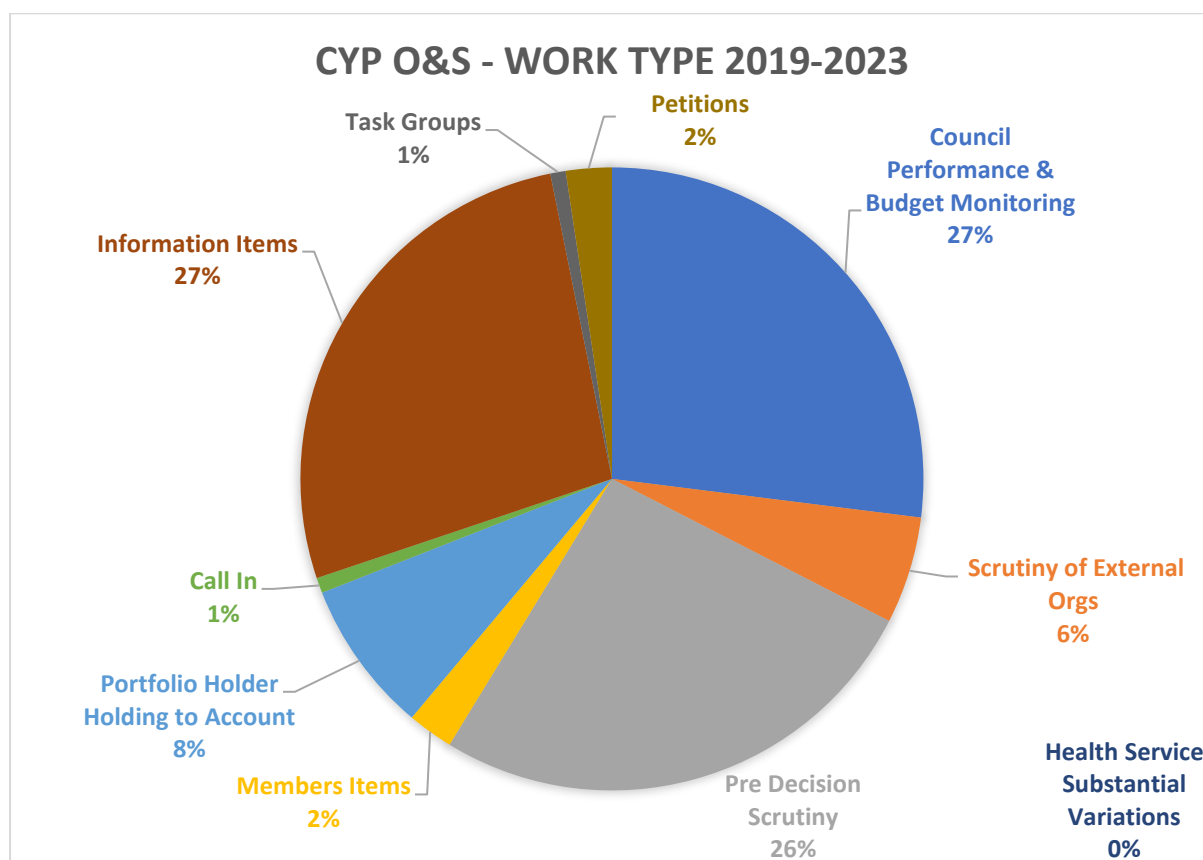


Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2019-2023

Business considered by the Committee



Business type	Number
Council Performance & Budget Monitoring	34
Scrutiny of External Orgs	7
Pre-Decision Scrutiny	33
Members' Items	3
Portfolio Holder Holding to Account	10
Call In	1
Health Service Substantial Variations	0
Information Items	34
Task Groups	1
Petitions	3
TOTALS	126

Recommendations submitted to Cabinet	8
Recommendations accepted by Cabinet	8

Update - Early Help (Parenting) Task Group

The Task Group, which took place during the latter half of 2020, made twelve recommendations which were aimed at developing parenting support in Medway from a universal offer that would be easily accessible by all to more targeted support services where needed. The vision was for parenting support to be delivered in a cohesive way, consistently applied by all agencies across Medway and to be accessed without stigma or difficulty in access. The recommendations, which were all accepted by the Cabinet in February 2021, were then fed into the Medway Parenting Support Strategy, which was developed and presented to Members later in 2021.

The Parenting Support Strategy is a 10 year strategy, as recommended by the Task Group, to provide an opportunity for cultural change to become embedded. Therefore, it is still too early to assess progress against some of the longer-term outcomes. However, progress against the strategy is reviewed on a six monthly basis by the Early Help multi-agency Board and progress is also reported to CMT.

There is much work continuing at a multi-agency level to promote and maximise opportunities for parenting support. Most recent activity includes:

- A small grants scheme for small community groups to deliver parenting support within local communities was commissioned and programmes are due to go live soon.
- There continues to be a number of parenting programmes and support available across Medway and work continues to understand the need for more targeted programmes and to develop clearer pathways into these services.
- There is an NHSE pilot project underway to upskill and support our local GP population to implement a multi-disciplinary approach for families where the child has one or more long term health condition to support them to better manage their conditions and improve access to local support, with an anticipated outcome of better coordinated care and a reduction in avoidable A&E attendance.
- Kent & Medway ICB continue to work on improving prevention, recognition and support for parents/carers of children with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). There is some targeted work and a specialist hub where any professionals from Kent & Medway can book a session to talk about how best to support a child/family.
- A new Medway campaign called '*Grow Through Play*' which aims to raise parent/carers awareness of developmental milestones in younger children; promote local uptake of Health Visitor checks; improve uptake of funded places for 2 year olds and to inform families about the school readiness questionnaire.
- Medway Early Years Partnership Forum are scoping ways to support parents where children are not meeting their speech and language and/or social communication developmental milestones. The aim is to offer children and families a suite of support via a tiered model of delivery.

At a national level, the DfE and DHSC have recently announced the Start for Life/Family Hubs programme, a 'parenting support' workstream that addresses some of the strategy workstreams, including the digital and face to face offers around information sharing and signposting and will provide a huge opportunity for Medway to expand its offer around Parenting Support.

Outstanding matters and action

Whilst almost all requests for briefing notes and any follow up action have been met, there remains the following requests are currently outstanding, and all efforts will continue to be made to deal with these as soon as possible.

Date of Meeting	Agenda item	Outstanding Action
6/01/2022	Medway Suicide Prevention Action Plan	General report on suicide
2/03/2023	PH Education and Schools	Briefing update on Early Career Teachers
2/03/2023	Annual School Performance Report	Medway specific data on pupil ethnicity by school phase.