

Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 26th September 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 and undertake an inquiry based on the question 'is Leeds a child friendly city?' seven years on from the introduction of Child Friendly Leeds.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 25th July 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

- 2.4 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.

- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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

White Rose Children Looked After Interim Residential Framework Agreement

- 2.7 The work schedule has been updated to reflect the Chair’s request for the Scrutiny Board to receive a briefing at its September meeting in relation to the White Rose Children Looked After Interim Residential Framework Agreement.

Scrutiny Inquiry – Is Leeds a Child Friendly City?

- 2.8 Linked to the Scrutiny Board’s Inquiry and associated thematic approach this year, it was agreed that meetings would 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
- 2.9 Whilst it was originally scheduled for the Board to consider the ‘enjoy healthy lifestyles’ outcome as part of its September meeting, it was agreed with the Chair that this would now be considered later in the municipal year and has been provisionally scheduled for the Board’s March meeting.

Post 16 SEND School Transport – Tracking of Scrutiny Recommendations

- 2.10 Last year, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board produced a formal Statement setting out its comments and recommendations in relation to proposed changes to the transport offer for post-16 learners who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Linked to this, a recommendation tracking report was scheduled into the Board's work schedule for October 2018.
- 2.11 However, the work schedule has now been amended to reflect the decision that was made by the Chief Officer, Partnerships and Health in June 2018 to approve a pause to the phased introduction of transport changes for new entrants to post-16 education scheduled for September 2018. This pends further review of how recent feedback from families can be taken into account in taking the proposals forward with effect from September 2019. As such, it is now proposed that the Board maintains a watching brief on developments as they progress.

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.