



Committee and Date

Council

13 December 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018 PEOPLE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The annual statement of the People Overview Committee provides a brief review of the committee's work during the previous year, as well as an overview of its work for the year ahead.

2.0 Communities Overview Committee

- 2.1 During 2017 and 2018, the People Overview Committee has looked at topics from across its remit. The following have been the main areas of focus:

- **Early help hubs**

Members formed a working group to scrutinise proposals to transform early help for children and families. The group supported the proposals, but asked for regular updates on progress in setting up the hubs.

- **Ofsted Action Plan**

Members scrutinised an action plan created in response to the findings of the recent inspection by Ofsted of services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers. The committee were satisfied that the council had put into place a strong plan that would address Ofsted's recommendations. In 2019, the committee will scrutinise progress in delivering the action plan.

- **The future of education support for school**

The committee scrutinised proposed changes to the council's education improvement service. It agreed to support the proposals, but expressed concern that any reduction in the service could weaken support for schools.

- **Placements for looked after children**

Members of the committee formed a sub-group to scrutinise proposals to increase the number of homes managed by Shropshire Council for its looked after children. The group strongly supported the proposals, but recommended that the development be staggered in order to maintain high standards at existing council-run homes. Following a presentation by the committee chair, Cabinet agreed to the proposals.

- **Child sexual exploitation**

Shropshire Council, the police and other partners provided an overview of the arrangements currently in place to tackle CSE in Shropshire. Following rigorous scrutiny, members were satisfied that robust arrangements were in place.

- **Pupil exclusions**

Members noted the recent increase in school exclusions and asked to scrutinise how the council works with schools to minimise exclusions. They questioned officers, concluding that the council had in place a strong framework to tackle exclusions.

- **Supported housing for children and young people**

Following concerns raised by some members, the committee looked at how the council supports children and young people in housing need, particularly its own looked after children who were leaving care. The group agreed a number of recommendations, which would strengthen the council's capacity to support some of Shropshire's most vulnerable young people.

3.0 2018-2019 planned work

3.1 Significant topics emerging for the coming year include:

- Empty homes
- Preventative services
- Early help hubs
- Progress against multiple Ofsted action plans
- SEN support
- Opportunities for looked after children and care leavers to achieve their potential
- Children's Services performance dashboard

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

None

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998

Environmental Appraisal

There are no environmental issues relating to this report.

Risk Management Appraisal

There are no risks associated with this report.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Consultation is a component of scrutiny work to collect information to support the development of conclusions and recommendations.

Cabinet Members

Cllr Nick Bardsley, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Local Member/s

All

Appendices

None