

# Children and Young People Work Programme 2016/17



This table sets out the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2016/17; the items listed were agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 29 June 2016. This work programme will be considered at every meeting of the Panel to enable it to respond to issues of concern and incorporate reviews or to comment on pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting-by-meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre-decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes.

**Chair:** Cllr Dennis Pearce

**Vice-chair:** Cllr Linda Taylor

## **Scrutiny Support**

For further information on the work programme of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel please contact: -

Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer

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For more information about overview and scrutiny at LB Merton, please visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

Meeting date: 29 June 2016 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 21 June 2016*)

<b>Theme: setting the work programme</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>External witnesses/representative in attendance</b>
<b>Elected Member and departmental portfolio priorities</b>	Outlining the portfolio priorities of Cabinet Members and officers' service priorities for 2016/17 to inform discussion of the Panel's work programme	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families (CSF) Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper- Marbiah)	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring; and</li> <li>• Selection of a Panel Member to act as a lead on performance monitoring</li> </ul>	Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
<b>Agreeing the Panel's work programme</b>	To agree the Panel's work programme and consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a thematic approach to the work programme;</li> <li>• appointing topic leads;</li> <li>• getting the best from performance monitoring;</li> <li>• the Panel's use of task groups;</li> <li>• opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny; and</li> <li>• monitoring task group recommendations</li> </ul>	Cllr Dennis Pearce, Panel chair, and Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Task group update: routes into employment for vulnerable</b>	Review the progress of the task group	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

<b>cohorts</b>			
<b>School provision: new secondary school required site approvals</b>	Pre-decision scrutiny prior to the required site approvals from Cabinet	Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	

**Meeting date:** 11 October 2016 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 3 October 2016*)

<b>Theme: schools</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>External witnesses/representative in attendance</b>
<b>Matters arising</b>	Report back on the reference to Cabinet and call-in meeting on the site approval for Harris Wimbledon	Cllr Dennis Pearce	
<b>Responsible Cabinet Member review</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
<b>School provision</b>	<u>Provision of Sufficient School Places in Merton</u> Following the recent decision in respect of Harris Wimbledon, a review of sufficiency of school places in the borough across primary, secondary and special school provision.	Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	

	<u>The Changing National Landscape for Education and Merton's Work with Schools in the Borough</u> Merton's work with schools in the context of national Government's developing policy on education, including academisation and grammar schools		
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Report back from the lead Member for Performance monitoring on the plan for 2016/17.	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
<b>Update report</b>	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members. As agreed at the June meeting, this will include a particular focus on policy changes affecting social workers.	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families	
<b>Task group update – online strategies in schools task group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enable the Panel to performance manage delivery of the task group's recommendations</li> <li>To appoint a topic lead to champion the work</li> </ul>	Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
<b>Task group update: routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts</b>	Verbal update	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Glossary</b>	A glossary of acronyms will be provided to support		

	members (especially those new to CYP).		
<b>Setting the work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

**Meeting date:** 9 November 2016 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 1 November 2016*)

<b>Theme: safeguarding</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>External witnesses/representative in attendance</b>
<b>Responsible Cabinet Member review</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
<b>Children, Schools and Families Department budget proposals (Round 1)</b>	To enable the Panel to comment on the budget proposals and any new or revised savings as part of the first round of the process for agreeing the council's budget and business plan  The current budget required cost savings to the CSF department. This agenda item also provides the opportunity to understand if this objective is being realised and what impact this is having in terms of service provision	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families and Zoe Church, Head of Business Planning	
<b>Safeguarding</b>	An in-depth focus on safeguarding for children and young people including the impact of any financial issues, budget cuts and/or deprivation. The report will contain a specific focus on Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Radicalisation.	Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep)	Keith Makin, Merton Safeguarding Children Board Chair Borough Commander

	To help Panel members, the Local Government Association has provided a practical <a href="#">guide</a> for overview and scrutiny councillors on safeguarding children. (Gloucester provides an interesting <a href="#">case study/framework</a> .)		
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Presentation of any changes to the basket of indicators. Discussion of the CSF Dept's performance based on the indicators. In-depth exploration of one set of indicators.	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
<b>Update report</b>	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families	
<b>Setting the work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

