

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 DECEMBER 2012

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults

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Summary

This item advises Members of the current work programme and allows the Committee to adjust it in the light of latest priorities, issues and circumstances. It gives Members the opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities over the year.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 Under Chapter 4 – Rules, paragraph 22.1 (v) General terms of reference, each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.

2. Background

- 2.1 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the existing work programme for the Committee.

3. Agenda planning meeting

- 3.1 Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. These give officers guidance on information that Members wish them to provide when scrutinising an issue. An agenda planning meeting took place on Thursday 22 November 2012.
- 3.2 At the meeting Members requested that at the end of the 2nd, 4th and 6th school terms, officers produce a briefing note providing information on the outcome of school Ofsted inspections and also to update on academy conversions.
- 3.3 Members also requested a briefing note providing an update on the development of the health visiting service.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest forward plan was published on 19 November 2012. There are no items on the forward plan that fall within this committee that are not scheduled to

be considered, where it has been agreed at a previous meeting that they will not be considered by the committee or where there is time to consider the item at a future meeting of the committee.

5. Planning for in depth scrutiny reviews for 2013/14

- 5.1 In June 2011 the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to exercise a more pro-active role than previously in prioritising the programme of in-depth scrutiny review work in light of a Council decision that a maximum of three reviews or themed meetings can be undertaken annually across all four Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In line with best practice the Committee also decided to adopt a more systematic process for the selection of topics. All four Overview and Scrutiny Committees contributed suggestions for in depth review topics and the current programme of reviews was agreed in September 2011 as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Topic	Indicative timetable
Children and Young People	Effective challenge to address under performance in schools	November 2011 - March 2012. (Reported March 2012).
Business Support	Fair Access to Credit Task Group – added to programme by Full Council in January 2012	March - June 2012 (Reported September 2012)
Regeneration, Community and Culture	Supported Accommodation	Late September to December 2012
Regeneration, Community and Culture	De-cluttering of town centres and main roads in Medway	January - March 2013
Health and Adult Social Care	Mental Health	April - June 2013

The programming of reviews for the eighteen- month period starting in July 2013 needs to commence early in 2013 to allow time for Overview and Scrutiny members to contribute suggestions for the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and prioritise. It is therefore proposed to proceed as follows with a view to the proposed programme being submitted to that Committee on 3 April 2013 for approval

- (i) **6 December 2012 to 28 February 2013** - Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be notified of the timetable and process for determination of the next round of in-depth reviews and invited to agree that members should submit suggestions for topics to Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons by no later than 28th February taking into account the criteria adopted for the selection of reviews – as set out in the template attached at Appendix 2.
- (ii) **March 2013** – All Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons to meet informally with Officer support to consider and prioritise the list of topics for referral back to Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- (iii) **3 April 2013:** The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and agree a programme of in depth reviews for the period July 2013 to December 2014.

6. Health Scrutiny

- 6.1 To keep Members of this committee informed about key activities relating to the scrutiny of children's health this section provides an update of recent or forthcoming activity for this committee, the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 6.2 The Business Support OSC is considering a report at its next meeting on 6 December 2012 on the review of the Council's overview and scrutiny function and e-petitions. The report contains a suggested change to the terms of reference of this committee, relating to the scrutiny of children's health. The Council has accepted the principle of aligning the scrutiny of health and social care in recognition of the importance of integrated service provision. However it is being recommended, in the light of experience, that the scrutiny of children's health should be moved from this OSC to the Health and Adult Social Care OSC. Whilst this committee has reviewed a number of important issues relating to children's health this has largely been on a reactive basis as the committee has such a wide remit and often NHS scrutiny straddles services for adults and children.
- 6.3 The views of the Committee are invited on this suggestion, which may give a sharper focus to issues affecting children's health. If agreed it would be important to involve the members of this Committee (and, in particular Youth Parliament representatives) in any briefings on issues relating to children's health and to ensure that members of the Committee are notified and invited to attend Health and Adult Social Care OSC meetings when children's health is on the agenda. It may also be possible for Group Whips to achieve some duality of membership of both Committees.

7. Implications for Looked After Children

- 7.1 Scrutinising services and support for looked after children (LAC) is a key aspect of the remit of this committee. Members should ensure they focus attention on the Every Child Matters outcomes for LAC as well as scrutinising every child matters outcomes for all children in Medway.

8. Financial and legal implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 Local authorities have power to scrutinise health service in their areas under the Health and Social Care Act 2001. It describes health scrutiny as "reviewing and scrutinising health service matters and making reports and recommendations to NHS bodies on such matters".

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 That, subject to changes made at the meeting, the work programme is agreed as set out at the attached Appendix 1 of the report.
- 9.2 That briefing notes be provided at the end of each 2nd, 4th and 6th school term on the outcome of school Ofsted inspections and academy conversions.
- 9.3 That a briefing note be provided to update the committee on the development of the health visiting service.
- 9.4 That the committee note the proposed timetable and process for determination of the next round of in depth reviews and to agree all members of the Committee should send ideas for topics within the remit of this Committee to the Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons (with a copy to the Head of Democratic Services) by no later than 28th February 2013 having regard to the criteria previously adopted for selection of topics as set out at Appendix 2.
- 9.5 To consider and take a view on a recommendation that the scrutiny of children's health should be transferred from this Committee to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the basis set out in paragraph 6.3 in this report.

