

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Subject: Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report presents the terms of reference for the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for Members' information (Appendix A).
2. Scrutiny Boards will continue to be aligned to the Strategic Partnership Boards where applicable and are therefore authorised to review or scrutinise the performance of their relevant Partnership Board. In accordance with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, Scrutiny Boards will also continue to act as 'critical friend' to their relevant Partnership Board and assess how well the Partnership is working in practice.

**Recommendation**

3. Members are requested to:
  - (a) note the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference;

## **1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report presents the terms of reference for the Children and Families Scrutiny Board in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

## **2.0 Background information**

- 2.1 The Annual Review of the Constitution more often than not identifies areas for amendment in relation to the Scrutiny Boards' terms of reference to ensure consistency in wording and provide procedural clarity.

## **3.0 Main issues**

### Constitutional changes affecting the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference

- 3.1 On this occasion there have been no changes to the remit of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for 2014/15. The terms of reference are attached for Members' information (Appendix A).
- 3.2 The Board's terms of reference are related to the functions delegated to the Director of Children's Services under the Officer Delegation Scheme (Appendix B)<sup>1</sup>. In terms of Executive Members, the Scrutiny Board's role encompasses the areas of responsibility assigned to the Executive Member for Children and Families. (Appendix C)<sup>2</sup>

### Alignment of Scrutiny Boards to the Strategic Partnership Boards

- 3.4 Scrutiny Boards will continue to be aligned where applicable to the Strategic Partnership Boards and are therefore authorised to review or scrutinise the performance of their relevant Partnership Board. The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) can therefore review or scrutinise the performance of the Children's Trust Board. In accordance with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, Scrutiny Boards will also continue to act as 'critical friend' to their relevant Partnership Board.

## **4.0 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 No consultation was carried out on the amendment as it was for updating purposes only. The Council's Constitution was formally considered and approved by Council on 9 June 2014.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.**

- 4.2.1 In line with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, the Scrutiny Boards will continue to ensure through service review that equality and diversity/cohesion and integration issues are considered in decision making and policy formulation.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

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<sup>1</sup> Council Constitution Part 3 Section 3E

<sup>2</sup> Council Constitution Part 3 Section 3B(b)

4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards continue to promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the City Priorities. The Scrutiny Boards will continue to review or scrutinise the performance of their relevant Strategic Partnership Board. In doing so, they will review outcomes, targets and priorities within the Business Plan and specific “Best City for.... “ priorities set out within the City Priority Plan.

#### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 This report has no specific resource and value for money implications.

#### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 The amendments made to the Scrutiny Board’s terms of reference aim to provide procedural clarity.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 This report has no risk management implications

#### **5.0 Conclusions**

5.1 This report clarifies the duties and functions of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are requested to:

(a) note the Scrutiny Board’s terms of reference

#### **7.0 Background documents<sup>3</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>3</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council’s website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.