**Meeting date:** 11 January 2017 (**Deadline for papers:** 12pm 3 January 2017)

<b>Theme: budget/health and wellbeing strategies for children and families</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>External witnesses/representative in attendance</b>
<b>Responsible Cabinet Member review</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Member for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)  Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) unavailable	

<b>Children, Schools and Families Department budget proposals (Round 2)</b>	<p>To enable the Panel to consider the Council's budget and business plan proposals and forward any comments/recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to compile a scrutiny response on the Budget/Business Plan to Cabinet</p> <p>To include discussion of major projects identified in the CSF draft service plans</p>	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families and Zoe Church, Head of Business Planning	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Discussion of the CSF Dept's performance based on the indicators. In-depth exploration of one set of indicators	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
<b>Update report</b>	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education, Schools and Families	
<b>Update on health and wellbeing strategies for children and families</b>	In partnership with public health service, look broadly at strategies to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Additionally, focus on identified key issues such as childhood obesity. The health and wellbeing of more vulnerable cohorts will also be considered (ie: LAC, care leavers, children with SEND)	Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health	
<b>Task group update: routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts</b>	Verbal update	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Rapporteur scrutiny review</b>	User voice – scope and terms of reference	Councillor Jerome Neil	

<b>Setting the work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
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**Meeting date:** 8 February 2017 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 31 January 2017*)

<b>Theme: schools annual report</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>External witnesses/representative in attendance</b>
<b>Responsible Cabinet Member review</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Discussion of the CSF Dept's performance based on the indicators. In-depth exploration of one set of indicators	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
<b>Schools annual report</b>	Annual report on attainment and progress of pupils in Merton schools. This will include issues around the shortage of teachers.  During the last municipal year, the Panel agreed to focus on specific cohorts (children with SEND, LAC and Black and Black Caribbean children). Again, the Local Government Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny have provided <a href="#">guidance</a> on how	Jane McSherry, Assistant Director for Schools	

	scrutiny can influence local education and support school leaders to improve results		
<b>Task group update: routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts</b>	Presentation of draft report and recommendations	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Setting the work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

**Meeting date:** 21 March 2017 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 13 March 2017*)

<b>Theme: corporate parenting</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose/intended outcome</b>	<b>Responsible officer/Member topic lead</b>	<b>External witnesses/representative in attendance</b>
<b>Responsible Cabinet Member review</b>	Update from the responsible Cabinet Members(s). Questions from the Panel	Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Cllr Katy Neep) and Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah)	
<b>Performance monitoring</b>	Discussion of the CSF Dept's performance based on the indicators. In-depth exploration of one set of indicators	Cllr Mike Brunt and Paul Ballatt, Assistant Director Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, CSF	
<b>Update report</b>	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last	Yvette Stanley, Director of Education,	

	scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members. There will be a focus on a key policy area as agreed by the Panel at its previous meeting	Schools and Families	
<b>Corporate parenting</b>	<p>During the last municipal year, the Panel highlighted several areas on which it wanted to focus during its on-going scrutiny of Merton's corporate parenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage of children in and leaving care that are NEET;</li> <li>• The changing profile of the LAC population in Merton and the needs for service provision to reflect these changes;</li> <li>• The stability of placements;</li> <li>• Retention of Merton's high quality LAC team;</li> <li>• Increasing recruitment of foster carers that are resident in Merton (especially in the West of the borough) and those willing/able to care for adolescents;</li> <li>• Ensuring the right mix of placements are provided including within a children's home in borough;</li> <li>• Supporting foster carers so they understand the vulnerability and complexity of the children they are looking ; and</li> <li>• Looking in detail at the responses from children who identified themselves as dissatisfied</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Guidance</a> is provided by the Local Government Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny. This has already been recommended to and used by Panel members</p>	<p>Paul Angeli, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion</p> <p>Input from Community and Housing</p>	
<b>Rapporteur scrutiny review</b>	User voice – presentation of findings	Councillor Jerome Neil	

<b>Setting the work programme</b>	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
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