

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 30 JANUARY 2018

SCRUTINY PROPOSAL: FUTURE PROVISION OF OVERNIGHT UNIT- BASED SHORT BREAKS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to consider a scrutiny proposal to look at the provision of overnight unit-based short breaks for children with disabilities.

Background

2. At its meeting on 14 December 2017 Cabinet considered a report which sought agreement to the launch of a consultation with families, professionals and other stakeholders, on the future delivery of overnight unit-based short breaks in Worcestershire for overnight short break provision.
3. Cabinet agreed that to the consultation and to delegate the final decision to the CMR for Children and Families to be implemented by the Director of Children, Families and Communities.
4. Since the decision members of the public and Councillors have expressed concern about the proposals. It is proposed that a scrutiny task group looks at the proposals in tandem with the consultation process to check that the decision is made using relevant information and can be seen to be transparent.
5. The suggested Terms of Reference are:

To scrutinise the proposals for changes including the potential impact across all overnight short break provision for children with disabilities. Through carrying out this exercise Scrutiny may also comment on the consultation process.
6. A Scrutiny Proposal is attached at Appendix 1 and sets out the reasons for the proposal, the potential scope of the task group and how it might carry out its work.

Issues Suitable for Scrutiny

7. The OSPB agreed to use a set of criteria (listed below) to help determine its scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria in order to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.

- Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
- Is it a key issue for local people?
- Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
- Are improvements for local people likely?
- Does it examine a poor performing service?
- Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

Next Steps

8. Other points which need to be taken into account when considering whether to review a particular issue are:

- is the subject specific? – to ensure that task groups understand exactly what they are scrutinising; and
- is it achievable within a realistic timescale?

9. Members are asked to take into account issues raised above and:

- determine whether they wish to set up a scrutiny task group on the provision of overnight unit based short breaks for children with disabilities and if so,
- to consider, comment on and agree the terms of reference and scrutiny proposal.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Proposal: Future Provision of Overnight Unit-Based Short Breaks for Children With Disabilities.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers Tel: 01905 844962/844963

Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and Minutes of Cabinet on 9 January 2014 which are available on the Council's website at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agendas.aspx>