

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 DECEMBER 2015
PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

To identify potential topics for scrutiny for 2015/16.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider potential topics for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

3. Background information

3.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will set and manage a work programme to fulfil overview and scrutiny responsibility in relation to children and young people to:

- (i) provide an appropriate and robust level of challenge to those in authority and hold local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive, to account for their decisions, action and performance;
- (ii) review policy and contribute to the development of new policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham's children and young people;
- (iii) explore any matters affecting Nottingham's children and young people;
- (iv) make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies in relation to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive, and monitor implementation of all accepted recommendations.

3.2 To add referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Committee's work programme.

3.3 To consider referrals from partners and citizens to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated work programme.

3.4 To invite, take account of and respond to the views of local people (including children and young people) about their concerns and the delivery of services in relation to children and young people.

3.5 To be required to consider the following issues / topics when developing the work programme, though the Committee's scrutiny activity need not be limited to these matters:

- (i) Safeguarding

- (ii) Looked After Children
 - (iii) Vulnerable Children and Young People (eg in relation to disability, domestic violence, missing)
 - (iv) Child Sexual Exploitation
 - (v) Early Intervention
 - (vi) Educational Attainment
 - (vii) Commissioning of Services for Children and Young People
 - (viii) Performance of Services for Children and Young People
- 3.6 To consider potential risks to children and young people, how they are being managed and to report concerns as soon as possible to the appropriate individuals/ bodies if risk is identified;
- 3.7 To monitor the progress made by, and effectiveness of the Council and its partners, in addressing the areas of concern and specific recommendations for actions made by Ofsted and any other relevant inspection/ assessment bodies;
- 3.8 To have regard to the work of other committees/ panels/ boards, such as the Corporate Parenting Board and the Local Safeguarding Board, to avoid duplication, but to ensure that such bodies are held to account when appropriate;
- 3.9 To refer any health issues in relation to children and young people to the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Policy briefings

- 3.9 Through the process of developing the programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, the Committee may identify issues which call for a policy briefing. The purpose of these briefings is to inform councillors about a current key issue or to prepare councillors for review work that has been commissioned. These informal briefings will not be occasions for scrutiny to be carried out, although they may result in a suggestion for a new scrutiny topic, which would need to be considered by this Committee against the current programme for scrutiny and available resource.
- 3.10 Policy briefings will not form part of the Committee's agenda but will be held separately and be open to all councillors to attend.

Monitoring programme for scrutiny

- 3.11 On an ongoing basis the Committee will be responsible for managing and co-ordinating the programme for scrutiny and assessing the impact of scrutiny activity. At all future meetings the Committee will monitor the progress of the programme, making amendments as appropriate.

Potential areas for inclusion on the work programme

3.12 Below is a list of areas the Committee might want to explore during 2015/16:

- Child sexual exploitation
- Youth homelessness
- Fostering & Adoption
- Ofsted update on inspection April 2014
- Community learning
- Healthy lifestyles
 - Healthy weight
 - School food plan
 - Drug and alcohol misuse & legal highs
- Domestic violence – impact on children
- Post Ofsted improvement plan update – session on social worker caseloads
- Look After Children – leaving care – focus on pathways for LAC leaving care
- Safeguarding in Schools – focus on sex education and safeguarding risks
- SEND overview
- Young carers in Nottingham – focus the support in place
- Safeguarding Children – Children who go missing (links to CSE?)
- Behaviour in schools (or PRUs)
- Placement of Looked After Children in Schools
- Examination of the role of the Corporate Parenting Board

Regular updates to the committee

- Post Ofsted Improvement update
- NCSCB Updates
- Overall safeguarding performance monitoring
- CSE (noted below as mandatory)

Mandatory topics (under the terms of reference)

- Safeguarding
- Looked After Children
- Vulnerable Children and Young People (eg in relation to disability, domestic violence, missing)
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Early Intervention
- Education Attainment
- Commissioning of Services for Children and Young People
- Performance of Services for Children and Young People
- Monitor the progress made by, and effectiveness of the Council and its partners in addressing actions made by Ofsted

4. **List of attached information**

Appendix 1 – work programme 2015/16.

5. **Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

None

6. **Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

None

7. **Wards affected**

Citywide

8. **Contact information**

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Appendix 1

22 December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Sexual Exploitation• Safeguarding in Schools• School Expansion• Programme for Scrutiny
16 February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Item 1• Item 2• Item 3• Programme for Scrutiny
12 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Item 1• Item 2• Item 3• Programme for Scrutiny