanation as to why the recommendation is either accepted, rejected or accepted in principle or in part.

The Committee will consider the Cabinet response at the next joint committee meeting.

## **Child Mental Health in Education**

---

The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee during its consideration of items for the 2018/19 work programme agreed to undertake a Task & Finish inquiry into “Child Mental Health Support and Services”, to be chaired by Councillor Mike Phillips.

The inquiry was suggested by the Committee Chairman and supported by the Cabinet Members for Education Employment and Skills, and agreed by all

Committee Members at the work programme forum meeting for inclusion in the work programme.

It was suggested by the Committee that the Inquiry group should include representatives from the Youth Council, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, Education, and Children's Services and was open to non-committee members and young people. The Group also agreed to hold a number of evidence gathering meetings with key stakeholders.

The Inquiry sought advice, comments and suggestions from the Chairman of the Welsh Government Children Young People and Education Committee, Welsh Government Education Staff, The Children's Commissioner and Policy Officer, The Crime and Police Commissioner and staff officer, Child and Adolescence Mental Health Service Staff, representatives from the Action for Children, Samaritans, Wales Mental Health Foundation, Cardiff university researcher, the Former Deputy Head at Monmouth Comprehensive School, Parents Group representative and the youth council.

The Group also considered a survey report (9,000 pupils) on student mental health and wellbeing which was presented by members of the Cardiff Youth Council, the views of parents and the Mind over Matter report produced by the Children, Young People and Education Committee

The Group has recently completed its evidence gathering meetings and is currently analysing the information to identify key issues to be use to challenge those responsible for the operation of Child Mental Health support and service across all stakeholders.

The Task Group is planning to present its report in the summer

## **Policy Development & Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Better Decisions**

A key part of the Committee's work is the review and assessment of effectiveness of the Council's policies which will impact of the lives of Children & Young People in Cardiff. The Committee always ensures that its work programme enables the scrutiny of any policy development and the pre-decision of any Cabinet report seeking approval for a strategy or policy affecting Children & Young People.

The Committee has during the past year undertaken pre-decision scrutiny of a large number of key policies, prior to their consideration by Cabinet:

- ❖ Schools Admissions arrangements 2020/21
- ❖ School Organisation Planning
  - Provision of English Medium Primary School Places in the Llanrumney Area
  - New School Provision to serve parts of Pontprennau and Old St Mellons
  - New School Provision to serve parts of Creigiau/St Fagans Radyr/Morganstown and Fairwater
- ❖ Development of the Cardiff 2030 Education Strategy
- ❖ Cardiff Child Friendly City
- ❖ 2019 – 2020 Budget Proposals
- ❖ Corporate Plan 2018 – 2021
- ❖ Ty Storrie Children's Home
- ❖ New Delivery Model for family Help and Support in Cardiff

Detailed below is a summary of the key pre-decision scrutiny work undertaken by the Committee

### **Schools Admissions Arrangements**

---

In accordance with the statutory procedure a draft Cabinet report on School Admission Arrangements 2020/21 was considered by Committee in March 2019.

This report provided the Committee and subsequently Cabinet with the outcome of the consultation undertaken regarding school admissions criteria and proposed changes to Cardiff Council's school admissions arrangements.

Following its consideration of the draft report the Committee wrote to the Cabinet Member, prior to the Cabinet meeting, stating that the Committee recommended to Cabinet that as the proposed changes were minor, and was shown in the Cabinet report future consultations should highlight the proposed amendments to the Policy separately, to enable the public to clearly see the changes.

Finally the Committee discussed the issues around admission numbers, catchment area, segregation and school capacity, and agreed that it would priorities to undertake a scrutiny inquiry, as part of next year's work programme, to help develop proposal to address these issues.

## **School Organisation Planning**

---

In December 2017 the Cabinet agreed to develop a number of School Organisation Band B schemes covering Secondary, Primary and special schools. As a result a number of proposals have been presented to Committee during the municipal year, seeking Cabinet approval for their implementation, these included:

- Public consultation on proposals to rationalise English-medium primary school places in the Llanrumney area, including a proposal to close Glan-yr-Afon Primary School in August 2019
- To inform the Cabinet of responses received following consultation on proposals to rationalise English-medium primary school places in the Llanrumney area, including a proposal to close Glan-yr-Afon Primary School in August 2019
- Public consultation on proposals for developing the Doyle Avenue site, where the existing Cantonian High School is located.
- To inform the Cabinet of responses received following a public engagement exercise on a proposal for a new build Fitzalan High School
- Proposed establishment of a new primary school in new build premises on the St Edeyrn's Housing Development in Pontprennau and Old St Mellons

- The proposed establishment of a new primary school, in new build premises on a site to serve parts of Creigiau St Fagans Radyr Morganstown and Fairwater.

The Committee reviewed the information in each draft Cabinet reports and agreed to provide the Cabinet with its advice and comments prior to their consideration of each report.

