

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Review into the governance arrangements for Children's Services</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	20 May 2014

**Purpose of Report:** To outline to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission proposed Terms of Reference for a review into the governance arrangements for Children's Services.

**Recommended Action:** Amend, if necessary, and approve the Terms of Reference for the review.

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman</b>	
<b>Name &amp; Telephone No.:</b>	Councillor Brian Bedwell – Tel (0118) 942 0196
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<b>Contact Officer Details</b>	
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# Executive Report

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 25 February 2014, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission agreed to conduct a review of the governance arrangements in place for the activities being carried out by Children's Services. The form containing the reasons for the subject's suggestion is shown at Appendix A.
- 1.2 This report sets out the proposed Terms of Reference for a task group review of the topic.

## 2. Proposed Terms of Reference and methodology

- 2.1 It is proposed that the review examines the extent to which the bodies that are in place to ensure that social care practise for children and young people is safe and effective, collectively provide a framework that is necessary, comprehensive, efficient and effective and in particular:
- The role of each of the component part of the governance framework
  - The effectiveness and efficiency of the framework, as whole and by its constituent parts
  - Identification of areas for improvement
  - Report to the OSMC thence the Executive with recommendations as appropriate.
- 2.2 The review will be carried out through the establishment of a time-limited task group, comprising 4 members (3 x Conservative members, 1 x Liberal Democrat).

## 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members of the Commission amend, if necessary, and approve the Terms of Reference for the review.

## Appendices

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Appendix A – Scrutiny suggestion form

## Consultees

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**Local Stakeholders:** None  
**Officers Consulted:** Rachael Wardell  
**Trade Union:** None

## Appendix A – Scrutiny suggestion form

About you – contact details	
Firstname*	Rachael
Surname*	Wardell
Address	West Street House
Email Address	rwardell@westberks.gov.uk
Telephone Area Code/Number*	01635 519722

Your suggested topic(s)	
<b>Your suggested topic for scrutiny:</b>	
The governance arrangements in place for Children’s Services	
<b>Your reasons for requesting that this topic be considered:</b>	
<p>There are currently in place a number of governance bodies that aim to ensure that social care practise for children and young people is safe and effective. Each of these bodies focuses on specific aspects of social care and services for children in need and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Safeguarding Children Board</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Panel</li> <li>• R:VUE</li> <li>• Children and Young People Partnership</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• Quality Assurance Board</li> <li>• Munroe/Children’s Improvement Board</li> </ul> <p>The aim of this review would be to assess the extent to which these bodies collectively provide a framework that is necessary, comprehensive, efficient and effective.</p>	
<b>Topics suggested for scrutiny need to meet one of the following criteria. Please click the appropriate box(es):</b>	
(1) The issue is an area of key public concern (e.g. as identified through Members surgeries, constituents’ concerns, the Annual Satisfaction Survey, raised in the local media, etc).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2) There is evidence of poor performance within the activity (i.e. through performance indicator data, experience of Members, internal or external auditor findings, etc).	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) It is a budgetary area in need of examination to ensure value for money is being obtained.	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) There has been a pattern of budgetary overspends within the area.	<input type="checkbox"/>

(5) It is a corporate priority for the Council as published within the Council Strategy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(6) It has an external focus (e.g. scrutiny of the Council's partners, government agencies, utility providers, private sector companies, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(7) It is a Central Government priority area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
(8) It is an area of new Government legislation that has significant implications for the Council or its partners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>The outcomes you hope scrutiny of this topic will achieve:</b>	
An assurance that the governance framework is fit for purpose or, if not, the identification of measures to make it so.	