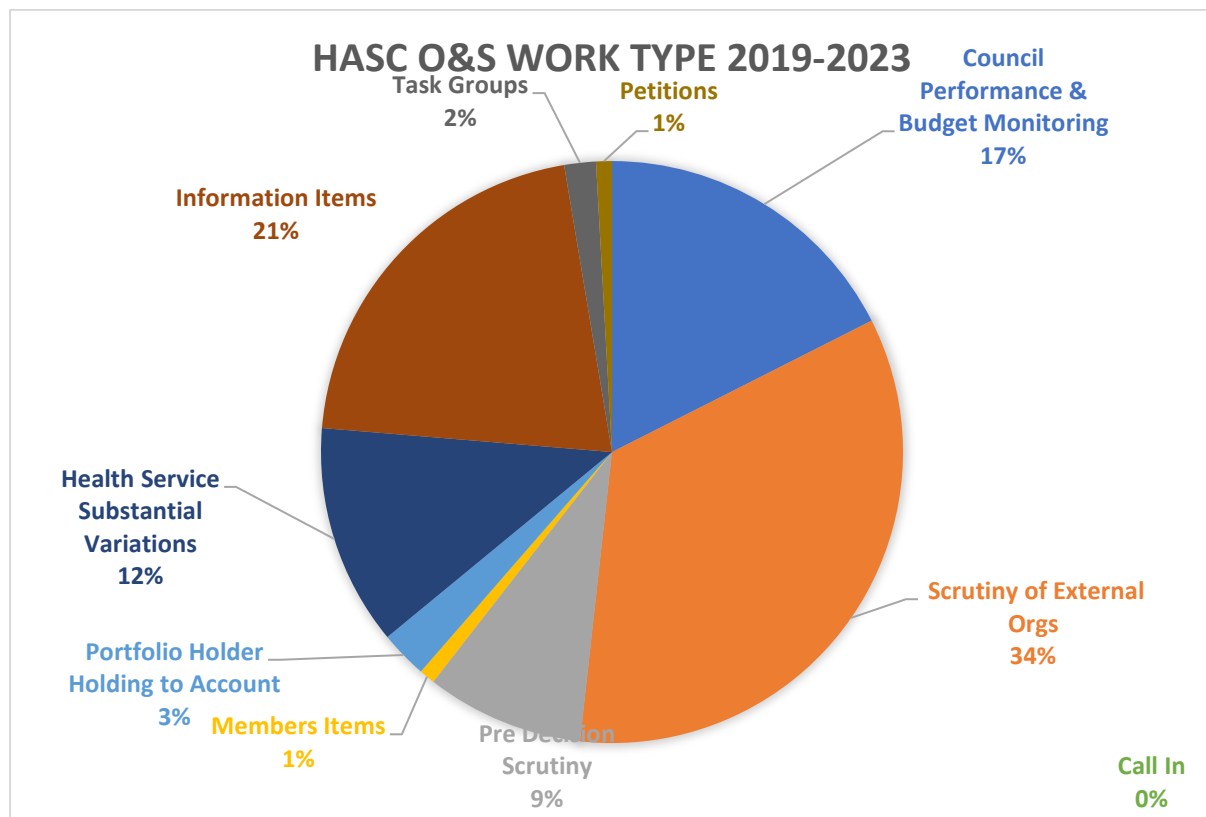


Review of the work of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2019-2023



	HASC
Council Performance & Budget Monitoring	20
Scrutiny of External Orgs	39
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Outstanding matters and actions (2022-23)

Whilst a large number of 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	Update
14 June 2022	Children and Young People's Mental Health (Transitions)	Briefing paper on the crisis and complex pathway programme requested. Further details requested on the accountability arrangements for services.	Briefing paper being prepared Clarification being sought on what information is required
16 August 2022	Kent and Medway Adult Learning Disability and Autism	Briefing paper on EHCP waiting times - to be shared with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
11 October 2022	Long Covid Update	Provide Members with the figures for the number of long covid cases in Medway and how they compare to other areas.	

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1 December 2022	Community Diagnostic Centres	<p>Arrange site visit at the Rochester Healthy Living Centre site to discuss parking and anti-social behaviour, including police if possible. (Note: this was arranged but postponed at the request of the provider)</p> <p>Provide regular updates on progress with establishing the community diagnostic centres, via briefing notes.</p>	This has been re-arranged for 29 June.
1 December 2022	Kent and Medway Adult Learning Disability and Autism	Provide briefing paper on work to increase experts by experience from Medway	
9 March 2023	People Directorate Risk Register Summary	Risk DR14 re-commissioning children's nursing service – provide update for Member on this process.	Cabinet in June will be asked to approve the commencement of a procurement process in relation to Health Visiting and School Nursing.