## **Cardiff 2030 – Education Strategy**

---

The Director of Education informed the Committee that there was a need to refresh the Cardiff 2020 Education Strategy and start to develop a strategy for the next 10 years (Cardiff 2030). The Education Directorate developed a Cardiff Education Convention – “shaping a new curriculum for Wales”. Members of the Committee were invited to attend and the Committee was subsequently briefed, in November 2018, on feedback from the Convention as well as providing some views and suggestions to continue the “Civic conversation” for the future development of Education in Cardiff.

The Members of the Committee subsequently held an interactive workshop, in March 2019, with Officers from Education to reflect on the achievements and challenges arising from the Cardiff 2020 and help to develop the vision for Cardiff 2030.

The Members were informed that a draft strategy would be available for their comment and advice in the summer of 2019 with a final draft for consideration in autumn 2019.

## **2019-20 Budget Proposals and draft Corporate Plan**

---

The Council’s Constitution allows for scrutiny committees to consider the draft Cabinet budget proposals prior to their consideration by the Cabinet and Full Council. The Committee considered the Council’s draft Corporate Plan and draft budgetary proposals for 2019 -20, including their detailed savings proposals and

Capital Programme at its meeting in February 2019, as well as testing their impact on the outcomes for children and young people.

The Committee identified a number of issues across the Corporate Plan, Corporate Budget and Directorate Budget reports. These concerns were included in a letter, sent to the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee for it to take into consideration when it reviewed the overall Corporate Plan, Consultation and Budget proposals on 18 February 2019 and to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 21 February 2019.

The Committee's letter was considered by Cabinet and Council during their deliberations on the proposals. The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance also responded to the letter providing a full explanation on the specific budget savings points raised by the Committee. As a result the contingency budget for Looked After Children was increase as well as reviewing a number of performance targets to ensure their appropriateness to the current situation.

## **St Peters R.C. Primary School – Estyn Inspection Report**

---

The Committee at its meeting in 18 January 2019 considered, as an Urgent item, a recently published Estyn Inspection Report on St Peters Roman Catholic Primary School. The Committee welcomed the Director of Education and Lifelong Learnings response to the St Peters Estyn Inspection report and the inspector's opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school.

The Committee were pleased with the briefing provided, and that actions had already been agreed, following the appropriate consultation, and that they were being implemented as a matter of urgency

## **A new delivery model for Family Help and Support in Cardiff**

---

The Committee at its meeting on 9 October 2018 considered a draft Cabinet report setting out a new delivery model for integrated early help and prevention services for families, children and young people in line with the Council's Capital Ambition's commitment to having an enhanced Early Help provision.

The draft Cabinet report seeks to enable Cardiff Council to respond to the challenges and issues that it faces by considering a proposed future arrangement, which brings together existing services and to provide a comprehensive early help support service for families and children. This new model would meet the statutory requirement to provide Information Advice and Assistance for all families while providing more intensive support for those who need it on a "right help, right time" basis.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the draft Cabinet Report prior to its consideration at Cabinet on 11 October 2018. During the way forward section of the meeting the Members considered the information in the report, together with answers to their questions, and the Committee agreed to commend the draft report to Cabinet. The Committee was however not completely comfortable with the financial implications of the framework, and in particular the TUPI arrangements for staff and the resultant training required. The Members therefore suggested that Officers monitor closely the financing of the new delivery model as well as the TUPI arrangements and necessary training of the staff that transfer to the new services, to ensure the effective implementation of the new delivery model.

## **Cardiff Child Friendly City**

---

The Committee, in November 2018, agreed to receive a progress report on the development of a programme to make Cardiff a globally recognised as a Child Friendly City, through participation in the Unicef UK Child Friendly City and Communities Programme. The Public Service Board (PSB) was due to consider a

draft strategy at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November and this report provides the Committee with the opportunity to consider and review the draft strategy.

The Committee was fully supportive of the strategy as well as ensuring the Children and Young People are at the heart of all decision making that impacts on them. The Committee was also very impressed with the work being undertaken by Play Wales to support and arrange the closure of streets so that children can play safely outside their homes “Street Play”, and offered their support for the continuation of this initiative.

The Committee did feel that the Strategy was very wordy and not particularly Child Friendly and suggested that the Public Service Board should produce a Child Friendly version of the Strategy. The Committee also considered that before the Strategy is approved, that the views of Sport and Youth organisations are sought and included in the final document.

The Committee also noted that the Cardiff model has been based around that used in Leeds, however some members were aware that Leeds model had involved the Private Sector in their Strategy and felt that the Cardiff Strategy would be strengthened by the inclusion of the Public Sector groups in making Cardiff a Child Friendly City. In addition 3rd Sector’s involvement would also enhance the scope of the Strategy and suggested that they should also be signed up to the strategy.

Finally the Members requested the presentation of future progress report to enable the Committee to review the implementation of the strategy and monitor Progress.

## **Performance Monitoring – Better Outcomes**

The Committee has a clearly defined role in the Council's improvement and governance arrangements, and its work programme includes a high level of the monitoring and review of Directorate performance, resource management, target setting and improvement management.

### **Quarterly Performance Reports – Children's Services**

---

During 2018/19 the Committee noted generally improving performance across many indicators; however they expressed their concern at a few indicators showing reduction in performance. The Committee has reviewed each quarterly corporate performance report together with a catalogue of local indicators which the Members have requested to regularly monitor.

