

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 SEPTEMBER 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.
4. Cabinet Forward Plan
 - 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 20 September 2022 and can be viewed using the following link:
[Cabinet Forward Plan 20 September 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: Mosaic - Children's Urgent Forms Development
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to agree the development of simplified forms and workflows within the Children and Adults Social Care System, Mosaic, to better embed the children's practice model framework. The report will also request the Cabinet to recommended to Full Council an addition to the Council's revenue budget.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 18 October 2022

Title: 2022 Annual Review of the School Place Planning Strategy 2022-27
Description: This report will review and update the Cabinet on the actions from the School Place Planning Strategy. It will outline the current position relating to the sufficiency of school places and ask the Cabinet to agree further actions required to address emerging need based upon analysis of the most up to date information and data.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 18 October 2022

Title: High Needs Block Deficit Recovery Plan / Safety Valve Intervention Programme
Description: This report will present the detailed High Needs Block Deficit Recovery Plan, as submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) under the Safety Valve Intervention Programme. The Cabinet will be asked to agree submission of the Recovery Plan, ahead of a final agreement with the DfE (expected end-2022).
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 18 October 2022

Title: Joint SEND Strategy
Description: This report will request Cabinet approval of the Joint SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Strategy. The Strategy will initially be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 September 2022.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 18 October 2022

Title: Gateway 3 Contract Award - Family Time (Contact Service) for Children in Care and Their Families
Description: This report will seek Cabinet approval to award the contract for Family Time (Contact Service) for Children in Care and Their Families, following a procurement process.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 15 November 2022

Title: Provisional Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies
Description: This report will set out the provisional proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2023/24.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 December 2022

Title: School Admission Arrangements
Description: This report will provide details of the outcome of consultation on the primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes and will seek approval to the proposed 2024 admission arrangements.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 December 2022

5. Performance Data Workshops

- 5.1 At the Committee's meeting on 5 March 2020, it was 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 10 August 2022. This session was attended by the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and the Chief Organisation Culture Officer
- 5.4 The workshop focused on workforce recruitment and retention of staff which would be an item for discussion at the 29 September meeting of the Committee. Members had the opportunity to discuss what was being done to drive forward improvement in this area which was crucial to the Children's Improvement Journey.

5.5 The next workshop will take place on Wednesday 9 November 2022.

6. Local Government Association Training

6.1 The Committee took part in its final session of a Local Government Association (LGA) pilot to support political and corporate leadership for children's services on Monday 12 September 2022. The theme of discussion was on creating effective working relationships and culture that enables a strong scrutiny function. Members had the opportunity to reinforce their ideas on how to utilise the different skills of people on the Committee to influence, build strong useful networks and working relationships with partners in order to push forward the vision for effective children's scrutiny. Members learnt the importance of promoting the role of scrutiny through improved engagement and reinforcement of understanding of the role of scrutiny. Additionally why partner participation was fundamental to promoting improved outcomes for the young people of Medway.

6.2 The importance of capturing the voice of the child and making that central to the business of the Committee was discussed with emphasis on the different ways this could be done that did not just rely on traditional methods. The session was based around changing the narrative and perception of scrutiny and it was suggested and agreed by the LGA that the information provided in the session be used as part of the induction for new Members.

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	Requested to be circulated by a committee member	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
Reducing Excess Weight in Children	Agreed at meeting of 8 June 2022 to receive as briefing note instead of Agenda item.	28/08/2022	

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