

## **Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel Update**

### **1. Remit of the Panel**

The overarching purpose of the Panel is to ensure that performance in Child & Family Services is effectively monitored and challenged.

### **2. Introduction**

The Panel is focused on contributing to good performance in child & family services by providing a critical friend for the Cabinet and helping to ensure accountability. This is particularly important because of the need to safely reduce the numbers of looked after children and ensure good delivery of support to children and their families, all within an increasingly reduced budget.

### **3. Key Activities**

The Panel held 3 meetings between March and July. This has involved speaking to the Head of Child and Family Services; engagement with the Principal Officer who is developing the post-16 Service; 3 convener's letters to the Cabinet Member; development of a new work plan for 2016/17.

The main issues covered were as follows:

#### **March**

- Progress on the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

#### **April**

- Development and implementation of the Post-16 Service; progress on reducing out of area placements.

#### **June**

- Child & Family Services end of year performance report, April's monthly performance report, work plan discussion and agreement.

### **4. Achievements / Impact**

#### **• Development of the Post-16 Service**

- The panel was clear in its views on the importance of a robust performance management framework and the panel agreed a future session on this. It has been added to the panel's new work plan.
- The panel asked the Cabinet Member to provide more detail on how young people will be able to contribute to the development and ongoing delivery of the service.

#### **• Performance**

- As a result of discussions on the end of year performance report the panel agreed to add work on NEETS to its work plan. Performance around NEETS fluctuates from year to year and there is room for performance to be improved.

**5. Future Work Programme**

- The Panel will continue to meet on a monthly basis.
- The Panel has developed and agreed a new work plan for 2016/17.

**6. Action required by the Scrutiny Programme Committee**

None.