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REPORT TO:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE 5 FEBRUARY 2013
AGENDA ITEM:	6
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
LEAD OFFICER:	Julie Belvir Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Director of Democratic & Legal Services
CABINET MEMBER:	Not applicable

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	This report forms part of the agreed work programme.
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	To review learning from the 2012/13 work programme and to identify potential topics and their briefs for the overall 2013/14 scrutiny work programme

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The final meeting of each of the four scrutiny committees are invited to identify
 - (a) what has been learnt about effective scrutiny in 2012/13
 - (b) potential topics and their briefs for the 2013/14 work programme.
- 1.2 The work programme of this sub committee is necessarily influenced by the changing role of local authorities in education matters and the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015.

2. WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW AND PLANNING

Review of 2012/13

- 2.1 As a means of reviewing what has been learnt about effective scrutiny in 2012/13, members of the sub-committee are invited to reflect on the work programme for this year (attached) and to consider the following questions:
 - What worked well and why?
 - What did not work well and why?
 - How can this information be used to shape next year's work programme?
 - What is the continuing role of the local authority in education and how can scrutiny add value to this changing role?

Planning for 2013/14

- 2.2 Members are reminded that it was agreed at the sub-committee's 17 July 2012 meeting that the provision of activities for young people should be reviewed in 2013/14 to assess progress made in developing communications and matching activities to young people's interests. It was also agreed that the meeting should also involve young people and that they should be consulted on the best place in which to hold such a meeting.
- 2.3 Appendix 3 is an invitation for the sub-committee and individual members to suggest further topics for the overall scrutiny work programme in 2013/14. To assist members in this endeavour, a hyperlink to the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015 is provided below and the partnership priorities (page 107 of the Plan) are set out in Appendix 1 of this Scrutiny work programme report.
<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/contents/departments/healthsocial/pdf/ccfp-plan-2012-15>.
- 2.4 A briefing on the role of local authorities in education is also attached as Appendix 2. Appendices 1 and 2 should help Members in scoping their suggestions. Eventually every suggested topic needs a proposed wording of the 'Brief for the Committee', such as *To review/examine/consider [what and why]*.
- 2.4 In suggesting topics, members are reminded that no decisions have been taken on whether task and finish groups will be held in 2013-14. The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee has previously agreed that:
- A good scrutiny topic:
- is clearly defined [ie there is a written 'Brief' for the item]
 - is of interest to Members
 - is a key issue of public interest or concern
 - is likely to lead to improvements for local people
 - can help the council achieve its corporate priorities
 - may involve a cyclical review of progress
- Topics suitable for task and finish working groups are ones on which:
- it is generally agreed that there is a problem
 - Scrutiny can contribute to a better outcome
 - much more time is required than can be given at committee
 - study of the issue is timely
 - gaps or problems in service delivery and provision may be examined
- 2.5 Topics are also being invited from a wide range of internal and external people and organisations. All topics suggested will be reviewed at the Scrutiny Members' Workshop to be held at the beginning of the next municipal year.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In summary, the committee and its individual members are recommended to: identify what has been learnt about effective scrutiny in 2012/13
- (a) make any comments on the topics identified so far for the 2013/14 work programme within the remit of this committee
 - (b) suggest other topics for inclusion in the overall 2013/14 work programme.
 - (c) Note that no decisions have been taken about task and finish groups in 2013/14

Appendices

Appendix 1: Croydon Children and Families Partnership priorities for 2012-2013

Appendix 2: The role of the Local Authority in Education

Appendix 3: Tear-off slip for your suggested topics

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None