

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL		
SUBJECT:	PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE		
DATE OF DECISION:	2 nd FEBRUARY 2015		
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail:	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	Suki Sitaram	Tel: 023 8083 2060
	E-mail:	Suki.sitaram@southampton.gov.uk	

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.

The OSMC subsequently approved the terms of reference for the Panel at their meeting on 4th December 2014. The Panel are requested to note the terms of referenced attached as Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) That the terms of reference set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To provide clarity with regards to the responsibilities of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Not applicable. The terms of reference have been agreed by the OSMC.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. At the meeting on 16th October 2014 the OSMC agreed to establish a Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to provide robust scrutiny of Children and Families Services in Southampton.
4. 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.'
5. The terms of reference for the Panel are attached as Appendix 1. They

reflect the discussion at the OSMC meeting in October 2014 and the findings within the Ofsted report, and they include scrutiny members receiving appropriate monthly performance information relating to the council's Children and Families services, and scrutiny of key partners and multi-agency arrangements.

6. Meetings of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel will be scheduled bi-monthly over a 2 year period. 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.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

7. 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.
8. The costs associated with administering the new Panel will be found by reprioritising existing resources.

Property/Other

9. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

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

Other Legal Implications:

11. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

12. 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:	None directly as a result of this report
------------------------------------	--

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Children and Families Scrutiny Panel –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.	Dependent upon forward plan item
--	----------------------------------

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	
----	------	--