



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in
David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40
1B Non **TUESDAY 22 MAY 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manjeet Gill', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Manjeet Gill
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 14 May 2018

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to provide independent “critical friend” challenge and to work with the Council’s Executive and other public service providers for the benefit of the public. The Committee considers submissions from a range of sources and reaches conclusions based on the weight of evidence – not on party political grounds.

This meeting may be filmed for inclusion on the Council’s website.

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

Appendix Acronyms

CPD	Continuous Professional Development
EYFS	Early Years Foundations Stage
FGB	Full Governing Body
KS1	Key Stage 1
KS2	Key Stage 2
MAT	Multi Academy Trust
NLE	National Leader of Education
NLG	National Leader of Governance
RI	Requires Improvement
RSC	Regional Schools Commissioner
SDP	School Development Plan
SEF	Self Evaluation Form
SIB	School Improvement Board
SIO	School Improvement Officer
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
TSA	Teaching School Alliance
WLP	Wokingham Learning Partnership

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Pauline Helliard-Symons
(Chairman)
Kate Haines
Shahid Younis

Laura Blumenthal (Vice-
Chairman)
Ken Miall

Parry Batth

Bill Soane

Substitutes

Lindsay Ferris
Chris Smith

Emma Hobbs

Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Parent Governor Representatives

Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative

Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative

Diocesan Representatives

Vacancy, Roman Catholic Representative

Vacancy, C of E Representative

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
63.		<p>APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
64.		<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 March 2018.</p>	7 - 14
65.		<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.</p>	
66.		<p>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions</p> <p>A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.</p> <p>The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this committee.</p> <p>Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</p>	

67.		MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any member questions	
68.	None Specific	CARE LEAVERS COUNCIL TAX UPDATE To receive a report containing an update on the proposal in relation to Care Leavers' Council Tax.	15 - 18
69.	None Specific	ANNUAL CONVERSATION WITH OFSTED To review the feedback received from Ofsted.	19 - 22
70.	None Specific	POLICY UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER To receive an update on the development of policies.	Verbal Report
71.	None Specific	CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS To receive and consider a report containing the Children's Services key performance indicators.	23 - 28
72.	None Specific	INFORMATION ON SCHOOL OFSTED OUTCOMES AND GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS To receive and consider a report containing recent Ofsted reports and exam results.	29 - 30
73.	None Specific	FORWARD PLAN To discuss the forward plan for the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	31 - 36
74.		EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.	
75.	None Specific	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS: SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN A report indicating schools that are causing concern and the actions being undertaken to improve their performance will be considered in a part 2 session.	37 - 60

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 20 MARCH 2018 FROM 7.00 PM TO 9.00 PM**

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Pauline Helliar-Symons (Chairman), Parry Bath, Ken Miall, Beth Rowland and Bill Soane

Other Councillors Present

Councillors: Mark Ashwell

Officers Present

Luciane Bowker, Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist
Piers Brunning, Specialist, Strategy & Commissioning Places
Carol Cammiss, Assistant Director Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Standards
Patricia Davies, Interim Assistant Director for Education
Lisa Humphreys, Assistant Director of Children's Social Care
Shan Ratcliffe, Virtual School Headteacher
Paul Senior, Director of People Services

59. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Laura Blumenthal.

60. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Shan Ratcliffe, Virtual School Headteacher stated that following the publication of the minutes, a complaint from a member of the public was received in relation to a comment within the Elective Home Education Review report.

The complainant was unhappy that report referred to home educated children as 'vulnerable'. Shan Ratcliffe recognised that this had been a poor choice of word as home education did not make a child vulnerable, it was a matter of parental choice.

61. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was submitted from Councillor Beth Rowland in relation to item 62 on the basis that she was a Governor at Highwood Primary School.

62. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

63. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

64. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Committee considered the Children's Services Key Performance Indicators report which was set out in agenda pages 17-22.

In relation to the Local Indicator: *Percentage of child protection visits due in the period which were completed on-time (within 10 days of the previous visit*, the Chairman felt that it would be useful to include a summary of the reasons as to why this indicator was red. She stated that she was often questioned about this indicator at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, therefore it would be useful to include the reasons to satisfy Members' questions.

Lisa Humphreys, Assistant Director of Children's Social Care stated that she would be attending the next meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to talk about this indicator. Lisa explained some of the reasons for the red:

- The national target was 42 days, and the local target was 10 days;
- Some children required visits more frequently than others, each situation was different;
- Unannounced visits run the risk of people not being in;
- Families could refuse to let Social Workers in;
- Older children could refuse to see Social Workers;
- Families could be on holidays;
- Social Workers did not have the authority to demand a visit; and
- School visits did not count as a child protection visit.

