

**Education and Children’s Services
Scrutiny Committee
9 June 2016**

Covering Report: Suffolk Family Focus

Summary and Objectives

1. The objective of this scrutiny is for the committee to understand, and make any recommendations in relation to, the Suffolk Family Focus (SFF) programme.

Scrutiny Focus

2. Key focus areas for this scrutiny include the following:
 - i. An Overview of SFF
 - ii. An overview of the national agenda for Troubled Families
 - iii. An update on progress
 - o What has gone well so far
 - o Success case studies
 - o Learning points regarding causal factors, and preventative proactive work for children in general [see also Agenda Item 6]
 - iv. SFF future plans and challenges including funding
 - o Outcomes Plan
 - o Working with District/Borough Councils and Housing Associations to address housing needs (examples / case studies where this has been successful)
 - o Top factors in ‘non-attendance’ (school & employment) (eg. transport, eg. for PRUs, etc?)
 - o Employment
 - o Any actions arising from the “[Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission Report](#)”, Dec 2015 (see Ref. below) regarding disaffected young people and educational attainment.
 - o Any initiatives to help troubled young people interact and interface with their peers and not be stigmatised.

How this relates to County Council priorities

3. This scrutiny is linked to the County Council’s corporate priorities as indicated below:

The County Council’s Corporate Priorities	Link to this scrutiny
Raising educational attainment and skill levels	
Supporting the LEPs to increase economic growth	
Maintaining roads and developing Suffolk’s infrastructure	
Supporting those most vulnerable in our communities	✓
Empowering local communities	✓

4. Having considered the evidence, the Committee may wish to:

- i) make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, and/or the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services;
- ii) agree topics which could benefit from more detailed scrutiny at a future meeting, seek to influence partner organisations, or request further information.

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Background

5. The Committee re-prioritised this scrutiny topic at a meeting on 24 July 2015, and recognised that it was a subject of joint interest also to the Health Scrutiny Committee. An information briefing on SFF had been produced for the Suffolk Health & Wellbeing Board on 14 May 2015.
6. In addition to the information in the published report, and presentation by the SCC/CYP Officer, it is anticipated that the committee will have the opportunity to hear from a multi-agency range of stakeholders including from health, police, district councils, the DWP, and psychologist services.

Main Body of Evidence (attached)

- (i) **Evidence Set 1** (25 pages) - A report and Appendix from Children and Young People's Services addressing the above focus areas.

Supporting Information and References (available online)

- Information Bulletin from [H&W Board](#) 14 May 2015.
- "State of the nation 2015", Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, 17 Dec 2015: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-nation-2015>
"... This new national effort should be led by a refocused and rebranded Troubled Families programme with a remit to offer personalised help to get persistently poor families into secure employment. ..."