

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Conservative	Independent	Labour	UKIP	Co-opted
Cllr Halden		Cllr Gupta	Cllr Gamester	1. Mrs P Wilson (Roman Catholic Church Representative) 2. Reverend D Barlow (Church of England Representative) 3. Myra Potter (Parent Governor Representative) 4. Sarah Sanders (Parent Governor Representative)
Cllr S Little		Cllr Kerin		
		Cllr Baldwin		
Substitutes	Substitutes	Substitutes	Substitutes	
Cllr Redsell			Cllr Wheeler	
Cllr Roast				

Meeting Dates: 14 July 2015, 15th September 2015, 10 November 2015, 19th January 2016, 9 February 2016, 8 March 2016.

Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
14 July 2015					
Education Commission Update and Supporting Schools				Carmel Littleton	Member
Youth Offending Service update in Corringham				James Waud	Member
Serious Case Review Update Actions from Julia				Andrew Carter	Officer
Adoption and Permanence Partnership				Sue Green	Officer
Shaping the Council Budget update	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
15th September 2015					
Serious Case Review Update for Megan and Julia				Andrew Carter	Officer

Updated: 28 January 2016

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Grangewaters Alternative Delivery Models	To consider options prior to presenting to Cabinet	To ensure all options have been fully explored	Agreement on recommendations to go to Cabinet	Malcolm Taylor / Sue Green	Officer
Nursery Provision in East Tilbury.				Carmel Littleton/ Roger Edwardson	Member
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable) required	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
Child Sexual exploitation Action Plan				Andrew Carter	Officer
Education Transport – Proposed changes to Denominational Transport.				Temi Fawehinmi	Officer
15 October 2015					
School Transport					Member
YOS Serious Youth Violence				James Waud	Officer
Annual Childcare Sufficiency					Member
Pupil premium	To hear how the pupil premium is being used to improve outcomes, with a focus on the work at Hathaway and Harris in regards to mentoring troubled youths			Roger Edwardson	Member
School Results/School Performance	An update on results at KS1, KS2, KS4 and post 16	To determine the progress of Thurrock schools and academies	Updated information and scrutiny of outcomes of national assessments and relative performance of schools	Carmel Littleton	Officer
Update on the Child Poverty Strategy Outcomes from 2011- 2014				Carmel Littleton	Member

Updated: 28 January 2016

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable) required	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
10 November 2015					
School Improvement – the impact of school to school				Roger Edwardson/Andre a Winsotne	Member
Multi Academy Trust Relationships				Roger Edwardson/ Andrea Winstone	Member
Work placements and the pathway into work for young people in Thurrock				Carmel Littleton / Kenna-Victoria Martin/ Michele Lucas	
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable)	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
19 January 2016					
Fees and Charges				Laura Last	
Health and Wellbeing Strategy				Ceri Armstrong/ Ian Wake	
School Admissions and Catchment Areas				Colin Jones	Member
Care Leavers into Employment, Education or Training (EET)				Michelle Lucas	
Children's Social Care – Statutory Complaints Annual Report				Harminder Dhillon	
Serious Case Review Update – Julia				Andrew Carter	Officer
Annual report of the LSCB	An account of the activity and effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board over the past year	To ensure that the LSCB is effectively discharging its duties by contributing council scrutiny to the process	Understanding of the effectiveness of the LSCB in undertaking its safeguarding responsibilities	Alan Cotgrove/ Independent chair of the LSCB David Peplow	

Updated: 28 January 2016

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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9 February 2016					
EOH, troubled families and MASH intervention update and impact assessment and Troubled Families Initiative Phase 2 Launch	Update on the project Impact and success	To ensure the programme is on track and making a real difference to the lives of families in Thurrock.	Dissemination of good practice from the programme	Claire Moore/ Andrew Carter	Officer
Alternative Delivery Model for the Thurrock Youth Offer				Sue Green	
Serious Case Review				Andrew Carter	Officer
Child Mental Health				Andrew Carter	Officer
Cultural Entitlement				Roger Edwardson	Member
8 March 2016					
Pupil Place Planning				Janet Clark	Member
Supporting Parents returning to work, Child Poverty and Updated Welfare Reform				Michele Lucas	Member
Admissions Forum Report				Colin Jones	Member requested 6 Jan
University Attendance Rates				Michele Lucas	Member
Youth Cabinet Report				Michele L/Youth Cabinet	Officer
Update on the commissioning out of Local Authority day nurseries in Tilbury				Roger Edwardson	Member

