



Staffordshire  
County Council

## Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2011/12

This leaflet sets out the work programme for the Social Care Scrutiny Committee for 2010/11.

We are responsible for holding accountable the Cabinet Member for Adults' Wellbeing, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety for delivering the strategic outcome that:

**In Staffordshire's communities vulnerable people are able to live independent and safe lives supported where this is required.**

We review our work programme from time to time. Sometimes we change it - if something comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

**Councillor Lee Bates**

Chairman of the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme, please get in touch with Tina Randall, Scrutiny and Support Manager on 01785 276148 or [tina.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tina.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Details and Method	Action/Outcome
Children's Centre Inquiry Day – Final Report	11 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	<p>The former Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee undertook a scrutiny review of Children's Centres in January / February and the final report needs to be considered and endorsed by the Committee prior to being submitted to the Cabinet.</p> <p>The Committee may also find the report useful in determining any future work in relation to Children's Centres and/or the services delivered by them.</p>	Members accepted and endorsed all the recommendations. The formal Executive Response to be received in November.
Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact Referral and Assessment Arrangements within Staffordshire County Council Children's Services.	11 <sup>th</sup> August	The Committee to consider the conclusions and recommendations from the annual unannounced inspection, conducted by Ofsted.	<p>Members were particularly concerned about the area identified for priority action (First Response) and the issues reported regarding the ICT system</p> <p>The Committee resolved to arrange an additional meeting to consider the detailed Action Plan which had been prepared in response to the report, and to receive an update regarding the county council's meeting with the Department for Education. The Committee also requested that the Cabinet Member consider the replacement of Pisces a top priority for the council.</p>

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Complaints and Representations	11 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	<p>Children's Services are required to submit an annual report on complaints and representations to the relevant County Council Committee. In addition, this report is potentially very useful as a source of information regarding what issues the Committee might wish to prioritise for scrutiny this year.</p> <p>Adult's Services do not have a statutory obligation to submit the annual report to a Committee –although they have done so in the past. However, as the Committee is responsible for both sets of services and the information is useful for identifying priorities it is proposed that a report regarding adult services complaints should be considered at the same time as the children's report.</p>	<p>Members considered what could be learned from the complaints information provided. They particularly discussed the difficulty of making a complaint for vulnerable individuals in receipt of services (e.g. children in foster care complaining about their carers). They also discussed how complaints were dealt with in the independent adult care sector and the County Council's role in this.</p> <p>Members plan to visit the Children's Services complaints team to see the process in action and will monitor complaints information on a 6 monthly basis.</p> <p>The agreed inquiry day will pick up issues regarding complaints in the independent adult care sector.</p>
Action Plan from the Unannounced Inspection of Contact Referral and Assessment Arrangements	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2011 (additional)	Members to consider the detailed Action Plan which had been prepared in response to the report, and to receive an update regarding the county council's meeting with the Department for Education.	

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Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Annual Report	29 <sup>th</sup> September	To receive the annual report (it may be appropriate to receive this as part of the evidence for the Cabinet Member Accountability Session (see below).	
Evolve YP	29 <sup>th</sup> September	<p>Evolve YP is the UKs first professional social work practice – delivering services to 150 looked after children and care leavers in Newcastle-under-Lyme.</p> <p>The Corporate Parenting Panel have considered Evolve YP in terms of the outcomes delivered for Looked After Children, however, this Committee may wish to look at specific safeguarding implications of this model of service delivery.</p>	
Quality and regulation of the adult social care sector.	October-November 2011 (Inquiry Day)	<p>The delivery and regulation of social care for adults is changing. In particular, the County Council will increasingly assist individuals to purchase their own care from the independent sector rather than providing the care ‘in-house’.</p> <p>The remit of the CQC, the organisation responsible for regulating the sector, is expanding and they are adopting a more risk-based approach to inspection (which will mean many establishments being inspected less regularly).</p>	

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		<p>Members have identified this as an area for review in terms of the impact of these changes for safeguarding vulnerable adults and specified that this should be a priority item for the work programme.</p> <p>It is proposed that, as this is a complex and important issue, the Committee carry out this work at a dedicated inquiry day – which will provide the opportunity to for the Committee to meet with a range of relevant people (for example, the CQC, County Council commissioning officers and quality monitoring officers and service users). A full scoping report should be prepared and agreed by the Committee prior to commencing the work.</p>	
Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children	September-January working group	<p>A recent high profile case in Derby, involving a young person from Staffordshire, has brought this issue to Members attention.</p> <p>Members suggested that reviewing what arrangements are in place in Staffordshire to protect young people from exploitation and trafficking was a piece of work they would like to undertake.</p> <p>As this is both a discrete subject matter and a high priority for Members it is proposed that this is an issue which might be suited to a working group of between 4-5</p>	

