

**To the Chair and Members of the  
SCHOOLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SCHOOLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PANEL  
WORK PLAN REPORT 2013/14 (FEBRUARY UPDATE)**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Lead Member for Children’s Services  Councillor Tony Corden, Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Services to Families and support to Lead Member for Children’s Services)	All	None

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report provides an update on the Panel’s work plan.

**EXEMPT INFORMATION**

2. Not exempt

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Panel is asked to:-
  - (a) consider and comment on the revised work plan attached at Appendix A;  
and
  - (b) Identify any areas for review by the Panel for the period 2013/14.

## **BACKGROUND**

4. The Panel agreed its 2013/14 work plan at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June. This report provides an update on key issues relating to the work programme attached at Appendix A. Members are reminded that the work plan is a live document to be regularly reviewed and updated. Appendix A also provides an ongoing summary of issues considered together with the impacts and outcomes resulting from the Panel's work and this will also be updated on a regular basis.

## **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### Domestic Violence

5. Members will recall that Councillor Nightingale was appointed to the Adults and Community Scrutiny group undertaking the review into Domestic Violence. The remit of the review will be to look at and hold to account the support mechanisms that are in place for High Risk Victims, questioning:
  - Do victims identified as high risk receive timely and appropriate support?
  - Is the MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conferences) partnership working effectively?
  - What statutory and voluntary support is available in Doncaster and examine the victims journey?
  - Are emergency refuges and dispersed housing arrangements appropriate?
  - Prior to the review Members are holding a site visit to the Domestic Abuse Hub at the Mary Woollett Centre; and
  - Domestic Violence Members Seminar 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.

### Outcome for Care Leavers review

6. The letter to the Mayor detailing the Panel's recommendations from the review and Mayor's response are attached at appendix B for the Panel's information. An update following the review will be presented at this meeting under separate cover.

### Children and Young People's Directorate Financial Improvement Plan

7. Following Councillors Hodson, Mounsey and Bosmans meeting in the Autumn with Mark Gurrey, to consider the Directorate's Financial Improvement Plan, Councillor Mounsey wishes that a further meeting be arranged for an update on the current position. The Panel will however, continue to receive updates from the Director of Children and Young People's Service at each meeting.

## Corporate Parenting Panel

8. Attached for the Panel's attention are minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

## Changes to Overview and Scrutiny

9. As Members will be aware, the Overview and Scrutiny function will be altering from Annual Council 2014 with Scrutiny Panel's focusing on review work with OSMC taking a lead business role. Specific details, as were reported to Council on 30<sup>th</sup> January, are attached for the Panel's attention at appendix C.

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

10. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for the Panel to develop a work plan for 2013/14.

## **IMPACT ON COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES**

	<b>Priority Outcome</b>	<b>Implications of this initiative</b>
1.	Doncaster's economy develops and thrives, underpinned by effective education and skills	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.
2.	Children are safe	
3.	Stronger families and stronger communities	
4.	Modernised and sustainable Adult Social Care Services with increased choice and control	
5.	Effective arrangements are in place to deliver a clean, safe and attractive local environment	
6.	The Council is operating effectively, with change embedded and sustained with robust plans in place to operate within future resource allocations	

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

11. 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**

12. The Council's Constitution states that subject to matters being referred to it by other parts 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).
13. 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.
14. 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**

15. The budget for the support of the Overview and Scrutiny function 2013/14 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**

16. The work plan has been developed in consultation with Members and officers.

## **CONTACT OFFICER AND REPORT AUTHOR**

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## **Background Papers**

None

**Eleanor Brazil**  
**Director Children and Young People's Services**