The following comments were made during the discussion of the item:

- In response to a question Lisa Humphreys stated that although the national target was 42 days, Ofsted would rate 42 days as inadequate as it was not justifiable to visit a child who was at risk in six weeks;
- Paul Senior, Director of People Services stated that he was confident that the service would stand up to scrutiny as Wokingham's response was proportionate to the level of need;
- Councillor Rowland was more concerned about the deteriorating direction of travel for certain 'green' indicators;
- Members questioned if this target was achievable and whether it would be better to change it to 15 days;
- In response to a question Lisa Humphreys stated that this indicator had on occasions been green for a short period of time;
- In response to a question Lisa Humphreys explained that Wokingham benchmarked against other South East Local Authorities and the target was 10 days;
- Lisa Humphreys stated that it was necessary to have a degree of flexibility, and that it was more important that the children were visited in accordance to their plan;
- Councillor Miall was of the opinion that it was more important to make sure the first visit was undertaken as soon as possible;
- In response to a question Lisa Humphreys stated that staff had mixed feelings about this red indicator.

Members were asked to consider changing this target to 15 days, however there was no consensus, therefore it was decided to keep it at 10 days.

Paul Senior reassured the Committee that if risk was identified, the correct processes would be set in motion to deal with it, it was important to manage expectations.

It was suggested by Councillor Rowland and agreed by the Committee that it would be useful to include arrows in the report to indicate the direction of travel.

Members were reminded that there would be a training session before the next meeting. This session would include data analysis, child sexual exploitation, children missing and possibly other items.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The Local Indicator: Percentage of child protection visits due in the period which were completed on-time (within 10 days of the previous visit) would continue at 10 days;
- 2) Future reports would include arrows indicating the direction of travel;
- 3) The Committee would receive a training session before its next meeting.

65. POLICY UPDATE FROM EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Executive Member for Children's Services, Councillor Ashwell thanked the Committee for its critical friend advice and updated the Committee on the development of current policies.

Councillor Ashwell informed that:

- The Council Tax exemption for Foster Carers was due to be submitted to the next meeting of Executive for approval;
- The proposal for Council Tax exemption for Care Leavers was being finalised and would be brought back for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee;
- Work was being undertaken on the development of the following policies:
 - **Education Vision Strategy** – Wokingham Learning Partnership (WLP) had been set up with a view to develop an education strategy for the whole Borough. The WLP included schools, academies, colleges, post 16 education providers and the Local Authority. WLP was hoping to also include participation from local businesses and young people. An independent chair for WLP was in the process of being recruited. **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy** – a draft SEND Strategy had been drawn up and had been submitted for consultation. Following the consultation the report would be amended accordingly and brought to this Committee for consideration.
 - **Primary School Place Strategy** – a short, medium and long term primary school place strategy was being developed. A cross party group with the participation of key stakeholders had been formed to design the strategy. In the short term pressures had been identified in the Woodley area, however it was important to identify and plan for future pressure areas in the Borough.
 - **Secondary School Place Strategy** – it was recognised that the opening of Bohunt School had created pressure for secondary schools, and this was one of the aspects that was being considered by the secondary school strategy.

Councillor Ashwell stated that it was important to find a way to include the voice of young people and enable their participation in the development of the education strategy. The service was considering the best way to engage young people.

Members of the Committee were very interested in the development of the policies and wished to continue receiving regular updates. The Chairman asked that updates on the policies be included in the Forward Plan for the Committee.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The update report be noted;
- 2) Update reports in relation to the following policies would be included in the Forward Plan:
 - a) Care Leavers Council Tax Exemption
 - b) Education Vision Strategy
 - c) Primary Place Planning Strategy
 - d) SEND Strategy

66. ADOPT THAMES VALLEY: REGIONALISED ADOPTION AGENCY

The Chairman explained that the Adopt Thames Valley report was presented for information, the Committee raised no concerns in relation to this service.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) Progress reports would be regularly submitted to the Committee

67. INNOVATIONS PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Innovation Programme update report which was set out in agenda pages 31-36.

Lisa Humphreys explained that this was a two year research programme, designed to pilot new approaches to social work practice and intervention with families.

The Chairman was interested to know how the service would measure the achievement of targets. Lisa Humphreys stated that the model was built around adult learning and that Wokingham had set its own benchmarking which would be presented at a conference. It was difficult to quantify the outcome of this programme, but it was important find out if it delivered better outcomes in the long term and consider the cost/benefit of the project. The results would be discussed with the other participants of the programme.

RESOLVED That the report be noted and that a progress report would be submitted in six months' time.

68. CROSS BOROUGH SECONDARY PLACE PLANNING/SDL

The Committee received the Cross Borough Secondary Place Planning report which was set out in agenda pages 37-40. Piers Brunning, Strategy and Commissioning Places Specialist offered to answer any questions, however the Committee had no concerns in relation to the report.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

69. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY UPDATE

The Committee received the Childcare Sufficiency Strategy report which was set out in agenda pages 41-46.

The Chairman was pleased to note that there had not been a shortage of places following the implementation of the additional free childcare hours from September 2017 as it had been feared.