The Committee, at the start of the year discussed a review of the format and focus of future performance reports and agreed to set up a performance panel to help develop a more appropriate performance report for the Committee. A revised format was agreed with officers from Social services which Members felt provided a much clearer view of current performance, how it has changed together with the actions being implemented to improve those areas of concern

### **Performance Reports – Education and Lifelong Learning**

---

The Committee continued its approach to the scrutiny of educational performance by scheduling throughout the year examination of particular aspects of performance, in addition to an overview of annual performance in January. The meetings have focused on the implementation of the Cardiff 2020 strategy together with the Education Corporate Performance reports.

The performance monitoring reports enable Committee to review, assess and challenge the implementation of all actions and thereby the delivery of high quality education and improved outcomes for children and young people in Cardiff's Schools.

The Committee has regularly written to the Cabinet Member seeking clarification on actions and recommended improvements in performance.

## **Central South Consortium Scrutiny Panel**

---

A Central South Consortium Scrutiny panel was set up in 2017 with the Chairs and officers from the five Local Authority's Scrutiny Committees (Bridgend, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil and the Valle of Glamorgan).

The statutory responsibility for the performance of schools resides in individual Local Authorities together with the associated Consortium's performance, with Consortium staff in attendance, however the scrutiny of the Consortium itself, is also essential and an appropriate scrutiny structure needs to be put in place to consider the performance of the region, share best practice and information across all five Scrutiny Committees'.

The Panel meet three times in the year with meetings scheduled shortly after each meeting of the Consortium's Joint Committee.

The Working Group's terms of reference would consider standing items such as:

- The Consortium's progress against its three-year Business Plan on a regional basis;
- Regional performance trends;
- The sharing of best scrutiny practice across the region;
- The Group to also report annually to the relevant Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority and/or feedback to the next meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority;
- To share a note of its meetings with the Joint Committee and to receive a response to these from the Joint Committee.

The panel has agreed its work programme and has already held three meetings.

## Committee Briefing Reports – Better Outcomes

The Committee agreed to receive briefing papers outside the normal Committee agenda so that they could be more effectively reviewed. The Committee agreed to receive these briefings as and when they were available.

Subjects covered included:

### ❖ **Additional Learning Needs and Educations Tribunal Act 2018**

The Committee was really interested to hear about the fundamental changes required by the Act, and now felt that they had a better understanding of the implications of the Act and the changes that are required to fully implement the Act and Code.

The Committee noted that it was proposed to undertake a Local Authority readiness audit and individual school readiness audit, Members asked for a progress briefing later in the year.

The Committee also expressed some concern that, the implementation of the requirements of the Act, will not be resource neutral, and requested an indication of the anticipated cost of fully implementing the requirements of the Act.

### ❖ **Corporate Safeguarding Board – Policy review and progress report**

The Committee was pleased with the progress that had made over the past 18 months, particularly as the Corporate Safeguarding Policy had been revised and strengthened. The Members acknowledged that the safeguarding of children and adults is every bodies business and as such the Policy will cover not only the Council workforce and Elected Members, but also partner organisations.

The Members, did however recommend that the safeguarding board should:

- The raising awareness and training should be extended to all Cardiff's schools, both pupils; and staff.

- Provide a progress briefing paper be provided to the Committee, on the level of compliance of the safeguarding training across the Council, in the summer.

The outcome from the Members' review of the briefings has been reported to Committee and appropriate letters sent to Directors. All requests for information have been responded to promptly and reported to Members.

## Suggested Items for 2019/20 Work Programme

The Committee receives regular work programme updates at which Members have the opportunity to consider items suggested by members of the public, young people, organisations, Council Members and other scrutiny committees, for inclusion on the work programme. Committee Members can also suggest any new issues which may be of interest to the Committee. Should the Committee consider a new work programme for 2019/20 municipal year, this Committee would like to recommend the following task group item to be considered for inclusion in its work programme:

- ❖ Issues around admission numbers, catchment area, segregation and school capacity.
- ❖ The provision of in-house fostering placements for Cardiff's Children being looked after.
- ❖ Recruitment and retention of social workers

The Council is responsible for co-ordinating the production of the main strategies and plans covering service development and provision across a range of services and agencies. The Committee's future work programme could include:

- ❖ Cardiff 2030 Strategy
- ❖ Corporate Plan and Budget
- ❖ Integrated Family Support Team
- ❖ Ty Storrie -update
- ❖ Cardiff Child Friendly City – update
- ❖ Corporate Safeguarding Board – progress briefing

The Committee will be identifying further issues for consideration during July/August 2019. It is also suggested that the Committee continues to receive the regular progress and performance reports on:

- ❖ Children's Services performance
- ❖ School performance
- ❖ Budget proposals and monitoring
- ❖ Out of County report recommendation monitoring

Scrutiny Services, City and County of Cardiff,  
Room 263, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff. CF10 4UW  
Tel: 029 2087 2781 Email: [scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk)  
© 2019 City and County of Cardiff