

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 OCTOBER 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 8 September 2020.

3.2. At the meeting, Members made the following suggestions:

3.2.1. To add a report to the October meeting, providing the committee with an update on special educational needs and disabilities provision in Medway.

- 3.2.2. To add a report to the October meeting, providing the committee with an update on activity relating to children who are not in education, employment or training
- 3.2.3. To schedule the following reports for the January meeting:
- Childhood obesity;
 - Emotional Health and Wellbeing Contract and Local Transformation Plan Update;
 - The emotional and developmental impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people.
- 3.2.4. To not schedule the following reports as pre-decision scrutiny as they were merely updates/minor amendments. Instead the Committee Members will receive notification of the Cabinet reports when published:
- 2020 Annual Review of School Place Planning Strategy 2018-22;
 - School Admission Arrangements 2022.
- 3.2.5. To update the item in the work programme, entitled 'tackling racism in Medway'. This had originally been listed as a further update, originating from a Medway Youth Council Annual Conference report. It was felt this report should be a more current report, particularly in light of the Black Lives Matter movement, providing information on how children and young people are educated and supported, particularly but not exclusively in schools, to learn about the impact of racism and how they are supported to report such discriminatory activity. It was also suggested that the earliest this report would be presented to the Committee would be March 2021. Scheduling of this item would be reassessed in early 2021 and therefore remain as 'date to be determined' at present.
- 3.2.6. To recommend officers provide a briefing note on the role of Children's Social Care in out of area placements.
- 3.3. Following the agenda planning meeting, the Early Help Task Group has commenced and agreed an indicative timetable which aims to report its findings to the Committee at its January meeting. This is reflected in Appendix 1.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1. The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 24 August 2020 and can be viewed using the following link:
- 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: 2020 Annual Review of School Place Planning Strategy 2018-22

Description: This report will outline the progress made against Medway's School Place Planning Strategy and will highlight any emerging need for school places and recommendations for Cabinet to consider to ensure that a sufficient supply of school places is maintained.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 20 October 2020

Title: Provisional Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2021/22

Description: This report will set out the provisional proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2021/22.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 20 October 2020

Title: Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2021/22

Description: This report will provide details of the initial budget proposals for 2021/22 prior to consideration by the Council's O&S Committees.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 17 November 2020

Title: Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register Review 2020/21 – Quarter 2

Description: This report will provide details of Quarter 2 performance for 2020/21 against the priorities set out in the council Plan and will bring forward the latest risk management review.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 17 November 2020

Title: School Admission Arrangements 2022

Description: 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 2022 admission arrangements.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 15 December 2020

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 second of these workshops was held virtually on 3 September 2020. This session was attended by the Head of Corporate to allow Members to focus on the statistics relating to children in care. 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 personal education plans, independent fostering agency placements, support for care leavers, re-referral rates and impact of the covid-19 pandemic.

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 a briefing note relating to the role of Children's Social Care in out of area placements.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None