

**To the Chair and Members of the
SCHOOLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PANEL**

**SCHOOLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PANEL WORK PLAN REPORT
2012/13**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Eric Tatton Kelly - Cabinet Member for Schools Children and Young People	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report gives an update to the Panel since the last panel meeting on 23rd March 2012.
2. Furthermore it asks the Panel to consider a draft work plan for 2012/13.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

3. Not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The Panel is asked to:
 - i. Consider the development of a draft Panel work plan for 2012/13 which takes account of issues considered at the Panel's informal meeting held on 30th May.
 - ii. Note that the work plan is a living document and will be reviewed and updated at each meeting of the Panel to include any relevant correspondence, updates, new issues and resources available to meet additional requests;
 - iii. Identify any occasions when it would specifically wish the Executive to attend its meetings and when it would wish to present its recommendations to the Cabinet;
 - iv. Receive and comment on the correspondence received following its meeting held on 23rd March 2012.

BACKGROUND

5. At its meeting on 18th May, Council agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny structure would align itself with the current Directorate structure. Members appointed the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and three Panels, the Schools Children and Young People, Regeneration and Environment and Adults and Communities.

6. Overview and Scrutiny has a number of key roles and will focus on:

- Holding decision makers to account.
- Policy development and review
- Monitoring performance
- Considering issues of wider public concern.

Developing the Work Plan

7. A draft work plan was considered at an informal panel work planning meeting on 30th May, a copy of which is attached at appendix A and B. Any draft work plan is likely to include:

- Issues that are ongoing or carried over from the previous years work plan;
- statutory plans and policy framework documents;
- issues of interest to Members in terms of future key developments or of wider public concern; and
- monitoring performance.

8. The power of Overview and Scrutiny lies in its ability to influence the Executive and other decision takers by holding them to account and providing an input into proposed decisions prior to their implementation. By considering major strategic framework issues Overview and Scrutiny Members have the opportunity to put forward recommendations and proposals that will help to shape the Council's Strategic Framework.

9. Members are advised that the work plan presented for discussion at today's meeting is in draft form. It should be seen as a "live" document that should be regularly revised and reviewed to take account of ever changing priorities. The work plan should remain manageable and achievable yet challenging and robust. Further work is required to confirm issues to consider and key dates for the consideration of specific issues and agreeing the nature of

Overview and Scrutiny's involvement in reviewing specific issues. The Committee may wish to consider further the suitability of topics identified at Appendix B.

10. The Panel is advised that there are five scheduled meetings programmed for the forthcoming municipal year within which to complete its work programme. In addition there may be occasions where it is necessary to convene additional meetings. The Panel will need to consider the resources available to meet additional requests for example, Member and officer attendance, writing reports, and Scrutiny support. This will therefore require the Panel to regularly review and where necessary reprioritise its work plan accordingly (e.g. agreeing to remove an issue from its work plan where it takes on an additional piece of work).
11. The Panel is also reminded that in order to complete every aspect of its work plan or in making additional requests for information it may request briefing notes be provided or presentations given outside of a formal meeting setting but reported back to the Panel through its work plan report. This could be particularly relevant when the Panel is just wishing to receive information for background purposes e.g. further details of a proposed key decision rather than formally scrutinising an issue.
12. Members are also reminded that in carrying out their work plan they need to consider wider thematic issues such as:
 - Engaging the public, partners and stakeholders;
 - holding decision makers to account;
 - when it would be appropriate to invite members of the Executive to attend the meetings to be held to account; and
 - how to effectively use performance information to develop its work plan.

Monitoring the Work Plan

13. An updated version of the work plan will appear on the Panel's agenda each meeting and will include relevant correspondence and briefings on its work undertaken. In this way accountability will be demonstrated and Members will be able to see more clearly the progress being made and where necessary review responses from the Executive.

Correspondence With The Executive

i. Health of Children in Care

14. The Panel's comments in respect of Health of Children in Care was forwarded to the Mayor for consideration following the meeting held on 16th February 2012, a copy of the relevant correspondence is attached at appendix C. The Committee is asked to receive and comment on the Mayor's response.

ii. Education of Children in Care

Following its meeting on 23rd March the Panel's recommendations in respect of the Education of Children in Care were forwarded to the Executive for consideration. Attached at Appendix D is the Mayor's response to the Panel's findings. Members are asked to receive and comment on the response.

Social care processes

Members will find attached to the report at appendices E and F two diagrammatic processes for the following:

1. Progressing cases of child concern referred into the social care service; and
2. Joint pathway for obtaining initial medical for looked after children

The diagrams are attached to give the Panel an overview of the processes for a child when taken into social care. Chris Pratt, Director Children and Young People's Services, at the meeting, will explain the processes and answer Members queries.

Doncaster Children's Trust

16. Doncaster Together, Doncaster's Local Strategic Partnership agreed that its governance and links with elected Members could be enhanced by allowing Scrutiny Chairs to attend meetings of its thematic Boards as ex officio Members. OSMC welcomed this move and last year Scrutiny Chairs (or Vice Chairs) attended meetings of the partnership theme Boards. This was useful in supporting wider partnership working, improving accountability, sharing ideas and ensuring Members had a more informed overview of activities around the Council's key priorities.

