

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 JUNE 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 5 May 2020.

3.2 At the meeting it was explained that due to pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic for all partners, the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership would bring its action plan to the July meeting of the Committee, instead of the June meeting, as it had intended.

3.3 In addition, the Director of People – Children and Adults Services explained that there was also to be a delay in the submission of the Children's Services Commissioner's mid-term report to the Secretary of State, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the impact it had had on Ofsted monitoring. The Commissioner

would however be preparing an informal supplementary report on Medway's progress and it was suggested that the Commissioner also be invited to participate in the June meeting and the discussion in relation to progress with Olsted improvement.

- 3.4 At the pre-agenda meeting Members were also advised that the outcome of the Youth Offending Team inspection, which took place in February 2020, was likely to be published on 1 June 2020. It was therefore requested that officers table a report to provide an update on the outcomes at the June meeting. However, since the agenda planning meeting, the publication of the report will now take place after the meeting and this has therefore now been scheduled for the next meeting on the 23 July 2020.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 3 February 2020 and can be viewed using the following link:
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=355&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>Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register Review 2019/2020 – Quarter 4</p> <p>This report will provide details of Quarter 4 performance for 2019/20 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 23 July 2020 meeting (tbc)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9 June 2020</p>
<p>Update on Surge Class Funding</p> <p>This report will outline progress on the projects to provide bulge classes in secondary schools for year 7 intake in September 2020 and highlight the funding position and implications.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9 June 2020</p>
<p>Youth Justice Plan</p> <p>This report will provide details of the Youth Justice Plan which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. This report will initially be considered by this Committee and Cabinet will be asked to make recommendations to Council on 16 July 2020 for final consideration and approval.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 2 June 2020 meeting</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7 July 2020</p>

<p>Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register Review 2020/21 – Quarter 1</p> <p>This report will provide details of Quarter 1 performance for 2020/21 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 1 October 2020 meeting</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25 August 2020</p>
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5. Scrutiny of Children’s Services

- 5.1 At its last meeting on 5 March 2020, the Committee agreed a number of measures to maximise its involvement and impact in relation to the scrutiny of children’s social care.
- 5.2 Detailed performance data is now being provided to all members of the Committee on a monthly basis. Members will be able to use this information to improve scrutiny impact in terms of providing well-informed challenge at Committee meetings and in the selection of topics for the work programme of the Committee going forward.
- 5.3 The provision of opportunities for regular interaction for Committee members with frontline staff and service users has also begun, with Members being invited to take part in Word Social Work Day. This provided an opportunity to both listen to staff and their experiences, particularly since the 2019 Ofsted judgement and to celebrate their commitment and service to support Medway’s most vulnerable families, children and young people.
- 5.4 The Covid-19 Pandemic has meant that some of the member training events that had been scheduled were postponed. The Leader has agreed that Council laptops should be provided to Members to enable them to participate in virtual meetings and this equipment is in the process of being distributed. In addition to the performance data workshops, officers are developing a training programme that can be delivered to Members virtually and will update the Committee on this as soon as possible.
- 5.5 The same applies in relation to the recommended task group activity. The Early Help Service has been fundamental in supporting children and families during the pandemic and also continues to work with Medway’s Partner in Practice, Essex County Council, to implement best practice arrangements. Officers will update the task group members and the wider committee on developments as soon as possible so that a review can be scoped and commenced.

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 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.

8.2 The Committee is asked to note the updates on the additional scrutiny activity as set out at section 5 of the report.

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Appendices:

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

Background papers:

None