

Wellbeing Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The purpose of the panel is to monitor and challenge performance in respect of adult and children's social services to support and contribute to improvement in services.

The panel does this through performance and financial monitoring challenge progress, scrutiny of existing methods of service evaluation and performance measures, evaluation of service quality / quality assurance, challenge and monitoring of improvement plans / work, considering improvement and development issues (including inspection reports), making recommendations on specific policy or service areas to support the overall programme of improvement

2. Introduction

The Wellbeing Panel does this because it is a Council Corporate Priority to ensure that vulnerable children are safeguarded and supported by maintaining and continuing improvements to Child and Family services and to ensure that younger adults, older people and carers have more choice and control over how they are supported by transforming adult social services.

Child & Family Services has been subject to special measures and an intervention board. Although lifted this is still an area of risk - the service has made good progress but it is vital this is maintained and that further improvements are made across all areas of the service. This continues to be an area of high demand and high spend.

Continued provision of sustainable Adult Services within the Local Authority is going to be challenging as a result of demographics, resources, competing priorities, increasing expectations and the personalisation agenda.

3. Progress so far

The Panel has met fortnightly since November 2013. It scrutinises Child & Family Services performance reports and the Safe LAC Reduction Strategy and Adult Services performance reports on a quarterly basis. As a result of the scrutiny of the performance reports the panel has had a number of further reports which have arisen from issues identified during the performance monitoring process; it has taken referrals from the finance and improvement panel to look at performance of a number of indicators; Convener's letters are produced and sent to the Cabinet Member after each meeting.

The Panel has been well attended and there is good commitment from members however the panel is concerned that the scrutiny of both adults and children's services should be undertaken by 2 separate panels to ensure that effective scrutiny is carried out. The panel met with the Cllr Mike Day (14/7/14) and agreed a number of recommendations to improve the function and effectiveness of scrutiny in these 2 service areas. The recommendations are detailed in the appended Convener's letter.

4. Future Work Programme

To be determined in light of the proposed recommendations.

5. Action required by the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Discuss and agree the recommendations.