

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2013

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Richard Hicks, Deputy Director, Customer Contact, Leisure, Culture, Democracy and Governance

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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 Monday 20 May 2013.
- 3.2 At the meeting there was discussion about school performance and the Director of Children and Adults undertook to provide an all Member briefing setting out how the Council supports schools around this.
- 3.3 At the meeting it was also recommended that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons consider future items for the committee's 2013/14 work programme with the Director of Children and Adults after the next pre-agenda meeting to then be reported back to the committee for approval.

- 3.4 At the meeting Members were informed that a new Independent Chair had recently been appointed to the Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) and it was therefore agreed to move scrutiny of the MSCB from the July meeting to the meeting scheduled in September 2013.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest forward plan was published on 13 May 2013. The following items have been added. At the pre-agenda meeting it was not recommended to add any of these items to the work programme: -

Gateway 1 Procurement Commencement: Chatham Primary Academy 11 June 2013

This Gateway 1 Procurement Commencement report relates to Chatham Primary Academy for refurbishment and remodelling works

Gateway 1 Procurement Commencement: SEN Transport Contracts 2013-14 11 June 2013

This report will seek Cabinet approval to commence a new commissioning strategy for the procurement of Special Educational. Transport contracts, including permission to delegate authority for the extension of a number of existing contracts as part of this strategy, enabling contracts to be aligned and tendered in a more cost effective manner as well as undertaking service redesign in partnership with the service users and schools.

Gateway 3 Contract Award: Wainscott Primary School – Expansion to 2 FE Refurbishment Works Contract 11 June 2013

This report will set out the tender review and evaluation in respect of the contract award for the Wainscott Primary School expansion to two forms of entry refurbishment works.

Outline Business Case: Brompton Westbrook Primary School – Expansion to 2FE 11 June 2013

This report will set out the outline business case for the expansion of Brompton Westbrook Primary School to two forms of entry.

Outline Business Case: Saxon Way Primary School – Expansion to 2FE 9 July 2013

This report will set out the outline business case for the expansion of Saxon Way Primary School to two forms of entry.

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

- 5.1 The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 3 April 2013, agreed the topics for in-depth scrutiny reviews for 2013/14. It was agreed that the topic for this committee would be 'preventing looked after children from becoming criminalised' and this was scheduled as third priority, so is estimated to take place April – July 2014. The programme of indepth reviews for Summer 2013 to Autumn 2014 was agreed as follows:

Lead Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Topic	Indicative timetable
Health and Adult Social Care	Health Inequalities across Medway wards and how to direct investment where it is most needed	August – November 2013
Business Support	Impact of Welfare Reforms	December 2013 – March 2014
Children and Young People	Preventing Looked After Children from becoming criminalised	April to July 2014
Regeneration, Community and Culture	Housing in Medway – demand, supply and affordability	August to November 2014

- 5.2 In addition, a range of issues and potential reviews were discussed during this process and it was recommended that the following topics should be added to this committee's work programme:
- Youth Service provision/clubs across the authority
 - School Improvement – update report to Committee in May 2013 on implementation of 2012 action plan
 - Briefing note providing an update on Physical Education within the education system

6. Health Scrutiny

- 6.1 At this committee's meeting on 15 January 2013 it was agreed that more emphasis needed to be placed on the scrutiny of children's health services and it was agreed that a member briefing on children's health issues in Medway would be provided during 2013. This briefing will be provided later in the year and will focus on the priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and will also coincide with the publication of the Annual Public Health Report 2013/14, which will have a particular focus on children's health.
- 6.2 At the pre-agenda meeting it was agreed that a report providing an update on the health visiting service be provided to the next meeting of this committee in July. Later in the year there will then be the full briefing for the Committee to focus on what the needs are in relation to children's health in Medway and to shape the work programme accordingly.

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 the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons meet immediately after the next pre-agenda meeting, with the Director of Children and Adults, to consider items for scheduling to the 2013-14 committee work programme, and report back to the committee at its July meeting.
- 9.3 That an all member briefing be set up regarding how the Council provides support to schools regarding performance.
- 9.4 That the scrutiny of the Medway Safeguarding Children Board be held at the September meeting of the committee, instead of the July meeting.
- 9.5 That an update report on the Health Visiting Service be added to the July meeting of this committee.

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Background papers:

None

APPENDIX

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
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	4 June 2013
School Organisation Plan 2011-16 - update	Pre-decision scrutiny	Performance Intelligence and Strategic Manager	To consider and scrutinise the update on the School Organisation Plan 2011-16	4 June 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	4 June 2013
School improvement - Update on progress made against the KS2 actions	Performance reviews	Assistant Director, Inclusion and Improvement	To scrutinise progress made against the recommendations of the Key Stage 2 Task Group review. The report will include information on changes in measurements being made.	4 June 2013
Children’s Social Care Complaints and Compliments	Annual reports	Social Care Complaints Manager	To consider and scrutinise the children’s social care complaints and compliments received in 2011/12.	16 July 2013
End of year performance 2012/13	Performance reviews	Performance Intelligence and Strategic Manager	To consider and scrutinise the performance data for the end of year 2012/13.	16 July 2013
Changes to overnight short breaks/closure of Preston Skreens	Community issues	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	16 July 2013
Health Visiting Service - update	Other	Medway Community Healthcare	To scrutinise an update report on the Health Visiting Service	16 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.	26 September 2013
Update on progress against the Ofsted inspection action plan	Performance reviews	Director of Children and Adults	To consider the progress made against the action plan following the unannounced Ofsted inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children.	26 September 2013

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Provisional test and examination results	Performance reviews	Assistant Director, Inclusion and Improvement	To consider the provisional test and examination results for 2013 and progress made against the recommendations of the Key Stage 2 Task Group review	26 September 2013
Proposed capital and revenue draft budgets 2014/15	Pre-decision scrutiny	Chief Finance Officer	To consider and scrutiny the proposed capital and revenue budgets for 2014/15	10 December 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	14 January 2014
Update on progress against the Ofsted inspection action plan	Performance reviews	Director of Children and Adults	To consider the progress made against the action plan following the unannounced Ofsted inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children.	25 March 2014
Adoption services	Service information	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care	To consider and scrutinise a report regarding the adoption service.	Date to be determined
Youth Service provision/clubs across the authority	Service information	Assistant Director, Inclusion and Improvement	To consider a report which will update the committee on youth service provision and youth clubs across Medway	Date to be determined

Forthcoming meetings (dates to be agreed at Annual Council on 15 May 2013):

2013: 4 June, 16 July, 26 September, 10 December

2014: 14 January, 25 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

15 January 2013

- Portfolio Holder for Children Services (lead member) in attendance
- Medway Safeguarding Child Board (MSCB) Business Plan 2012/13 – mid term progress report
- Announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children in Medway 2011 – progress update
- Year 1 phonics check – outcome from 2012 and actions to address key issues
- School Admission Arrangements 2014

26 March 2013

- Raising the age of participation in learning
- Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services in attendance
- Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care in attendance
- Outcome of unannounced inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children
- Quarter 3 Council Plan Monitoring