During the discussion of the item the following comments were made:

- Councillor Rowland was concerned about the availability of places and how providers were managing the extra places, she questioned if the extra free hours were being subsidised by paid hours;
- Piers Brunning stated that the charging rate for paid hours were significantly higher than the rate paid by the government for the free hours;
- In response to a question Piers explained that it was difficult to predict where places would be needed in the future as it was impossible to know how many people would move in or out of the area;
- Members noted the difficulties listed in the report (page 44 of the agenda) in relation to receiving the payment from central government which had caused delays in the system; and
- Councillor Soane asked to receive figures of the uptake by parents in future reports. Piers Brunning agreed to add figures in update reports, however he pointed out that some parents used childcare at their place of work which could be out of the Borough, so it was difficult to find a precise set of figures.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

70. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND OFSTED REPORTS

Patricia Davies, Interim Assistant Director of Education presented the School Performance Indicators and Ofsted reports which were set out in agenda pages 47-50.

Patricia Davies stated that since the publication of the agenda three Ofsted reports had been released:

- Foundry College remained 'Good'
- Loddon Primary remained 'Good'
- Radstock Primary remained 'Good'

The reports would be circulated to the Committee at the next meeting.

The Chairman pointed out that two secondary schools 'required improvement' and that it was the Council's ambition that all of its schools were 'good' or better. It was recognised that Wokingham's results were above the national average, however Wokingham's parents' expectations were also above average.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

71. INFORMATION ON SCHOOLS' PERFORMANCE AND NARROWING THE GAP

The Chairman expressed her dissatisfaction that the information contained in the Schools Performance report did not include the exam results for Edgbarrow and Yatley Schools, as per request recorded in the minutes of the last meeting. She explained that although these schools were not within Wokingham Borough, many Wokingham children who lived in the Wokingham Without and Finchampsted wards attended those schools, and the Committee had asked for this information many times before. *(Subsequently the Committee was provided with this information.)*

Councillor Rowland asked if the results in the report were in respect to Maiden Erlegh Wokingham or Maiden Erlegh Reading. Patricia Davies agreed to investigate and report back. *(Subsequently Patricia Davies confirmed that the results were in respect to Maiden Erlegh Wokingham only.)*

In response to a question Paul Senior stated that the Local Authority had no jurisdiction over academy schools, therefore it was important to be realistic in relation to the expectations as to how the Local Authority could help to improve academies' performance.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) All future school performance reports would include the exam results for Edgbarrow and Yeately Schools.

72. EDUCATION HEALTH AND CARE PLAN REVIEW

The Committee considered the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) report which was set out in agenda pages 65-70.

The Committee was informed that since the production of the report (December 2017) most of the challenges identified had already been addressed. Paul Senior confirmed that all EHCP's would be completed by the end of March. He stated that Addington Special School was performing well above the national average.

The Committee recognised that the report had been written in December 2017 and that the current picture was much improved.

RESOLVED That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny supports the recommendations listed in the report.

73. CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Committee received a paper which had been produced by the Children In Care Council (CICC), the paper contained an analysis of the results of the Children In Care and Care Leavers annual questionnaire.

During the discussion of the item the following comments were made:

- 24 responses had been received out of a possible 80;
- The report had already been considered by Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)
- Councillor Ashwell pointed out that the logo had been designed by the CICC themselves;
- Councillor Rowland informed that representatives from the CICC had attended the last meeting of CPB and given a presentation to the Board. She praised the children's confidence in presenting to the Board;
- Councillor Soane was concerned with comments in relation to the lack of birth certificates and passports. Lisa Humphreys stated that CPB had had a robust discussion around this issue and that the service was aware of the difficulties. Lisa stated that this issue was complex and it related mainly to unaccompanied asylum seekers, for whom there was no documentation available. Lisa informed that CPB would continue to monitor this issue;

- In response to a question Lisa Humphreys stated that a life skills programme was available to prepare care leavers for adult life;
- Members were pleased to note that most CIC attended their school of choice and that the health report was positive;
- In relation to the comment that not all CIC had gone on holiday with their Foster Carer, Lisa Humphreys stated that it was possible that these children had not been in care for a whole year;
- In response to a question Lisa Humphreys stated that sometimes birth certificates had to be obtained through the courts; and
- Lisa Humphreys assured the Committee that CIC were able to raise any concerns, and that Debbie Laflin, Children's Rights and Advocacy Officer would contact her team if there were any issues.

The Chairman wished to thank Debbie Laflin for her work with the CICC and for the paper presented at the meeting.

In response to a question, Paul Senior stated that this paper had been produced by the CICC and only they could give permission to share this document, therefore this paper was not to be shared.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) The Committee would like to receive this report on an annual basis.

74. FORWARD PLAN

The following items were added to the Forward Plan:

22 May 2018

- Care Leavers Council Tax Exemption
- GCSE results for Edgbarrow and Yately Schools
- SEND Strategy
- Primary Place Plan Strategy

18 September 2018

- Education Vision Strategy – Wokingham Learning Partnership

20 November 2018

- Innovations Programme update

75. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of the Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as appropriate.

76. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS: SCHOOL CAUSING CONCERN PART 2

This item was discussed in a part 2 session.

RESOLVED That the contents of the report be noted.

TITLE	Care Leavers Council Tax update
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 May 2018
WARD	(All Wards);
DIRECTOR	Interim Director of People Services - Paul Senior

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Corporate Parenting Board is committed to developing a 'Local Offer' of services to Care leavers as directed in the Children and Social Work Bill 2017. A range of services and commitments are being developed through the board to improve our offer to care leavers aged 18 years to 25 years.

The Department for Education has highlighted best practice and this includes Local Authorities who provide council tax exemption to 25 years for Care leavers.

The positive start we can give our young people as their corporate parent, has a direct impact upon securing positive outcomes in life and avoiding the need to rely on public services in the future for themselves and for their families.

RECOMMENDATION

Overview and Scrutiny are to note the update briefing.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Council tax exemption up to the age of 21 years was approved by Council at the end of March 2018. Cllr Mark Ashwell who was Lead Member for Children's Services presented the papers and proposal and the content of the papers had been before Overview and Scrutiny.

It was agreed that an initial proposal would be for Council tax exemption to be given up to the age of 21 years, with a further piece of work and scoping to be undertaken on the exemption being extended to 25 years.

The scoping to 25 years is incomplete, although initial findings suggest that mechanisms such as a sliding scale of financial relief/ exemption, and/or means testing and financial re assessment will prove costly to administer. There is a likelihood that the administration of such arrangements would be disproportionate to the scheme.

Models from other Local authorities who have an exemption scheme to 25 years will be reviewed and we are in discussion with our neighbours as to their approach. This will be discussed and progressed through Corporate Parenting Board.

The agreement to Council tax exemption came right at the end of the financial year 2017/18. Agreement was not made in time to prevent the issuing of council tax bills, which are usually sent out a month or six weeks before the first of the month.

The service manager for Corporate parenting is working with the Revenue and Benefits department to put the proposal into action and to backdate if possible this exemption. In addition, we are contacting Local Authorities in which we might establish reciprocal agreements for council tax exemption to ensure care leavers outside the Borough are able to access this benefit.

On 19th April, Mark Riddell from the Department of Education visited Wokingham and undertook a workshop to discuss ideas for care leavers support and the development of our 'Local Offer'. Mark would wish to attend a Corporate parenting Board in the summer to discuss how Wokingham Children's Services progresses plans including council tax exemption to 25 years.

There are 14 care leavers aged between 18 years and 21 years who are eligible and registered to pay council tax. This is of course a snap shot and can change when circumstances change for young people or indeed young people turn 18 or 21 years throughout the year. Based upon financial modelling, the maximum amount to pay if all care leavers were eligible to pay would be approximately £66K per year, but based upon 14 care leavers aged 18 years -21 years exempted from council tax based on average band D council tax of £1,741 x 14 = **£24,374 per year**.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£66K approx		Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£66K approx		Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£66K approx		Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)
Corporate Parenting Board will progress the plans under the development of a Local Offer.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers

Contact Lisa Humphreys	Service People Services (Children)
Telephone No Tel: 0118 974 6137	Email lisa.humphreys@wokingham.gov.uk

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27 March 2018

Mr Paul Senior
Director of People Services
Wokingham Borough Council

Christopher Russell HMI
Regional Director, South East

Sent by email to: paul.senior@wokingham.gov.uk

Dear Paul

Annual Conversation - education and social care – 19 March 2018

Thank you for meeting with Janet Fraser, Sue Mann, Lee Selby, Lisa Pascoe, Stephen Long and myself to discuss social care and education in Wokingham.

You gave us an update on contextual changes in the authority, including your arrival in an interim capacity in November of last year. Within a stable picture overall in the leadership of children's social care, you have created a new quality assurance post. Senior staffing in early years and education has seen considerable change in the last year, with a number of posts filled on an interim basis. You told us there is strong political support in the council for children's services. You noted the implementation of a service transformation plan. This includes a collaborative approach to improving education services to be called the 'Wokingham Learning Partnership'.

Social care

We were interested to hear your appraisal of the quality of practice in Wokingham and your view that you are on a secure trajectory towards good. You told us your social care workforce is increasingly stable, your reliance on agency staff is reducing and all of your team managers are now permanent members of staff. You consider you have good succession planning in place with seven students wishing to be employed who will qualify and come on to the ASYE programme.

You have seen a reduction in the number of children in need and significant increases in the number of children subject to a child protection plan or who are looked after. You cannot identify a single reason for these changes, but believe some of the increase is the result of better identification of neglect and the result of more purposeful intervention and less drift. You are satisfied that the thresholds now being applied are appropriate and children are receiving the right intervention at the right level. Caseloads have increased and now average

19 children. You are working with social workers to identify how best to support them and ensure they have sufficient time to spend with children, for example by increasing business support.

