

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 JUNE 2023

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 was held on Friday 26 May 2023 with the newly appointed Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons.
 - 3.2 **At the meeting, Members suggested the following:**
 - 3.2.1 There was a concern regarding the recent Ofsted ratings of several schools in Medway and issues with underperformance of Trusts and a briefing on the Council's views and response was requested.
 - 3.2.2 The Democratic Services Officer to liaise with Cookham Wood for an update on their improvement journey with the request of attendance at a future meeting by the Governor of Cookham Wood.

3.3 At its meeting of 25 January 2023, the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended to the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees that they consider including in their next work programme report a review of last four years. This would include the structure and content of the work programme, an update on Task Groups and any outstanding matters and actions, to serve as a handover document to the new Committee after the elections. It was proposed that this be included in the Work Programme report for the June 2023 meeting and can be found at Appendix 2 to this report.

3.4 At the meeting of 2 March 2023, it was recommended and agreed that the incoming Committee agreed the proposals as set out in Appendix 3 of this report on 'Changes to ways of working.'

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 2023 and can be viewed using the following link:

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 - Medway Alternative Provision for Education
Description: This report will seek Cabinet approval to award a contract for Medway Alternative Provision for Education, following a procurement process
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 11 July 2023

Title: Medway Youth Justice Plan
Description: This report will present the refreshed Youth Justice Plan to the Cabinet. The report will initially be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2023 and will be presented to Full Council on 20 July 2023 for approval of the Plan.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 11 July 2023

Title: Outcomes of Consultation for the proposed amendments to the Education Transport Assistance Policy (ETAP)
Description: This report will present the outcomes of consultation on proposed amendments to the Council's Education Transport Assistance Policy and ask the Cabinet to agree next steps.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 11 July 2023

Title: Annual Fostering Report
Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Fostering Service. The report will, initially, be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 August 2023.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 8 Aug 2023

Title: School Place Planning Strategy Annual Review
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: 5 Sep 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 At the agenda planning meeting on 26 May 2023, it was discussed and agreed that a performance data workshop would take place in July 2023 to enable officers to provide guidance to members on interpreting the children's social care performance data information that is sent out on a monthly basis. The session will provide valuable insight and support on how the information that is sent should be interpreted and members will have the opportunity to have their questions answered. The date for this is being finalised and the importance of full attendance by the Committee is encouraged. This session will be held on MS Teams.
- 5.4 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	17/04/2023	
Briefing update on Early Career Teachers	2 March 2023	Outstanding	
Medway specific data on pupil ethnicity by school phase.	2 March 2023	Outstanding	

6 Reconfiguration of Children's Cancer Principal Treatment Centre

6.1 Members are advised that the Committee decided on 2 March 2023 2023 that the proposal from NHS England on changes to the children's cancer specialist treatment centre did not constitute a substantial variation or development in the provision of health services. The Recommendation was for the Committee to be sighted on development of the process and as a result the Chairman attended a briefing on the 22 May 2023 on the draft consultation document and was able to provide feedback on areas that required further development on the document. At this stage the document is confidential, details cannot be shared with the Committee, although it is expected that the consultation document will be available soon. The importance of engagement with Medway Public Health officers was stressed to ensure that the needs of Medway residents could be adequately captured during the consultation process.

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.

9.2 The Committee is asked to note the business considered by the Committee during 2019-2023 as outlined in Appendix 2.

9.3 The Committee is asked to note and agree the recommendations as set out in Appendix 2 of the Committee Way of working report of 2 March 2023.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

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

Appendix 2 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2019-2023 business considered by the Committee

Appendix 3 Childrens Scrutiny Committee Way of Working

Background papers

None