

People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

09:45	Thursday, 12 October 2017	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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A private briefing session for Members will be held on the rise of this meeting

Quorum: 4

Membership

Councillor M Maddocks
Councillor J Baker
Councillor J Chandler
Councillor B Egan
Councillor A Erskine
Councillor J Henry
Councillor J Lumley
Councillor P May
Councillor M McEwen
Councillor J Moran
Councillor P Reid
Councillor C Souter
Councillor L Wagland

Chairman

Non-elected Members

Richard Carson
Lee Cromwell
Marian Uzzell

For information about the meeting please ask for:

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 033301 34574 | **Email:** graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk

Sophie Campion, Democratic Services Officer

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www.essex.gov.uk/scrutiny



Essex County Council

Essex County Council and Committees Information

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Please note that an audio recording may be made of the meeting – at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded.

Part 1

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

		Pages
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Declarations of Interest To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct	
3	Minutes To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017.	5 - 8
4	Questions from the Public A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. On arrival, and before the start of the meeting, please register with the Democratic Services Officer.	
5	Report on call-in of Young Carers Service redesign To consider report (PAF/12/17).	9 - 14
6	Work Programme To consider report (PAF/13/17).	15 - 18
7	Joint Task and Finish Group To consider report (PAF/14/17).	19 - 20
8	Date of Next Activity Day To note that the next Committee activity day is scheduled for Thursday 9 November 2017, which may be a private Committee session, public meeting, briefing, site visit, etc - to be confirmed nearer the time.	
9	Urgent Business To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.	

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10 Urgent Exempt Business

To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Minutes of the meeting of the People and Families Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 13 July 2017

Present:

Councillor M Maddocks Chairman
Councillor J Baker
Councillor J Chandler
Councillor B Egan
Councillor J Henry
Councillor P May
Councillor M McEwen
Councillor J Moran
Councillor W Schmitt
Councillor L Scordis
Councillor L Wagland

Non-elected Members

Richard Carson
Marian Uzzell

Officers

Graham Hughes, Scrutiny Officer
Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer
Jennifer Reid, Committee Officer

Cllr P Channer was also in attendance.

1 Terms of Reference and Membership of the Committee

Members received a report (PAF/09/17) setting out the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Committee, as approved at the meeting of the Full Council on 16 May 2017.

The Scrutiny Officer confirmed the non-elected voting members as:

Mr Richard Carson, Secondary Education representative.
Mrs Marian Uzzell, Roman Catholic Education representative.
Mr Lee Cromwell, Primary Education representative.
Vacancy, Church of England Education representative.

Members noted the report.

2 Apologies for absence and substitution notices

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Andy Erskine, Councillor June Lumley, Councillor Patricia Reid (substituted by Councillor Lee Scordis) and Councillor Clive Souter.

Councillor Penny Channer was also in attendance.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Appointment of Vice-Chairmen

At the invite of the Chairman, nominations for the two Vice Chairman posts were received. Councilor Jenny Chandler was nominated by the Chairman and seconded by Councilor Lesley Wagland and Councilor John Baker was nominated by Councilor Peter May and seconded by Councilor Beverley Egan.

By general consent, it was agreed that Councilors Baker and Chandler were each elected as a Vice Chairman of the Committee.

5 Minutes of the meeting 9 March 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

7 Work Programme

Members received report PAF/10/17 regarding the work programme of the Committee.

Members agreed to defer further formal consideration of the work programme of the Committee pending discussions as part of the separate private induction and work programming sessions underway.

8 Future Meeting Dates

Members received report PAF/11/17 regarding dates of future meetings and activity days.

Members were asked to note that the next activity day was scheduled for Tuesday 3 August 2017 9:30-3:30 and would not include a formal meeting.

Substitute Members were encouraged to attend all activity days and formal meetings where possible.

Further to the report Members were asked to note two corrections to dates of meetings for December 2017 and March 2018 and that calendar invitations would be sent to all Members.

