

CABINET
24 OCTOBER 2019**SCRUTINY REPORT: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
FAMILY FRONT DOOR AND SCHOOLS**

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr A C Roberts

Relevant Officer

Director of Children's Services

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families recommends that Cabinet:**
 - (a) receives the Scrutiny Report on the relationship between the Family Front Door and Schools, together with the response from the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families; and**
 - (b) notes the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendations and adopts the response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility as the way forward.**

Background

2. Launched in July 2016, the Family Front Door (FFD), Initial Contact and Referral Team is the central point for all referrals for children and young people aged 0 to 18 years and living in Worcestershire where there are safeguarding or child protection concerns for them. The FFD identifies and makes decisions around the levels of need for children and young people to ensure that the right services and intervention are provided to meet their needs at the right time.

3. On 24 January 2017, Ofsted published their report entitled '[Inspection](#) of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers; and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board'. The overall judgement for Worcestershire was 'inadequate'. Following the Ofsted judgement, an eight-point Service Improvement Plan (SIP) was developed by the Children, Families and Communities Directorate to cover all of the recommendations made by Ofsted.

4. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel identified as part of its work programming process that it wished to look at how the relationship between the Family Front Door and Schools was working.

5. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) agreed at its meeting on 26 September 2018 that a Scrutiny Task Group led by Councillor Jane Potter (Vice-Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel) would be set up to

scrutinise this issue. Initially, the Task Group planned to look at how the relationship between the Family Front Door and Partners was working. It was however decided on reflection, that the focus of the Task Group should be narrower, and the Scrutiny would concentrate on the relationship between the FFD and Schools. The revision to the Scope was agreed by the OSPB at its meeting on 5 December 2018.

6. The Terms of Reference for the scrutiny were:

'to investigate how the Service is currently working, taking into account the relationship between the County Council and School partners, and the progress made since the Ofsted Inspection and subsequent monitoring visits'.

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

7. The OSPB considered the Scrutiny report on 30 September 2019 and fully endorsed the recommendations. The Board also requested that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility provides timescales and targets for the recommendations adopted. The report is included at Appendix 1.

Response of the Cabinet Member

8. The Scrutiny process provides for the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility to submit to the Cabinet a response to the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendation to be considered alongside the Scrutiny Report.

9. The response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families on behalf of the Cabinet, is included as Appendix 2

Supporting Information (available electronically only)

- Appendix 1 – Scrutiny report: Relationship between the Family Front Door and Schools.
- Appendix 2 – Response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families on behalf of the Cabinet.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Specific Contact Points for this report

Samantha Morris, Scrutiny Co-ordinator and Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officer.
01905 844963. 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 OSPB meetings on 26 September 2018, 5 December 2018 and 30 September 2019 – available [here](#)