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting	Pre Meeting
14 th July 2015	6 th July 2015
15 th September 2015	7 th September 2015
15 th October 2015	5 th October 2015
10 th November 2015 (Gable Hall)	27 th October 2015
19 th January 2016	7 th January 2016
9 th February 2016	28 th January 2016
8 th March 2016	25 th February 2016

Additional Meetings	
Meeting	Date
Additional Session for all members to be briefed on "achieving excellence in child social care".	November – date to be confirmed
Youth Centre visit with the Committee.	August 7 th
Joint session on the budget – all chairs	Feb 2 nd
Task and Finish Group on work experience / employable future	18 th August 2015

Recommendations update table				
Recommendation		Author	Date	Update
<u>Education Commission Update</u>				
1	Comments on the progress and achievements of Thurrock schools and partners above be noted		14 July 2015	Noted
2	That the currently funded activity and further developments that it would wish to be taken to further the education standards for all children and young people in Thurrock be noted.		14 July 2015	Noted
3	Science and Maths to be included in the School on School improvement report		14 July 2015	Noted

Updated: 28 January 2016

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4	A potential for a survey to return to each school of the original questions that the education commission proposed.		14 July 2015	Noted – this will be completed for the end of the academic year
5	Organise briefing for December for members what's being done for each school to help the improvement journey.		14 July 2015	
<u>Youth Offending Service function and performance</u>				
1	To note the Overview & Scrutiny Committee comment on the function and performance of the YOS and review plans to address the two areas of improvement as set out in the HMIP Short Quality Screening Report dated 20th May 2015:		14 July 2015	The action plan from the SQS in May has now been fully implemented. Please see below.
2	To note that Intervention planning should genuinely involve children and young people and their parents/carers. The plans should be constructed in such a way that they are effective tools to drive successful interventions.		14 July 2015	<p>Referral Orders already use initial panel meetings which involve parents and young people in a restorative process to construct their own intervention plans. It is felt that the quality of the planning in this area does not require improvement.</p> <p>Youth Rehabilitation Orders use intervention planning meetings at the start of the orders and parents/carers are invited. Paper copies of the intervention plan are now produced and discussed with the young person/ carer and signed accordingly.</p> <p>Detention and Training Orders use community review meetings on release from custody and parents/carers and relevant professionals are invited. Paper copies of the intervention plan and licence</p>

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

				<p>requirements are produced and signed accordingly.</p> <p>All YRO and DTO planning meetings are now chaired by operations managers or senior practitioners who ensure that all parties are actively involved in the planning of their interventions. The recording of the meeting on YOIS will now be integral to the existing quality assurance process.</p> <p>Case managers have been briefed to ensure interventions plans are SMARTer, commensurate to length of sentence and risk led. Language used in intervention plans will be age appropriate and in 'Plain English'. Case managers will avoid using 'standard' objectives that seem to have accumulated throughout generic practice. Quality assurance processes have been introduced to ensure intervention plans meet the relevant requirements.</p>
3	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements need to be fully understood by all staff and managers.		14 July 2015	<p>National MAPPA guidance 2012 has been shared and disseminated to all staff. All staff has been fully briefed on offender categories and management levels. Local MAPPA lead has offered to provide further training to all staff if required and provided a training programme which has been shared with the team. Management oversight is now more prescriptive as to whether a referral is required and the recording on Risk of Serious Harm</p>

