

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 November 2008
Subject:	Report from Lead Scrutiny Members
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting Assistant Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Paul Osborn Communication and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix One: Reports from the scrutiny lead councillors

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the items that have been considered by the scrutiny policy and performance leads at their quarterly briefing in October, and details the recommendations they would like the committee to consider with regard to further action/escalation.

Recommendation:

Councillors are recommended to:

- consider the report from the Scrutiny policy and performance leads and
- consider recommendations as included therein.

Current situation

Not appropriate to this report.

Why a change is needed

Not appropriate to this report.

Main options

Not appropriate to this report.

Other options considered

Not appropriate to this report

Recommendation:

To consider and endorse the reports from the scrutiny policy and performance leads.

Considerations**Resources, costs and risks**

Any costs associated with these recommendations will be met from within existing resources. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process

Staffing/workforce

There are no staffing or workforce considerations specific to this report. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific staffing implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process.

Equalities impact

There are no specific equalities implications in this report. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific equalities implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process.

Community safety (s17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998)

There are no specific equalities implications in this report. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific community safety implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process.

Legal Implications

None

Financial Implications

Any costs arising from the recommendations will be contained from existing budgets.

Performance Issues

There are no performance considerations specific to this report. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific performance implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sheela Thakrar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 13 November 2008		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring Officer
Date: 13 November 2008		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Fola Beckley, Scrutiny Officer 020 8420 9389

Background Papers: None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES / NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES / NO

APPENDIX ONE REPORTS FROM THE SCRUTINY POLICY AND PERFORMANCE LEAD COUNCILLORS

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Scrutiny Lead Members for Children and Young People, Councillor Margaret Davine and Councillor Janet Mote, met on 30 October 2008.

Issues discussed and key points arising

Care Matters

Lead members discussed the Care Matters update report that will be presented at the forthcoming Children and Young people focused Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 25 November 2008. The lead members decided that the details of the report presented would dictate whether further work will be carried out through either a challenge panel, light touch review or in depth review.

Recommended action: *To decide on further action following the receipt and discussion of the update report at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting.*

Children's Trust

The lead members received a briefing from the Children and Young People's Directorate on the key issues under consideration as part of the plans to develop a formal Children's Trusts in the borough.

Recommended Action: *Lead members to monitor progress on steps taken towards the development of a formal Children's Trust and report to Overview and Scrutiny any need for in depth investigation.*

Adoption Inspection

Lead members decided that they would look further into the council's adoption procedures and after care following the presentation of an inspection report at Adoption Panel. The lead members are particularly concerned with the council's follow up and after care procedures, community partnerships and split procedures.

A number of the Adoption Panel members are also due to stand down having come to the end of their term on the panel, in order to avoid a sudden loss of expertise, lead members will be exploring whether there is a possibility that the process can be staggered in future.

Recommended Action: *Lead members to obtain and read full Adoption Inspection report and discuss with the Director of Children's Services.*

Obesity Review Update Report

The 6 month Obesity Review update report was presented at the Performance and Finance Committee meeting on 29 October 2008. Lead members felt that there should be a greater emphasis on reinforcing the recommendations that arise from reviews. It was proposed that some work needs to be done on improving the procedures/ processes used by Overview and Scrutiny following the endorsement of recommendations arising from reviews. There is a need to improve the monitoring of implementation and follow up reporting with reminders being issued 2 months before review date.

Recommended Action: *Overview and Scrutiny members and officers to consider how the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations can be improved.*

Transition from Children and Young People to Adults

The lead members discussed the council's performance in respect of the transition from Children's care to Adults. The inspection of October 2008 in particular highlighted the need to develop a better link and transition from Children to Adults and especially for those with disabilities and learning difficulties. Lead members feel that perhaps a link officer is required to bridge the gap for continuity and progression.

Recommended Action: *To be raised and discussed at meeting with the Director of Children's Services.*

Quarterly meeting with the director for Children's Services

The lead members set out future quarterly meeting dates to meet with the Director for Children's Service which are as follows:

- 17 November 2008
- 13 January 2009