

# **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**6 JANUARY 2022**

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

Report from/author: Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

### 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 8 December 2021.
  - 3.2. At the meeting, Members suggested the following:
    - 3.2.1. To invite the Independent Scrutineer for the Secure Estate, when the next report from the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership is presented at Committee, to enable a focus on Cookham Wood and its inspection;
    - 3.2.2. To schedule the next Improvement Update report for the March meeting of the committee and for that report to include the outcomes of a recent Children's Services staff survey;
    - 3.2.3. To organise a member workshop before the March meeting to talk members through the current Improvement Action Plan;

- 3.2.4. To schedule a report on persistent absence for the June or July 2022 meeting (depending when the latest attendance data is released and ready).

#### 4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1. The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 13 December 2021 and can be viewed using the following link:  
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=419&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: 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

Title: Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Risk Register Review Quarter 3 2021/2022
Description: This report will provide details of Quarter 3 performance for 2021/22 against the priorities set out in the Council Plan and will bring forward the latest risk management review.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 8 March 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. There was no workshop since the last Committee meeting, as is usually the case due to the Christmas period and the proximity between the two committee meetings. These will re-commence in early 2022 and Members will be notified on dates in due course.

## 6. Teacher representative

- 6.1 The position on the committee for a Medway teacher is currently vacant and all Medway Schools were sent information, inviting teachers to submit expressions of interest by Friday 19 November 2021. Democratic Services received a total of 5 expressions of interest by the deadline.
- 6.2. As there have been more expressions of interest than vacant positions the Director of People, along with the Assistant Director, Education and SEND and in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, considered each of the applications against the criteria attached at Appendix 2.
- 6.3. The outcome of these considerations resulted in the following recommendations being unanimously agreed on:
  - 6.3.1. That Vicky Aspin from Abbey Court School be recommended to full Council to be appointed as the teacher representative on the Committee for a two year term.
  - 6.3.2. That Hannah Roberts from Warren Wood Primary Academy be recommended to full Council to be appointed as the named substitute for the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- 6.4. Vicky Aspin has extensive teaching experience and provides outreach support to a number of Medway primary schools. She is also a Specialist Leader of Education for the Medway Teaching Schools Alliance (MTSA) and has been since 2012, with specialisms in SEND and behaviour.
- 6.5. Hannah Roberts also has good experience of teaching and that experience spans both primary and secondary education. Hannah has a keen focus on

narrowing the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils. She is the English and Curriculum Lead at her school and as such has supported local schools within the same academy trust with teaching English. During her time at secondary she had experience good success from raising the attainment of Pupils in English.

## 7. Church of England Diocese representative

7.1. At the last meeting of the Committee Members were informed that Fay Cordingley had stepped down as the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education representative on the Committee. This position is a statutory position and holds voting rights on educational issues only.

7.2. Democratic Services have since been informed by the diocese that they have nominated Lenny Williams as the new representative. The Committee are therefore requested to also recommend Lenny's appointment to the Committee as the Church of England Diocese representative. There is no fixed term for this appointment, and it will be reaffirmed at each Annual Council meeting.

## 8. Implications for looked after children

8.1. 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.

## 9. Financial and legal implications

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

## 10. Recommendations

10.1. 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.

10.2. The Committee is asked to recommend full Council to make the following appointments:

10.2.1. That Vicky Aspin be appointed as the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.

10.2.2. That Hannah Roberts be appointed as the named substitute for the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.

- 10.2.3. That Lenny Williams be appointed as the Church of England Diocese representative (representing the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education).

### Lead officer contact

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### Appendices

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

Appendix 2 – Criteria for selection of Headteacher and Teacher to serve on the committee

### Background papers

Membership report – Children and Young People O&S Committee – 8 December 2015: <https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=29096>