2017

Thursday 7 September 2017
Thursday 12 October 2017
Thursday 9 November 2017
Friday 8 December 2017

2018

Thursday 11 January 2018
Thursday 8 February 2018
Thursday 15 March 2018
Thursday 12 April 2018
Thursday 10 May 2018

9 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the next Committee activity day as Thursday 3 August 2017.

Chairman

		AGENDA ITEM 5
		PAF/12/17
Committee:	People and Families Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	12 October 2017	
Enquiries to:	Name: Graham Hughes Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer Contact details: 033301 34574 Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk	

On 22 September 2017 the Cabinet Decision FP/902/07/17 Young Carers Service Redesign was called-in by Councillor Mike Mackrory with the support of Councillor's Stephen Robinson, Jude Deakin and Anne Turrell.

A copy of the decision can be found on the website of Essex County Council by entering the full FP reference number on the following page:
<http://cmis.essexcc.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Decisions.aspx>

In line with the procedure for handling the call in of a decision, an informal meeting was held on 27 September 2017. A copy of the Notification of Call-In and the note of that meeting are attached at Appendices A and B respectively.

On the basis of discussion at the informal meeting Councillor Mackrory indicated that he would contact his County Councillor colleagues before coming to a conclusion on whether or not to withdraw his call in of the decision. The call in was withdrawn on 28 September 2017.

As part of the informal discussions with Cllr Mackrory the Cabinet Member offered to support a formal scrutiny after six months of the contract commencing and a cross party review group to monitor its early implementation in the interim. The Committee are invited to consider building this into its work programming for next year.

Action required:

The Committee is invited to note the action taken in this matter and consider building in a review of the implementation of the Young Carers Service Redesign into its work programme for 2018.

APPENDIX A

Notification of Call-in

Decision title and reference number Young Carers Service Re-Design Ref FP/902/07/17	
Cabinet Member responsible Cllr Gooding	Date decision published 19/9/17
Last day of call in period 22/9/17	Last day of 10-day period to resolve the call-in
Reasons for Making the Call in <p>Existing providers and others in the voluntary sector were not given the opportunity to submit bids for the Young Carers Service Re-Design before the decision was made.</p> <p>In addition the lack of IT resource identified by the People and Families Scrutiny Committee T & F group January 2017, Recommendation 2, is a barrier to some in the voluntary sector from even being in a position to participate in the process.</p>	
Signed: Cllr M J Mackrory supported by: Cllrs Robinson, Deakin and Turrell	Dated: 19/9/17
For completion by the Governance Officer	
Date call in Notice Received 22 September 2017	Date of informal meeting 27 September 2017
Does the call in relate to a Schools issue No	If yes, date when Parent Governor Reps and Diocesan Reps invited to the meeting
Date of Scrutiny Committee Meeting (if applicable)	Date call in withdrawn / resolved 28 September 2017

APPENDIX B

Informal meeting to discuss the call-in of Cabinet Decision - Young Carers Service Re-Design (Ref FP/902/07/17) held at 3pm on Wednesday 27 September 2017 in C224/5, County hall, Chelmsford.

In attendance:

Members:

Councillor Tony Ball, Deputy Cabinet Member - Education
Councillor Jenny Chandler, Vice Chairman, People & Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member - Education
Councillor Mike Mackrory

Officers:

Hilde Dahmer, Policy & Strategy Advisor (Cabinet Office)
Tim Frances, ECC Commissioner Youth Work
Graham Hughes, Scrutiny Officer, Democratic Services
Michael O'Brien, Head of Commissioning Education & Lifelong Learning

Reasons stated for making the Call-In [Cllrs Mackrory, Deakin, Robinson and Turrell]

Existing providers and others in the voluntary sector were not given the opportunity to submit bids for the Young Carers Service Re-Design before the decision was made.

In addition the lack of IT resource identified by the People and Families Scrutiny Committee T & F group January 2017, Recommendation 2, is a barrier to some in the voluntary sector from even being in a position to participate in the process.

