

# Children and Young People Work Programme 2017/18



This table sets out the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2017/18; the items listed were agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 24 July 2017. 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 Children and Young People 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](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

Meeting date: 24 July 2017 (**Deadline for papers: 12pm 14 July 2017**) **COMPLETE**

<b>Theme: setting the work programme</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>POSSIBLE external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance (TBC)</b>
<b>Cabinet Member priorities</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Member for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
<b>ECHP performance update</b>	The Panel will look at this performance measure within a wider context including growing demand, parental satisfaction, and the transfer of existing statements and the performance of other authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jane McSherry, Assistant Director of Education</li> <li>Karla Finikin, Service Manager – SEN &amp; Disabilities Integrated Service</li> </ul>	
<b>Final report of the rapporteur scrutiny review of user voice</b>	Report on how looked after children and young people are able to expressed their wishes and feelings as well as participate in decisions that affect their lives.	Cllr Jerome Neil	
<b>Prevent task group – terms of reference</b>	To agree whether or not to proceed with a <i>Prevent</i> task group and accept the suggested terms of reference.	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring; and</li> <li>Selection of a Panel Member to act as a lead on performance monitoring.</li> </ul>	Naheed Chaudhry, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
<b>Department update report</b>	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last	Yvette Stanley, Director of Children,	

	scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Schools and Families	
<b>Children, schools and families glossary</b>	A glossary of acronyms commonly used within the remit of the Children, Schools and Families Department will be provided.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
<b>Agreeing the Panel's work programme</b>	To agree the Panel's work programme and consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a thematic approach to the work programme;</li> <li>• appointing topic leads;</li> <li>• getting the best from performance monitoring;</li> <li>• the Panel's use of task groups;</li> <li>• opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny; and</li> <li>• monitoring task group recommendations.</li> </ul>	Cllr Dennis Pearce, Panel chair, and Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

**Meeting date:** 10 October 2017 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 2 October 2017*) **COMPLETE**

<b>Theme: setting the work programme</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>POSSIBLE external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance (TBC)</b>
<b>Cabinet Member priorities</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep)	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
<b>Department update report</b>	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from	Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families	

	Panel members.		
<b>Ofsted inspection outcome</b>	Exact content and format to be determined once the Ofsted report is available (approx. 25 August 2017). This is likely to focus on areas for improvement highlighted by Ofsted and take a workshop approach. This will allow members to focus on and become a champion of a specific aspect of the Ofsted report/action plan. It has been suggested that the workshop be supported with training provided by service heads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families</li> <li>• Paul Angeli, Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion</li> </ul>	Contribution from Kathy Bundred, Children's Improvement Adviser for the London Government Association
<b>Work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any new/additional pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider.		

**Meeting date:** 8 November 2017 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 31 October 2017*) **COMPLETE**

<b>Theme: setting the work programme</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>POSSIBLE external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance (TBC)</b>
<b>Cabinet Member priorities</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep)	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring. REPORT WITHDRAWN AS AGREED AT PREVIOUS MEETING.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
<b>Department</b>	Update on developments affecting the Children,	Yvette Stanley,	

<b>update report</b>	Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Director of Children, Schools and Families	
<b>Children, Schools and Families Budget/business planning (Round 1)</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families</li> <li>• Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services, will provide training before the January meeting giving a detailed guide to the Medium Term Financial Strategy. <u>All members are encouraged to attend.</u></li> <li>• <a href="#">Scrutiny of finance – Councillor workbook</a> (the Local Government Association).</li> </ul>
<b>Harris Wimbledon update</b>	To monitor progress of the delivery of the new school in line with the Panel's reference to Cabinet in June 2016: 1) ensuring the opening date for the new school is optimised to not destabilise existing Merton secondaries, 2) maximising the design to give pupils the same advantage enjoyed by children at other Merton secondaries, 3) supporting Merton Abbey Primary in agreeing shared use of the site, 4) protecting the financial interests of the borough during the development of the site, 5) sustaining the level of community rental space, and 6) ensuring the safety of pupils using the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families</li> <li>• (Possibly Chris Lee to discuss site clearance for permanent site)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite representative(s) of the Harris Academy Chain to update members directly on the development of the school and plans for its future</li> <li>• Visit Harris Merton, to see the expansion project and to hear from the provider of the new school first hand and in situ</li> <li>• <a href="#">Free schools: challenges and</a></li> </ul>

			<a href="#">opportunities for accountability</a> : Centre for Public Scrutiny
<b>Work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any new/additional pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider.		