Timeliness of assessments is an area you want to improve. You told us some of your performance data does not reflect actual performance, for example your system cannot record compliance with visiting levels against the actual requirements of the child's plan. You are promoting with social workers the need for visits to be purposeful, and that children should be seen alone to complete purposeful work, not merely to comply with visiting expectations set out in their plan. You told us audit is showing this aspect of practice is improving.

You have been focusing on improving consideration of permanence at the earliest stage and no child was placed outside of the Borough last year. You told us you have an active corporate parenting board which benefits from the involvement of children in care and foster carers.

You described your new approach to quality assurance and that the second practice week, completed recently, is showing some improvement in the practice compared with that seen in the audits completed in October. An example of this improvement is the increase in management oversight on the files audited, from 50 to 75%. You consider the child protection chairs and IROs are more robust in the challenge they provide and have ready access to senior managers to escalate concerns when necessary.

We were interested to hear about the research you were involved in with Goldsmiths University. This indicated that social workers need to be confident and receive support from senior managers and legal services to equip them to work with affluent and challenging families.

You told us that if you were to receive a focused visit you would like it to look at decisions about permanence.

Education

We discussed education at each phase. Inspection outcomes in early years settings are above the national average, and this is mirrored in achievements for children where more than is seen nationally reach a good level of development. Although there were improvements last year in the attainment of disadvantaged children, the gap between them and others is understandably your main cause for concern. You mentioned that schools would like better information from early years settings about pupils who are joining them, and your staff are working on this.

You are ambitious that all schools are judged at least good at inspection, and the proportions attaining this standard are above national and regional averages in primary and secondary. As with the youngest children, pupils at primary and secondary level reach standards which are above the national and regional picture. Nevertheless, by the age of 11 and 16, it is the gap between achievement for disadvantaged pupils and others which is a concern. There has been some narrowing of the gap in primary schools, but at secondary level it remains stubbornly wide. Your team are keen to tackle this.

Outcomes at post-16 compare well with national and regional averages. Your staff noted significant movement of students into and out of other neighbouring authority areas, making it hard to measure the quality of what is provided within Wokingham. You noted this as an area your team want to look more closely at and play a more active role in.

We discussed current arrangements for school improvement. These involve a categorisation of schools into bandings based on a range of evidence, including Ofsted judgements. These are used to identify levels of support, which is then provided by staff working for the council or brokered from other schools. Given the outcomes at inspection, these arrangements are proving successful overall. However, you cited your ambition that schools make more impact on vulnerable pupils. You also want more resilience in the system as schools move toward a more school-led approach, and cope with financial stringency. The team then outlined the plan for the learning partnership. This is in the process of being set up but is intended to be the main driver for school improvement. It will be independently chaired. Up to now the one secondary academy that applied was unsuccessful in their bid to the Strategic School Improvement Fund. Further bids have been made in the current round, focusing on disadvantaged pupils.

We discussed elective home education, where you have seen a rise in numbers. You said you are monitoring closely and working with schools where issues are detected, so as to bring the figures down. This is also the case for schools where part time education is being used. We noted low fixed term exclusions, but high numbers of permanent removals. Here too you are keen to make an impact. We briefly talked about outcomes for children in care. Here you were pleased that none had been excluded in the last year, but were keen to improve the qualifications with which they left school and college.

You and the team gave us a useful update on SEND provision. A self-evaluation of area provision has been drawn up, together with a linked development plan. As with improvement work overall, you are keen to shift ownership of decisions over funding and provision planning to the sector. You noted concern over outcomes for SEND pupils and a determination that figures rise, both in formal education up to 18 and for young people up to the age of 25. Transfers of statements to EHCPs are on track in the view of the team. Nevertheless, you want to improve the quality of action planning and the specificity of pupils' targets. Your team set out a number of other goals, most notably rationalising specialist

provision and enabling better inclusion of the growing numbers of pupils with needs relating to SEMH and ASD.

You talked about the approach to the Prevent agenda, identifying it as a high priority with a regular cycle of training in education settings. You felt it can be a challenge engaging partners when there are few apparent indicators of extremist behaviour in the area. Nevertheless you noted it as being an important issue for the council and a regular feature of school reviews and contacts with leaders in all education settings.

You confirmed the arrangements for the communication of information linked to complaints about schools to the local authority team.

Thank you once again for meeting with me and I look forward to hearing about further developments in Wokingham.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "Chris Russell".

Christopher Russell HMI
Regional Director, South East

TITLE	Children's Services Performance Indicators
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Paul Senior, Director of People Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Children's Services performance indicators underpin the council's priorities and principles to focus on every child reaching their potential and looking after the vulnerable.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Children's Services performance indicators be noted.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The timing of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee means that the latest indicators available for formal reporting this cycle are the Quarterly indicators reported at the end of March 2018.

