

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 JANUARY 2020

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 13 December 2019.
- 3.2 At the meeting it was agreed that an update report on the Ofsted inspection of Medway's Children's Services, scheduled for the January meeting, should, if possible, include the report submitted by the independent Children's Services Commissioner to the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Children and Families on 2 December 2019. If the report is not published in time for inclusion on the agenda for this meeting a special meeting of the Committee has been suggested rather than delay consideration of the report until March.

- 3.3 It was also recommended that a report on the findings of OFSTED following it's re-visit in December to review Medway's services for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities should be reported to the March meeting of this Committee (or to a Special meeting if called earlier to consider an update on the OFSTED Inspection of Medway Children's Services).
- 3.4 As part of further work to strengthen the effectiveness of Medway' arrangements for scrutiny of children's services the Chairman of the Committee has expressed an interest in reviewing the arrangements and best practice in one or more other Local Authorities that have been judged by OFSTED to have made good improvement. Officers have been asked to facilitate this and, as appropriate, to set up a visit by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson to another local authority for the purpose of bringing back any learning and best practice.
- 3.5 The Portfolio Holder for Adult Services is unable to attend this meeting of the Committee as originally planned. He is able to attend the March meeting instead if this is agreed by Members at the next agenda planning meeting.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 16 December 2019 and can be viewed using the following link:
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=350&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>Ofsted Inspection of Medway's Children's Services - Update</p> <p>This report provide an update on the Ofsted inspection of Medway's Children's Services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 9 January meeting</i></p>	<p>14 January 2020</p>
<p>Outcome of the Consultation Period for the Prescribed Alterations at Parkwood Infant and Junior Schools</p> <p>The report will outline outcomes of the statutory representation period on the proposal to amalgamate Parkwood Infant and Junior Schools by way of prescribed alterations.</p>	<p>14 January 2020</p>
<p>Regional Adoption Agency – Medway Council, Kent County Council and London Borough of Bexley</p> <p>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 9 January meeting</i></p>	<p>14 January 2020</p>

<p>Review of Old Vicarage Children’s Home Provision – Outcome of Consultation</p> <p>This report will set out details of the outcome of the consultation on the proposed closure of the Old Vicarage Children’s Home following instruction of the Cabinet to commence a period of consultation (decision no. 123/2019 refers).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 9 January meeting</i></p>	<p>14 January 2020</p>
<p>Alternative Provision - Outcomes of Consultation and Determination</p> <p>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>Scheduled for 9 January meeting</i></p>	<p>4 February 2020</p>
<p>Annual Adoption Report</p> <p>This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council’s Adoption Service.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 9 January meeting</i></p>	<p>4 February 2020</p>
<p>Annual Fostering Report</p> <p>This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council’s Fostering Service.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 9 January meeting</i></p>	<p>4 February 2020</p>
<p>Annual Sufficiency Report</p> <p>This report will provide details of how Medway Council will meet the needs of Looked After Children and Care Leavers in such a way as to ensure improved outcomes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 9 January meeting</i></p>	<p>4 February 2020</p>
<p>Final Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2020/2021</p> <p>This report will set out the final proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies, following consideration by the Schools Forum.</p>	<p>4 February 2020</p>
<p>Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register 2019/2020 – Quarter 3</p> <p>This report will provide details of Quarter 3 performance for 2019/2020 against the priorities set out in the Council Plan and will bring forward the latest risk management review.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 5 March 2020 meeting</i></p>	<p>3 March 2020</p>

Youth Justice Plan	
This report will provide details of the Youth Justice Plan which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework.	7 April 2020
<i>Scheduled for 5 March 2020 meeting</i>	

5. Implications for Looked After Children

- 5.1 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.

6. Financial and legal implications

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

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to 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