

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 January 2015
Subject:	Potential Topics for Scrutiny Reviews

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to identify potential topics for its next scrutiny review taking into account the activities contained in the four commissioning strategies for Children's Services.

Actions Required:

Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are invited to identify potential topics for a future scrutiny review.

1. Background

As reported at the last Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting on 28 November 2014, it had been proposed to carry out a scrutiny review into school improvement. However, due to work already ongoing by officers into a new school led school improvement approach and the new Local Authority offer, there was a risk that a scrutiny review would be duplicating this work and it was agreed that the Committee would establish a school improvement working group to work with officers instead.

As it is no longer proposed to carry out a scrutiny review into school improvement, the Committee is invited to suggest alternative topics for a scrutiny review, taking into account the four commissioning strategies for Children's Services.

The four commissioning strategies consist of the different activities which come under Children's Services, and these are summarised below.

Children are Safe and Healthy

This commissioning strategy aims to ensure all children and young people will be safe and healthy, and consists of the following services:

- School Nursing
- Child protection (contract, referral and assessment)
- Looked after Children

- Fostering and adoption
- Residential homes
- CAMHS
- Children with disabilities
- Family support

This strategy will support the key priorities of the Lincolnshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy to improve health and social outcomes for children and young people and to reduce inequalities. The strategy focuses on keeping children and young people protected and safe from harm and how through working with partner agencies, effective safeguarding systems can be developed to improve identification and multiagency intervention strategies to safeguard children & young people.

Readiness for School

This commissioning strategy aims to ensure all children will be ready to learn when they start school enabling them to achieve their full potential. It consists of the following areas:

- Healthy child programme
- Children Centres
- Early education (2, 3 & 4 year olds accessing 15 hours of education)
- Therapy Services

The delivery of this strategy will enable Children's Centres to provide a range of jointly commissioned activities with health services which support child development, child and family health, school readiness, parenting skills, and life chances. As part of an integrated approach to supporting children and families, the Healthy Child Programme offers every family a programme of screening tests, immunisations, developmental reviews, and information and guidance to support parenting and healthy choices.

Learn and Achieve

This commissioning strategy aims to ensure all children and young people will learn and achieve, enabling them to reach their potential. It consists of the following services:

- School Support Services including education welfare and behavioural support
- School Improvement
- Statementing process and interventions (to be replaced with new health, education and social care plan)
- Out of school team / School admissions
- Home to school/college transport

The strategy will continue to build on the existing strong relationships with schools and learning providers to better respond to their needs in an evolving and changing relationship. Within the new legislative context of education, there will be an infrastructure of highly effective school support services to respond to the needs of

all types of schools and enable them to have access to services which will help them thrive.

Readiness for Adult Life

This commissioning strategy aims to ensure all young people will be prepared and ready for adult life, and consists of the following services:

- 14-19 education / training and apprenticeship
- Career guidance
- Teenage pregnancy
- Supported accommodation/lodgings
- Leaving Care
- Positive activities for young people

This strategy looks to ensure services support the legislative reforms, resulting from the Children & Families Act 2014, embedding the joint commissioning and Local Offer arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The Youth Offer will provide the commissioning framework to ensure young people are supported so they can achieve their potential and will enable working with partner agencies to respond to the challenges of raising the participation age (RPA). This will include a range of innovative strategies to tackle youth employment and promote collaboration to ensure a sustainable post 16 training and education offer.

Approval of Scrutiny Reviews

When considering whether to approve a potential scrutiny review, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will consider the following guidelines which have been agreed as a basis for making decisions on topics for scrutiny reviews.

It is important that in-depth reviews are:-

- **deliverable within a set timetable**
- **sufficiently focused on a particular aspect of a service**
- **not duplicating other significant review activity**
- **not related to a specific individual grievance or complaint**

Reviews should also:-

- **contribute to the overall objectives of the organisation**
- **reflect community concerns**
- **lead to potential achievable outcomes or improvements for the people of Lincolnshire**

2. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited to consider the activities under each of the four commissioning strategies and identify any potential topics for a scrutiny review. Any suggestions from the Committee will be considered and discussed by

the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and relevant officers at the next pre-meeting. If a suitable topic is identified, a scoping document for a scrutiny review of that topic will be drafted and brought back to the Committee for consideration. If agreed by the Committee, it will then be taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for approval. It is proposed that any review will commence in May/June 2015 after the General and District elections have taken place.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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