Councillor Mackrory restated the reasons for the call-in. He supported the aspiration and objective for the new service. His reason for the call-in centred on the procurement process and why the voluntary sector providers had not been invited to tender for the service. He referred to the Task and Finish Group report on procurement from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee that recommended that the voluntary sector should be encouraged and enabled to participate fully in ECCs procurement processes.

Background and rationale for the proposed decision

Councillor Gooding emphasised the significant background work undertaken in preparing the decision. Councillor Gooding agreed that where possible he would like to involve the voluntary sector in procurement processes and this has been done for other youth services. However, in this particular instance, the voluntary sector had not performed well enough under current contracts and were not considered capable of providing, nor had the capacity to provide, all the elements of the new proposed service, notably bespoke 1 to 1 support.

Young people had said that they wanted bespoke 1 to 1 support. As a result, the proposed contract required that young carers get these 1 to 1 assessments and bespoke support. Performance and market data collected to inform the decision confirmed that the voluntary sector currently undertake very little bespoke 1 to 1 assessment and support work and, even when specifically required to do so under current contracts, this has often not been done. Officers gave illustrative examples and data of very low current rates for bespoke 1 to 1 support in two particular areas.

ECC had been discussing with Essex voluntary sector providers the proposed 'direction of travel' for the past 3 years but the sector had been slow to respond and ECC had seen no significant change in their behaviour. Officers highlighted services for young carers in other parts of country where the approach and attitude seemed different in understanding and delivering what young carers actually wanted. i.e. a young carers service needing to provide more than just respite groups and activities. It was emphasised that services in Essex for young carers needed this same new approach and direction as seen elsewhere in the country.

Officers confirmed that there was no legal requirement for market testing of this type of contract. Instead, commissioners wanted the best provider to provide the all-round independent care and support needed by young carers.

Recruitment

The Cabinet Member and officers acknowledged it was possible that there could be some recruitment for the new proposed service from the voluntary sector.

Future review of contract performance:

The Cabinet Member offered:

- i. To support the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee reviewing the contract performance after six months (i.e. Autumn 2018 -

after 1 April 2018 commencement of the contract) to see if contractual outcomes are being achieved. This review process could include speaking to young people about their experience of the service and links with services available within schools.

- ii. That, in the interim, he would also support a small cross party review group being established to monitor the early implementation and performance under the contract and take initial soundings from service users, raising any immediate issues of concern to the Cabinet Member, and which could then feed-into the above formal scrutiny exercise.

Conclusion and agreed actions:

[On the following day Cllr Mackrory confirmed that he would withdraw the call-in and accept the two offers for review made by the Cabinet Member above.]

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PAF/13/17
Committee:	People and Families Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	12 October 2017	
Enquiries to:	Name: Graham Hughes Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer Contact details: 033301 34574 Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk	

WORK PROGRAMME

It has been requested by the PAF Chairman that a report on the draft work programme be submitted to this meeting (consolidating previous informal discussions) for formal consideration by the Committee.

Reflecting on what the committee has done so far

The first induction session after county council elections looked at the legal and organisational context for scrutiny and encouraged discussion on aspects of good practice and future ways of working. A discussion with the Chief Executive on the morning of the second induction day complemented this.

The majority of the second induction day centred around identifying some of the key issues and challenges relevant to the committee's remit during private discussions with the Cabinet Members responsible for Education, Health and Adult Social Care, and Children and Families respectively.

Private briefings were then held in September on falls prevention, school places planning, and school crossing patrols. As a result of those briefings in September, the Committee, together with members of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee who were also present, resolved to establish a Joint Task and Finish Group to look at falls prevention (see separate report on this in the agenda pack).

Further briefings and discussion days will continue to be scheduled on an ongoing basis as required (see Appendix A).