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

				assessments is now clearer. Operations management are satisfied that MAPPA knowledge of case management team is satisfactory. It also felt that the action point arose due to poor recording on YOIS as opposed to limited knowledge.
4	Chair and Director Children's Services to write to the Police and crime commissioner to request to extend the lease for a longer term on the old Corringham Police Station.		14 July 2015	James Waud liaising with PCC
<u>Julia - SCR Action Plan Update</u>				
1	To be noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor progress against the multi-agency action plan with a particular focus on Children's Services		14 July 2015	This is monitored regularly in council services, through school safeguarding leads meeting and with partners through the LSCB. A further update will be brought back to the committee in January 16.
<u>Adoption and Permanence Services Partnership</u>				
1	The comments on the development of a partnership by way of a grant agreement to provide an integrated programme of activity to optimise adoption outcomes for children following the decision at Cabinet on 8 July 2015 to be noted.		14 July 2015	Noted
2	That it be recommended future reports are brought to the Children's Service's Overview and Scrutiny Committee before being referred to Cabinet for decision, and where this is not possible to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny meeting to enhance the scrutiny process.		14 July 2015	Noted
<u>Shaping the Council Budget Update</u>				
1	To note the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS);		14 July 2015	Noted

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2	To note the approach to Shaping the Council and budget planning for 2016/17 and beyond including the establishment of a cross-party Budget Review Panel.		14 July 2015	Noted
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15 September 2015

Nursery Provision In East Tilbury

1	The Chair requested that letters were sent from the Committee to Little Angels Day Care and East Tilbury Primary School to address to the situation.		15 September 2015	Letters have been sent out to the parties concerned.
2	The Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented upon the actions taken to date and any further actions which should be taken by the Council to resolve the current situation.		15 September 2015	Further actions were taken in asking legal services to look at the lease arrangements and to write to procurement regarding future contracts. This has been done.
3	That a letter is sent on behalf of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to St Cleres and Little Angles to encourage a relationship between the two parties.		15 September 2015	See 1)
4	That a letter is sent to the Procurement team on behalf of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to urge that similar contracts are not signed in the future.		15 September 2015	See 2)
5	An update at the next Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the current position and the views of Thurrock Councils Lawyers.		15 September 2015	14.10.15 The legal department are continuing to look into this but it appears that the 75 year lease is binding on the parties.

Inspire - Alternative models of delivery for Youth Related Activities

1	That the Committee supports the development of a staff mutual (charitable trust) to deliver youth & community related activities across Thurrock Council.		15 September 2015	Noted
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WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2	The Committee recommend to full Cabinet the 'spinning out' of youth & community related services from April 2016 or as soon after as due diligence is undertaken		15 September 2015	Noted
3	That the Committee supports the recommendation of a four year contract with a break clause in year three for renegotiation.		15 September 2015	Recommendation noted – this will be subject to due diligence in the next stage of development
4	The Committee recommend the funding model which will see a 5% reduction from year two of the contract until the fifth year recognising the need to reduce the overall budget by 20%, subject to budget constraints		15 September 2015	Noted
5	The Committee support the inclusion of Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre into the staff mutual.		15 September 2015	Noted
6	An elected member and The Section 151 Officer will form part of the trustee.		15 September 2015	This recommendation has been noted and will form part of the due diligence in the next stage of the project.
7	The Inspire report to return back to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee before final sign off at Cabinet.		15 September 2015	Added to the Work Programme.
Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan				
1	The committee endorsed the revised action plan and added to the committee's work plan for robust ongoing scrutiny.		15 September 2015	Noted.
2	The Chair requested that the Director of Children's Services checked whether there would be implications and issues with initially		15 September 2015	The DCS has explored this issue and notes that member of the committee would be able to voluntarily make open to the public

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	completing the DBS check.			the outcome of their DBS check but could not be required to do so.
Education Transport				
1	The amount paid by new and existing pupils accessing denominational transport; £1,117.00 and £550.00 respectively, remain unchanged until September 2016.		15 September 2015	Noted.
2	That Officers follow the Council protocol for the review of the service including a consultation with the option of discontinuing denominational transport in September 2016, subject to Cabinet approval.		15 September 2015	Noted.

15 October 2015				
Education Transport - Service update				
1	That Children's Overview and Scrutiny consider the aspects of transport reviewed in this report and comment upon the progress and/or recommend next steps.		15 October 2015	This was fully scrutinised at the committee meeting and the direction of travel proposed in the report was ratified, noting the difficult decisions that had to be made.
Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2015				
1	To support further early years & childcare development in Aveley & Tilbury recognising the deficit outlined in the sufficiency report.		15 October 2015	Work continues to identify childcare providers in those areas with shortages of places and a campaign to push take up for free two year old places is underway.
2	To promote and encourage more schools to consider eligible 2 year old intake.		15 October 2015	This is underway as part of the campaign to increase the number of places for two year olds.
3	To support public village hall use for the increase of early education particularly related to costs associated with tenancy		15 October 2015	This is under consideration by the Childcare Sufficiency officer as part of the strategy to increase places
4	To consider early education future needs before		15 October	Noted

