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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year; to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme; and to approve terms of reference for an additional piece of work agreed at the last meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

**Summary**

2. Members will recall that, at previous meetings of this Scrutiny Committee, discussions have been held and agreement reached on areas where this Scrutiny Committee would like to focus its work over the current Municipal Year.
3. Monitoring and Co-ordination Group at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March, also gave approval for the Annual Assessment of Darlington Children's Services to be included on the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee and a Terms of Reference is attached for approval (**Appendix 2**).

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that : -
  - (a) Members note the current status of the Work Programme; and
  - (b) Approve Terms of Reference for the work in relation the Annual Assessment of Darlington Children's Services.

**Paul Wildsmith,  
Director of Resources**

**Background Papers**

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the five themes.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. For Members information, it has been previously agreed that a number of topics be included on the Work Programme of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Terms of Reference have been approved. The status of each of those areas is detailed in the table below :-

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Looked After Children and the Role of the Corporate Parenting Panel	To examine Looked After Children and the role of the Corporate Parenting Panel	On going. Note of meeting on 2 <sup>nd</sup> April considered at this meeting.
Behaviour Strategy for Key Stage 1 and 2 and Key Stage 3 and 4.	To look at the Behaviour Strategy for Key Stage 1 and 2 and Key Stage 3 and 4.	To be programmed
Child Poverty and Vulnerable Children	To examine Child Poverty and Vulnerable Children.	To be programmed
Children and Families Early Intervention Review	To examine Children and Families Early Intervention.	Work completed. Final report and recommendations to be considered at this meeting.
Attendance at Key Stage 1 and Reception Review Group	To examine attendance at Key Stage 1 and Reception in the local schools.	Work completed and Final report of the Review Group presented to the meeting held on 27 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012.
Participation in Education and Training to 18 years Review	To examine the new legislation and the impact locally.	To be programmed

Medium Term Financial Plan	To contribute and challenge the Medium Term Financial Plan and assist with the implementation and development of the required savings.	Work completed and recommendations forwarded to Special Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee (26 <sup>th</sup> January, 2012).
Safeguarding Children Inspection – Monitoring of recommendations	To monitor the performance against the targets contained in the Action Plan developed as a result of the recommendations made by Ofsted following the recent Safeguarding Children Inspection.	Meeting on 27 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012. Future monitoring reports of the Action Plan to be programmed.
Annual Assessment of Darlington Children’s Services	To monitor the performance in the areas for further improved contained in the Annual Assessment of Darlington Children’s Services by Ofsted.	To be programmed

6. If Members wish to add any topics to the above, a Quad of Aims will need to be developed and submitted prior to the item being brought to Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that it contributes to the strategic aims of the Council.

**Forward Plan**

7. Members are also requested to consider Cabinet’s Forward Plan, which is available on the Council’s website, to assist in determining any further items which they might wish to include on their Work Programme.

**Quad of Aims**

**Title:** Annual Assessment of Darlington Children’s Services  
**Scrutiny:** Children and Young People Scrutiny

**Start Date:**      **End Date:**

<b>PURPOSE/AIM</b>	<b>RESOURCE</b>
<p>To monitor performance in the areas for further improvement contained in the Annual Assessment of Darlington Children’s Services by Ofsted.</p>	<p>Members                      Relevant Portfolio Holder                      Assistant Director – Children, Families and Learning</p>
<b>PROCESS</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examine the areas for further improvement i.e. Childminding provision; secondary school provision and the effect of Academies and the closure of the pupil referral unit; and referral and assessment arrangements for children in need.</li> <li>2. Examine the planned improvements to the IT systems and processes for referrals from the police and assessing the risks to children in cases of domestic abuse.</li> <li>3. Questions relevant officers and stakeholders.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work towards an improvement in the areas which were deemed in need of further improvement for the next Annual Assessment.</li> <li>2. Continually monitor the areas for improvement.</li> </ol>

**COUNCILLOR** .....  
 (TO BE SIGNED BY MEMBER OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REQUESTING TOPIC)

**CHAIR** .....  
 (TO BE SIGNED BY CHAIR OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)