Background

A set of information on performance indicators is provided to the Corporate Leadership Team and the Executive on a regular basis. The most recent report, providing information for Children's Services covering the quarter to March 2018, is provided as Appendix A to this report.

Analysis of Issues

In 2017-18 Q4 there are two red indicators, five amber indicators and six green indicators.

Red and Amber

- 1. Red: National indicator: Percentage of children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time ever**
- 2. Amber: Local indicator: Percentage of children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) for a second or subsequent time within 24 months**

In 2017-18 there has been significant improvement in the number of children becoming subject of a child protection plan. In the last quarter (Jan to Mar 18) there has been a deterioration. 19 of 57 children (11 families) became subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time in this period. 7 of the 19 children (4 families) were previously subject to a plan in the last 2 years. This is a small number of children.

All children needed to become subject of a child protection plan, the service have reviewed all of the cases and are satisfied that the thresholds were met and appropriate plans are in place. Our statutory regulatory powers have been exercised appropriately and to their limit.

When families make progress against the plan it contravenes their human rights to keep them subject to a plan unnecessarily.

Some families will experience repeated episodes of vulnerability and all Local Authorities will be dealing with these episodic need.

3. Red: Local indicator: Permanency 1 - Percentage of children leaving care who achieved permanence (adopted, returned home or a special guardianship order is granted)

3 of 7 children were adopted or entered a Special Guardianship Order arrangement.

The other 4 children left care on their 18th birthdays and are now adults.

1 is residing in residential care and positively, the other 3 are remaining with their foster carers under 'staying put' arrangements.

2 of the foster carers are family members.

4. Amber: Local indicator: Percentage of child protection visits due in the period which were completed on-time (within 10 days of the previous visit)

91.4% of visits took place within 15 working days of the previous visit or start date of the child protection plan.

5. Amber: National indicator: Percentage of primary schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better

Short Inspection Reports Published this Quarter:

Radstock Primary School: Good (previously Good)

Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School: Good (previously Good)

Loddon Primary School: Good (previously Good)

6. Green: National indicator: Percentage of secondary schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better

Short Inspection Reports Published this Quarter:

Waingel's College: Good (previously Good)

7. Amber: National indicator: Percentage of children who attend a Wokingham school (Primary, Secondary or Special) which has an Ofsted rating of "Good" or "Better".

There have been no change in percentage of "Good" or "Better" schools in the last quarter.

Appendix A:



Microsoft Excel
97-2003 Worksheet

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)

n/a

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

n/a

List of Background Papers

None

Contact Carol Cammiss

Service People Services

Telephone No 0118 9748048

Date 11 May 2018

Email Carol.Cammiss@wokingham.gov.uk

Version No. 1

Appendix A: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Performance Indicators

Look after vulnerable people

Key Indicators Indicator Reference: CS - Corporate Services, L&CS - Localities & Customer Service, PS - People Services

