

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JULY 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 30 June 2020.

3.2 At the meeting, Members suggested that 'Grammar School Places' should be removed from the Committee's work programme and instead receive a briefing note to update Members on this topic. In addition, the Members also recommended that the Committee receive a briefing note on the issues related to surge class funding.

3.3 In addition, the Director of People – Children and Adults Services suggested that an update on Ofsted, including the refreshed Improvement Plan, be brought to the meeting scheduled for 1 October 2020.

3.4 Following the agenda planning meeting, officers requested that annual adoption and fostering reports be scheduled for the 1 December meeting. This is reflected as a change in Appendix 1.

#### 4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 6 July 2020 and can be viewed using the following link:  
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=375&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>Ofsted Inspection of Medway’s Children’s Services - Update</b></p> <p>This report will provide details of the refreshed and updated Improvement Plan, which reflects the progress made to date and sets out a programme of work for the next twelve months.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Scheduled for 1 October 2020 meeting</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 August 2020</p>
<p><b>Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register Review 2020/21 – Quarter 1</b></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>
<p><b>Education Travel Assistance Policy</b></p> <p>This report will provide details of a proposed update to the Education Travel Assistance Policy in response to recommendations from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25 August 2020</p>
<p><b>Regional Adoption Agency – Medway Council, Kent County Council and London Borough of Bexley</b></p> <p>This report will ask the Cabinet to approve the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) Partnership Agreement and associated formal decisions required to enable the RAA to perform its functions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22 September 2020</p>

<p><b>Provisional Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2021/2022</b></p> <p>This report will set out the provisional proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2021/22.</p>	<p>20 October 2020</p>
<p><b>Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register Review 2020/21 – Quarter 2</b></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 December 2020 meeting</i></p>	<p>17 November 2020</p>

## 5. Performance Data Workshops

- 5.1 At the Committee's meeting on 5 March 2020, it agreed a number of measures to maximise its involvement and impact in relation to the scrutiny of children's social care.
- 5.2 Part of those measures included the provision of detailed performance data to all members of the Committee on a monthly basis and for performance data workshops to be provided, in between Committees on a 6-8 week cycle. The purpose of this is to strengthen the capacity for effective scrutiny of performance by providing an informal setting in which detailed analysis of the data can be undertaken. Members can then apply their increased knowledge and understanding to carry out an effective scrutinising role in main committee meetings and in task group activity.
- 5.3 The first of these workshops was held virtually on 17 June 2020. The session was well attended by Committee Members and was also attended by the Independent Scrutineer of the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership who is also the Independent Chair of Medway's Improvement Board and was therefore able to bring a multi-agency and independent perspective. At the session, Members were able to interrogate the data and explore beneath the performance to understand the contributory factors and identify key areas for further focus.
- 5.4 Members raised questions on performance issues relating to topics such as caseloads, personal education plans, use of agency staff, the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan, quality of practice, thresholds, early help effectiveness and pathway planning.
- 5.5. Members asked how they could ensure the session would translate into public scrutiny opportunities and officers confirmed that the ongoing sessions would improve Members understanding of issues and risks to enable them to ask more informed questions when scrutinising council plan monitoring performance or other reports relevant to the data and, in addition, it would help the committee to shape its work programme to scrutinise more deeply the issues causing them particular concern.

## **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 agree to receive briefing notes relating to grammar school places and surge class funding.

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### **Appendices:**

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

### **Background papers:**

None