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	decision are taken in relation to capital assets across the Local Authority		2015	
5	That the Director of Children's Services would liaise with Communications Officers to publicise the encouragement of take up in early year's education.		15 October 2015	A campaign including posters, leaflets, social media activity is underway.
6	That the relevant Officer provides Councillor Little with information regarding traveller's education up take.		15 October 2015	A briefing note is being prepared and will be provided to Cllr Little and other councillors on request.
Pupil Premium				
1	That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the impact of pupil premium for the academic year 2014-15 in primary schools across the borough and seeks an update for secondary schools when the data is fully validated.		15 October 2015	A briefing note will be circulated when the data is made available and has been analysed.
2	Acknowledges the actions taken by The Hathaway Academy and Harris Academy Chafford Hundred		15 October 2015	Noted
School Results/School Performance				
1	That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the provisional outcomes of the summer 2015 tests and examinations and commends pupils, schools and parents/carers on their achievements.		15 October 2015	Noted

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2	That the Committee recognises how the Education Commission recommendations and existing strategies have been best deployed to raise achievement and consider how these will raise still further across all key stages, especially at Key Stage 2.		15 October 2015	Noted. Further consideration is being made in regard to further improvements across all key stages, in particular key stage 2 at TEA and TEN meetings.
3	This report should be considered in conjunction with the Pupil Premium report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.		15 October 2015	Noted
Child Poverty - Opportunity for Every Child				
1	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the Child Poverty Strategy 2015-2020 and endorses the strategy and action plan.		15 October 2015	Noted
2	That the progress made since the 2011-2014 strategy is commended.		15 October 2015	Noted
Serious Youth Violence				
1	That Thurrock Council continue to support the work of partner agencies to prevent gang related activity from becoming a major issue in the borough.		15 October 2015	Work continues with the police and other partners to maintain a vigilant approach
2	That the Committee write a letter to all Schools in Thurrock, Thurrock Faith Matters , and the LGA Safer Community Board regarding the work that the Council are currently undertaking around serious youth crime.		15 October 2015	Completed
3	That the Committee writes to the chairs of all Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees in London boroughs to raise awareness of Thurrock		15 October 2015	Completed

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	Councils Concerns.			
4	That the Committee writes to Essex Police and the Metropolitan Police to inform them that of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees concerns.		15 October 2015	Completed
10 November 2015				
School improvement in Thurrock- the Impact of School to School Support				
1	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the innovative and effective working relationships between schools, academies and the local authority and the positive impact on school improvement.		10 November 2015	The strong relationships will continue to be reinforced
2	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report in conjunction with the Multi-Academy Trust Relationship report of the same date.		10 November 2015	Further multi-academy trust developments are being considered with the Regional Schools Commissioner and individual academies and trusts.
Multi Academy Trust Relationships				
1	Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the current organisation of schools and the contribution of the multi academy trusts to raising standards across the borough.		10 November 2015	Noted
Pathways For Youth Employment And Work Experience				
1	That work experience offers became a part of the published admissions information given to parents and students when deciding upon a school.		10 November 2015	Schools have been requested to include their work experience offer in the published arrangements and have responded positively.
2	Work experience quality to become a part of the		10 November 2015	This has been fed back to the planning group for the next education awards

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	education awards and the business awards.			
3	Thurrock Council offers a small amount of premium provision work experience places as a part of a Borough wide award for young people's community service.		10 November 2015	This is being put to the 11-19 strategy group to take forward.
4	Youth Cabinet and Thurrock Youth Services to support schools and young people who wish to shape their own work experience offer.		10 November 2015	This will be taken forward through the Youth Service and Youth Cabinet
5	Thurrock Council continues to work with Ensign Buses and C2C regarding the associated travel costs of work experience.		10 November 2015	This is being explored by officers in consultation with Ensign buses and C2C.
19 January 2016				
Fees and Charges 2016/17				
1	That the committee consider the proposed charges as detailed in the appendix.	Laura Last	19 January 2016	The Committees comments will be included within the appendix to the Cabinet report. No further action required.
Julia - Serious Case Review Action Plan Update, dated 7/1/2016				
1	That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor progress against the multi-agency action plan with a particular focus on Children's Services.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	No update required at the present time.
2	That partners be contacted and requested to provide updates to the action plan as appropriate as a matter of priority, following which a fully updated document to be circulated and referred back to the Committee for consideration.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	Officers to take the relevant action to drive this forward, in partnership with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-2015				
1	The Committee note progress made on children's safeguarding for the 12 month period		19 January 2016	No update required.