Ref	Indicator	Director/ Executive Member	Previous Period Actuals				2017/18 Target	Current Reporting Period		RAG	Direction of Travel	Commentary
			2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Q2 2017/18	Q3 2017/18		RAG Thresholds	Q4 2017/18			
PS1	National indicator: Percentage referrals in 17/18 which are repeat referrals within 12 months of a previous referral to Children's Social Care	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	21.3%	16.6%	19.0%	20.0%	20% or Less	Green 20% or less Amber 20.1% - 22% Red Over 22%	16.6%	Green	Improved	
PS2	Local indicator: Percentage of children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) for a second or subsequent time within 24 months	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	18.9%	4.0% (1 of 25 children)	4.0% (1 of 25 children)	0.0% (0 of 44 children)	Less than 10%	Green Less than 10% Amber 10-15% Red Over 15%	12.3%	Amber	Deteriorated	In 2017-18 there has been significant improvement in the number of children becoming subject of a child protection plan. In the last quarter (Jan to Mar 18) there has been a deterioration. 19 of 57 children (11 families) became subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time in this period. 7 of the 19 children (4 families) were previously subject to a plan in the last 2 years. This is a small number of children.
PS3	National indicator: Percentage of children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time ever	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	34.8%	20.0% (5 of 25 children)	12.0% (3 of 25 children)	18.2% (8 of 44 children)	20% or Less	Green 20% or less Amber 21-30% Red Over 30%	33.3%	Red	Deteriorated	All children needed to become subject of a child protection plan, the service have reviewed all of the cases and are satisfied that the thresholds were met and appropriate plans are in place. Our statutory regulatory powers have been exercised appropriately and to their limit. When families make progress against the plan it contravenes their human rights to keep them subject to a plan unnecessarily. Some families will experience repeated episodes of vulnerability and all Local Authorities will be dealing with these episodic need.
PS4	Local indicator: Percentage of Looked After Children living within 20 miles of Berkshire West - Geographical area of Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support)	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	61%	64% (41 of 64 children)	72% (49 of 68 children)	73% (56 of 77 children)	70%	Green 70% or more Amber 64-69.9% Red Less than 64%	73.0%	Green	No change	
PS5	Local indicator: Percentage of children who entered Care in the period who were placed more than 20 miles from their home (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support)	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	19.0% (4 of 21 children)	11.0% (1 of 9 children)	0%	0% (0 of 10 children)	14% or less	Green 14% or less Amber 15% to 25% Red Over 25%	0%	Green	No change	
PS6	National indicator: Percentage of children in care at the end of the period who were in a placement more than 20 miles from their home (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support)	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	40.0%	42.2% (27 of 64 children)	36.2% (25 of 69 children)	33.8% (26 of 77 children)	35% or less	Green 35% or less Amber 35.1% - 40% Red Over 40%	33.8%	Green	No change	
PS7	Local indicator: Permanency 1 - Percentage of children leaving care who achieved permanence (adopted, returned home or a special guardianship order is granted)	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	61.3% (19 of 31 children)	10.0% (1 of 10 children)	100%	80% (4 of 5 children)	65% or more	Green 65% or more Amber 60% - 64.9% Red Less than 60%	43%	Red	Deteriorated	3 of 7 children were adopted or entered a Special Guardianship Order arrangement. The other 4 children left care on their 18th birthdays and are now adults. 1 is residing in residential care and positively, the other 3 are remaining with their foster carers under 'staying put' arrangements. 2 of the foster carers are family members.
PS8	Local indicator: Permanency 2 - Percentage of children currently in non-residential care who have been in care for more than three months who are in a permanent placement	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	63%	75% (39 of 52 children)	70% (37 of 53 children)	70% (39 of 56 children)	63% or more	Green 63% Amber 57% to 62% Red Less than 57%	78%	Green	Improved	
PS9	Local indicator: Percentage of child protection visits due in the period which were completed on-time (within 10 days of the previous visit)	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	79.3%	76.4%	72.1%	76.4%	82%	Green 82% or more Amber 78% - 81.9% Red Less than 78%	78%	Amber	Improved	91.4% of visits took place within 15 working days of the previous visit or start date of the child protection plan.

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Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential													
Ref	Indicator	Director/ Executive Member	Previous Period Actuals				2017/18 Target	Current Reporting Period			RAG	Direction of Travel	Commentary
			2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Q2 2017/18	Q3 2017/18		RAG Thresholds	Q4 2017/18 Actual				
PS18	National indicator: Percentage of primary schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	92%	92%	92% (46/50)	94% (48/51)	Improvement or 100%	Green 100% or improving Amber Less than 100%, no change Red Deteriorating	94% (48/51)	Amber	No change	Short Inspection Reports Published this Quarter: Radstock Primary School: Good (previously Good) Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School: Good (previously Good) Loddon Primary School: Good (previously Good)	
PS19	National indicator: Percentage of secondary schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	89%	89%	89% (8/9)	89% (8/9)	Improvement or 100%	Green 100% or improving Amber Less than 100%, no change Red Deteriorating	89% (8/9)	Amber	No change	Short Inspection Reports Published this Quarter: Waingel's College: Good (previously Good)	
PS20	National indicator: Percentage of special schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	100%	100%	100% (1/1)	100% (1/1)	Improvement or 100%	Green 100% or improving Amber Less than 100%, no change Red Deteriorating	100% (1/1)	Green	No change		
PS21	National indicator: Percentage of children who attend a Wokingham school (Primary, Secondary or Special) which has an Ofsted rating of "Good" or better	Paul Senior/ Mark Ashwell	89%	89%	90%	92%	Improvement or 100%	Green 100% or improving Amber Less than 100%, no change Red Deteriorating	92%	Amber	No change	There have been no change in percentage of "Good" or "Better" schools in the last quarter.	

TITLE	Information on school Ofsted outcomes and GCSE and A level results
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 nd May 2018
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR	Interim Director of People Services - Paul Senior

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Clear understanding of schools' performance in order to recognise and promote success.

RECOMMENDATION

To note relevant Ofsted reports on schools, GCSE and A level results for Edgebarrow and Yately.

