
Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 20th June 2012

Subject: Sources of work and areas of priority for the Scrutiny Board

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

This report is provided too assist the Scrutiny Board in effectively managing its workload and set an outline for the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year. The report also provides information and guidance on potential sources of work and clarifies the Board's terms of reference.

Recommendation

Members are requested to use the attached information and the discussion with those present at the meeting to

- (a) confirm the areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year
- (b) authorise the Chair, in conjunction with officers, to draw up inquiry terms of reference for subsequent approval by the Scrutiny Board.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To assist the Scrutiny Board in effectively managing its workload for the forthcoming municipal year, this report provides information and guidance on potential sources of work and areas of priority within the Board's terms of reference.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Scrutiny Boards are responsible for ensuring that items of scrutiny work come from a strategic approach as well as a need to challenge service performance and respond to issues of high public interest.
- 2.2 Scrutiny Boards are encouraged to be strategic and outward looking in their operation and continue to focus on the City Priorities.
- 2.3 City Priority Plans were established to replace the Leeds Strategic Plan. These city-wide partnership plans identify the key outcomes and priorities to be delivered by the Council, and its partners, from 2011 until 2015. The City Priority Plans are aligned to the Strategic Partnerships who will own the plans and be responsible for ensuring the delivery of the agreed priorities.
- 2.4 The City Priority Plans are structured around a small set of short term (4 years) priorities each of which is measured through a headline indicator. As such they are the "must-do" priorities or "obsessions" for each partnership and may be supported by more detailed plans as the partnership sees fit. The most relevant plan is the Children and Young People Plan 2011-15 (refresh April 2012), however priorities are also defined in the Safer Leeds Partnership Plan and the Health and Wellbeing City Priority Plan which may be of interest to the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families). Priority Plan information is attached as appendix 1. A copy of the original Children and Young Peoples Plan approved April 18th 2011, will be made available at the meeting should members wish to view it.

3 Main issues

Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference

- 3.1 Five of the Scrutiny Boards are themed to mirror the Strategic Partnership Boards, which is reflected in the terms of reference for each Board. Whilst it is recommended that areas of review are focused around the City Priorities and maintain a strategic approach all Scrutiny Boards remain autonomous in determining their reviews.
- 3.2 A copy of the Children's Trust Board work programme is attached for reference purposes (Appendix 2).

Other sources of Scrutiny work

- 3.3 In addition to the functions outlined with the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference, other sources of work will continue to be 'requests for scrutiny' and corporate referrals. The Quarter 4 Performance Report is also scheduled for consideration at the meeting which may highlight potential areas of work for 2012/13. Attached as Appendix 3 and 4 respectively are the latest Executive Board minutes and the

Council's current Forward Plan relating to this Board's portfolio. The Scrutiny Board may also undertake further pieces of scrutiny work as considered appropriate.

- 3.4 Over the last few years of Scrutiny Board work, experience has shown that the process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time and focus its resources on one key issue at a time. This view was echoed within the findings of the KPMG external audit report 2009 on the Scrutiny function in Leeds.
- 3.5 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules require Scrutiny Boards, before deciding to undertake an inquiry, to consider the current workload of the Scrutiny Board and the available resources to carry out the work.
- 3.6 In addition the Board should consider if a similar or related issue is already being examined by Scrutiny or has been considered by Scrutiny recently and if the matter raised is of sufficient significance and has the potential for Scrutiny to produce realistic recommendations that could be implemented and lead to tangible improvements. A list of scrutiny inquiries relating to Children and Families work area is attached (appendix 5).

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 It is recognised that in order to enable Scrutiny to focus on areas of priority, each Scrutiny Board needs to establish an early dialogue with the Director and Executive Board Member holding the relevant portfolio and also the Partnership Chair.
- 4.1.2 The Director of Children's Services and the Executive Board Member with responsibility for Children's Services have been invited to attend the meeting to discuss priorities.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.

- 4.2.1 In determining the areas of work and setting the work programme there will be will be no equality, diversity, cohesion and integration implications for groups or individuals. Further consideration will be made and recorded accordingly as the Board undertake their obligations during 2012/13.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The following plans are relevant to the work of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families):
 - The Leeds Children and Young Peoples Plan 2011 -15
 - Safer Leeds Partnership Plan 2011 – 15
 - Health and Wellbeing City Priority Plan 2011-15

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 This section is not relevant to this report

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There is no restricted or confidential information contained in this report.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 This section is not relevant to this report

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested to use the attached information and the discussion with those present at the meeting to

- (a) confirm the areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year
- (b) authorise the Chair, in conjunction with officers, to draw up inquiry terms of reference for subsequent approval by the Scrutiny Board.

6 Background documents¹

6.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.