

EXTERNAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2014/2015

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REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to plan and track the progress of its work in accordance with good project management practice.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

Members may add, delete or amend future items included on the Work Programme. The Committee may also make suggestions about future issues for consideration at its meetings.

Consideration may also be given to whether the Committee's Work Programme can be fulfilled within the existing timetable of meetings for this municipal year.

INFORMATION

1. The meeting dates for the remainder of the municipal year are as follows:

Meetings	Room
Thursday 9 October 2014 - 6pm	CR6
Tuesday 18 November 2014 - 6pm	CR6
Tuesday 13 January 2015 - 6pm	CR5
Tuesday 17 February 2015 - 6pm	CR6
Tuesday 17 March 2015 - 6pm	CR5
Tuesday 28 April 2015 - 6pm	CR6

2. It has been agreed by Members that consideration will be given to revising the start time of each meeting on an ad hoc basis should the need arise. Further details of the issues to be discussed at each meeting can be found at Appendix A.
3. Please note that the venue for Committee's next meeting on 9 October 2014 has changed to Committee Room 6. Arrangements have been made for microphones to be available at all future meetings.

Scrutiny Reviews

4. At its meeting on 18 June 2014, the External Services Scrutiny Committee agreed that it would undertake the following two scrutiny reviews during this municipal year:
 - a) Mental Health Service provision in the Borough (to be undertaken within the existing scheduled meetings and to focus specifically on children).
 - b) Review of the impact that mental health has on the role of the Metropolitan Police Service (to be undertaken by a Working Group).

- A copy of the scoping report is attached at Appendix B.
- The Working Group will comprise 5 Members and the Chief Whips have been contacted to establish who these will be.
- Once the membership has been determined, officers will work with Working Group Members to establish convenient dates and times for the meetings.

Family Court - Single Meeting Review

5. In addition, Members have agreed that consideration be given to undertaking a single meeting review into the external barriers faced when meeting the 26 week target of processing adoptions through the Family Court. It was suggested that, as there is a new directive requiring local authorities to meet a 26 week timescale for adoptions, consideration should be given to reviewing the possible external barriers that might hinder their progression through the Family Court. It has been agreed that an additional meeting will be scheduled to accommodate this review.
6. The Democratic Services Manager has written to Sir James Munby (as President of the Family Division of the High Court) to invite him to attend and participate in this review and establish his availability for a meeting. Once his availability has been identified and the meeting has been arranged, consideration will be given to inviting practitioners from across the piste.