**Meeting date:** 17 January 2018 (**Deadline for papers:** 12pm 9 January 2018) COMPLETE

<b>Theme: setting the work programme</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>Possible external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance</b>
<b>Cabinet Member priorities</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep)	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring. DEPT NOT YET ABLE TO PROVIDE DATA FOR REVIEW.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
<b>Department update report</b>	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 Children, Schools and Families	
<b>Children, Schools and Families Budget/business planning (Round 2)</b>	To enable the Panel to consider the Council's budget and business plan proposals. Additionally to forward any comments/recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to compile a scrutiny response on the Budget/Business Plan to Cabinet.  To include discussion of major projects identified in the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families</li> <li>Caroline Holland, Director of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services, will provide training before the January meeting giving a detailed guide to the</li> </ul>

	CSF draft service plans.	Corporate Services	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy. <u>All members are encouraged to attend.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Scrutiny of finance – Councillor workbook</a> (the Local Government Association).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health and wellbeing strategies for children and families</b></p>	<p>In partnership with public health, look at strategies to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people including consideration of school travel plans. It has agreed that this will focus on childhood obesity and mental health strategies (including the developing autism strategy). <u>Members of the Healthier Communities and Older People Panel to be invited to attend.</u></p> <p>This item will also provide the opportunity to discuss the CHAMs and sexual health strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite relevant members of the CCG and mental health teams</li> <li>• Invite attendance by Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH) to provide oversight of the commissioned services it provides</li> <li>• Visit the Children’s centre to see CLCH in action, to provide interaction with parents and see how child health and wellbeing services are being delivered</li> <li>• <a href="#">10 questions to ask if you’re scrutinising local immunisation services</a> (Centre for Public Scrutiny)</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Best start in life: promoting good emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people</u></a> (Local Government Association)</li> </ul>
<b>Routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts task group – executive response and action plan</b>	The task group's report has been accepted by Cabinet. This will be to receive an executive response to the task group's recommendations and an action plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sara Williams, Programme Manager Economy, futureMerton</li> <li>• Kim Brown, Head of Organisational Development &amp; HR Strategy</li> </ul>	
<b>Work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any new/additional pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider.		

**Meeting date:** 1 February 2018 (**Deadline for papers:** 12pm 24 January 2018)

<b>Theme: setting the work programme</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>Possible external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance</b>
<b>Cabinet Member priorities</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep)	



<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring. DEPT NOT YET ABLE TO PROVIDE DATA FOR REVIEW.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
<b>Department update report</b>	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 Children, Schools and Families	
<b>Merton Safeguarding Children Board annual report</b>	An in-depth review of safeguarding for children and young people in Merton. This will focus on strengths, areas for review during the coming period and work with schools as well as areas which were agreed as priorities from last year including action to address knife crime, domestic abuse, mental health issues and substance misuse.	Paul Angeli, Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith Makin, the Independent Chair of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board attending.</li> <li>• Invite Steven Wallace, Borough Commander</li> <li>• Invite a representative of the <i>Muslim Women in Morden</i></li> <li>• Invite a representative from the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs</li> <li>• Visit to Jigsaw4U, provider of Merton commissioned services including return home interviews for missing children.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Safeguarding Children – a practical guide for overview and scrutiny councillors</a> (Local Government</li> </ul>

			Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny)
<b>Prevent task group draft final report</b>	As highlighted at its outset, the local elections in May 2018 mean this task group must report to Cabinet at its meeting on 26 March 2018. In order to comfortably meet this deadline, the draft final report of the task group should be presented to this meeting of the Panel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Henry, Task group chair</li> <li>• Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer</li> </ul>	
<b>Corporate parenting report</b>	To review the care provided to those children for which the Council is the corporate parent.s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Angeli, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion</li> </ul>	
<b>Recruitment and retention task group final report</b>	This task group was established by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission but its work is relevant to the Panel. Its final report will therefore be presented to the Panel for information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the task group that also sit on the Panel</li> </ul>	
<b>Work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any new/additional pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider.		

**Meeting date:** 14 March 2018 (**Deadline for papers:** 12pm 6 March 2018)

<b>Theme: setting the work programme</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>Possible external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance</b>
<b>Cabinet Member priorities</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-	

		Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep)	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
<b>Department update report</b>	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 Children, Schools and Families	
<b>Schools annual report</b>	<p>Members receive the detailed annual schools report giving them the opportunity to focus on attainment for all key stages as well as at foundation stage and for post 16.</p> <p>As a result of the presentation of the schools annual report during the last municipal year, members noted the need to retain their focus on the attainment and progress of children on SEN support as well as looked after children. Also, how to oversee the work of the school standards panel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families</li> <li>• Jane McSherry, Assistant Director of Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite representatives of Merton heads' group</li> <li>• <a href="#">Back to School – Ways for scrutiny to influence local education and support school leaders to improve results</a> (Local Government Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny)</li> </ul>
<b>Children's services update</b>	To include information on the self-evaluation and Ofsted action plan, LGBT+ strategies, Staying Put policy and the dept's response to the user voice report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families</li> <li>• Paul Angeli, Assistant Director Children's' Social Care and Youth Inclusion</li> </ul>	
<b>Topic suggestions 2017/2018</b>	To seek topic suggestions from the Panel to inform discussions about the 2018/19 work programme	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