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	April 2014 to March 2015.			
2	That the Committee provide comment on the report.		19 January 2016	No update required.
3	That a standing Local Safeguarding Children Board item be included on the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda so that feedback could be provided as appropriate.		19 January 2016	Democratic Services to include this as a standing item on future agendas.
Children's Social Care Complaints and Representations Annual Report 2014/15				
1	That the Committee consider and scrutinise the report.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	No update required.
2	To confirm the total figure of financial remuneration granted to complainants during the year 2014/15, and a comparison to previous years.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	Officers to circulate this information to the Committee by email prior to the next meeting.
3	To further analyse the number of upheld and partially upheld complaints for 2014/15 and present to Members the categorisation and nature of the complaints.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	Officers to circulate this information to the Committee by email prior to the next meeting.
4	To circulate information on participation rates to Committee Members outside of the meeting – it was reported that this information had been earlier referred to the Corporate Parenting Committee. This was in relation to a poor sample response to a survey.	Andrew Carter	19 January 2016	Officers to circulate this information to the Committee by email for consideration and comment.
Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019				
1	The Committee comment on the refreshed Strategy's proposed priorities and areas of focus as part of the engagement process;		19 January 2016	No update required.
2	That a final draft of the Strategy be referred to	Ceri	19 January	No update required.

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	the Committee by briefing note prior to sign off by Council in March 2016; and	Armstrong	2016	
3	The Committee note progress made on the development of the refreshed Strategy.		19 January 2016	No update required.
School Admissions and Catchment Areas				
1	That head teachers' views are sought on current arrangements for admissions and that any significant issues arising are brought back to Committee.	Colin Jones	19 January 2016	Officers will be undertaking a consultation with Head Teachers and an update will be provided as appropriate once complete.
2	That further information and publicity is given to ensure that admission arrangements are clearly understood.	Colin Jones	19 January 2016	Officers are currently exploring avenues for disseminating publicity to increase awareness of admission arrangements among parents.
Care Leavers into Employment, Education or Training (EET)				
1	To support the development of the programme to enable care leavers to take up ambitious opportunities to take part in education, employment or training.		19 January 2016	It was agreed to take this action offline and that the Learning and Skills Manager will liaise with the Chair and Vice Chair to obtain feedback from Members.
2	That it be agreed Committee Members discuss any suggestions for change that may enhance outcomes for care leavers with other Members outside of the meeting and liaise with the Strategic Lead for Learning and Skills in order to make recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate.	Members / Chair to feedback to Michele Lucas	19 January 2016	The Chair to feedback comments to the Learning and Skills Manager as appropriate.
3	To recommend the activities continue to be delivered by representatives across the Council,	Michele Lucas	19 January 2016	No update required.

Updated: 28 January 2016

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	as well as making use of external agencies/services.			
4	To discuss with planning colleagues ways that assistance could be given to Care Leavers when determining large scale housing developments and the use of S.106 monies.	Andrew Carter / Michele Lucas	19 January 2016	Officers to raise this matter with Planning colleagues to identify possible options to provide further assistance for care leavers.
Work Programme				
1	The Chair to circulate a further letter received in relation to the Serious Crime Review to Committee Members.	Cllr Halden	19 January 2016	The Chair to circulate this letter to Committee Members.
2	The Chair reported that he had agreed to hold informal meetings with partners, such as the NHS and Essex Police, in order to take a less fragmented approach to Youth Crime. He advised that James Waud, Strategic Lead for the Youth Offending Service would be leading on this work.	James Waud	19 January 2016	The Strategic Lead for the Youth Offending Service is currently in discussion with the Chair regarding this and an update will be provided in due course.