

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 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 8 November 2023 with the Chairperson, Vice- Chairperson and Opposition Spokespersons.

4.2 At the meeting, Members suggested the following:

4.2.1 The meeting on 11 January 2024 would be education themed and a data workshop session would take place ahead of that meeting on schools performance, date of which is the 9 January 2024 at 5pm.

5. Cabinet Forward Plan

5.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 20 November 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: 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 December 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 December 2023

Title: Annual Adoption Report

Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Adoption Service. The report is initially due to be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 January 2024.
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Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 February 2024

Title: Final Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2024/25 Annual Adoption Report
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Description: This report will set out the final proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies, following consideration by the Schools' Forum.
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Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 February 2024

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 9 January 2024 at 5:00pm via Microsoft Teams and the session will be on Education.
- 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	3 March 2022	On agenda for 29 November 2022 meeting	Will be circulated when finalised, anticipated by end of June.

not in employment, education, or training (NEET)			
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	27/11/2023	Will be included as part of the report at the next education themed meeting
Medway specific data on pupil ethnicity by school phase.	2 March 2023	27/11/2023	Will be included as part of the report at the next education themed meeting
Vaccination Programme	14 June 2023	9/10/2023	Will be finalised after an immunization meeting on 28 th September where up to date information will be gathered

7. Scrutiny Task Groups

7.1 The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered an update on task groups on 26 October 2023 and agreed that the order for the task groups for the current term should be as follows:

- Air Quality and Public Transport & Active Travel (combined review)
- Medway 2.0

- Child Mental Health
- New Social Housing Regime
- Education Inequality

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.

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None