



Committee and Date

Council

26 September 2013

10:00 a.m.

Item

8

Public

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Contact: Councillor Joyce Barrow, Chairman of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee

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1. Summary

This report highlights the new remit for the Young People's Scrutiny Committee, formerly the Safe and Confident Communities Scrutiny Committee, from autumn 2013 onwards.

2. Recommendations

- A Council is asked to note the intentions of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee and to contact the Chairman with any further suggestions of issues for the Committee to look into.

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3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 There are no direct risks or equalities issues associated with the paper.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications as the Work Programme will be delivered within the existing budgets and support arrangements for Scrutiny Committees.

5. Background

- 5.1 A Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group undertook a detailed review of scrutiny arrangements and made a number of recommendations, which were accepted by Council on 18 April 2013. Council agreed changes to Scrutiny Committee names and remits on 18 July 2013.
- 5.2 The changes for Safe and Confident Communities Scrutiny Committee are summarised in the table below:

| Current Committee Title | New Committee Title | New Committee Remit | Linked Portfolio Holders |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Safe and Confident Communities Scrutiny Committee | Young People's Scrutiny Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People and Children's Services: Transformation and Safeguarding • Education • Members of the Youth Parliament • Youth Services • Young People's and Children's Health | Cllr Ann Hartley (Deputy: Cllr Nick Bardsley) Cllr Karen Calder |

- 5.4 As well as recommending changes to the names and remits of Scrutiny Committees, the Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group further recommended:
- That continued use be made of the Task and Finish style of working as an accepted method of positive engagement between Members, Officers and those outside the Council.
 - That the Parliamentary Select Committee style of meeting should be the default except where it would not be appropriate or constructive. It will also be important that provision is made for those who receive the services to give evidence in private should that be considered necessary.
 - That all contracts for the commissioning of future services needed to include the requirement for the service providers to be available for scrutiny as much as the Council may require.
 - That all Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes be considered fully by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee at each meeting to improve transparency of decision making.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 The Committee met on 17 July 2013 to consider performance indicators for education and children's social care and to begin to develop its future work programme.

6.2 Over the next few months, Young People's Scrutiny Committee will be focusing in particular on:

- Financial Strategy in relation to Children's Services.
- Annual Report of Shropshire's Safeguarding Children Board.
- Primary school performance, by looking at case studies.
- How the local authority supports and challenges schools, including academies, to improve performance.
- Exception reporting on key performance indicators.
- Readiness for OFSTED inspections.

6.3 The Committee's Work Programme will develop with close regard to the Cabinet Forward Plan, aiming to undertake pre-scrutiny work before decisions are made.

6.4 If there are further suggestions for the Committee to consider for inclusion in its Work Programme, please contact the Chairman directly.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group report to Council, 18 April 2013

Scrutiny Report to Council, 18 July 2013

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Ann Hartley, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Cllr Nick Bardsley, Deputy Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Cllr Karen Calder, Portfolio Holder for Health

Local Member

All

Appendices

None