

People Services Scrutiny Committee – 18th November, 2015

Report of the Lead Officer

Appointment of a Scrutiny Development Group – Children’s Services

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the appointment of a Scrutiny Development Group – Children’s Services, comprising of all Members of the Peoples Services Scrutiny Committee with a terms of reference to focus on the scrutiny of issues concerning Children’s Services.

Background

2. At the Informal People Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 30th September, 2015, Members discussed the scope of the Peoples Services Scrutiny Committee terms of reference.
3. It was considered that the appointment of a Scrutiny Development Group, with a remit focusing on Children’s Services, would enable Members to scrutinise the services in more depth.
4. The Scrutiny Development Group would comprise all Members of the People Services Scrutiny Committee and would not be subject to the Constitutional requirements that are applicable to formal Committees. It would provide an informal mechanism for Members and Officers to scrutinise Children’s Services issues and the Group would report to the main Committee as necessary. The Scrutiny Development Group will be serviced by Democratic Services with an informal note produced of the key items discussed and recommendations made and will report to the Peoples Services Scrutiny Committee.
5. Meeting dates for the Scrutiny Development Group are to be arranged, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Lead Officer, in between scheduled Scrutiny Committee meeting dates.

Finance

6. There are no direct financial implications to the proposals in this report and the Scrutiny Development Group will be serviced from existing resources.

Law

7. The Scrutiny Development Group is not a Committee as defined by Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, and will not have delegated powers and can only make recommendations. As such, Access to Information Procedure Rules included in the Constitution, will not apply to meetings of the Scrutiny Development Group.

Equality Impact

8. The proposals take into account the Council's policy on equality and diversity. Given the nature of the matters to be considered there may be a direct and indirect impact on children and young people.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that a Scrutiny Development Group be established comprising all Members of the Peoples Services Scrutiny Committee with a terms of reference to focus on the scrutiny of issues concerning Children's Services, as set out in this report.



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