

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	18 January 2010
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Work Programme update

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 and agreed a list of items for the Work Programme. At the mid point meeting held on 14 December, the Chairman and Vice Chairman considered the Work Programme further and an updated version is now attached.

11.2 Members have now received training on Corporate Parenting, Safeguarding and had a visit to the two new children's residential homes in Crewe.

11.3 The Task/Finish Panel on Residential Provision is underway and at the last meeting a Task/Finish Panel on Family Support Services was established.

11.4 Elsewhere on this agenda, Members have been advised of the decision of the Cabinet on the final report of the Task/Finish Panel set up to look at managing school places and the impact of the County Council's Transforming Learning Communities programme.

11.5 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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