Planning a work programme

Work programmes should be devised that reflect a committee's capacity to deliver that programme as well as officers' capacity to support it in that task. With scrutiny resource very limited there is a need for Scrutiny Committees at Essex County Council to plan and manage their activities effectively in order to identify the best opportunities for the scrutiny committee to add value and maximise its influence.

A key part of this is using selection criteria to help the committee objectively prioritise potential scrutiny issues and identify those issues on which it is worth dedicating scrutiny resource. Ultimately Scrutiny Members want to be in the position of exerting a proactive and positive influence upon the Council, commissioners and providers.

The role of topic selection and work programmes has featured in Members' Scrutiny training, and good practice is reflected in the Council's Overview and Scrutiny handbook that is published on its website - [Scrutiny Handbook](#)

Managing resources

The Scrutiny Board (comprising the Chairmen of the four scrutiny committees at Essex County Council) oversees the work and planning of scrutiny resource for all the four scrutiny committees at Essex County Council. The Board has recognised that there is limited scrutiny resource available (officer and member) to support Task and Finish Group activity. The Board has indicated that it considers that only a limited number of in-depth reviews can be undertaken simultaneously across the four committees (i.e. a maximum of 4-5 in total across all committees). In addition, the Board views that all Task and Finish Group reviews should aim to finish within three months of their commencement and that the Scrutiny Board would be responsible for granting extensions to this. In practical terms this means that the Committee is unlikely to be able to conduct more than a maximum of 3-4 detailed reviews a year.

Notwithstanding all of the above there is still scope for briefings, fact finding visits, and limited round table discussions to ensure that Members are well informed about what is happening across the services covered by the Committee's remit.

Action required by Members at this meeting:

- (i) To note this report and Appendix A which reflects the current work programming undertaken and underway.**
- (ii) To discuss suggestions for briefings and other preparatory work as part of further developing the work programme.**
- (iii) To consider timings for initial scoping meetings and reviews.**

People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee: 12 October 2017
Provisional work programme (still subject to further investigation, scoping and evaluation)

Date/timing	Issue/Topic	Focus/other comments	Approach
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Detailed Task and Finish Group scrutiny review agreed

October 2017	Hip fractures for over 65s – higher than national average in Essex	Some of the issues discussed have been the incidence and reporting of outside falls, connections with other agencies, information governance and data sharing, comparisons with other areas, GP awareness.	(i) Private briefing held with Public Health (ii) Joint Task and Finish Group with Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee; (iii) Scoping and focus to be developed and agreed by both committees; (iv) Task and Finish Group start time TBC.
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Items identified for scrutiny in full committee

December 2017	School Crossing Patrols	The service has a number of issues including inconsistencies in application of criteria, siting, wider stakeholder engagement, recruitment and retention.	(i) Preliminary briefing in September 2017; (ii) Cabinet Member cross party group is reviewing and will report to Committee; (iii) Committee to consider whether further work is required.
February/March 2018	Educational Attainment	'Old' Committee made recommendations on recruitment, pooling of resources and collaboration, encouraging seamless transition between services, encouraging governor commitment, targeting of pupil premium and aspirational target setting.	(i) Previous committee established this as an annual update. Last update in March 2017; (ii) Annual update to committee early 2018.
tbc	Residential and Domiciliary Care	Recommendations made by the Committee were essentially around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recruitment, retention, staff training. - Raising the profile of carers in the community and developing relationships with Members. 	(i) Follow up on scrutiny report and recommendations made by 'old' PAF (ii) An implementation review with the Cabinet Member had been scheduled for April 2017 but was not held due to imminent County Council elections.
October 2018	Young Carers	A new Young Carers Service is to be delivered in-house by ECC from 1 April 2018. The Cabinet decision was called-in during September but withdrawn after an informal meeting with the Cabinet Member.	(i) follow up on scrutiny report and recommendations made by 'old' PAF; (ii) post implementation review of new service as agreed as part of the withdrawal of the call-in during September 2017.