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		<p>Members to be looked at between September and December of 2011.</p> <p>NB – To involve staff from Mick Harrison’s area and Safeguarding operational staff.</p>	
Cabinet Member Accountability Sessions	<p>10<sup>th</sup> November 2011</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011</p>	<p>Meetings dedicated to the consideration of progress towards achieving the outcomes set out in the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>In particular, this will be an opportunity to scrutinise the impact of the merger of services for vulnerable children and adults into a single ‘People’ Directorate.</p>	
Executive Response to recommendations from the Children’s Centre Inquiry Day.	10 <sup>th</sup> November	<p>To consider the action plan, prepared by the Cabinet Member, in response to the recommendations from the Children’s Centre Inquiry Day.</p> <p>TBC – separate item or part of the Cabinet Member Accountability Session.</p>	
Munro Review	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2011	<p>The Government response to the Munro review of child protection has now been received, although timescales are a little unclear as the Government is working on aspects of the report in stages.</p> <p>There will be recommendations for Local Authorities to implement (although no formal response to Government is required) so there is a potential piece of work for the</p>	

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		Committee in working with officers regarding how the Authority is responding. Further consideration needs to be given to how this could best be done.	
Children Leaving Care	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2011	<p>The former Children, Young People and Families Committee were concerned about what safeguards were in place for children leaving Local Authority Care.</p> <p>As this is a separate issue this could be picked up via report to Committee – potentially as a ‘single issue’ meeting to give Members sufficient time to consider in detail and potentially here from services users who have recently left or preparing to leave Local Authority care.</p>	
Complaints and Representations	TBC – 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2011?	<p>To consider the overall strategic analysis of complaints in relation to Children’s and Adults Social Services.</p> <p>TBC – timing in relation to the Adults annual report and Cabinet Member Accountability Session.</p>	
Personalisation / Personal Budgets	TBC	Greater personalisation enables people to have greater choice about the services they receive to help them maintain independence. However, there are implications for safeguarding and the	

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		<p>County Council may wish to gain a greater understanding of what these are, and what services and/or processes the County Council and partners have in place to safeguard individuals within this context – for example, advocacy services / advice and support regarding benefit entitlements.</p> <p>There may be an opportunity to work jointly with Health on this issue.</p>	
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	TBC	<p>There has been a recent high court ruling that a Local Authority acted unlawfully in detaining a 21 year old man in a care unit rather than letting him return home with his father.</p> <p>Central to the case was the Council's use of deprivation of liberty orders (DOLs) which are supposed to ensure that appropriate safeguards are put in place when/if a person is deprived of their liberty. The High Court ruling points to a number of elements of the process that were followed by the Council in this case which contributed to the fact that the County Council was ultimately judged to have acted unlawfully.</p> <p>As a result of the Neary case the County Council has conducted a review of the system in place in Staffordshire and Members may wish to consider that review.</p>	

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Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board	TBC 2012	To receive the annual report of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board.	
Engaging Communities	TBC	<p>The committee to review the effectiveness of arrangements in place to ensure that services listen to and are responsive to service users and carers.</p> <p>Consideration will need to be given to which is the most appropriate Committee to carry out / lead on this piece of work as there is a potential role for the Health Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Review Committee.</p>	
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	TBC – two meetings	The Committee will need to remain informed regarding the implementation of the MASH and following implementation and early operation review its impact on outcomes.	
Families First	March 2012	The County Council's direct provider support services supporting vulnerable children have been brought together through the 'Families First' project. The Committee will need to remain updated on progress implementing the new service delivery model. The Committee might also wish, later in the year and once the new model has been in place for 6 months, review whether it is delivering the desired outcomes / what impact it has had 'on the ground' for staff and service users.	

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Inspection Outcomes	TBC – as appropriate	<p>Both adults and children’s services are subject to a programme of announced / unannounced inspections throughout the year. The Committee will need to be updated on the outcomes from these inspections.</p> <p>Inspection outcomes / judgements will be used as part of the evidence in the Cabinet Member Accountability Session – but depending on the timing of inspections it may be necessary to consider separate reports during the year.</p>	

<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p><b>County Councillors</b></p> <p>Lee Bates (Chairman)  Erica Bayliss  John Bernard  Dylis Cornes  Veronica Downes  Janet Eagland (Vice Chairman)  Kathy Lamb  Geoff Morrison  Steve Povey</p>	<p><b>Calendar of Committee Meetings</b></p> <p>Meetings are at 10am unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>30 June 2011  11 August 2011  1 September 2011 (additional)  29 September 2011  10 November 2011  22 December 2011  2 February 2012 (2pm)  22 March 2012  3 May 2012 (provisional)</p> <p>Meetings usually take place at County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford ST16 2LH</p>
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