

Children and Young People Work Programme 2016/17



This table sets out the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2016/17; the items listed were agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 29 June 2016. This work programme will be considered at every meeting of the Panel to enable it to respond to issues of concern and incorporate reviews or to comment on pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting-by-meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre-decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes.

Chair: Cllr Dennis Pearce

Vice-chair: Cllr Linda Taylor

Scrutiny Support

For further information on the work programme of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel please contact: -

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For more information about overview and scrutiny at LB Merton, please visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Meeting date: 29 June 2016 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 21 June 2016*)

Theme: setting the work programme			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	External witnesses/representative in attendance
Elected Member and departmental portfolio priorities	Outlining the portfolio priorities of Cabinet Members and officers' service priorities for 2016/17 to inform discussion of the Panel's work programme	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families (CSF) Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper- Marbiah)	
Performance monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring; and • Selection of a Panel Member to act as a lead on performance monitoring 	Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
Agreeing the Panel's work programme	To agree the Panel's work programme and consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a thematic approach to the work programme; • appointing topic leads; • getting the best from performance monitoring; • the Panel's use of task groups; • opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny; and • monitoring task group recommendations 	Cllr Dennis Pearce, Panel chair, and Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
Task group update: routes into employment for vulnerable	Review the progress of the task group	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

cohorts			
School provision: new secondary school required site approvals	Pre-decision scrutiny prior to the required site approvals from Cabinet	Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	

Meeting date: 11 October 2016 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 3 October 2016*)

Theme: schools			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	External witnesses/representative in attendance
Matters arising	Report back on the reference to Cabinet and call-in meeting on the site approval for Harris Wimbledon	Cllr Dennis Pearce	
Responsible Cabinet Member review	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
School provision	<u>Provision of Sufficient School Places in Merton</u> Following the recent decision in respect of Harris Wimbledon, a review of sufficiency of school places in the borough across primary, secondary and special school provision.	Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	

	<u>The Changing National Landscape for Education and Merton's Work with Schools in the Borough</u> Merton's work with schools in the context of national Government's developing policy on education, including academisation and grammar schools		
Performance monitoring	Report back from the lead Member for Performance monitoring on the plan for 2016/17.	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
Update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members. As agreed at the June meeting, this will include a particular focus on policy changes affecting social workers.	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families	
Task group update – online strategies in schools task group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable the Panel to performance manage delivery of the task group's recommendations To appoint a topic lead to champion the work 	Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
Task group update: routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts	Verbal update	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
Glossary	A glossary of acronyms will be provided to support		

	members (especially those new to CYP).		
Setting the work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

Meeting date: 9 November 2016 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 1 November 2016*)

Theme: safeguarding			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	External witnesses/representative in attendance
Responsible Cabinet Member review	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
Children, Schools and Families Department budget proposals (Round 1)	To enable the Panel to comment on the budget proposals and any new or revised savings as part of the first round of the process for agreeing the council's budget and business plan The current budget required cost savings to the CSF department. This agenda item also provides the opportunity to understand if this objective is being realised and what impact this is having in terms of service provision	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families and Zoe Church, Head of Business Planning	
Safeguarding	An in-depth focus on safeguarding for children and young people including the impact of any financial issues, budget cuts and/or deprivation. The report will contain a specific focus on Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Radicalisation.	Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep)	Keith Makin, Merton Safeguarding Children Board Chair Borough Commander

	To help Panel members, the Local Government Association has provided a practical guide for overview and scrutiny councillors on safeguarding children. (Gloucester provides an interesting case study/framework .)		
Performance monitoring	Presentation of any changes to the basket of indicators. Discussion of the CSF Dept's performance based on the indicators. In-depth exploration of one set of indicators.	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
Update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families	
Setting the work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

Meeting date: 11 January 2017 (**Deadline for papers:** 12pm 3 January 2017)

Theme: budget/health and wellbeing strategies for children and families			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	External witnesses/representative in attendance
Responsible Cabinet Member review	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Member for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) unavailable	

Children, Schools and Families Department budget proposals (Round 2)	<p>To enable the Panel to consider the Council's budget and business plan proposals and forward any comments/recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to compile a scrutiny response on the Budget/Business Plan to Cabinet</p> <p>To include discussion of major projects identified in the CSF draft service plans</p>	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families and Zoe Church, Head of Business Planning	
Performance monitoring	Discussion of the CSF Dept's performance based on the indicators. In-depth exploration of one set of indicators	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
Update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families	
Update on health and wellbeing strategies for children and families	In partnership with public health service, look broadly at strategies to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Additionally, focus on identified key issues such as childhood obesity. The health and wellbeing of more vulnerable cohorts will also be considered (ie: LAC, care leavers, children with SEND)	Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health	
Task group update: routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts	Verbal update	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
Rapporteur scrutiny review	User voice – scope and terms of reference	Councillor Jerome Neil	

Setting the work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
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Meeting date: 8 February 2017 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 31 January 2017*)

Theme: schools annual report			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	External witnesses/representative in attendance
Responsible Cabinet Member review	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
Performance monitoring	Discussion of the CSF Dept's performance based on the indicators. In-depth exploration of one set of indicators	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
Schools annual report	Annual report on attainment and progress of pupils in Merton schools. This will include issues around the shortage of teachers. During the last municipal year, the Panel agreed to focus on specific cohorts (children with SEND, LAC and Black and Black Caribbean children). Again, the Local Government Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny have provided guidance on how	Jane McSherry, Assistant Director for Schools	

	scrutiny can influence local education and support school leaders to improve results		
Task group update: routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts	Presentation of draft report and recommendations	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
Setting the work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

Meeting date: 21 March 2017 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 13 March 2017*)

Theme: corporate parenting			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	External witnesses/representative in attendance
Responsible Cabinet Member review	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
Performance monitoring	Discussion of the CSF Dept's performance based on the indicators. In-depth exploration of one set of indicators	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
Update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education,	

	scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members. There will be a focus on a key policy area as agreed by the Panel at its previous meeting	Schools and Families	
Corporate parenting	<p>During the last municipal year, the Panel highlighted several areas on which it wanted to focus during its on-going scrutiny of Merton's corporate parenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of children in and leaving care that are NEET; • The changing profile of the LAC population in Merton and the needs for service provision to reflect these changes; • The stability of placements; • Retention of Merton's high quality LAC team; • Increasing recruitment of foster carers that are resident in Merton (especially in the West of the borough) and those willing/able to care for adolescents; • Ensuring the right mix of placements are provided including within a children's home in borough; • Supporting foster carers so they understand the vulnerability and complexity of the children they are looking ; and • Looking in detail at the responses from children who identified themselves as dissatisfied <p>Guidance is provided by the Local Government Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny. This has already been recommended to and used by Panel members</p>	<p>Paul Angeli, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion</p> <p>Input from Community and Housing</p>	
Rapporteur scrutiny review	User voice – presentation of findings	Councillor Jerome Neil	

Setting the work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
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