17. It was agreed at the Panel's work planning session held on 30th May that the Chair (or Vice Chair in her absence) should attend the Doncaster Children's Trust. This issue was taken to OSMC on 14th June for consideration. The minutes of the meeting held on 19th April are attached for information, minutes from the 7th June meeting will be made available in due course.
18. Future meetings of Doncaster's Children's Trust are currently scheduled for:

12th July, 14th October and 15 November.

Corporate Parenting Board

Similarly, the Panel was asked to consider a Member to represent Scrutiny on the Corporate Parenting Board. Councillor Bosmans who undertook this role last year was nominated to continue with to represent the Panel and this issue was also taken to the OSMC meeting on 14th June for consideration. The Scrutiny Officer will inform the nominated Councillor when the Board is due to meet.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

21. In summary the issues for consideration are:
 - to agree the draft 2012/13 work plan;
 - to recognise that any work plan will need to be flexible to take account of new issues and resources available to meet additional requests;
 - that the Panel review the work plan at each meeting and ensure it is regularly updated. This will also provide an opportunity to review any correspondence, receive updates and keep track of recommendations;
 - comment on the correspondence with the Executive undertaken or received since the last meeting held on 23rd March, 2012;
 - Receive an update from Chris Pratt Director Children and Young People's Services in respect of social care processes; and
 - Appoint a Scrutiny representatives and substitutes to the Corporate Parenting Board and Doncaster's Children's Trust.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

22. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for the Panel to develop a work plan for 2012/13.

IMPACT ON COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES

Priority Theme	Mayor's Priorities for 2011/12	Implications of this initiative
1. Creating a strong, connected and inclusive economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive forward the Doncaster economy • Get the balance of public and private transport right • Promote Doncaster as a tourist destination • Regenerate Doncaster's town centres 	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of council and external partners services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.</p>
2. Developing stronger communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community harmony and cohesion. Treat people as individuals, not by reference to labels and artificial groupings 	
3. Increasing and improving housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise housing standards 	
4. Protecting and improving all our children's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve education and skills • Build on a strengthening Children's Service 	
5. Improving health and support for independent lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage attitudes of self-reliance, self-improvement and mutual respect within Doncaster communities 	
6. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime and all forms of anti-social behaviour 	
7. Creating a cleaner and better environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to protect the environment from developers, decay and architectural vandalism 	
8. Internal Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local people get value for money from council services 	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

23. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function it is important that the work plan devised is manageable and that it accurately reflects the broad range of issues within its remit. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

24. The Council's Constitution states that subject to matters being referred to it by other part of the Full Council, OSMC or the Executive and any timetables laid down by those references the Schools, Children and Young People's Panel will determine its own work programme (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6c).
25. Overview and Scrutiny Panels Terms of reference - 3 states that the Panel be empowered to establish ad hoc working groups from within its membership, to undertake project and policy development work, to meet the objectives and targets of its annual work plan.
26. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 (a) states that where, in the opinion of the Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the matters under discussion are relevant to matters referred to other Scrutiny Panel(s) he/she shall consider to what extent to invite the participation of the Chair and/or other Members of the other Panel in the deliberations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

27. The budget for the support of the Overview and Scrutiny function 2012/13 is not affected by this report however, the delivery of the work plan will need to take place within agreed budgets. There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Any financial implications relating to specific reports on the work plan will be included in those reports.

CONSULTATION

28. The Panel held discussions about issues it wished to consider at its meeting on 23rd March and at the informal Panel meeting on 30th May with a view to developing a draft work programme.

CONTACT OFFICER AND REPORT AUTHOR

29. Christine Rothwell
Scrutiny Officer
01302 735682
christine.rothwell@Doncaster.gov.uk

Andrew Sercombe
Scrutiny Manager
01302 734354
Andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk

Background Papers

30. None

Chris Pratt
Director Children and Young People's Services

DRAFT SCYP WORK PLAN 2012/13

	27 June@ 2pm	11 th Sept@2pm	26th Nov@2pm	10 th Jan @2pm	8Mar@10am
Policy Review/ Development		Youth Justice Plan (statutory plan)			
Performance	Quarter 4	Q1	Q2		Q3
Information Updates	Improvement Plan				
<i>Scrutiny (Holding to Account)</i>	Request attendance of Cabinet Member				Follow up on implementation of recommendations 2011/12?
Other	Work Plan	Work Plan	Work Plan	Work Plan	Work Plan

APPENDIX B**Provisional Topics For Inclusion within the above work plan (Dates to be confirmed and further scoping to be undertaken)**

TOPIC	METHOD	COMMENTS
Teenage Pregnancy/Sexual Health	Review	Awaiting consideration be Health & Well Being Board before scoping takes place.
Budget Overspends in CYP Agency Staff.	Review	Recommended by OSMC. To review current situation, causes and actions to address. Understand, national, regional, local picture and best practice.
Youth Justice Plan	Report	Part of policy framework. Required to be considered By Scrutiny prior to submission to Council.
Quality of Education	Report	Consider extent to which Learning Support Assistants are undertaking teaching roles and the impact on educational attainment.
Careers advice and Guidance	Report	What activities are in place to ensure young people have the right careers advice and guidance to prepare them for work.
School Attendance figures	Report	What are the issues affecting school attendance. What Initiatives are underway to tackle this? How are transient populations affected? What are the issues for those moving from other countries where there may be cultural or language barriers which impact on attendance.
Fostering	Report	To receive an update on the success of activities to to increase the number of foster carers in the Borough.

