

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 SEPTEMBER 2014

WORK PROGRAMME

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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 proposed work programme for the Committee during the current municipal year.

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 27 August 2014.
- 3.2 At the agenda planning meeting it was noted that a Briefing Note on schools that are taking on Academy status and guidance on local authority members' role in relation to Academy schools would be circulated prior to this meeting of this Committee.

- 3.3 At the agenda planning meeting the draft work programme was considered and it was agreed that an item scheduled for consideration at this meeting on Care Leavers was no longer required as the Scrutiny Review Task Group would be focusing on support for care leavers.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on August 2014 and updated on 20 August 2014
<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=115&RD=0>
- 4.2 Set out below is a list of items featuring on the Forward Plan that fall within the terms of reference of the Children and Young People (CYP) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is asked to identify any items it wishes to consider before the Cabinet decision is taken (where dates permit), other than those already programmed in Appendix 1:

| Title of Decision | Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| (NEW) Procurement Commencement: Management of the Old Vicarage | 30.9.14 |
| (NEW) Gateway 1 Procurement Commencement: Special Educational needs (SEN) Provision at New Horizons Academy | 30.9.14 |
| Schools Funding Formula | 28.10.14 |
| (New) Gateway 3 Contract Award: Supported Living Services for Adults and Accommodation Based Services for Young People | 28.10.14 |
| (NEW) Gateway 3 Contract Award: Danecourt Community Special School | 16.12.14 |
| (NEW) Outcome of Statutory Representation Period on the Expansion of Danecourt Community Special School | 16.12.14 |
| (NEW) Rivermead Special School: Outcome of Consultation | 13.01.15 |
| (NEW) Scrutiny Review Task Group – Support for Care Leavers | 13.01.15 |

5. Scrutiny review task group – support for care leavers

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Review Task Group met on 13 August 2014. The Task Group intends to report its findings and recommendations to this Committee at its meeting on 9 December 2014 and to Cabinet on 13 January 2015.

6. Election of Parent Governor representatives

- 6.1 There are currently two voting member vacancies to represent parent governors on this Committee. The first vacancy occurred on 26 June 2013 and the second vacancy was announced at the meeting of this Committee on 10 December 2013.

- 6.2 It was agreed at the meeting of this Committee on 3 June 2014 that the nomination and election process for the two vacant positions would recommence in September 2014 to coincide with school term dates, and that the process should be repeated in Spring 2015 if the vacancies are not filled.
- 6.3 The recruitment process coincides with the recruitment to school governor representative positions on other bodies such as the Schools Forum and Medway Governors Association (MGA). The processes have been aligned to reduce duplication and to maximise interest in these vacancies. Should there be more than 2 nominations and an election is required then this would take place November to December to meet statutory requirements.

7. Department of Health Guidance on Local Authority Health Scrutiny

- 7.1. Under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in Medway. In carrying out health scrutiny a local authority must invite interested parties to comment and take account of any relevant information available to it, and in particular, relevant information provided to it by a local Healthwatch organisation. The Council has delegated responsibility for discharging this function to this Committee and to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Council's Constitution.
- 7.2. In June 2014 The Department of Health published long awaited guidance to support local authorities and their partners to deliver effective health scrutiny and this has been circulated to all members of the HASC and CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The DoH publication provides an up -to-date explanation and guide to implementation of the regulations under the National Health Service Act 2006 governing the local authority scrutiny function.
- 7.3. In response to the publication of the DoH guidance immediate action has been taken to alert relevant Council officers to their obligations to consult with Overview and Scrutiny. The Chief Operating Officer (and her team) at NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group have also been briefed via a presentation delivered by Democratic Services. The template report and associated questionnaire for responsible bodies to complete when advising Medway's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees of any proposals under consideration for developments or variations to the health service has been revised and updated to reflect the new guidance.
- 7.4. Further work will be required on a range of issues raised in the guidance some of which can be built into the format for the training session members have requested on health scrutiny. Particular areas requiring further consideration include:
- i) whether arrangements can be put in place with relevant NHS bodies and health service providers for a forward plan of potential substantial developments/variations
 - ii) arrangements to ensure that all those caught by the duty to consult Overview and Scrutiny are aware of their obligations

- iii) establishment of mechanisms for meeting the statutory requirement to invite interested parties to submit comments to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee on health matters under review/scrutiny
- iv) consideration of ways of independently verifying information provided by relevant NHS bodies and relevant health service providers as appropriate and the role Healthwatch may play in this
- v) establishment of arrangements for dealing with any referrals to the Committee by Healthwatch under the health scrutiny regulations

8. Implications for Looked After Children

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

9. Financial and legal implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 9.2 Under The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council has power to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in Medway. This Committee has the remit to review and scrutinise health services for children and must invite interested parties to comment on particular matters under review or scrutiny and take into account relevant available information and in particular, relevant information provided by Healthwatch Medway. The Committee may make reports and recommendations and reports to relevant NHS bodies or health service providers. These organisations are also under a statutory obligation to consult the Committee on any proposal for a substantial development or variation of children's health services in Medway.
- 9.3 The Parent Governor (England) Regulations 2001 provide for the arrangements relating to the election of voting parent governor representatives to education Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 The Committee are asked:
 - (a) to agree the work programme as set out at the attached Appendix 1 of the report, subject to any changes made at the meeting;
 - (b) to note the Scrutiny Review Task Group intention to report its findings and recommendations to this Committee at its meeting on 9 December 2014 and to Cabinet on 13 January 2015 ;

- (c) to note that expressions of interest for the two parent governor vacancies on this Committee were invited at the start of the new school term in September.

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Background papers: None