

# **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**5 OCTOBER 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. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny 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.

#### 2. Budget and policy framework

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.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the proposed work programme for the Committee during the current municipal year.

#### 4. Agenda planning meeting

- 4.1 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 14 September 2023 with the Chairperson and Opposition Spokespersons.

#### 4.2 At the meeting, Members suggested the following:

- 4.2.1 The meeting on 5 December 2023 would be finance themed and a data workshop session would take place ahead of that meeting, date of which is to be confirmed. One of the objectives would be to provide members with an understanding on how funding is spent, the direction of travel of the service and how this links in financially with the long term aspiration and plan.
- 4.2.2 Following discussion, it was agreed that the Annual Schools Performance report be presented to the Committee at its meeting of 11 January 2024 with the data (unvalidated) available. A data workshop session will take place prior to the formal meeting. The Annual Schools Performance report (validated data) will then be circulated to Members virtually in March. This action is proposed going forward as taking the report at an earlier time in the meeting cycle will prevent instances whereby the Committee receive data that is lagged.

#### 5. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 5.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 15 September 2023 and can be viewed using the following link: [Cabinet Forward Plan](#).
- 5.2 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 Review of the School Place Planning Strategy 2022-2027
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: 26 September 2023

Title: Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)
Description: This report will detail the outcome of the recent Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) at Medway. The report will also be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 October 2023.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 26 September 2023

Title: Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Round 2

Description: This report will set out the latest monitoring position.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 21 November 2023

Title: Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Risk Register Review Quarter 2 2023/24

Description: This report will provide details of quarter 2 performance for 2023/24 against the priorities set out in the Council Plan and will bring the latest risk management review.

This report will also be considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 21 November 2023

Title: Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2024/25

Description: This report will provide details of the initial budget proposals for 2024/25 prior to consideration by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The outcome of consideration by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be considered by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 February 2024 and the Committee will send any comments and recommendations to Cabinet on 13 February 2024 for consideration alongside the budget proposals. Full Council will be asked to consider and approve the final budget proposals on 29 February 2024

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 21 November 2023

Title: Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Round 2

Description: This report will present the latest monitoring position.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 21 November 2023

Title: Provisional Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2024/2025

Description: This report will set out the provisional proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2024/25.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 19 Dec 2023

Title: School Admissions Co-Ordinated Schemes and Arrangements 2025
Description: This report will provide details of the outcome of consultation on the primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes and will seek approval of the proposed 2025 admission arrangements.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 19 Dec 2023

## 6. Performance Data Workshops

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The next workshop will take place 3 October 2023 at 5:00pm via Microsoft Teams and the session will be on Children's Social Care.
- 6.5 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	19 September 2023	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	<b>Outstanding</b>	
Medway specific data on pupil ethnicity by school phase.	2 March 2023	<b>Outstanding</b>	
Vaccination Programme	14 June 2023	<b>Outstanding</b>	Will be finalised after an immunization meeting on 28 <sup>th</sup> September where up to date information will be gathered

## 7. Scrutiny Task Groups

- 7.1 The Council has agreed that up to three in-depth scrutiny Task Groups or themed Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings can be supported in total across all four of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees every year, with each review running successively. A process for determining the programme of Task Group themes and activity has been agreed, with the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee having a co-ordinating role. Topics are prioritised on a criteria selection basis reflecting best practice.
- 7.2 At the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting pre-agenda meeting of 14 September 2023, following consultation with groups, it was decided that the Committee would put forward Education Inequality and Child Mental Health as its suggested topics
- 7.3 A meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Spokespersons will take place on 4 October 2023 to discuss the topics put forward and shortlist four topics and their priority order to be recommended to Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a final decision.

## 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.

### Lead officer contact

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### Appendices

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

### Background papers

None