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Background papers:

None

Work Programme
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Policy framework documents – Children and Young People’s Plan and Youth Justice Plan

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Proposed capital and revenue draft budgets 2013/14	Scrutiny of performance/ budget	Chief Finance Officer	To consider and scrutinise the proposed capital and revenue budgets for 2013/14	11 December 2012
Quarter 2 Council Plan Monitoring	Scrutiny of Performance/ budget	Assistant Director, Communications, Performance and Partnerships	To consider the Council Plan monitoring for quarter 2 of 2012/13	11 December 2012
Swingate Infant and Spinnens Acre Junior Schools – outcome of consultation on proposed amalgamation	Pre-decision scrutiny	Assistant Director Commissioning and Strategy	To consider the outcome of the consultation relating to the proposed amalgamation of Swingate Infant and Spinnens Acre Junior Schools.	11 December 2012
Sherwin Knight Infant and Junior Schools – outcome of consultation on proposed amalgamation	Pre-decision scrutiny	Assistant Director Commissioning and Strategy	To consider the outcome of the consultation relating to the proposed amalgamation of Sherwin Knight Infant and Junior Schools.	11 December 2012
Outcome of Medway’s Fostering Inspection by Ofsted	Scrutiny of performance/ budget	Director of Children and Adults	To receive a report on the outcome of the Ofsted fostering inspection.	11 December 2012
Youth Justice Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny	Assistant Director, Inclusion and Improvement	To consider the draft Youth Justice Plan.	11 December 2012
Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	Holding to account	MSCB Independent Chair	To consider and scrutinise the activity of the MSCB and its Business Plan.	15 January 2013
Ofsted/CQC announced inspection of safeguarding and children in care – progress update	Scrutiny of performance/ budget	Director of Children and Adults	To receive a report on the progress made against the action plan following the Ofsted/CQC announced inspection in 2011.	15 January 2013

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (lead member) in attendance	Holding to account		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (lead member) to account on performance against his portfolio	15 January 2013
School Admission Arrangements 2014	Pre-decision scrutiny	Student Services Manager	To consider the proposed school admission arrangements for 2014.	15 January 2013
Performance relating to phonics	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Assistant Director, Inclusion and Improvement	To consider a detailed analysis of the 2012 performance relating to phonics and interventions to improve performance.	15 January 2013
Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care in attendance	Holding to account		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care to account on performance against his portfolio	26 March 2013
Portfolio Holder for Corporate Service in attendance	Holding to account		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services to account on performance in relation to the Independent Reviewing Service only, which is the only part of the portfolio that falls within the remit of this committee.	26 March 2013
Quarter 3 Council Plan Monitoring	Scrutiny of Performance/budget	Assistant Director, Communications, Performance and Partnerships	To consider the Council Plan monitoring for quarter 3 of 2012/13	26 March 2013
Action for families	Service information	Director of Children and Adults	To consider a report on what support is being provided for vulnerable families in Medway	26 March 2013
Information, advice and guidance on careers	Service information	Chief Executive, Medway Youth Trust	To receive a report on what service is provided on information, advice and guidance on careers and for the report to include views from Medway Youth Parliament following its own report on careers advice in 2012.	26 March 2013
Youth unemployment in Medway	Service information	Chief Executive, Medway Youth Trust	To receive a report on statistics and relevant action plans relating to youth unemployment in Medway	26 March 2013
Feedback on the Peer challenge	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Director of Children and Adults	To receive a report on the final outcome from the Peer Challenge	July 2013

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	Holding to account	MSCB Independent Chair	To consider and scrutinise the activity of the MSCB and its Business Plan.	July 2013
Children's Social Care Complaints and Compliments	Scrutiny of performance/ budget	Social Care Complaints Manager	To consider and scrutinise the children's social care complaints and compliments received in 2011/12.	July 2013
Changes to overnight short breaks/closure of Preston Skreens	Holding to account	Assistant Director Commissioning and Strategy	To consider the outcome of the consultation relating to the review of overnight short breaks and the closure of Preston Skreens	Date to be determined

Forthcoming meetings:

2012: 11 December

2013: 15 January and 26 March (plus additional meeting to be tentatively booked for February 2013)

Work completed in 2012/13:

31 May 2012

- Careers advice and raising of the participation age
- Children's social care complaints and compliments annual report
- Task group report on improving performance at Key Stage 2
- Children and Young People's Plan Monitoring Report
- Academies and governance arrangements
- Chatham Area Primary Age Need

17 July 2012

- Draft Special Educational Needs Transport Policy
- Medway Safeguarding Children Board
- Common Assessment Framework
- Children's Social Care Complaints and Compliments Annual Report (2011-12)
- 2011/12 Year end performance report
- Changes to inspection regimes

27 September 2012

- Child Development Centre update
- Provisional test and examination results for 2012
- Improving performance at key stage 2 – update on the review by the effective challenge of underperformance task group
- Council Plan performance monitoring 2012/13 – quarter 1

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PROPOSED TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEW AND THEMED MEETING

Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	<p>Reason for Review</p> <p>National/local context</p> <p>Performance indicators (where relevant)</p> <p>Public feedback/interest in issue (where known)</p>
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PROPOSED TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEW AND THEMED MEETING

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	<p>Reason for Review</p> <p>National/local context</p> <p>Performance indicators (where relevant)</p> <p>Public feedback/interest in issue (where known)</p>
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PROPOSED TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEW AND THEMED MEETINGS

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	<p>Reason for Review</p> <p>National/local context</p> <p>Performance indicators (where relevant)</p> <p>Public feedback/interest in issue (where known)</p>
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PROPOSED TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEW AND THEMED MEETINGS

Regeneration, Culture and Community Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	<p>Reason for Review</p> <p>National/local context</p> <p>Performance indicators (where relevant)</p> <p>Public feedback/interest in issue (where known)</p>
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