

CHILDREN AND ADULTS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 JULY 2010

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults

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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 Thursday 24 June 2010.
- 3.2 At the meeting, it was suggested that the February meeting of the Committee be a themed meeting in relation to countering bullying. This issue had been identified at the work programme meeting following a response from young people via the Tell Us Survey (2009). A higher proportion of young people in Medway identified having experienced bullying compared to national and statistical neighbours' results. However, fewer young people have reported being concerned about being bullied than in 2008. Members felt that this issue needed further improvement and therefore would benefit from some in-depth scrutiny and should be considered as a themed meeting in February.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The following items have been added to the current Forward Plan and fall within the remit of this Committee: -

Gateway 3 Contract Award: Special Educational Needs 20 July 2010
Transport contract renewals 2010

To seek approval for the tenders for the SEN transport contract renewals.

Gateway 3 Contract Award: Building works for Lordswood 17 August 2010
Federated Schools

To seek approval of the contract for building works for the Lordswood federated schools.

Gateway 3 Contract Award: Building works for Sir Joseph 17 August 2010
Williamson's Mathematical School, Rochester

To seek approval of the contract for building works at Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School.

5. Work Programming meeting

- 5.1 The Committee agreed at its last meeting that there would be a meeting between the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons, to develop the work programme for the Committee during 2010-11.

- 5.2 This meeting took place on Wednesday 16 June 2010 and the additions made to the work programme are highlighted in bold in the attached appendix.

- 5.3 In addition, at the meeting it was requested that Members receive a briefing before a committee meeting to update them on changes to education policy. It is suggested that this is held at 5.30pm on Thursday 9 September 2010, ahead of the committee meeting on that evening.

- 5.4 Also at the meeting, the Director of Children and Adults Services introduced members to the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People Services website (www.c4eo.org.uk) and discussed how members of the Committee may find it useful in accessing evidence of what works to improve outcomes for future generations. The Director agreed to pick an indicator and provide all the information supplied in relation to that, as an example, and would provide this at the September meeting of the Committee to demonstrate how it can complement the information received for the Council Plan monitoring quarterly reports.

- 5.5 Another suggestion of an area that would benefit from scrutiny was the transition from children to adult services within the NHS. This falls within the remit of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which intends to have a themed meeting with regard to transition for children with a physical or learning disability at its meeting on 25 January 2011, which members of this committee may wish to attend.

6. Meeting regarding reducing teenage pregnancy

- 6.1 The Committee requested at its meeting in March that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons meet with the Teenage Pregnancy Board to discuss the work it carried out and the data it received in relation to working to reduce teenage pregnancy in Medway.
- 6.2 Representatives of the Committee met with the Assistant Director, Inclusion and the Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator on 1 June 2010. At the meeting Members were shown some information on the performance management framework, which is used by the Medway Teenage Pregnancy Board to evaluate the progress of the Medway Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and will be circulated to the committee. Members were also shown some indicative data which was not yet verified and therefore not publicly available, which is used to provide the Board with an indication of progress and trends in order for them to measure the effectiveness of preventative programmes in place.
- 6.3 The Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator also explained to the Members some of the actions being taken to help reduce levels of teenage pregnancy. Primarily, there was a lot of support being provided within schools, for example, offering relationship and sexual health advice and providing the emergency contraception pill. Young parent apprentices went into schools to explain the difficulties they face from being a young parent. Governing bodies have a key strategic role to champion this service being available to all secondary schools in Medway and the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator undertook to forward a list of Members who were currently School Governors to the Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator.

7 Referral from Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 7.1 The Committee was advised at its last meeting that the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee had referred the following areas for this Committee to scrutinise:

“The cluster of indicators on the theme of the support the Council gives to vulnerable children, NI67 (Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales), NI60 (Percentage of initial assessments for children’s social care carried out within 7 working days of referral), NI 65 (Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time. Members were seeking more detailed understanding of the implications for the ongoing and sustained safety of those children including indicators NI101, NI148, NI99 (Looked after children (LAC) attainment, LAC in employment, training and education, educational attainment of children with special educational needs).”

- 7.2 The attainment of looked after children is the subject of a report enclosed in this agenda, which will be accompanied by a presentation.
- 7.3 In relation to the cluster of indicators relating to the support provided by the Council to vulnerable children, the Committee has been scrutinising these areas already via its Child Protection Monitoring Group, its Council Plan Monitoring quarterly performance reports and its biannual reports from the Medway Safeguarding Children’s Board. It is suggested that the Child Protection Monitoring Group be provided with detailed information on the particular indicators referred by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny

Committee at its next meeting, as well as using the information provided on the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People Services website (www.c4eo.org.uk), as detailed in paragraph 5.4 of this report.

