

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

INFORMAL MEETING, 29TH JUNE, 2022

Present – Councillors Donaghy (Chairman), Grant (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah, Connor, Finney, Hill, Mort, Murray, Radcliffe, Rimmer and Sherrington.

Co-Opted Members

Reverend Canon Dr Bracegirdle – Church of England Diocese Representative

Also in attendance

Councillor Galloway	- Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Ms B. Brown	- Director of Children's Services
Mr P. Rankin	- Deputy Director of Children's Services
Mr I. Walker	- Assistant Director of Children's Services - Social Care and Early Help
Ms G. Whitehead	- Assistant Director of Children's Services - Inclusive Education and Learning
Ms T. Minshull	- Assistant Director - Social Care and Public Health Commissioning
Mrs. S. Bailey	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Priest and Taylor-Burke

Councillor Donaghy in the Chair.

1. CLIFF MORRIS – FORMER LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman referred to the recent death of ex-Councillor and former Leader of the Council, Cliff Morris

The Committee observed a minute silence in his memory.

2. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services on the big issues and priorities relevant to the remit of this Scrutiny Committee to aid members in their deliberations on possible work programme items.

In addition to the presentation, members were provided with information on the Committee's remit.

Members discussed the presentation and made the following suggestions for inclusion in the work programme:

- Educational attainment and outcomes including NEET figures;
- Early help;
- Corporate parenting and Voice4U;
- Looked after Children and placement sufficiency;
- Response to National and Social Care reforms;
- Family hubs;
- Youth Service and Holiday Activity Fund;
- Education White Paper response;
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision Green Paper response;
- Exploitation Service; and
- Modern day slavery.

Members were also advised that if they had any other items for inclusion in the work programme they should email them to Susan Bailey.

Resolved – (i) That the various documents and presentation be noted.

(ii) That the suggested work programme items be noted and that discussions be now held with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee together with the Director of Children's Services to prepare a draft programme for submission to the next meeting.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.50pm)