

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**3 OCTOBER 2019**

## WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services

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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, Part 5 of the Constitution – Overview and Scrutiny Rules, paragraph 21.1 (xv) 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 11 September 2019.

3.2 At the meeting, Members discussed the recent Ofsted Inspection and how progress could be scrutinised. It was proposed to add updates on the progress being made following the inspection to the January 2020 and March 2020 meetings.

3.3 It was also suggested that the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member) be invited to attend the meeting on 3 October 2019 (this meeting), which was considering a report on the findings of the inspection and action completed and proposed. Furthermore, the Portfolio Holder or the External

Chair of the Improvement Board (yet to be identified and appointed) should also be invited to attend the January 2020 meeting. This would be discussed further at a future agenda planning meeting.

- 3.4 At the meeting Members also agreed to defer the following two reports to the December meeting, the work programme at Appendix 1 has been updated accordingly:
- Regional Adoption Agency
  - Update on Children’s Services 0-19 contract delivered by Medway Community Healthcare
- 3.5 In addition, it has been suggested that an update on the Children and Young People Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service also be reported to the December meeting.
- 3.6 Following the meeting the latest Forward Plan (published on 23 September 2019 – as detailed in section 4 of this report) included an entry regarding the outcome of consultation on proposals to restructure Alternative Provision in Medway. It is proposed that this be reported to this Committee on 3 December 2019 as pre-decision scrutiny.

#### 4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 23 September 2019 and can be viewed using the following link:  
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=346&RP=115>
- 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:
<p><b>Annual Review of the School Place Planning Strategy 2018-22</b>            This report will outline outcomes of the progress made against Medway’s School Place Planning Strategy and will highlight emerging need for school places and making recommendations for Cabinet to consider to ensure that a sufficient supply of school places is maintained.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 3 October 2019 meeting</i></p>	22 October 2019
<p><b>Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2020/21</b>            This report will provide details of the initial budget proposals for 2020/21 prior to consideration by the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 3 December 2019 meeting.</i></p>	19 November 2019

<p><b>Medway Children and Young People Plan 2019-2021</b> This report will set out details of the Children and Young People Plan following consultation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Was reported to the 25 July 2019 meeting</i></p>	<p>19 November 2019</p>
<p><b>Outcome of Statutory Representation Period for the Prescribed Changes at St Nicholas CE Infant School</b> This report will provide details of any objections received by the Council during the statutory representation period in respect of the proposals to make prescribed changes at St Nicholas CE Infant School.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 3 October 2019 meeting.</i></p>	<p>19 November 2019</p>
<p><b>Provisional Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2020/21</b> This report will set out the provisional proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2020/21</p>	<p>19 November 2019</p>
<p><b>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy</b> This report will set out details of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy for cabinet approval.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 3 October 2019 meeting</i></p>	<p>19 November 2019</p>
<p><b>Ofsted Inspection of Medway's Children's Services – Update</b> This report will provide an update on the Ofsted Inspection of Medway's Children's Services</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 9 January 2020 meeting</i></p>	<p>17 December 2019</p>
<p><b>Regional Adoption Agency</b> This report will set out details of the business case to progress the proposals for a Regional Adoption Agency.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 3 December 2019 meeting.</i></p>	<p>17 December 2019</p>
<p><b>School Admission Arrangements 2021</b> This report will provide details of the outcome of consultation on the primary and secondary co-ordinated admission schemes and will seek approval to the proposed 2021 admission arrangements.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 3 December 2019 meeting.</i></p>	<p>17 December 2019</p>
<p><b>Alternative Provision – outcomes of consultation and determination</b> This report will provide details of the outcome of the consultation on the proposed changes to Alternative Provision in Medway which were presented to the Cabinet on 6 August 2019.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>It is proposed this be scheduled for 3 December 2019 meeting</i></p>	<p>14 January 2020</p>

## **5. Petition**

- 5.1 The Committee should note that the Council received an e-petition requesting the Council to stand with the parents of Wainscott Primary School who were seeking to revoke the Department for Education academy order.
- 5.2 The Lead Petitioner subsequently requested to withdraw the petition as it came to a close. However, as the petition had been signed by approximately 30 people, officers still provided a response to the petition, which is set out below.
- 5.3 Officers explained that the school's recent Ofsted Inspection Report raised a number of serious concerns in respect of safeguarding and progress for disadvantaged pupils and placed the school into a category. In circumstances relating to safeguarding concerns, the Secretary of State has the power to make an Academy Order. Following the decision of the Secretary of State to issue such an order, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) undertook a process to seek an Academy Trust with the necessary skills and experience, to take over the running of Wainscott Primary School and for the school to become part of that trust.
- 5.4 The RSC communicated with the parents of the School and the new provider held an open evening for parents setting out the plans and timescale moving forward. The new academy provider took over the running of Wainscott Primary School in early September. The response also confirmed that Medway Council has no power to stop an Academy Order issued under these circumstances.

## **5. STP Briefing on NHS Local Five Year Plan**

- 5.1 A Member Briefing has been arranged in relation to the Kent and Medway Five Year Plan. In response to the NHS Long Term Plan published in January 2019, the Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) are required to develop a five-year plan that sets out how to bring the ambitions of the Long Term Plan to life in Kent and Medway. The briefing session will provide Members with an overview of the whole plan and will then focus on parts of the plan concerned with developing primary and community care and personalised care services.
- 5.2 As this Committee has the scrutiny of children's health issues within its remit, the briefing will be of particular interest. The briefing is scheduled to be held on 29 October 2019 at 6:30pm in Meeting Room 9 and all Members of the Committee are encouraged to attend.

## **6. Implications for Looked After Children**

- 6.1 Members should ensure they focus on outcomes for looked after children. This includes considering their physical health; their emotional health; their safeguarding; their educational attainment and progress; their hopes and aspirations for their adult lives and how looked after young people have their voices heard. We know that looked after children can be more vulnerable to sexual exploitation so particular attention should be given to this. As a corporate parent, Members should be a champion for looked after children and have the same high expectations of them as they would for their own child, grandchild or niece/ nephew.

## **7. Financial and legal implications**

7.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 The Committee is asked to:

8.1.1 note the e-petition received and its response, as set out in section 5 of the report.

8.1.2 note the invitation to attend the Member Briefing on the Kent and Medway 5 Year Plan, which is to be held on 29 October 2019 at 6:30pm in Meeting Room 9.

8.1.3 agree the work programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to accepting the proposed changes, outlined in italic text on Appendix 1.

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### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Children and Young People O&S Committee Work Programme

### **Background papers:**

None