

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

1. The Committee will be responsible for the review and scrutiny of decisions made or actions taken in connection with the provision, planning and management of education in the borough of Trafford and, in particular, all of the functions of the Council as an education authority under the Education Acts, School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time. Co-opted Members will be appointed to discuss education matters and will attend the Scrutiny Committee when they consider education matters.
2. To review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with:
 - (a) the provision, planning and management of children's and young people's services and community lifelong learning in the borough of Trafford;
 - (b) all functions of the council insofar as they relate to the provision of opportunities for education, training and learning outside the school environment, including pre-school, adult and community learning.
3. The development of the council's LEA Strategic Plan (incorporating the Education Development Plan) and the Early Years Development Plan.

General Role

4. Subject to statutory provision, to review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge by the Council of its functions and by relevant partner authorities.
5. In relation to the above functions:
 - (a) to make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, Executive of the Council, any joint committee or any relevant partner authority as appropriate.
 - (b) to consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants.
6. To put in place and maintain a system to ensure that referrals from the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee to the Executive, either by way of report or for reconsideration, are managed efficiently and do not exceed the limits set out in the Constitution.
7. At the request of the Executive, to make decisions about the priority of referrals made in the event of reports to the Executive exceeding limits in the Constitution, or if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of executive business or jeopardises the efficient running of Council business.
8. To report annually to full Council on its workings, set out their plans for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

Specific functions

9. Identify the Committee's strategic priorities and determine the Overview and Scrutiny work programme to facilitate constructive evidence based critical-friend challenge to policy makers and service providers within the resources available.
10. Assist and advise the Council in the continued development of the Overview and Scrutiny function within Trafford.
11. Receive, consider and action as appropriate requests:
 - (a) from the Executive in relation to particular issues; and
 - (b) on any matters properly referred to the Committee.
12. Identify areas requiring in-depth review and allocate these to an appropriate Topic Group. The Committee in consultation with the leader of the relevant Topic Group will set the terms of reference, scope and time frame for the review by the Topic Group.
13. In relation to the terms of reference of the Committee it may:
 - (a) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
 - (b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
 - (c) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - (d) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance;
 - (e) conduct research, community and other consultation as it deems appropriate in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
 - (f) question and gather evidence from any other person with their consent.
 - (g) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
 - (h) question members of the Executive and/or committees, senior officers of the Council and representatives of relevant partner authorities on relevant issues and proposals affecting the area and about decisions and performance;
 - (i) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working; and
 - (j) undertake any other activity that assists the Committee in carrying out its functions.

Delegation

14. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee shall have all delegated power to exercise the power and duties assigned to them in their terms of reference.

