

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL - TERMS OF REFERENCE		
DATE OF DECISION:	4 DECEMBER 2014		
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			

BRIEF SUMMARY

To provide robust scrutiny of Children and Families Services in Southampton the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) agreed, at its meeting on 16 October 2014, to establish a Children and Families Scrutiny Panel that would meet on a bi-monthly basis over a two year period.

To enable the Panel to commence in early 2015 this report requests the Committee to approve the draft terms of reference, attached as Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To consider and approve the terms of reference for the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel, attached as Appendix 1.
- (ii) To consider and approve the amendment to the terms of reference of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, attached as Appendix 2, reflecting the proposed terms of reference of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to commence scrutiny of Children and Family Services in the City.
2. To provide clarity of responsibilities between the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

4. At the meeting on 16th October 2014 this Committee agreed to establish a Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to provide robust scrutiny of Children and Families Services in Southampton.

5. This decision followed the recommendation within the Ofsted inspection report of Children's Services in Southampton that the Council:
'Develop the role of scrutiny within the City to ensure that the wider multi-agency arrangements for the provision of early help and services to children and their families from children's social care, are routinely considered by political leaders.'
6. The provisional date for the inaugural meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel is 2nd February 2015. To enable preparation for the first meeting to commence this Committee needs to agree the terms of reference for the Panel.
7. The proposed terms of reference for the Panel are attached as Appendix 1. They reflect the discussion at the OSMC meeting in October and the findings within the Ofsted report, and they include regular scrutiny of key partners and multi-agency arrangements.
8. Meetings of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel will be scheduled bi-monthly over a 2 year period. Membership will include the Church and Parent Representatives who are appointed to the OSMC. This is because under Regulations and the 2000 Act, the Church and Parent Representatives should be invited to sit on Panels involving educational matters. Church and Parent Representatives will remain as Appointed Members of the OSMC to reflect the Committee's role to consider all forward plan items, including those related to education.
9. To provide members with the required skills and techniques to enable the Panel to deliver this vital role effectively, the Centre for Public Scrutiny will be invited to undertake training for Panel Members.
10. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) terms of reference currently include the following responsibilities:
'To undertake the scrutiny of Social Care issues in the City unless they are forward plan items. In such circumstances members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be invited to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting where they are discussed'.
11. To avoid duplication and to provide clarity between the role of the HOSP and the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel it is proposed that this paragraph is amended to the following:
*'To undertake the scrutiny of **Adult** Social Care issues in the City unless they are forward plan items. In such circumstances members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be invited to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting where they are discussed'.*
The revised terms of reference for the HOSP are attached as Appendix 2.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

12. The cost of the additional panel chair has been covered within the Independent Remuneration Panels report to full Council on Members Allowances in November 2015. The proposed overall saving from implementing the panel recommendations will save circa £15k net of funding this new Chairs position.

13. The costs associated with administering the new Panel will be found by reprioritising existing resources.

Property/Other

14. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

15. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

16. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

17. Improving the effectiveness of the political scrutiny of children’s safeguarding will help contribute to the following priorities within the Council Strategy:
- Protecting vulnerable people
 - Prevention and early intervention

KEY DECISION?	No	
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>		
Appendices		
1.	Children and Families Scrutiny Panel – Proposed Terms of Reference	
2.	Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Revised Terms of Reference	
Documents In Members’ Rooms		
1.	None	
Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.		No
Other Background Documents		
Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None	