

## **Effective Scrutiny of Children's Services**

### Proposed LGA Support to Blackburn with Darwen

#### **Aims of our offer**

As part of the LGA's continuing work to support political and corporate leadership for children's services, we offer a training and development offer to support councils to improve the effectiveness of their scrutiny of children's services. Our offer aims to:

- Support scrutiny committees to understand 'what good looks like' for effective children's scrutiny and identify strengths and areas for development
- Use a mixture of workshop sessions and resources to improve the confidence and ability of scrutiny chairs and members to use their roles to have a positive impact on the lives of children and families

#### **Proposed development session for Blackburn with Darwen's children's scrutiny committee**

We propose delivering a workshop for Blackburn with Darwen's children's scrutiny committee that will explore effective scrutiny practice in relation to the '6 steps for effective scrutiny' below, and identify actions that can be taken by the committee to develop further.

1. Knowledge of children's services
2. The role of children's scrutiny
3. Work programming and planning
4. Demonstrating value and influence
5. Engagement and working with others
6. Creating a strong organisational culture

Within these themes the session would particularly focus on equipping the committee with the skills to:




- Develop effective questioning techniques
- Develop a work programme that will add value and support improvement whilst making the best use of collective committee resource and expertise
- Use influence and impactful recommendations to make a difference to the lives of children and young people

This session would also be used to identify any further needs that the committee may have that could be supported by the LGA.

#### **Method of delivery**

The session would be run as a 2 hour in person workshop at a time to suit the committee. It would be facilitated by an LGA associate with significant experience of supporting councils with effective scrutiny, working with a Member peer with recent or current experience of children's services political leadership.

## LGA wider support for effective scrutiny

Courses 	Resources 	Peer Mentoring 
<p>The LGA offers <a href="#">Leadership Essentials</a> courses for councillors providing learning and networking opportunities on specific themes:</p> <p><b>Leadership Essentials: Children’s Services 2-day programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Lead Members and children’s Scrutiny Chairs with the key challenges they face in the changing policy landscape</li> <li>An opportunity to network and share learning.</li> </ul> <p><b>Leadership Essentials: Effective Scrutiny 2-day programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leading and managing a scrutiny review</li> <li>Ensuring impact of scrutiny recommendations</li> <li>Increasing participation by members and public</li> <li>Chairing scrutiny meetings</li> </ul> <p>Interactive online training modules on a range of topics and skills are hosted on the <a href="#">LGA’s E-learning platform</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An introduction to children’s services</li> <li>Corporate parenting</li> </ul>	<p>The following resources can be found on the LGA website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Councillor workbook on scrutiny</a></li> <li><a href="#">Councillor workbook: Equality, diversity and inclusion</a></li> <li><a href="#">Your first ten days as a lead member for children’s services</a> Includes a glossary of key children’s services terms.</li> <li><a href="#">LG Inform</a>: benchmarking and data reports generated for your area</li> <li><a href="#">‘Must knows’ for Children’s Services</a></li> <li><a href="#">Must Know: Children’s services guide to effective cross- council working</a></li> <li><a href="#">LGA Children and young people</a> policy pages</li> </ul>	<p>Peer mentoring for Scrutiny Chairs from an experienced children’s services lead member or scrutiny chair.</p>