



Meeting: **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date/Time: **Monday, 9 September 2013 at 2.00 pm**

Location: **Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield**

Contact: **Mrs. J. Twomey (0116 305 6462)**

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Membership

Mr. L. Spence CC (Chairman)

Mr. K. Coles CC Mr. T. J. Pendelton CC
Mr. J. Kaufman CC Mrs. C. M. Radford CC
Ms. K. J. Knaggs CC Mr. E. D. Snartt CC
Mr. P. G. Lewis CC Mr. G. Welsh CC

AGENDA

- | <u>Item</u> | <u>Report by</u> |
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| 1. Appointment of Chairman for the period ending with the date of the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2014.

To note that Mr L Spence CC was appointed Chairman to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the County Council meeting held on 26 June 2013. | |
| 2. Appointment of Deputy Chairman for the period ending with the date of the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2014.

Mr P Lewis CC was nominated Deputy Chairman elect at the County Council meeting held on 26 June 2013. | |
| 3. Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 March 2013. | (Pages 5 - 10) |
| 4. Question Time. | |



5. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).
6. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.
7. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.
8. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.
9. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.
10. Ensuring Education Excellence: Development of Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership. Director of Children and Young People's Service (Pages 11 - 32)
11. Provision of School Places in Leicestershire. Director of Children and Young People's Service (Pages 33 - 48)
12. Consultation on the future of Oakfield School. Director of Children and Young People's Service (Pages 49 - 64)
13. Safeguarding Assurance. Director of Children and Young People's Service (Pages 65 - 70)
14. Adoption Reform. Director of Children and Young People's Service (Pages 71 - 80)
15. Date of next meeting.
11 November 2013 at 2.00pm.
16. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.

QUESTIONING BY MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Members serving on Overview and Scrutiny have a key role in providing constructive yet robust challenge to proposals put forward by the Cabinet and Officers. One of the most important skills is the ability to extract information by means of questions so that it can help inform comments and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny bodies.

Members clearly cannot be expected to be experts in every topic under scrutiny and nor is there an expectation that they so be. Asking questions of 'experts' can be difficult and intimidating but often posing questions from a lay perspective would allow members to obtain a better perspective and understanding of the issue at hand.

Set out below are some key questions members may consider asking when considering reports on particular issues. The list of questions is not intended as a comprehensive list but as a general guide. Depending on the issue under consideration there may be specific questions members may wish to ask.

Key Questions:

- Why are we doing this?
- Why do we have to offer this service?
- How does this fit in with the Council's priorities?
- Which of our key partners are involved? Do they share the objectives and is the service to be joined up?
- Who is providing this service and why have we chosen this approach? What other options were considered and why were these discarded?
- Who has been consulted and what has the response been? How, if at all, have their views been taken into account in this proposal?

If it is a new service:

- Who are the main beneficiaries of the service? (could be a particular group or an area)
- What difference will providing this service make to them – What will be different and how will we know if we have succeeded?
- How much will it cost and how is it to be funded?
- What are the risks to the successful delivery of the service?

If it is a reduction in an existing service:

- Which groups are affected? Is the impact greater on any particular group and, if so, which group and what plans do you have to help mitigate the impact?
- When are the proposals to be implemented and do you have any transitional arrangements for those who will no longer receive the service?
- What savings do you expect to generate and what was expected in the budget? Are there any redundancies?
- What are the risks of not delivering as intended? If this happens, what contingency measures have you in place?