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Update on Task Groups

- 1.1. In January 2022 the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the topic of the next Task Group should be GP appointments and access to services.
- 1.2. The membership of the Task Group comprised Councillors Wildey (Chairman), Murray, Price, Purdy and Mrs Elizabeth Turpin.
- 1.3. In January 2023 this Committee considered the interim report of the GP Access Task Group.
- 1.4. Despite its best efforts, the Task Group had been unable to meet with many GPs during the review. This was anticipated due to the pressures general practices are under but regardless, this was still a frustration. The Task Group had wanted to visit more practices and to meet with more GPs to enrich their understanding of the current situation and to identify possible solutions.
- 1.5. They did, however, meet with 4 GPs (1 external to Medway) and visited 2 surgeries. All the evidence gathering sessions were incredibly valuable in informing some of the Task Group's findings and recommendations. Additionally, the Task Group was well supported by the Director of Primary Care from NHS Kent and Medway and met with other stakeholders including Patient Participation Group representatives, Community based organisations and Community Pharmacists representatives.
- 1.6. The Task Group recognised that it was difficult to meet with GPs at this time due to the pressures within primary care and the wider NHS system. It therefore agreed to submit the report and recommendations to this Committee as interim, with an intention to revisit the review work later in 2023, when it was hoped that more effective engagement with a larger number of Medway GPs could take place.
- 1.7. The Committee was asked to determine whether to forward the interim report and its interim recommendations to the Cabinet for its consideration. On 12 January 2023, it agreed the following:
 - a) to note the interim report from the GP Access Task Group.
 - b) that the report is not forwarded to the Cabinet at this stage.
 - c) that the report and its interim recommendations be revisited in the summer when the work can be completed with more engagement with GPs.

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- 1.8. Following the meeting, Councillor Murray requested that an item be placed on the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda for 9 March 2023 as follows:

“At the last meeting of this Committee, following a discussion on the Interim GP Access Task Group, the following was agreed:

- a) to note the interim report from the GP Access Task Group.*
- b) that it is not forwarded to the Cabinet at this stage.*
- c) that the report and draft recommendations be revisited in the summer when the work can be completed with more engagement with GPs.*

A number of Members spoke during the debate in favour of the Committee agreeing to forward the report and recommendations to the Cabinet. The decisions made by the Committee (on the Chairman’s casting vote), demonstrated that the Committee could not agree on a final set of proposals to be forwarded to the Cabinet.

Paragraph 11.2 of the Overview and Scrutiny Rules state: “If an Overview and Scrutiny Committee cannot agree on one single final set of proposals or recommendations to the Council or Leader/Cabinet (as appropriate), then a minority view which is supported by the largest minority, but at least three members, may be prepared and submitted for consideration by the Council or Leader/Cabinet (as appropriate) with the proposals and recommendations supported by the majority of the Committee. The names of those who dissent may, at a member’s request, be recorded on the main submission.”

Therefore, I request that (at least) three Members of this Committee indicate their support for a minority view which is to submit the GP Access Task Group interim report and interim recommendations to the next meeting of the Cabinet (4 April 2023).”

- 1.9. On 9 March 2023 five members of the Committee gave support for a minority view. In support of the minority view, the Lead Member for the Member’s item stated that she did not agree with the view that the report’s findings were insufficient. She accepted the Task Group had not seen as many GPs as they would have liked but the Group had spoken to key practitioners and allied professionals who shared good practice and ideas. The people who the Task Group had engaged with felt the report was an excellent piece of work. There had been no forward planning about how this work could be progressed after the elections and this was the time to forward the recommendations.

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- 1.10. On 4 April, the Cabinet considered the report, which set out the minority view above. At that meeting the Cabinet noted the report and agreed that the Task Group report and its draft recommendations be revisited in Summer 2023 to enable completion of the work, including further engagement with GPs and that the completed Task Group report be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.
- 1.11. Following the local elections, which took place on 4 May 2023, a new administration was formed and the report was resubmitted to the Cabinet for reconsideration on 13 June 2023.
- 1.12. The report to Cabinet can be viewed at:

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=115&MIId=5653>

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