

For general release

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| <b>REPORT TO:</b>                                    | <b>Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee</b><br><b>13 March 2018</b>                                       |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>                                      | <b>Proposal for the role of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee in monitoring Children's Improvement</b> |
| <b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>                                 | <b>Barbara Peacock, Executive Director, People</b>  |
| <b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>                               | <b>Alisa Fleming, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning.</b>                                       |
| <b>PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:</b> | <b>Philip Segurola, Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care</b>   |

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| <b>ORIGIN OF ITEM:</b>          | <b>Requested at the Pre-agenda meeting for Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on 17 Jan 2018, with amendments made following feedback at the Pre-agenda meeting on 7 Feb 2018.</b>   |
| <b>BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:</b> | Recommendations; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny (sub-committee) are asked to recommend to the main Scrutiny Committee that scrutiny over the Children's Improvement Plan be devolved to the Children and Young People's sub-committee following annual council in May 2018.</li></ul> |

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report outlines the proposed role of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee in scrutinising progress against the Children's Improvement Plan (see plan [here](#)) following annual council in May 2018.

1.2 Members are asked to review and approve the proposal set out in section 3 of this report and make a recommendation to the main Scrutiny Committee that scrutiny over the Children's Improvement Plan be devolved to the Children and Young People's sub-committee following annual council in May 2018.

1.3 It should be noted that the Children's Improvement Plan was approved at Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017, and progress against the plan is currently reported to Scrutiny and Overview Committee and the Children's Improvement Board on a monthly basis.

## 2. Current reporting arrangements around Children's Improvement

2.1 The table below (figure 1) describes the current reporting arrangements around Children’s Improvement activity to Cabinet, Scrutiny and Overview Committee and the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee.

**Figure 1: Current Children’s Improvement reporting arrangements**

| <b>Committee</b>      | <b>Current reporting</b>   | <b>Recent items</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Cabinet               | <p>Reports on significant events and decisions in relation to children’s improvement including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Ofsted inspection</li> <li>• Commissioner’s report</li> <li>• Ministerial directions</li> </ul> | <p><b>Feb 18</b> – Update on the Commissioners report, ministerial response and intensive peer support arrangement with Camden</p> <p><b>Nov 17</b> - Children’s Improvement plan (approved)</p> <p><b>Sep 17</b> - Ofsted Inspection of Children’s Services</p>  |
| Scrutiny and Overview | <p>Update reports on high-level progress against the Children’s Improvement Plan, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress overview</li> <li>• Key achievements</li> <li>• Challenges and mitigations</li> </ul>             | <p><b>Mar 18</b> - Children’s Improvement Plan update</p> <p><b>Jan 18</b> - Children’s Improvement Plan update</p> <p><b>Dec 17</b> - Children’s Improvement Plan report</p> <p><b>Oct 17</b> - Update on the response to the Ofsted Inspection of Children’s Services</p>   |
| CYP scrutiny          | <p>Annual report from the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) and reports on specific areas of practice (i.e. children and young people missing from home or care).</p>   | <p><b>Feb 18;</b><br/>-Children's Improvement Plan Oral Update<br/>-Update on Missing Children Statistics and Return Home Interviews</p> <p><b>Nov 17;</b><br/>-Annual Report of the CSCB<br/>-Statistics on missing children<br/>-Use of pre-birth assessment and legal planning to support early permanency decision making</p> |

2.2 In addition to the committees set out above, the independently chaired Children’s Improvement Board, which includes in its membership the Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member, Finance & Treasury Cabinet Member and the Shadow Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Learning, is responsible for providing oversight and challenge around progress in delivering the Children’s Improvement plan and receives an update report on progress from the Executive Director, People (DCS) every month.

**3. Proposal for the role of Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee in monitoring children’s improvement**

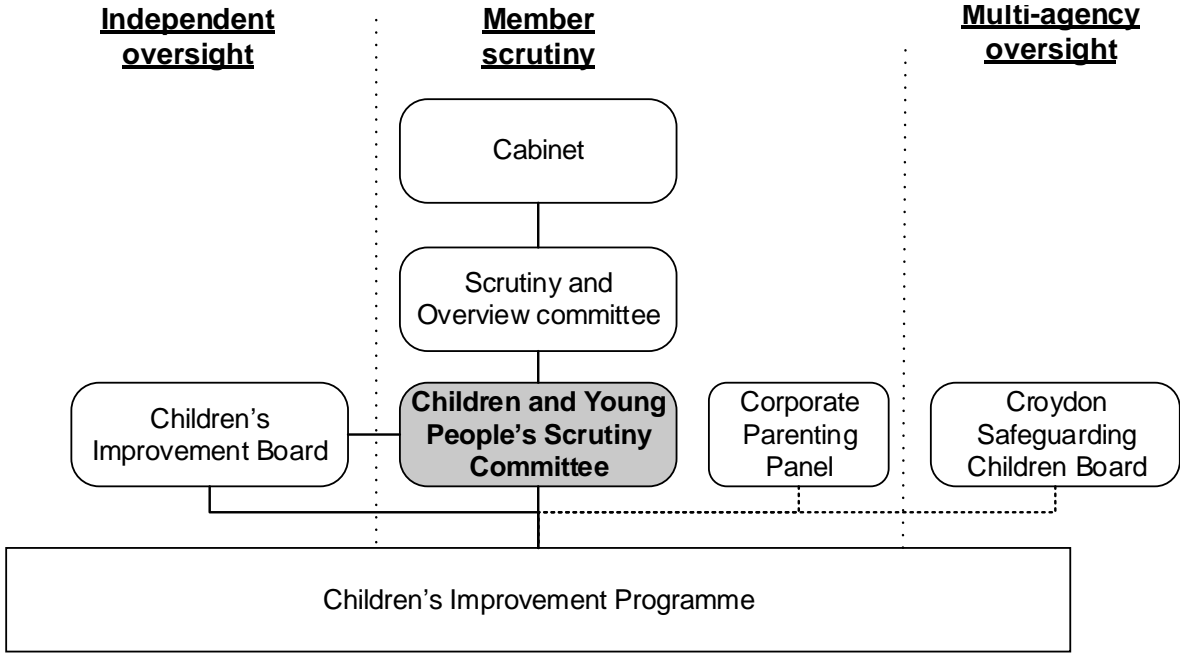
3.1 It is proposed that, going forward, Children and Young People’s Scrutiny will be the committee that leads on scrutiny of progress against the Children’s Improvement Plan and will be responsible for holding responsible officers and cabinet members to account.

- 3.2 The committee will receive update reports on progress against the plan, including;
- Progress overview to date
  - Key achievements
  - Key challenges and mitigations
  - Key performance indicators (KPI’s)

3.3 This is depicted in figure 2 below. It is proposed that the main Scrutiny and Overview committee receive a high-level summary of progress against which the Chair of Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee can speak.

3.4 The rationale behind this proposal is that Children and Young People’s Scrutiny is better placed than Scrutiny and Overview Committee to dedicate sufficient time and focus to delivering in depth scrutiny of and robust challenge around progress across the Children’s Improvement Plan going forward.

**Figure 2: diagram setting out the role of CYP scrutiny in relation to the Children’s Improvement Plan**



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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Fern Barber, Service Development and Improvement Manager  
- Children's

**APPENDICES:** None

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

See Croydon Children's Improvement Plan (link [here](#)).