Briefing held and periodic briefing updates agreed

February or May 2018	School Places Planning	The next iteration of the 10 Year Plan will be published in February. In May there could be an update on 'offer day' for both secondary and primary, and prospects for the 2018/19 academic year. More information should also be available on new garden settlements, local plans, and updated housing trajectories. Will need detailed focus if committee want to progress beyond update briefing format.	(i) Private briefing in September 2017; (ii) further update requested at an appropriate point in future.
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Briefings arranged to assess if future detailed scrutiny should be undertaken or in preparation for formal scrutiny

October 2017	Safeguarding	To assess whether safeguarding issues in Essex are getting worse/better? How are the s/g boards focussed on their work and their future priorities?	(i) Private development session to understand safeguarding structures and organisations; (ii) Chairman and VCs to meet Independent Chairman of Safeguarding Boards; (iii) Annual update to then be scheduled.
October 2017	Healthwatch Essex	Identify opportunities for joint working on some issues and/or utilising their research to support scrutiny work	(i) Joint private briefing session with Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee; (ii) Identify joint working opportunities.
October 2017	Learning Disabilities	A wide ranging cross-cutting issue – will need detailed focus if go beyond a preliminary briefing.	(i) Preparatory briefing from ECC officers on structures and issues; (ii) speak separately to Healthwatch Essex regarding any relevant work they have done.

Issues still under consideration and/or for further evaluation

TBC	Disruptive children	Could look at the criteria for access to support services.	Further investigation with key officers necessary before being able to scope any review.
TBC	Gang culture	Identified by Cabinet Member as issue of concern.	Further investigation with key officers necessary before being able to scope any review.
TBC but more likely to be medium term.	Adult Social Care	Any scrutiny review would need to 'drill-down' to a much smaller issue where there could be 'value-add' from such a review.	Further investigation with key officers necessary before being able to scope any review.

PAF/14/17

Committee People and Families Policy and Scrutiny

Date 12 October 2017

TASK AND FINISH GROUP – HIP FRACTURES AND FALLS PREVENTION

Report by Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Contact details: graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk Tel: 03301 34574

Recommendation:

- (i) To endorse actions taken to establish a joint Task & Finish Group with the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee to look at issues in connection with the rate of hip fractures in Essex;
- (ii) To approve the proposed membership; and
- (iii) That the Task & Finish Group report back to the committee after it has completing scoping so that the intended focus of the review can be endorsed.

Background:

During the summer both the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PAF) received a briefing from Councillor Spence, the Cabinet Member for Health on some of the key issues and challenges in health and social care.

At the request of members a 'follow-up' briefing on hip fractures and falls prevention was provided for both committees in a joint session held on 14 September. Thereafter it was agreed that a Task and Finish Group should be established to look at aspects around the incidence of hip fractures in Essex, firstly scoping a proposed review for both committees to endorse before the review commences.

Membership

The following members have offered to serve on the Task and Finish Group:

Councillor Jo Beavis (HOSC member)

Councillor Dave Harris (HOSC member)

Councillor June Lumley (PAF member)

Councillor Neil Pudney, Maldon District Council (HOSC co-opted member)

Councillor Pat Reid (PAF member)

Councillor Clive Souter (PAF member)

Councillor Lesley Wagland (PAF member)

Cont... 1/2

Involvement of other ECC members

The Scrutiny Board has agreed that all ECC members should be invited to contribute to any future reviews by Task and Finish Groups. The expectation is that this will usually be as a witness or helping in identifying witnesses. In exceptional circumstances it may involve being co-opted onto the Task and Finish Group but membership priority will be given to the members of the committee(s) actually setting up the Task and Finish Group.

Terms of Reference

At the time of writing this report, the Task and Finish Group had not yet met to scope the review but members of the group will be able to update the meeting on the current position.

Timetable for completion

A proposed scope and focus of the review should be presented to both the HOSC and PAF for endorsement. Thereafter, the Scrutiny Board expects Task and Finish Group reviews, once commenced, to be completed within three months.