

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2012

ATTENDANCE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults

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Summary

This report details the areas covered by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services. The areas within the relevant portfolio are listed each time a Cabinet Member is invited to attend any of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be held to account.

1. Background

1.1 The areas within the terms of reference of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee and covered by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), according to the Council's constitution are:

- Children and Young People's Plan
- Early years
- Further education
- Home to school transport
- Inclusion
- Primary and secondary education
- School services
- Special educational needs
- Specialist youth services
- Youth

1.2 In addition, Section 19 of the Children Act 2004 provides that children's services authorities in England must designate one of their Executive Members as their "lead member for children's services".

1.3 The statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services was revised earlier this year and will be reviewed on an annual basis to check whether it is still fit for purpose; but will only be revised if it is no longer considered fit for purpose.

1.4 The Lead Member has political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of the authority's children's services. The Lead Member is also democratically accountable to local communities and has a key role in defining the local vision and setting political

priorities for children's services with the broader political context of the Council.

- 1.5 The Lead Member is responsible for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers, are addressed. In doing so, the Lead Member will work closely with other local partners to improve the outcomes and well-being of children and young people.
- 1.6 The Lead Member should have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and ensure that children and young people are involved in the development and delivery of local services.
- 1.7 Lead Members should not get drawn into the detailed day-to-day operational management of education and children's services. They should however, provide strong, strategic leadership and support and challenge to the Director of Children Services and relevant members of the senior team as appropriate.
- 1.8 More detail on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children Services and the Lead Member for Children Services can be found in the guidance – weblink below.

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Background Papers:

DfE – Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services – revised – 2012
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/laupdates/a00206182/stat-guidance-04-2012>