

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 DECEMBER 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 11 November 2021.
 - 3.2. At the meeting, Members suggested the following:
 - 3.2.1. To defer the Kent and Medway Children and Young People Suicide Prevention Action Plan;
 - 3.2.2. Officers to look at scheduling an update on Medway's improvement journey, including the latest action plan and progress against that;
 - 3.2.3. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and support services – officers to provide this information via a briefing note/an information session via MS Teams.

- 3.3. Members also referred to the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies and the lack of opportunity to scrutinise or fully understand how the formula worked because of the tight timescales each year. Officers undertook to provide an information document for Members to set out the process for the formula, how it works and what factors determine certain aspects. Officers also offered to provide a further session at a later date to talk through this if Members felt it necessary.
- 3.4. After the meeting, officer suggested bring a report to the January meeting on the Local Transformation Plan for children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health. This has been reflected in the work programme attached at Appendix 1, subject to the Committee's agreement.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1. The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 15 November 2021 and can be viewed using the following link:
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=418&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 2022/23
Description: This report will set out the provisional proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2022/23.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 14 December 2021

Title: School Admission Arrangements 2023
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 2023 admission arrangements.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 14 December 2021

Title: People Strategy
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to approve the People Strategy.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 11 January 2022

Title: Annual Adoption Report
Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Adoption Service.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 8 February 2022

Title: Capital and Revenue Budgets 2022/23
Description: This report will set out proposals for the 2022/23 capital and revenue budgets, including comments from O&S Committees.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 8 February 2022

Title: Final Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2022/23
Description: This report will set out the final proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2022/23.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 8 February 2022

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 1 September 2021. This session was attended by the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, the Head of Service for Early Help and Targeted Services and the Independent Scrutineer of the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership who was also the Independent Chair of the Improvement Board.
- 5.4. The session focussed on missing children and talked Members through how the Council responds to incidents of missing children including those Medway children who are placed in care out of area, the prevalence of missing children incidents, partnership working involved and the focus and action needed.

6. Teacher representative

- 6.1 The position on the committee for a Medway teacher became vacant when Geoffrey Matthews moved jobs to a school outside of Medway.
- 6.2 Expressions of interest were invited and sent to all Medway schools with a closing date of Friday 19 November 2021. Democratic Services received a total of 5 expressions of interest.
- 6.3 As there have been more expressions of interest than vacant positions the Director People will consider each of these against the criteria attached at

Appendix 2, as agreed by this Committee in December 2015 and this will be done in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson before bringing forward a recommendation for appointment to the Committee for consideration.

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 note the update relating to the teacher position on the committee, as set out in section 6 of the report.

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Appendices

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

Background papers

Membership report – Children and Young People O&S Committee – 8 December 2015: <https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mqconvert2pdf.aspx?id=29096>