

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 JUNE 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 19 May 2022.
 - 3.2 At the meeting, Members were informed that the Regional Schools Commissioner was unable to attend the May meeting of the Committee and therefore the annual of the School Performance Report will be taken and an alternative date sought for the Regional Schools Commissioner to attend Scrutiny.
 - 3.3 At the meeting Members also requested that activity relating to briefing note requests be provided to enable the Committee to keep under review

outstanding requests and recent publications. A section providing the latest position on briefing notes is set out in section 7 of this report.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 9 May 2022 and can be viewed using the following link:

[Forward Plan - Cabinet 7 June 2022](#)

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 1 Procurement Commencement - Supported Accommodation and Floating Support
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Description: This report will seek Cabinet approval to commence the procurement of supported accommodation and floating support services for Medway's Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 7 Jun 2022

Title: Proposals to Change Three Grammar Schools from Single Gender to Co-Educational Provisions - Outcome of Consultation
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Description: The report will present the outcome of a public consultation in relation to potential for increasing co-educational grammar places in Medway and will ask the Cabinet to agree the next steps.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 23 August 2022

Title: SEND Strategy

Description: This report will request Cabinet approval of the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Strategy.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 23 August 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 27 April 2022. This session was attended by the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, the Head of Provider Services and the Independent Scrutineer of the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership who was also the Independent Chair of the Improvement Board.
- 5.4 Members were given a presentation about residential placements generally, with a focus on the provision at Parklands, its most recent ofsted inspection and work being done in response to its findings. Officers confirmed that demand for residential placements for children with high complex needs was high and therefore extensive work was underway to build local sufficiency but that this was a national issue faced by all local authorities. Recruitment to provisions such as Parklands remained an issue for the local authority, for providers and nationally. Officers also confirmed that there had been a follow up visit by Ofsted at Parklands in March but as this was still under embargo at the time, officers were unable to share the outcome of that with Members.
- 5.5 The next workshop will take place on Thursday 23 June 2022.

6. LGA Training

- 6.1 The Committee took part in its first session of a Local Government Association (LGA) pilot to support political and corporate leadership for children's services on Monday 25 April 2022. The theme of the session was on the effective steps to scrutiny, with discussions on member role, barriers to effective scrutiny, work programming, undertaking reviews and evidencing the impact of the work of the committee. Attendees had the opportunity to share ideas and brainstorm on how to take forward the ideas discussed to implement and drive change.

The final session of the pilot will take place on 10 June 2022.

7. Briefing notes

- 7.1 At Members request, the following table displays a list of briefing note information requests, when the requests were made, when briefing notes were provided and what is still outstanding.

Subject	Committee at which request was made	Date circulated to Members	Any additional comment
Oral Health Strategy	9 June 2021	17 May 2022	Was still being developed when it was referred to in June and was circulated as soon as ready.
Underweight children in Medway	9 June 2021	17 November 2021	
Gangs Strategy	1 December 2021	12 May 2022	Was still in development when this was referred to in committee
Foetal Alcohol Syndrome	1 December 2021	17 May 2022	
Funding Formula	1 December 2021	17 February 2022	
General report on suicide	6 January 2022	Outstanding	Will be circulated when finalised
Data and an update on work to support care leavers who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)	3 March 2022	Outstanding	Will be circulated when finalised, anticipated by end of June.
Keeping children safe in education		24 March 2022	
Breastfeeding	3 March 2022	Outstanding	The next quarter of data is needed so officers can analyse any trends. Will be circulated when finalised

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 note the report and 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