

CHILDREN AND ADULTS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2010

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults

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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 – Rules, paragraph 22.1 (v) 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 existing work programme for the Committee.

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 Tuesday 5 October 2010.

3.2 At the meeting it was explained that a briefing note would be circulated to the committee in early November to inform members of an evaluation that has been carried out in relation to Medway short breaks for disabled children programme.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1 The following items have been added to the Cabinet Forward Plan that fall within the remit of this Committee: -

Walderslade Primary School – Change of Age Range 9 Nov 2010

This report proposes to initiate a public consultation on altering the age range of Walderslade Primary School to permit the admission of children from the age of 3 years.

Gateway 1 Options Appraisal: Building Works for Lordswood School 9 Nov 2010

Cabinet approval is sought to commence the procurement process for building works at Lordswood School.

Gateway 3 Contract Award: Building Works for Sir Joseph Williamson’s Mathematical School, Rochester 18 Jan 2011

Cabinet approval is sought to approve the contract for building works at Sir Joseph Williamson’s Mathematical School.

5. Parent Governor representation

- 5.1 Members were informed at the Committee meeting on 27 May 2010 that one of the parent governor representatives, Winston Murray, would be coming to the end of his four year term of office in November 2010 and the second parent governor representative, Elaine Watson, had been finding it difficult to attend meetings and therefore was happy for us to seek two new parent governor representatives, despite her term of office not ending until May 2011.
- 5.2 All of Medway’s parent governors were written to in August and were invited to nominate themselves to stand as a parent governor representative on the committee for a four year period. The closing date for nominations was Friday 24 September but unfortunately no nominations were received.
- 5.3 The Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 state that; “where a vacancy remains unfilled because no, or not enough, candidates seek election, the local education authority shall comply with the requirements of this regulation again within one year of the original vacancy having arisen and at six monthly intervals thereafter, calculated from the first anniversary of the original vacancy having arisen, until the vacancy is filled”.
- 5.4 Elaine Watson has agreed to remain in office until the end of her term in May 2011. It is therefore proposed that we invite nominations again in late summer 2011, over the start of the new school year and Democratic Services will work with Governor Services before then to help encourage interest prior to inviting nominations.

6. Health Scrutiny

- 6.1 To keep Members of this Committee informed about key activities relating to the scrutiny of children’s health this section provides an update of recent or forthcoming activity for both this Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.2 As the committee will be aware the Government has been consulting on its NHS White Paper, ‘Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS’ currently out to

consultation. In addition, an accompanying document is also out to consultation called 'Achieving equity and excellence for children'¹, and the deadline for responses was 11 October 2010. The paper sets out what the white paper will mean for children, young people and families and includes: -

- Strengthening the voice of this group in the system;
- Engaging through innovative approaches such as using technology and in a tailored, age-appropriate way;
- Measuring and ensuring improved experiences and outcomes for children and young people;
- Promoting and extending choice and control;
- Using outreach services in the wider community to engage, such as children centres;
- Ensuring good arrangements are in place to share information and good local practice;
- Ensuring safeguarding needs are met;
- Development of a framework of responsibilities;
- GP consortia to have a role in relation to the commissioning of health services for children and young people.

6.3 The Director of Children and Adults has sent a response to this document, which is attached at appendix 2 for your information.

7 Implications for Looked After Children

7.1 Scrutinising services and support for looked after children (LAC) is a key aspect of the remit of this Committee. Members should ensure they focus attention on the Every Child Matters outcomes for LAC as well as scrutinising every child matters outcomes for all children in Medway.

8 Financial and legal implications

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

9. Recommendations

9.1 That, subject to changes made at the meeting, the work programme is agreed as set out at the attached Appendix 1 of the report;

9.2 That the committee receives a briefing note providing information on an evaluation that has been carried out in relation to Medway short breaks for disabled children programme, in early November;

9.3 That the committee note the action proposed in relation to parent governor representatives on the committee, as outlined in paragraph 5 of the report.

9.4 That the committee note the response to the Government's consultation document, 'Achieving equity and excellence for children', as outlines at appendix 2 of the report.

¹ The document can be viewed at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_119449

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Background papers:

None

**Work Programme
Children and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Policy framework documents – Children and Young People’s Plan and Youth Justice Plan

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Redesignation of Rivermead School	Pre-decision scrutiny	Paul Clarke, School Organisation Officer	To consider the proposal to redesignate Rivermead School	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Sure Start provision	Service information	Mark Holmes, Early Years Strategy Manager	To receive an update on Sure Start provision in Medway	20 October 2010	All
Transition between Year 6 and Year 7	Service information	Simon Trotter, Assistant Director, Learning and Achievement	To invite the 21 st Century schools group of the Children’s Trust and consider the transition issues between years 6 and 7 along with sharing best practice.	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Update on academy programmes	Service information	Simon Trotter, Assistant Director Learning and Achievement/ Chris McKenzie Head of School Organisation and Governor Services	To receive an update on the academies in Medway	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Child Development Centre – update on the future location of the service	NHS Scrutiny	Sally Morris, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Strategy/ NHS Medway colleagues	To receive an update on the future location of the Child Development Centre	20 October 2010	Be healthy
Barnsole Schools – location of new school buildings	Service information	Chris McKenzie, Head of School Organisation and Governor Services	To receive a report back on options A and E from the report on 9 September 2010, including indicative costings.	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Council Plan monitoring – second quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	14 December 2010	All
Draft capital and revenue budgets 2011/12	Budget scrutiny	Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer	To consider and scrutinise the draft capital and revenue budgets for 2011/12	14 December 2010	All
Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	Performance management	Sally Mortimore, MSCB Manager	To consider and scrutinise the activity of the MSCB and its draft Business Plan.	20 January 2011	Stay safe
Portfolio Holder for Children's Services in attendance	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (lead member) to account	20 January 2011	All
Council Plan monitoring – third quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	1 March 2011	All
Themed meeting - Bullying	Scrutiny	Juliet Sevier Assistant Director Inclusion / Zoe Barkham Wellbeing Strategy Manager	To consider action being taken to prevent bullying in Medway, following the results of the TellUs Survey 2009.	1 March 2011	Enjoy and achieve Stay safe
Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care to account	5 April 2011	Stay safe

