

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 DECEMBER 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 10 November 2020.

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

3.2.1. To add consideration of the Sufficiency Report to the January meeting of the Committee.

3.2.2. To receive information on the Adolescent and Edge of Care Teams as a briefing note.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1. The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 16 November 2020 and can be viewed using the following link:
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=382&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: 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: 15 December 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

Title: Annual Adoption Report

Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Adoption Service.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 12 January 2021

Title: Annual Fostering Report

Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Adoption Service.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 12 January 2021

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

Description: This report will set out the final proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies, following consideration by the Schools Forum.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 2 February 2021

Title: Sufficiency Report
Description: 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.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 2 February 2021

Title: Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register Review 2020/21 – Quarter 3
Description: This report will provide details of Quarter 3 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: 2 March 2021

Title: Update on the Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health
Description: This report will provide an update on the Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 2 March 2021

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 latest workshop was held virtually on 5 November 2020. This session was attended by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and the Head of Service for Children's Social Work Teams, in addition to the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, the Independent Chair of the Improvement Board and the Children's Services Commissioner, to allow Members to focus on the data relating to child protection. 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, complexity of cases, staffing levels, use of the signs of safety

model, working with partner agencies, how the voice of the child is captured and listened to and the mechanisms for reviewing plans.

- 5.5. At the session, the Children's Commissioner also reported very positively about the how Members had been developing their role as an overview and scrutiny committee in relation to Medway's children's services improvement journey. This was echoed by the Independent Chair of the Improvement Board.

6. Headteacher position on the Committee

- 6.1 The Headteacher position on the Committee will become vacancy at the end of 2020, as Nicola Forrest comes to the end of her two year term of office.
- 6.2 Invitations for expressions of interest into the vacancy were emailed to all Medway Headteachers in October with a closing date of Friday 13 November 2020.
- 6.3 Nicola Forrest indicated she would be very happy to remain on the Committee for a further two years, stating that she "enjoys the discussions and seeing how everyone works together to achieve the best for Medway children".
- 6.4 An expression of interest was also received from Carl Guerin-Hassett, Principal at The Hundred of Hoo Academy. He has 15 years experience as a teacher, eight of those as a senior leader in London, Kent and now as Principal at the Hundred of Hoo Academy where he has been for 1 and a half years.
- 6.5 Given that Nicola Forrest has just completed her two year term it is recommended that, subject to consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Opposition-Spokesperson ahead of this Committee meeting, Carl Guerin-Hassett be appointed to the Committee and, given the valuable contribution Nicola has brought to the Committee's discussions, it is recommended that Nicola be appointed as Carl's substitute for a further two year term.

7. Implications for looked after children

- 7.1 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.

8. Financial and legal implications

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

9. Recommendations

9.1 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.

9.2 The Committee is asked to agree to receive a briefing note relating to the Adolescent and Edge of Care Teams.

9.3 The Committee is asked to recommend the appointment of Carl Guerin-Hassett to the position of a non-voting Headteacher on this Committee to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Group Whips, for a two year term, subject to the outcome of consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson.

9.4 The Committee is asked to recommend the appointment of Nicola Forrest as a substitute non-voting Headteacher on this Committee to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Group Whips, for a two year term, subject to the outcome of consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson.

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None