

22 October 2015

Welfare Reform Working Group – Terms of Reference

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor A. Andrew – Deputy Leader and Economy,
Infrastructure and Development

Report:

At its meeting on 27 July 2015 the Panel agreed to establish a working group to consider the governments welfare reforms and their impact on the borough.

The working group met on 12 October 2015 to discuss and agree its draft terms of reference. A copy of the terms of reference agreed at this meeting is attached at Appendix 1 for approval by the Panel.


Recommendations:


That:

- 1. the terms of reference for the Welfare Reform Working Group be approved;**
 - 2. Councillor P. Bott by appointed to the Community Cohesion Working Group;**
- and;**
- 3. The Education and Children’s Services and Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees be invited to appoint 1 Member of their Committees to the working group as a co-opted member.**

Contact Officer:

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Walsall Council Scrutiny and Performance Panel Work Group
Initiation Document

Work Group Name:	Welfare Reform Working Group
Committee:	Corporate & Public Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Municipal Year:	2015/16
Lead Member:	L. Jeavons
Lead Officers:	Elise Hopkins Craig Goodall
Membership:	P. Bott C. Creaney K. Ferguson L. Rattigan
Co-opted Members:	1 x Member from Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1x Member from Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1.	Context
	<p>The former coalition government introduced a series of welfare reforms that have affected local residents, the council and its partners between 2010-2015. The response to these reforms was monitored by the former Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel.</p> <p>In the 2015 summer budget the Chancellor announced a further raft of savings to be achieved through the welfare budget that will lead to further reforms being introduced over the next three years.</p>
2.	Objectives
	<p style="color: red;">What do you want it to achieve? It is important to have clearly defined outcomes at the start to give the working group direction and ensure it adds value.</p> <p>The working group wishes to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the proposed reforms and what the cost and impact will be on residents, the Council and partners; 2. Understand how residents are helped with mitigating the impact of the welfare reforms; 3. Understand how the Council works with its partners to manage the impact of the welfare reforms on residents and their own organisations; 4. Explore methods in which partnership working can be improved; 5. Explore methods by which the support offered to local residents can be developed to help local people manage the impact of the welfare reforms being introduced up to April 2018.
3.	Scope
	<p style="color: red;">What should be included and excluded?</p> <p>The working group will consider the welfare reforms and their likely impact and support available to residents. This includes services</p>

Walsall Council Scrutiny and Performance Panel Work Group
Initiation Document

	provided by the Council, partners and the voluntary and community sector.
4.	Equalities Implications
	<p>There is a legal and moral obligation to ensure that, when undertaking a scrutiny review, the impact of policies; procedures; strategies and activities is considered within the 6 strands of equality (Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion or Belief, and Sexual Orientation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the working group consult with each of these six groups regarding this review and its outcomes? • If an EIA has been carried out for this service\policy then what were its outcomes? Can this be mapped into the review? If no EIA has been carried out by the service is one required and can this be reported to the working group? <p>The working group will seek to identify whether or not any groups are disproportionately affected by the welfare reforms.</p> <p>The working group will also consider the Equality Impact Assessment drafted by the Government regarding their welfare reforms.</p>
4.	Who else will you want to take part?
	<p>Think about who else, other than lead officers and members, it would be useful to include either as part of the working group or to bring information at specific points. For example- partners, stakeholders, other authorities.</p> <p>Department for work and pensions Registered social landlords Money, Home, Job including Welfare Rights Service Citizens Advice Bureau Age UK Ablewell Advice Black Country Foodbank Trussell Trust Foodbank</p>
5.	Timescales & Reporting Schedule
	<p>Needs to be completed within the same municipal year and so should be able to report to full panel by the last meeting at the latest but consider the subject- is there anything else that it may need to tie into (e.g. academic or financial year or to coincide with national/sub-regional developments)</p> <p>How often will update be provided to full panel?</p> <p>22 October 2015 – Working Group terms of reference</p> <p>14 April 2016 – Final report and recommendations</p>

Walsall Council Scrutiny and Performance Panel Work Group
Initiation Document

6.	Risk factors						
	<p>Are there any obstacles that can be predicted? For example, is it dependent on other organisations outside your control and duty to cooperate? Identifying these factors early and how they will be mitigated should help minimise their impact.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="300 376 1347 562"><thead><tr><th data-bbox="300 376 651 416">Risk</th><th data-bbox="651 376 1002 416">Likelihood</th><th data-bbox="1002 376 1347 416">Measure to Resolve</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="300 416 651 562"></td><td data-bbox="651 416 1002 562"></td><td data-bbox="1002 416 1347 562"></td></tr></tbody></table>	Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve			
Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve					

Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
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Timetable: