

## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Report to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

**Date: 23 July 2015**

**Subject: Work Schedule**

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

## 1 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the municipal year.

## 2 Main Issues

2.1 At the June meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) a number of sources of work were put forward by members of the Board for consideration. The Board resolved that the Chair and the Scrutiny Officer consult with the relevant Director and Executive Board Members regarding resources in line with the agreed Vision for Scrutiny and report back to the next meeting with a draft work programme.

In considering the draft work programme effort has been undertaken to:

- Avoid duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue
- Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.
- Avoid pure "information items" except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review
- Seek advice about available resources and relevant timings taking into consideration the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and the type of Scrutiny taking place

- Build in sufficient flexibility to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year

2.2 The following sources of work put forward by members of the Scrutiny Board have been scheduled into the work programme:

- The provision of school and early years places, basic need and extended child care provision.
- Targeted youth service.
- Universal activities delegated to community committees.
- £4.8m of innovation fund programme
- The reorganisation of children's homes in Leeds.
- The changing requirements for the funding of school clusters.
- Inquiry - What is it like to growing up in Leeds for a disabled child with a potential to focus on educational support, attainment and attendance, play leisure and culture, safeguarding and early years support. Transport and NEET are in the work programme and there will be additional focus within those work areas for children with disabilities.
- Provision for providing support for behavioural difficulties and specialist units – this will be scheduled to complement the work of the Executive Board on the BESD and SILC review.

2.3 A further inquiry into Work Experience for School Age Children, including ready to work, education business links and the world of work will remain unscheduled dependant on time commitment of the first inquiry. Terms of reference are scheduled to be agreed however this will be reflected as an unscheduled item on the work programme.

Other unscheduled items that will be scheduled into the work programme during the municipal year are as follows:

- Scrutiny Board School Transport Statement to inform final policy decision of Executive Board (date unknown)
- CSE working group
- Kinship Care inquiry report
- Learning Improvement inquiry report
- Maths and English – recommendation tracking – (to come with directors response to Learning Improvement Inquiry)

2.4 The Board recognised that areas falling under the Council's Budget and Policy Framework will be referred to the Scrutiny Board and that performance monitoring would also be scheduled into the work programme. Recommendation tracking requirements have also been reflected. One area of work referred to at the June meeting was TAMHS and CAMHS support. A significant inquiry into this area was recently completed by the Adult Social Services, Public Health, NHS and Scrutiny Board. This Board will continue to track progress and service improvement throughout 2015/16. Following discussion with the Scrutiny Chair, a joint review with Adult Social Services, Public Health, NHS and Scrutiny Board has been scheduled on Safeguarding in Taxi and Private Hire Licensing (due be reported to the Executive Board in December 2015).

The Children's Services Scrutiny Board will also be invited to participate in areas of work conducted by other scrutiny boards which have an impact on children and their families.

2.5 The draft work schedule is attached as appendix 1, completed pending ongoing discussions with the Board. The work schedule will continue to be subject to change throughout the municipal year.

2.6 Also attached as appendix 2 is the minutes of Executive Board for 24 June 2015.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Consider the draft work schedule and make amendments as appropriate.
- b) Note the Executive Board minutes

4. **Background papers**<sup>1</sup> - None used

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<sup>1</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.