

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 MARCH 2021

WORK PROGRAMME

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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 9 February 2021.
 - 3.2. At the meeting, Members made the following suggestions:
 - 3.2.1. To add pre-decision scrutiny of the Parenting Support Strategy to the June 2021 meeting.
 - 3.2.2. To add pre-decision scrutiny of the Early Help Strategy to the June 2021 meeting.
 - 3.2.3. To schedule a report on missing children for a future Committee meeting.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1. The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 1 February 2021 and can be viewed using the following link:
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=390&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: 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: 30 March 2021

Council Plan Performance Monitoring an Risk Register Review – Quarter 4 an End of Year 2020/21
This report will provide details of end of Quarter 4 and year end performance for 2020/21 against priorities set out in the Council Plan and will bring forward the latest risk management review.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 11 May 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. 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 27 January 2021. This session was attended by the Director of People – Children an Adult Services, the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, the Independent Chair of the Improvement Board and a Performance an Improvement Analyst. 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 relating to caseloads, data relating to contacts made, children subject to a Child Protection Plan, social worker recruitment, retention and support for Covid-19 vaccinations.
- 5.5. At the session, the Independent Chair of the Improvement Board suggested the Committee focus on support for care leavers in relation to employment, education and training, a red rated area of performance for Medway. Members agreed to invite the relevant officers to the next session to focus on this area.

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.

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None