- **Emmbrook Infant School**
S8 March 2018 remain Good potential to move to outstanding at next S5
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/109855>
- **Foundry College**
S8 February 2018 remain Good
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/101493>
- **Highwood Primary School**
S5 March 2018- moved to Requiring Improvement in line with local risk assessment
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/131689>
- **Keep Hatch Primary School**
S8 RI monitoring visit to check progress- deemed effective appropriate action being undertaken to return to good at next S5
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/109840>
- **Shinfield St Marys CE Junior**
S8 February 2018 – remain Good
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/109976>
- **GCSE results for WBC schools, Edgebarrow and Yately**
<E:\Wokingham\Overview and Scrutiny\May\Copy of Secondary School Performance Tables 2017.xlsx>

- **A level results for WBC schools, Edgebarrow and Yately**
<E:\Wokingham\Overview and Scrutiny\May\16-18 A-Level Performance Tables 2017.xlsx>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers
 Ofsted Reports and GCSE and A level results 2017 as per hyperlinks above

Contact Patricia Davies	Service Education
Telephone No Tel: 0118 974 6121	Email patricia.davies@wokingham.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2018/ 2019 WORK PROGRAMME

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER
22 May 6pm	One Hour Training Session before the Committee meeting	To update Members on Children's Services roles, context, legislative framework, performance and key challenges	O&S Member development	Paul Senior/Lisa Humphreys
22 May 7pm	Children's Services Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update and monitor Children's Services performance measured by local indicators 	Standing item	Carol Cammiss
	Policy Update from the Executive Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor the development of policies in Children's Services 	Standing item	Executive Member
	Draft Primary Place Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive information in relation to the plans for the Primary Place Strategy 	Sufficiency of primary school places	Piers Brunning/ Children's Services
	Care Leavers Council Tax Exemption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the proposal for Care Leavers Council Tax Exemption 	To inform and make recommendations on the proposals	Lisa Humphreys
	SEND Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy 	To inform and make recommendations	Children's Services

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Agenda Item 73.

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER
	Annual Conversation with Ofsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review feedback from Ofsted and consider the department's self-assessment 	Annual update	Paul Senior
	Data on Demand for Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To brief Members on levels of demand (and trends) for Children's Services 	Increasing Member awareness	Lisa Humphreys / Carol Cammiss
	CAMHS Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To brief Members on CAMHS service data and emerging service issues 	Increasing Member awareness	Lisa Humphreys
	School Performance Indicators and Ofsted Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive information on schools' performance, and to review recent Ofsted Reports – including Bridges inspection GCSE results – including results for Edgbarrow and Yately Schools 	Standing item	Patricia Davies
	Children's Services O&S Committee Forward Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the forward programme of the Committee 	Standing item	Democratic Services / Luciane Bowker
	Schools Causing Concern – Part 2 item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive information about any school(s) causing concern 	Standing item	Patricia Davies
18 September	Children's Services Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update and monitor Children's Services performance measured by local indicators 	Standing item	Carol Cammiss

	Policy Update from the Executive Member for Children's Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update and to monitor the development of policies in Children's Services 	Standing item to monitor Policy development	Executive Member for Children's Services
	Social Worker – Recruitment and Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider an update on the recruitment and retention strategy 	Progress Report	Lisa Humphreys / Carol Cammiss
	Update on the MASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider progress including evidence from partner organisations 	Progress Report	Lisa Humphreys
	Childcare Sufficiency Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider a 6 month update 	Efficacy of the strategy	Children's Services
	Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the Annual Report 	Standing Item	Lisa Humphreys
	Placements within the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update Members on the numbers/benefits of placing children within the Borough 	Progress Report	Lisa Humphreys
	Education Vision Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the proposed Education Vision Strategy To receive an update on the work undertaken by the Wokingham Learning Partnership 	Progress report	Patricia Davies
	School Performance Indicators and Ofsted Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive information on schools' performance, and to review recent Ofsted Reports 	Standing item	Patricia Davies

	Children's Services O&S Committee Forward Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the forward programme of the Committee 	Standing item	Democratic Services / Luciane Bowker
	Schools causing concern – Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive information about any school(s) causing concern 	Standing item	Patricia Davies
20 November	Children's Services Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update and monitor Children's Services performance measured by local indicators 	Standing item	Carol Cammiss
	Policy Update from the Executive Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor the development of policies in Children's Services 	Standing item	Executive Member
	Innovations Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor the progress of the programme 	Update report	Carol Cammiss
	School Performance Indicators and Ofsted Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive information on schools' performance, and to review recent Ofsted Reports 	Standing item	Patricia Davies
	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Forward Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the forward programme of the Committee 	Standing item	Democratic Services / Luciane Bowker
	Schools Causing Concern – Part 2 item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive information about any school(s) causing concern 	Standing item	Patricia Davies
22 January 2019	Children's Services Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update and monitor Children's Services performance measured by local indicators 	Standing item	Carol Cammiss

	Policy Update from the Executive Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor the development of policies in Children's Services 	Standing item	Executive Member
	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Forward Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the forward programme of the Committee 	Standing item	Democratic Services / Luciane Bowker
	Schools Causing Concern – Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive information about any school(s) causing concern 	Standing item	Patricia Davies
19 February 2019	Children's Services Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update and monitor Children's Services performance measured by local indicators 	Standing item	Carol Cammiss
	Policy Update from the Executive Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor the development of policies in Children's Services 	Standing item	Executive Member
	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Forward Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the forward programme of the Committee 	Standing item	Democratic Services / Luciane Bowker
	Schools Causing Concern – Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update and monitor Children's Services performance measured by local indicators 	Standing item	Patricia Davies

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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