



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

9 March 2016

Subject Heading:

**Responsibility for Scrutiny of Issues
Relating to the Children and Families
Act 2014**

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

The Monitoring Officer is authorised to
propose changes to the Constitution as
from time to time seem appropriate

Financial summary:

No financial implications.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Havering will be clean and its environment will be cared for	<input type="checkbox"/>
People will be safe, in their homes and in the community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Residents will be proud to live in Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

The report proposes a minor change to the Constitution to make it clear that responsibility for scrutiny of issues related to the Children and Families Act 2014 is solely that of the Children and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The **Committee recommends to Council** that:

The table section of the table in Part 3, section 1.4 of the Constitution dealing with the areas of responsibility of the Children & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee be amended so that the following text is added to the areas of responsibility of the Sub-Committee:

Issues relating to the Children and Families Act 2014

REPORT DETAIL

- 1 The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced statutory responsibilities for Councils to provide continuing care services, if required, from the ages of 0-25 years. This was with the aim of helping with issues arising as children requiring care support of any kind transitioned between children's and adult services.
- 2 In view of this, all such Council services across this age range are the responsibility in Havering of Children's Services. In order to provide greater clarity for Members and assist with officer workloads etc, it is recommended that the Constitution be amended to reflect this with a specific responsibility to scrutinise issues relating to the Children and Families Act being the responsibility of the Children and Learning rather than the Individuals Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Reasons for the proposed changes:

The proposed amendment to the Constitution will allow more focused briefing of Members on issues raised by the Act and also reduce workloads of officers involved in this work.

Other options considered:

Leaving matters as they are would cause confusion amongst Members and potentially the public as regards who has responsibility for scrutinising these areas and also potentially cause duplication and increased officer workload in terms of having to brief two Sub-Committees on similar issues.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None.

Legal implications and risks:

The proposed change seeks to reflect current legislation and clarify where scrutiny of issues raised by the Children and Families Act sits within the Council's scrutiny function.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no direct HR implications, or risks to the Council or its workforce, that can be identified from the contents of this report or the recommendation made.

Equalities implications and risks:

None although a clearer responsibility for scrutiny of these areas is likely to be of assistance to Havering residents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.