

Draft Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

1. To scrutinise matters relating to children and young people and to hear the views of children and young people, with a view to improving services, reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for children and young people.
2. To respond to consultations from the Department of Education and other relevant bodies.
3. To scrutinise Council services and those of key partners in respect of children and young people.

In relation to the above, the panel will be responsible for -

- on-going monitoring and evaluation of plans for children and young people;
- reviewing all policies relating to children and young people and to consider how these may be improved and developed;
- monitoring the budget and performance of the Cabinet Member, Department and partners to ensure that priorities for the area are being delivered upon;
- reviewing relevant policies with the budget and policy framework;
- considering Equality Impact Assessments against new and existing policies and plans;
- investigating local issues with a view to making recommendations on how the council and its partners can improve services for children and young people;
- making recommendations about service delivery to the Cabinet (via Overview and Scrutiny Management Board);
- reviewing and scrutinising the performance of relevant partner organisations currently –
 - Children's Trust
 - Local Safeguarding Children's Board
 - LSP Wise Theme Group
 - Corporate Parenting Group
- setting up ad hoc working groups as and when required;
- producing quarterly progress reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;
- undertaking such tasks as may be delegated to the panel by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;

Policy Areas

- Children and Young People's Plan
- Youth Justice Plan

Cabinet Members

- Children and Young People

Directorate

- Services for Children and Young People

Corporate Improvement Priorities (CIPs)

- Keeping Children Safe (CIP 7)
- Improving Skills and Educational Attainment (CIP 8)
- Developing High Quality Places to Learn In (CIP 9)

Membership

The Chair of the panel shall serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be chaired by a member of the opposition political group with the vice-chair from the majority political group. All members of the panel will adhere to the general rules of Overview and Scrutiny. There are 9 members of the panel including the Chair and the vice-chair. The vice-chair is from the opposite political group to the Chair.