

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 MARCH 2023

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.
4. Cabinet Forward Plan
 - 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 6 February 2023 and can be viewed using the following link:
[Cabinet 7 March 2023](#)
 - 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: Annual Adoption Report
Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Adoption Service. The report will initially be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 January 2023.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 7 March 2023

Title: Medway Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2023
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to agree the Medway Children and Young People's Plan 2023 – 2025. The report was initially considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 November 2022.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 7 March 2023

Title: Additions to the Capital Programme - Basic Need and SEND
Description: This report will update the Cabinet on the priority projects resulting from the annual review of the School Place Planning Strategy. The Cabinet will be asked to approve the projects and recommend to Full Council an addition to the Council's Capital Programme.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 4 April 2023

Title: Sufficiency Strategy
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to agree a refreshed Sufficiency Strategy in preparation for an Ofsted inspection. The Strategy identifies the support and care provided to Children In Care (CIC) and care leavers. The report will initially be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 March 2023.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 4 April 2023

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 dates of upcoming workshops are in discussion and Members will be informed once finalised. It is being suggested that the workshops recommence in the 2023/24 Municipal year.

6. Briefing notes

- 6.1 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	On agenda for 29 November 2022 meeting	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 Re -requested at 29 September meeting	06/02/2023	
Reducing Excess Weight in Children	Agreed at meeting of 8 June 2022 to receive as briefing note instead of Agenda item.	28/08/2022	
Raising Youth CIO	29 November 2022	Outstanding	

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 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