

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2013

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults

Author: Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

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 Tuesday 18 December 2012.
- 3.2 At the meeting there was a request to add the following items to the work programme: -
- Update on School Organisation Plan 2011-16
 - Adoption services (including support provided to children and families)
- 3.3 A briefing note updating the committee on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service was also requested.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest forward plan was published on 17 December 2012. There are no items on the forward plan that fall within the remit of 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 no time to consider the item at a future meeting of the committee.

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

- 5.1 At the last meeting of this committee Members were requested to feed ideas for topics for in depth scrutiny reviews to the Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons. This will enable a meeting of all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Spokespersons to take place in March to prioritise the list and submit a recommendation to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April.
- 5.2 A meeting between the Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons of this Committee and the Director of Children and Adults is being arranged to discuss topic ideas put forward by members of the Committee and to agree what should be submitted for consideration. The Committee has until 28th February at the latest to put forward ideas using the template attached at Appendix 2 which explains the rationale for selection of each topic.

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 At the last meeting of this committee Members expressed reservations about a proposal to transfer the scrutiny of children's health to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a view to giving children's health a sharper focus.
- 6.3 At the pre-agenda meeting on 17 December 2012 it was suggested that the transfer of children's health scrutiny should be deferred to enable members to thoroughly review the issues relating to children's health in Medway and which Committee is best placed to discharge the scrutiny role. This approach was reported to, and endorsed by, the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 December.
- 6.4 It was agreed that rather than produce an issues paper for the Committee officers should organise a separate briefing session for this committee, with an invite to Members of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on children's health issues, which would be programmed in via the Member Development Advisory Group.

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 an update on the School Organisation Plan 2011-16 and a report on the adoption service be added to the committee’s work programme.
- 9.3 That a briefing note on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service be provided to the committee.
- 9.4 That Members inform the relevant spokesperson of ideas for future in-depth reviews so that suggestions from this Committee can be submitted for consideration at a meeting of all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Spokespersons ahead of Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee in early April.
- 9.5 That, Members note the transfer of children’s health scrutiny is on hold pending a Member briefing be provided in 2013 on children’s health issues.

Lead officer contact:

Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01634 332104

Email: teri.reynolds@medway.gov.uk

Background papers:

None

APPENDIX 1

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
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
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 is support is being provided for vulnerable families in Medway	26 March 2013

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
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
Update on Fostering Service	Service information	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care	To receive an update on the performance of the fostering service following the report in December 2012	June/July 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
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:

2013: 15 January and 26 March

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

11 December 2012

- Sherwin Knight Infant and Junior Schools – outcome of consultation on proposed amalgamation
- Swingate Infant and Spinnens Acre Junior Schools – outcome of consultation on proposed amalgamation
- Youth Justice Plan
- Capital and Revenue budgets 2013/14
- 2012/13 Council Plan Monitoring – Q2
- Ofsted inspection of Medway's fostering service

LOONGLIST OF INDEPTH TOPICS SUGGESTED BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Aid to prioritising the work programme

COMMITTEE	Does issue have potential impact on one or more sections of population?	Corporate concern/issue for partners?	Will it add value/lead to effective outcomes?	Will review duplicate other work?	Is it timely/ do we have the resources?	Add to work programme? Yes/No	Priority order (4 reviews to be selected by members to take place over the next 18 months)
Business Support							
Children and Young People							
Health and Adult Social Care							
Regeneration, Community and Culture							

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEW AND THEMED MEETING

Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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