8 Health Scrutiny

- 8.1 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 both this Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).
- 8.2 On Monday 5 July 2010 there was an all Member briefing from NHS Medway's Chief Executive, the Director of Commissioning and Performance/Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Finance. This covered the primary care trust's Strategic Commissioning Plan, its Operating Plan and transforming community services.

9 Implications for Looked After Children

- 9.1 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.

10 Financial and legal implications

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

11. Recommendations

- 11.1 That, subject to changes made at the meeting, the work programme is agreed as set out at the attached Appendix.
- 11.2 That the Committee's meeting in February 2010 be a themed meeting on the effectiveness around prevention work to reduce young people's experiences of bullying.
- 11.3 That a briefing providing an update on education policy be provided at 5.30pm before the next meeting of the Committee on 9 September 2010.
- 11.4 That the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee be informed that the Committee received a report in relation to raising attainment for looked after children and that the Child Protection Monitoring Group will continue to scrutinise the cluster of indicators relating to the support provided by the Council for vulnerable children.

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Background papers:

None

**Work Programme
Children and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Policy framework documents – Children and Young People’s Plan and Youth Justice Plan

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Child Development Centre	NHS scrutiny	Jill Norton, NHS Medway	Progress on the outcome of consultation and future delivery of service.	12 July 2010	Being healthy
Draft Medway Youth Justice Plan	Policy development	Keith Gulvin, Youth Offending Team Manager	To consider and scrutinise the draft Medway Youth Justice Plan	12 July 2010	Make a positive contribution
Improving attainment for children who are looked after	Performance Management	Keith Morrison	To consider and scrutinise the actions taken to improve attainment of Medway’s looked after children	12 July 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Ofsted inspections	Performance management	Simon Trotter	To consider and scrutinise recent Ofsted inspections in Medway.	12 July 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Health and Well-being Strategy (including the Child Health Action Plan (CHAP))	NHS scrutiny	Karen Macarthur (Public Health Consultant)	To consider the draft Health and Well-being Strategy, including the Child Health Action Plan.	23 August 2010 (joint meeting with the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee)	Being healthy
Annual Public Health Report	NHS Scrutiny	NHS colleagues	To consider the Annual Public Health report	23 August 2010 (joint meeting with the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee)	Being healthy

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	Performance management	Sally Mortimore	To consider and scrutinise the activity of the MSCB and its Business Plan and Annual Report.	9 September 2010	Stay safe
Healthy eating amongst children and young people	Scrutiny	Juliet Sevier/ Zoe Barkham/ Nicky Ling	To receive a report from the Healthy Eating Task Group.	9 September 2010	Be healthy
Options for Barnsole – location of new school building	Service information	Chris McKenzie	To be brought back to Committee for consideration.	9 September 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Council Plan monitoring – first quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	9 September 2010	All
Redesignation of Rivermead School	Pre-decision scrutiny	Paul Clarke	To consider the proposal to redesignate Rivermead School	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Sure Start provision	Service information	Mark Holmes	To receive an update on Sure Start provision in Medway	20 October 2010	All
Update on academy programmes	Service information	Simon Trotter/ Chris McKenzie	To receive an update on the academies in Medway	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Transition between Year 6 and Year 7	Service information	Simon Trotter	To invite the 21st Century schools group of the Children's Trust and consider the transition issues between years 6 and 7 along with sharing best practice.	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Draft capital and revenue budgets 2011/12	Budget scrutiny	Mick Hayward	To consider and scrutinise the draft capital and revenue budgets for 2011/12	14 December 2010	All
Council Plan monitoring – second quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	14 December 2010	All
Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	Performance management	Sally Mortimore	To consider and scrutinise the activity of the MSCB and its draft Business Plan.	20 January 2011	Stay safe
Portfolio Holder for Children's Services in attendance	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (lead member) to account	20 January 2011	All
Themed meeting - Bullying	Scrutiny	Juliet Sevier/ Zoe Barkham	To consider action being taken to prevent bullying in Medway, following the results of the TellUs Survey 2009.	1 March 2011	Enjoy and achieve Stay safe
Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care to account	To be determined	Stay safe
Council Plan monitoring – third quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	1 March 2011	All

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services to account in relation to adult learning	5 April 2011	N/A
Council Plan monitoring – fourth quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	To be determined	All
Vetting and barring	Service information	Rose Collinson	To receive an update on national guidance in relation to vetting and barring	To be determined	Stay safe

Forthcoming meetings:

2010: 12 July, 9 September, 20 October and 14 December (budget).
 2011: 20 January, 1 March and 5 April.

Work completed in 2010/2011:**27 May 2010**

- Common assessment framework
- Tell Us Survey 2009
- End of year performance report 2009/10