



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

*Date/Time:* **Monday, 11 September 2017 at 2.00 pm**

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

*Contact:* **Anna Poole (0116 305 0381)**

*Email:* **anna.poole@leics.gov.uk**

### **Membership**

Mrs. A. Wright CC (Chairman)

Dr. P. Bremner CC	Mrs H. L. Richardson CC
Mr. G. Hirst	Mrs B. Seaton CC
Mr. J. Kaufman CC	Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC
Mrs. C. Lewis	Mrs D. Taylor CC
Mrs. R. Page CC	Mr. G. Welsh CC

### **AGENDA**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Report by</u></b>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2017.	(Pages 5 - 10)
2. Question Time.	
3. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).	
4. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.	
5. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.	
6. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.	



7. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.
8. Funding Requirements to deliver the OFSTED Continuous Improvement Plan. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 11 - 38)
- A copy of the report to be submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting on 15 September 2017 is attached. The Committee is invited to comment on the proposed plan. The views of the Committee will be reported to the Cabinet.
9. Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17. Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (Pages 39 - 116)
10. Quarter 1 2017/18 Performance Report. Chief Executive and Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 117 - 130)
11. Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 131 - 176)
12. Leicestershire Fostering and Adoption Service Statutory Quality Assurance and Performance Reports 2016 - 2017. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 177 - 216)
13. Dates of future meetings.

Future meetings of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on the following dates:

- 13 November 2017 at 1.30pm
- 15 January 2018 at 2pm
- 5 March 2018 at 2pm
- 4 June 2018 at 2pm
- 10 September 2018 at 2pm
- 12 November 2018 at 2pm

14. 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?