

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 MARCH 2022

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from/author: Stephanie Davis, 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 9 February 2022.
 - 3.2 At the meeting, Members were informed that the Regional Schools Commissioner was unable to attend the March meeting of the Committee and therefore suggested that the annual review of the School Performance Report be deferred to the meeting on 8 June 2022, when the Regional Schools Commissioner will be in attendance.
 - 3.3 It was also agreed that instead of the Committee receiving the School Place Planning Strategy 2022-27 as pre-decision scrutiny at the March meeting (for which the agenda was already very full), Members of the Committee would

receive the report via the Cabinet agenda despatch and would be invited to refer questions to the lead officer who would then collate responses that would be circulated via a briefing note to the Committee for information.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 8 March 2022 and can be viewed using the following link:

[Forward plan - Cabinet 8 March 2022 | Medway Council](#)

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: Gateway 3 Contract Award: Independent Fostering Provision (Joint Contract with Kent County Council)
Description: This report will seek approval from the Cabinet to award a contract for independent fostering provision.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 8 March 2022

Title: School Place Planning Strategy 2022-27
Description: This report will update Members on the new School Place Planning Strategy. The strategy replaces the previous version which ran from 2018-22 and provides the overarching strategy behind the supply of sufficient school places.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 10 May 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 next workshop will take place on Wednesday 23 February 2022 and will have a focus on the latest improvement action plan to provide Members with information, ahead of the Committee scrutinising the latest improvement update report, which is elsewhere on this agenda.

6. LGA Training

6.1 Medway Council has been chosen as part of a Local Government Association (LGA) pilot to support political and corporate leadership for children's services. As part of the pilot, a training and development offer is being provided to Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which will take place on Tuesday 22 March 2022, with two further sessions to take place virtually at a later date. Members of this Committee have already been advised of this training and are asked to confirm their attendance to Democratic Services as soon as possible.

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 Note the training being offer by the Local Government Association for Committee Members on Tuesday 22 March 2022.

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None