



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 10 NOVEMBER 2010

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To consider options and the outcome of consultation over the creation of a temporary Children's Services Sub-Committee.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section II (10) of the Scheme of the Council's Scheme of Administration, changes in committee responsibilities.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- (i) consider the consultation on options for the formation of a temporary sub-committee for Children's Services detailed in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 below.**
- (ii) agree to keep the status quo, with Children's Services reporting through the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee.**
- (iii) note that if one of the other options in paragraph 4.2 is preferred then the following issues will need to be decided:**
 - Chair and membership**
 - Update to the meetings calendar**
 - Update to the Council's Scheme of Administration**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council agreed a revised committee structure at its meeting on 30 June 2021 detailed in [para 24](#) of the minute. It further agreed:

- (iv) To instruct the Head of Governance Strategy and Performance to consult with Councillors, Council Officers and the Integration Joint Board (IJB) Chief officer on the formation of a Children's Services Sub-Committee to scrutinise performance and governance proposals during the shadow period as the service prepares to move under the governance of the IJB

and to make recommendations to the Education, Children's Services and Leisure Committee and Moray Council as appropriate

- 3.2 A revised Scheme of Administration was approved at the Council meeting on [20 September 2021](#) (para 32 of the minute refers) however the action over the formation of a sub-committee remains outstanding.
- 3.3 The current position is that the Education Children's and Leisure Services Committee has delegation from the Council to consider Children's Social Work services and residual Adult Social Work functions.
- 3.4 A decision in principle has been taken to delegate Children's Social Work services to the Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB). Although not yet formally delegated, the MIJB Chief Officer manages these services on behalf of the Council.
- 3.5 Progress on the transfer of Children's Services to the MIJB is monitored through an Officer Board with progress updates to both the Service Committee and the MIJB. The target completion date for the transfer is April 2022 although there may be some slippage in this date.

4. **PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Three options have been identified and consulted upon:

Proposal	Pros	Cons
<p>Independent committee with full decision making power over Children's SW issues residual adult SW issues and consider CSWO report.</p> <p>Assume that this is the intention of the wording of motion from 30 June: <i>scrutinise performance and governance proposals</i></p> <p>Consider numbers to sit on the Committee.</p>	<p>Would relieve some time pressure for the EC+LS ctee.</p> <p>Social work officers would not have to sit through non-social work items at the meeting.</p> <p>Would allow a deeper focus on issues and closer scrutiny.</p>	<p>May not be enough material on the agenda to justify a separate meeting.</p> <p>Extra administration involved in additional meeting.</p> <p>Given target date for transfer of Children's Services to the IJB the sub-ctee would have a short life.</p>
<p>Sub-Ctee with limited powers to discuss items and make recommendations to EC+LS for decisions.</p> <p>Consider numbers to sit on sub-committee. Other sub committees have 7 members.</p>	<p>Would allow a deeper focus on issues.</p>	<p>Double handling of issues between both meetings could be viewed as inefficient.</p>

Keep status quo Children's SW services retained as a distinct part of the agenda of EC+LS.	Allows a holistic view of children. SW and education professionals present. Benefit for Ctee Services/ senior officers not having to service an additional meeting.	Potential for lengthy agendas. Less efficient for officer time (not such a big issue with virtual meetings)
---	---	--

- 4.2 In consultation, the Chief Officer (MIJB), the Head of Children's Services and the Head of Education have expressed a preference for the status quo on the basis that the further structural change to reporting systems is not justified for the limited period before Children's Services are potentially due to be delegated to MIJB.

5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

Outcomes for children have been identified as one of the Council's highest priorities. Having strong governance arrangements in place contributes to the Corporate Plan aim of having a Sustainable Council.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council's Scheme of Administration will require to be updated with any changes agreed.

(c) Financial implications

None

(d) Risk Implications

Outlined in the table above.

(e) Staffing Implications

Outlined in the table above.

(f) Property

None

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic/Climate Change Impact

No direct implications.

(h) Consultations

The Chief Officer (MIJB), Head of Children's Services and Head of Education have been consulted and their views given in paragraph 4.2 above. The Chair of Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee, CMT and Group Leaders have also been consulted in advance of publication of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Options for the formation of a temporary Children's Services Sub Committee have been set out in the report.**
- 6.2 Following consultation on these options it is recommended to remain with the status quo, Children's Services reporting through Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee, until they are formally delegated to MIJB.**

Author of Report: Alasdair McEachan, Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance.

Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-2045703626-117