
COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. This report updates Members on a range of issues relating to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. This report sets out the following:
 - An updated CYP Work Programme 2023/24 for noting. (**Appendix A**).
 - A copy of the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff (VVC) Adoption Collaborative Annual Report 2022/23 for noting (**Appendix B**).
 - A copy of the draft Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report for noting (**Appendix C**).
2. This report also provides an update on the CYP **School Organisation Planning Task & Finish Group** and **EOTAS Task & Finish Group**.
3. The report provides an update on any **informal business or updates** received by this Scrutiny Committee for noting.
4. This report also provides links to the scrutiny of **related matters by other scrutiny committees and other relevant council committees**, which aims to provide Members with further information in relation to the Committee's work.

CYP Work Programme 2023/24

5. This Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for 2023/24 at its meeting on the 17 October 2023. Since this meeting, further updates have emerged, and the Chair has therefore reviewed the work programme. Any changes are reflected in **Appendix A**.

6. The Committee is recommended to note the updated timetable of issues for the Committee as set out in **Appendix A**.

Vale, Valleys and Cardiff (VVC) Regional Adoption Collaborative Annual Report 2022/23

7. Attached to this report at **Appendix B** is a copy of the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff (VVC) Regional Adoption Collaborative Annual Report 2022/23. **Appendix B** is supported by further Appendices as follows:
 - **Appendix 1** sets out key performance data in respect of children by quarter and local authority.
 - **Appendix 2** provides information in respect of adopter enquiries and recruitment of adopters.
 - **Appendix 3** provides information in respect of Adoption Support.
 - **Appendix 4** provides information in respect of Adoption Panel activity.

8. The report focusses on the following areas of the region's work:
 - Service Development and Governance
 - Staffing
 - Service Functions
 - Family Finding
 - Recruitment & Assessment – Marketing and Adopters
 - Adoption Support
 - Adoption Panel
 - Complaints and Compliments

- Consultation, Engagement and Quality Assurance
- Policies and Procedures
- Conclusion, Future Priorities and Challenges

9. Members are recommended to note the contents of the report.

Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)

10. At its meeting on the 13^h June 2023, CYP Members considered a request from Scrutiny Chairs to nominate the Chair and 2 Members from each Scrutiny Committee to take part in a cross-scrutiny Inquiry as part of the next stage of the RLDP in relation to a consultation on the preferred strategic options.

11. The RLDP cross-committee group met on the 7th July 2023 to discuss how it could most effectively scrutinise this issue, given its breadth. The Group agreed that prioritising three topics of focus would be most effective; and that smaller sub-groups be established to undertake this work.

12. The three priority topics agreed were:

- Securing Planning Obligations/s106
- Public Transport
- Local and District Centres

13. The three sub-groups covering the above topics were established. Each group met to gather evidence during October and November 2023. An output report combining the key findings and recommendations from the three sub-groups is attached at **Appendix C**.

14. The cross-committee Group met on the 30 November 2023 to agree the report, before it is signed off by the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny

Committee (as lead committee) on the 13 December 2023, and prior to its submission to Cabinet on 14th December 2023.

15. This Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report set out in ***Appendix C***.

SOP Task & Finish Group

16. The SOP Task & Finish Group was established as a rolling Group to consider a number of School Organisation Planning proposals coming forward during 2022/23 and will continue to meet during the current year. Since the last committee business report (17 October 2023), this Scrutiny Committee and the SOP Task & Finish Group has considered:

- School Organisation Planning: Primary School Places To Serve Cathays And Parts Of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North And Plasnewydd
- Fairwater Community Campus Band B Redevelopment

EOTAS Task & Finish Group

17. The Inquiry into ***“Young People Who Are Educated Other Than at School (EOTAS) and What Factors Could Lead to Them Becoming Vulnerable to Criminal Exploitation”*** was paused during Autumn 2023, to free up the Scrutiny Officer to work on the RLDP Inquiry (details above).

18. However, this Inquiry will resume in early 2024 and the Scrutiny Officer is currently coordinating diaries to facilitate this work. As a reminder, Members of this Task Group are:

- Cllr Bridgeman (Chair)
- Councillor Ferguson-Thorne
- Councillor Hopkins
- Carol Cobert
- Karen Dell’Armi – independent co-optee

19. Celeste Lewis has also expressed an interest in joining this Group and will therefore be added to the Membership. Further progress will be reported back to a future meeting of this scrutiny committee.

CYPSC – Informal Business

20. Due to the volume of items coming forward for the CYPSC Work Programme, sometimes the Chair will advise the Scrutiny Officer to send information informally to Committee Members. The following have been sent to Members:

- **Letter from Estyn** – this was distributed to CYPSC Members via email for comments on the 28 November 2023. Members are recommended to note the contents of the letter.

Relevant Items considered by other Scrutiny Committees

21. To equip CYP Members with as much information as possible to assist them with their work, it has been agreed that relevant information considered by other Scrutiny Committees be distributed to Members for information and reference. The following have been considered recently and links to papers provided:

Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee – 18 October 2023

- Via the link below, Members are requested to consider Agenda Item 31 – **Annual Complaints Report 2022/23**

[Agenda for Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 18th October, 2023, 4.30 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee – 22 November 2023

- Via the link below, Members are requested to consider Agenda Items 4 – **Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan 2023-28**; and 5 – **Month 6 Monitoring Report**.

[Agenda for Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 22nd November, 2023, 5.30 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Relevant Items considered by other Council Committees

22. Members may also wish to note the contents of agendas of other Council Committees, which will be of interest to this Scrutiny Committee:

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) – 6 November 2023

This includes agenda items on:

- Children Looked After in Education Annual Report 2022-23 and Virtual Headteacher Update
- Cardiff Commitment Update
- Into work Advice Service - Bright Futures Update
- Support for Care Leavers Report

[Agenda for Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee on Monday, 6th November, 2023, 2.00 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Way Forward

23. During the meeting, Members will have the opportunity to;

- Note the updated CYP Work Programme 2023/24 (**Appendix A**)
- Note the VVC Annual Report 2022/23 (**Appendix B**)

- Note the output report from the RLDP cross-committee group **(Appendix C)**
- Note the progress in relation to the SOP Task & Finish Group.
- Note the progress in relation to the EOTAS Task & Finish Group.
- Note progress in relation to those Items distributed informally including the letter from Estyn.
- Note related items considered by other Scrutiny Committees.
- Note related items considered by other Council Committees

Legal Implications

24. 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 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

25. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Note the updated CYP Work Programme 2023/24 (**Appendix A**)
- II. Note the VVC Annual Report 2022/23 (**Appendix B**)
- III. Note the output report from the RLDP cross-committee group (**Appendix C**)
- IV. Note the progress in relation to the SOP Task & Finish Group.
- V. Note the progress in relation to the EOTAS Task & Finish Group.
- VI. Note progress in relation to those Items distributed informally, including the letter from Estyn.
- VII. Note related items considered by other Scrutiny Committees.
- VIII. Note related items considered by other Council Committees

Leanne Weston

Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

29 November 2023