



People Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2016

Children's Scrutiny Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

Since the last meeting of People Scrutiny Committee on 16th December 2015 the Children's Scrutiny Group has met jointly with the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group on the 4th February 2016 to receive the CSSIW Annual Performance and Evaluation Report 2014-15 presented by Mr Redman. It was noted that the report was now somewhat historic and was the final part of the process of the Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF). Although the report focussed on Adult Services Mr Redman observed that changes in Children's Services could lead to fragility in the service. There have been particular problems recruiting to mid Powys and the impact of this is showing through a decline in some of the performance indicators.

Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Group then attended the annual ACRF Challenge Day on 4th March 2016. This event provides an opportunity for colleagues, Members and Stakeholders to consider the service grids for both Adult and Children's Services and there is an opportunity via a facilitator to comment on the information provided which includes:

- Outcome expected
- Improvement actions
- How well the service is doing
- Evidence to support the position

It is an opportunity to comment on how accurate the participants feel the information provided reflects their understanding of the service.

The next stage of the ACRF process is for the Director of Social Care to write the Annual Report which will be considered by a Joint Meeting of the Adult Social Care and Children's Scrutiny Groups, which will take place on 17th May 2016, prior to submission of the report to Cabinet and Council. The CSSIW will then compile their Annual Performance and Improvement Report 2015-16 for which a date has been arranged for presentation to the Joint Adult Social Care and Children's Scrutiny Group on 1st December 2016.

Service Improvement Plans

The Lead Member of this group is involved in Service Improvement Plan scrutiny which has been arranged for 14th and 15th March. The Children's Services SIP is not subject to this Member challenge as the service has been

subject to scrutiny via the ACRF Challenge Day. There will however be a degree of officer scrutiny of the Children's Services SIP to ensure that the plan is subject to equal officer scrutiny as the other SIPs across the authority.

In addition to the work outlined above the Lead Member has attended the following meetings in her role as Lead Member of Children's Services Scrutiny:

- CYPP Strategic Review Day 8th February 2016
- CYPP Social Services and Wellbeing Act workshop 15th February 2016
- Corporate Parenting Group 4th March 2016

The majority of the work of this group is undertaken at People Scrutiny Committee and the following items are on the agenda for the meeting on 17th March:

- Education of Looked After Children,
- Safeguarding
- Leaving Care options

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Sources/background papers:

Membership:

County Councillors: D. R. Jones, M. Dorrance

Mrs M. Mackenzie, **Mrs K. Roberts-Jones**, A. Davies, L. R. E. Davies, S. McNicholas

Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs A. Davies, Mrs L. Jenkin