19th March 2012

Councillor Chris Mills Chair – Schools Children and Young People
Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Directorate of Resources
Scrutiny Offices
2 Priory Place
Doncaster
DN1 1BN

Dear Chris

HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd February 2012 regarding your concerns about the National Health Service and that support for children in care could be fragmented across four separate areas. I am now able to provide the following information.

The Health and Social Care (HSC) Bill in its current form does not alter any of the statutory duties or responsibilities of the NHS, for the safeguarding of vulnerable people, including children in care.

However, there is a challenge in such a changing system as to how overall responsibility for the co-ordination and oversight of a number of vital functions, which includes the safeguarding of the most vulnerable, both adults and children, will secure continuous improvement of practice.

Children's services will be commissioned through various arrangements:

NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB)

The NHSCB will hold the statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children, as detailed in the Children Act 2004. The Chief Nursing Officer will be responsible for Safeguarding at a national level, which includes taking responsibility for nationally commissioned services. The Health Visiting Reform - A Call for Action will continue to be commissioned through the NHSCB until 2015

Clinical Commissioning Groups

Like the NHS Commissioning Board, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), are also statutory NHS bodies, and so will have statutory obligations under the Children Act. As primarily clinical commissioning organisations, CCGs will be responsible for 70-80% of commissioning services, and will need to ensure that they are commissioning a safe pathway for children, in line with national guidance, and within the pluralist provider landscape. They will have a responsibility for maternity services and acute care services for children.

In addition, CCGs will also have a key local NHS leadership role, through their statutory membership of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBBs). They will also have a key role, which will grow over time, for improving and assuring the quality of local primary care services, which are vital components of the safeguarding system.

1. CCGs will have a duty to make arrangements to ensure that, in discharging their functions, they have regard for the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw.
2. Accountable officers of commissioning organisations have a responsibility to ensure that the health contribution to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is discharged effectively across the whole health economy, and that this is undertaken in partnership with all provider organisations.
3. CCGs will have a duty to cooperate with the Local Authority in the operation of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and as partners, must share responsibility for the effective discharge of its functions in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including children in care.
4. CCGs will have a responsibility to identify senior doctors and senior nurses to discharge its statutory functions, in undertaking the role of designated professionals across all five health economies within South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw.

Local Authorities

Local Authorities will continue to be the lead statutory organisations for safeguarding and children in care, but with some new resources and levers, in particular the creation of Health and Wellbeing Boards and the integration of public health with local government.

Health and Wellbeing Boards

Local Authority boundaries for Health and Wellbeing Boards and LSCBs will remain the same. Both bodies will continue to play their vital part in the improvement of public health for children. Work is underway to define the formal relationship between HWBBs and LSCBs, but there will need to be clarity about the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of LSCBs and HWBBs for the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people. However, what is clear is that both the HWBB and the LSCB should be able to draw upon the support of NHSCB, if the local NHS is not participating fully in either safeguarding or children's health improvement activity.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards

LSCBs will continue to be the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. Through its annual report, the LSCB will provide a comprehensive analysis of safeguarding children in the local area.

Public Health Department

The local Public Health representatives will be members of LSCBs and HWBBs, and they will play a meaningful part within local structures, in particular supporting the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis and evidence based commissioning of school age health services, to improve outcomes for children and participating in the Child Death Overview Panel.

NHS and other Providers

There is no doubt that the reformed NHS will have a much more complicated provider landscape, and that it must be expected that Healthcare providers will need to show more active leadership and ownership of their safeguarding duties, post the abolition of PCTS.

Where health providers are NHS bodies, they are statutory bodies under the Children Act, and are therefore already accountable in their own right for the safeguarding of children. All providers are regulated by CQC and Monitor, for foundation trusts, and so assurance will continue to be given in this way.

It is also important that there are provider representatives on LSCBs, although it is not yet clear what the specifics of this structure will be, especially since the future will consist of a much more complex and pluralistic provider landscape. The NHSCB and CCGs will need to work with local partners to ensure that structures, which enable a proper process of assurance of providers, are in place, and managed effectively within local economies.

Local actions to mitigate risks of fragmented care for Children in Care

- Continue to develop the Strategy and implementation of One Team Working across health and social care provider services, to progress integration, communication and child centred services
- Develop a joined up approach to commissioning priorities and intentions between new health commissioning groups and DMBC
- Continue the joined up approach to performance management of the pathway for children in care
- Continued responsibility of the NHS to identify senior doctors and senior nurses to discharge its statutory functions in undertaking the role of designated professionals, to assure quality service provision for Children in Care.

I trust the above is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Peter Davies
Mayor of Doncaster