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services to account in relation to adult learning	5 April 2011	N/A
Review of healthy eating amongst children and young people – six month update	Scrutiny	Nicky Ling, Senior Public Health Manager (healthy weight), Zoe Barkham, Wellbeing Strategy Manager	To receive an update on the implementation of the recommendations from the in-depth review.	5 April 2011	Be healthy
Council Plan monitoring – fourth quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	To be determined	All
Vetting and barring	Service information	Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults	To receive an update on national guidance in relation to vetting and barring	To be determined	Stay safe

Forthcoming meetings:

2010: 20 October and 14 December (budget).

2011: 20 January, 1 March and 5 April.

Work completed in 2010/2011:

9 September 2010

- Council Plan monitoring – first quarter
- Healthy eating amongst children and young people
- Medway Safeguarding Children Board
- Options for Barnsole – location of new school building

12 July 2010

- Update – future location of the Child Development Centre
- Youth Justice Plan
- Looked after children attainment
- Ofsted inspections

27 May 2010

- Common assessment framework
- Tell Us Survey 2009
- End of year performance report 2009/10

WHITE PAPER RESPONSE TO - EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE FOR CHILDREN

We would strongly support consistent and aligned principles and policy across the children and adult agenda to ensure integrated practice. This will be aided if the response to the important recommendations of the Kennedy Review [September 2010] 'Getting it right for children and young people: overcoming cultural barriers in the NHS so as to meet their needs' is aligned and embedded in the next phase of the implementation of the White Paper. Specific aspects from the Kennedy review that we would highlight as critical to secure integrated systems and support for the health and well-being of children and young people, are:

- Effective coordination of NHS care to children and young people
- A requirement to have a local partnership arrangement that agrees a shared vision of care for children and young people in the area (eg Children's Trusts)
- More attention from the NHS to the transition between services for children and adults
- A clear national policy lead for children and young people
- GPs have information on local services for children and young people that help them act as navigators of local services
- NHS invest in critical early years for children
- NHS address workforce pressures in the support provided for children and families

1 Working in partnership

The consultation is right to indicate that the following areas will be important in the delivery of effective services and support to children and young people:

- Integrated Strategic planning
- Effective Information sharing
- Invest in early years
- Effective planning for transition from children's to adult services
- A central point of access for children and families accessing NHS services
- Information about care of children and families should be centralised and available to facilitate planning
- Coordinated safeguarding arrangements

Much of this has been achieved and sustained through local Children's Trust arrangements under the leadership of the local authority. We strongly support the proposal to have one local partnership taking the lead on these matters and it would be more efficient to build on existing partnership arrangements to do so.

How support GP consortia to commissioning effective children's health services

The consultation rightly highlights the importance of:

- GP training to work effectively with children and young people
- Effective NHS and other services to support children and young people with mental health or emotional well being needs.
- Central information available on services and support provided to children and young people via the GP to feed into strategic planning systems
- Good access to information on NHS services supporting children and young people

All of these areas have a partnership dimension and can not be achieved by GPs working in isolation. We would suggest that GPs should be directed to build on the important joint work with local authorities in developing:

- The common core skills for working with children and families
- Comprehensive integrated CAMHS at all levels of need
- Every Child Matters needs assessment work
- Family Information Service

to address these specific matters rather than starting new unconnected initiatives in isolation.

Healthwatch role in relation to children and young people

We strongly support the drive to include the views of children and young people in all aspects of the commissioning process and endorse the view that implementing the 'You're Welcome' initiative would make a positive contribution to this.

We would also note that engaging children and young people is a specialist skill that partners in the local authority have developed over many years. Healthwatch developments in these areas should build on the strengths that partners have developed as part of the integrated commissioning arrangements for children and young people under the Children's Trust.

Outcomes measures for children and families

We agree with the view that satisfaction measures are a good indicator of effective outcomes but would like to see the health outcomes framework align and draw on feedback from the comprehensive OFSTED inspections. We believe more work needs to be done on identifying clear outcome measures for joint commissioning priorities where health plays a major part. This would clarify the status and relative importance of current measures such as:

- Infant mortality
- Foundation stage achievement PSE and CLLD
- Obesity levels in primary age children
- Teenage Pregnancy and abortion rates
- Hospital admissions for under 18yrs
- Effectiveness of integrated CAMHS services
- Parental satisfaction with services provided to disabled children
- Immunisation rates for children under 5