

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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**Date of Meeting:** 14 September 2009  
**Report of:** Borough Solicitor  
**Subject/Title:** Work Programme update

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 To consider progress with the items identified for the Committee's Work Programme.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee note the current position with the Work Programme.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is good practice to agree and review the Work Programme to enable effective management of the Committee's business.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

### **6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health**

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

### **7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

- 7.1 None identified at the moment.

**8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

8.1 Not known at this stage.

**9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk Management**

10.1 There are no identifiable risks.

**11.0 Background and Options**

11.1 At the meeting of the Committee on 6 July, Members considered a list of potential items for the Work Programme and agreed as follows:

“RESOLVED: That

(a) the Committee’s Work Programme comprise the following items:

- Safeguarding – to be undertaken by the whole Committee with a small Task Group of Members to visit front line services and report back;
- Residential Placements and Review of Residential Provision – to be undertaken by a Task/Finish Panel comprising Councillors Goddard, Simon, Bailey, Beckford, Neilson and Smetham;
- Educational Attainment – to be undertaken by the whole Committee with an initial presentation on figures for 2008 and headlines for 2009 and to include the educational attainment of Cared for Children;
- Transforming Learning Communities (TLC) – this was currently being undertaken by a Task/Finish Panel who were reviewing the County Council’s TLC programme of school reorganisation and also their Scrutiny Review of the TLC process;
- Family Support Services – to be undertaken by a Task/Finish Panel to begin when the Scrutiny Review of TLC had completed its work.

(b) that the issue of Transport for Young People be classed as a Medium Priority and reconsidered at a later stage; the issue of school admissions policy be considered in due course when a policy is developed for Cheshire East and Scrutiny is a consultee and all other possible items for the Work Programme be not pursued at the moment;

(c) that a one day Training event be held in September for all Members of this Committee on Corporate Parenting, to be immediately followed by a session on the Children’s Trust subject to adequate time being available;

(d) that the draft Children’s Plan be considered by the Committee at the appropriate stage in the consultation process;

(e) that a report on the detail of the Early Years Funding Reform be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee in September;

(f) that training be provided on the role and purpose of Children's Centres to include a visit to a Centre; and

(g) the report and recommendations of the Teenage Pregnancy National Support Team following their visit to Cheshire East in June 2009, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee."

11.2 Since that meeting progress has been made in relation to a number of items:

- At the meeting of the Committee on 3 August it was agreed that the visit to front line services be deferred for the time being;
- The Committee has received a report to this meeting on both Educational Attainment (School Performance) and Teenage Pregnancy;
- The training on Corporate Parenting has been arranged for 25 September;
- A report on Early Years Funding Reform was considered by the Committee on 3 August and comments made have been submitted to Cabinet.

11.3 When determining items for the Work Programme, matters should be assessed against the following criteria :

- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority
- Is the issue of key interest to the public
- Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation
- Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends
- Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports.
- Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service

If during the assessment process any of the following emerge, then the topic should be rejected:

- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere
- The matter is subjudice
- Scrutiny cannot add value or is unlikely to be able to conclude an

investigation within the specified timescale

## **12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues**

- 12.1 It is good practice to have a Work Programme for the Committee to consider and prioritise on a regular basis.

## **13.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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