

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND HEAD OF AREA  
ARRANGEMENTS, SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS SERVICES**

**PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS WITH SOCIAL WORK STAFF**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to set out proposals for a series of meetings with social work staff in order to obtain their views and feedback on their work.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee requested that members be provided with the opportunity to meet and receive feedback from social work staff.

- 2.2 It is therefore proposed to arrange a series of visits during the year which will reflect a child's journey through social care. These could include:-

- a) Meeting with staff from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Assessments Teams - this is where referrals into social care are screened and, if appropriate, assessments are undertaken;
- b) Meeting with the Locality Teams - these teams work with children who are subject to child protection plans and those children who were looked after while subject to court proceedings;
- c) Meeting with the Permanence Team - this team is responsible for children who are looked after permanently and have no plan to return home;
- d) Meeting with the Next Steps Team – who are responsible for our care leavers.

- 2.3 It is envisaged that the visits will take around one hour and take the form of a meeting. Social workers, managers and service manager will attend on a pre-determined day and time, preferably where the team is based. The meeting will comprise a brief overview lasting around five minutes to outline core business followed by an open opportunity to ask questions and discuss work related issues

- 2.4 Debra Patterson (Director of Children's Social Care) will be in attendance to answer any questions regarding the proposed arrangements.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the proposed arrangements for the visits.