

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 JUNE 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 20 May 2021.
 - 3.2. At the meeting, Members made the following suggestions:
 - 3.2.1. For the Childhood Obesity update to be removed from the 9 Jun 2021 agenda and instead Members of the Committee be sent the Health & Wellbeing Board report for info. The Committee will receive an annual update on childhood obesity in June every year from 2022.
 - 3.2.2. It was also agreed to schedule a number of items into the work programme, these suggestions are reflected as bold italics in Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1. The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 10 May 2021 and can be viewed using the following link:

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=397&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: Early Help Strategy
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to approve the Early Help Strategy.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 July 2021

Title: Parenting Support Strategy
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to approve the Parenting Support Strategy .
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 July 2021

Title: Youth Justice Plan Refresh
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to recommend approval of the refreshed Youth Justice Plan to full Council on 22 July 2021
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 July 2021

Title: Medway Council Fostering Service Review
Description: This report will provide details of a review of Medway's Fostering Service and the proposed fostering offer.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 3 August 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 11 May 2021. This session was attended by the Director of People – Children and Adult Services, the Interim Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care, the Assistant Director, Education and SEND, the Head of Child Protection, the Skills and Employability Programme Manager and the Group Manager for 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. At this session, Members focussed on care leavers and supporting them into education, employment and training. They raised questions relating to targets, the impact of the pandemic, tracking of young people and barriers that were in place for care leavers and how the Council and partners could support them in overcoming those barriers.
- 5.5. At the session, Members were clear that they wanted there to be clearer and shared ambition for care leavers across Medway to give them the best opportunities and asked officers to ensure the ambition is sufficiently captured within the local offer for care leavers.
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