

Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 18th July 2018

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 remainder of the current municipal year.

2 Main issues

2.1 At its initial meeting in June 2018, the Scrutiny Board agreed to adopt a thematic approach this year, based on the question 'is Leeds a child friendly city?' seven years on from the introduction of Child Friendly Leeds.

2.2 The Scrutiny Board's meetings will be themed around the five outcomes set out within the Leeds Children and Young People Plan, which states that all children and young people:

- are safe from harm
- do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life
- enjoy healthy lifestyles
- have fun growing up
- are active citizens who feel that they have a voice and influence

2.3 In adopting this approach, particular consideration will be given to how much the Council and partners have progressed towards delivering each outcome in relation to the following cohorts:

- All children
- Vulnerable Children
- Looked After Children

- 2.4 It is also proposed that the Board applies a structured approach to each themed discussion in order to capture the following:
- An overview of the baseline position back in 2011 (referencing case study evidence and relevant Key Performance Indicators);
 - Comparator information to reflect the current position, along with a summary of relevant key actions taken since 2011;
 - Future aspirations and key milestones, with identified success measures;
 - Existing barriers/challenges and proposed next steps.
- 2.5 It is acknowledged that the Board may also opt to schedule additional working group meetings to undertake further Scrutiny of any particular key issues stemming from its themed discussions. Working groups can also provide greater flexibility in terms of engaging with key stakeholders, such as young people. However, as set out within the Vision for Scrutiny, the Board must also remain mindful of the resource implications associated with the use of working group meetings and site visits when determining its work schedule.
- 2.6 The latest iteration of the Board's work schedule is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration and agreement of the Scrutiny Board – subject to any identified and agreed amendments. As well as reflecting the agreed thematic approach, other traditional items of Scrutiny work have also been incorporated into the work schedule, which involve recommendation tracking of work previously undertaken by the Children and Families Scrutiny Board; performance monitoring reports and any Budget and Policy Framework items.
- 2.7 Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 27th June 2018 are also attached as Appendix 2. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and note the Executive Board minutes, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and identify any matter where specific scrutiny activity may be warranted, and therefore subsequently incorporated into the work schedule.

Developing the work schedule

- 2.8 The work schedule should not be considered a fixed and rigid schedule, it should be recognised as something that can be adapted and changed to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the year; and also reflect any timetable issues that might occur from time to time.
- 2.9 However, when considering any developments and/or modifications to the work schedule, effort should be undertaken to:
- Avoid unnecessary 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.

2.10 In addition, in order to deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to take a flexible approach and undertake activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits, where deemed appropriate. This flexible approach may also require additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board.

Developments since the previous Scrutiny Board meeting

2.11 At the time of agenda publication, there are no significant developments to report since the previous Scrutiny Board meeting.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to consider the matters outlined in this report and agree (or amend) the overall work schedule (as presented at Appendix 1) as the basis for the Board's work for the remainder of 2018/19.

4. Background papers¹

4.1 None used

¹ 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.