

Appendix B

Title of Report:	Scrutiny of the Children and Families Service
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	23 February 2016

Purpose of Report: To inform the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission of the findings of the task group established to identify the most appropriate way for the work of the Children and Family Service to be scrutinised.

Recommended Action: That a standing panel be established for the scrutiny of the Children and Family Service. The Panel will

- (1) Comprise 4 councillors (3 x Conservative, 1 x Liberal Democrat)
- (2) Meet quarterly
- (3) Determine its own work programme, providing annual reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

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Executive Report

2. Introduction

- 2.1 At its meeting of 1 December 2015 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission agreed that a small task group should be established to agree a programme or schedule of activity for the scrutiny of the Children and Family Service (CFS).
- 2.2 This report sets out activity that was undertaken by the task group and its recommendation arising.

3. Task group activity

- 3.1 The task group comprised Councillors Anthony Chadley, Mollie Lock, Richard Somner and Emma Webster and it met with the Head of CFS (Mac Heath) on Friday 5 February 2016.

4. Factors taken into account

- 4.1 The task group recognised that in order to provide effective scrutiny to the CFS that would be of value to the Council, arrangements would need to be established that
- (1) Involved key operational and political decision makers in the service
 - (2) Was sufficiently regular to identify trends in performance
 - (3) Did not impose a requirement on the service to generate additional reports
 - (4) Did not disproportionately increase the burden on Strategic Support to provide a secretariat
 - (5) Allowed for the development of a sufficient degree of expertise to provide effective challenge for the scrutineers
 - (6) Provided a sufficient degree of agility should there be a requirement for additional or supplementary work

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is the recommendation of the task group that a standing panel be established for the scrutiny of the Children and Family Service. The Panel will
- (1) Comprise 4 councillors (3 x Conservative, 1 x Liberal Democrat)
 - (2) Meet quarterly
 - (3) Determine its own work programme, providing annual reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.