

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>11 JUNE 2012</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services**

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### **INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report sets out the approach to be taken at the first Scrutiny Committee of the municipal year, during which Members will be presented with a comprehensive overview of the opportunities, priorities and challenges in Children's Services that fall within the remit of the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities theme, with the aim of establishing a work programme for the year.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee will discuss the detail contained in the presentation that will be given during the meeting, and to agree a scrutiny work programme for the year.

#### **3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 3.1 Adopting this approach for the first Scrutiny meeting of the year will ensure that a scrutiny work programme is developed and agreed which directly contributes to the objectives and outcomes contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

This committee in particular most directly contributes to the 'Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities' priority in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The presentation that will be given at the meeting will serve to inform the committee about the different elements of children's services and the aspirations, successes and challenges that the department faces.

#### **5. KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 The presentation that will be given to the committee will provide information on:
- The different elements of children's services from universal to targeted and specialist areas and how they link together
  - The Local Authority's relationship with schools and its importance
  - Information about the back office functions and the enabling side of the department
  - The successes and challenges that the department faces

The intention of the presentation is to ensure that all members of Scrutiny are as fully up to date as possible about the service for which they will be providing scrutiny.

**6. IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Members will be provided with sufficient information and evidence to enable them to be confident about their role on this scrutiny committee, and to identify a work programme for the year.

**7. NEXT STEPS**

7.1 Following the committee meeting the committee will be able to highlight areas of work that they wish to scrutinise in more depth over the coming year.

**8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

8.1 N/A

**9. APPENDICES**

9.1 N/A