

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JANUARY 2024

## 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.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to recommend to full Council to make the following appointments:
  - 1.2.1 That Alice Pledger be appointed to the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
  - 1.2.2 That Bruno Lionet be appointed as a named substitute to the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
  - 1.2.3 That Leanna Rodgers be appointed to the headteacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
  - 1.2.4 That Vicky Aspin be appointed as a named substitute to the headteacher position on the Committee for a two year term.

#### 2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1 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.

### 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 December 2023 with the Chairperson, and Opposition Spokesperson.

4.2 At the meeting, Members discussed the suggestion by Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of March 2023, that Overview and Scrutiny Committees have the opportunity to consider the Local Plan during the consultation period at the Regulation 19 stage. The Chairperson and Opposition Spokesperson decided that despite the importance of the Local Plan, due to the constraints of the work programme and the number of items that needed to be taken at Committee that were of higher priority, at this time it would not be appropriate to add the Local Plan to the work programme of the Committee.

### 5. Cabinet Forward Plan

5.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 18 December 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 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.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 February 2024

Title: Final Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies
Description: This report will set out the final proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies, following consideration by the Schools' Forum.
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 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,	3 March 2022	On agenda for 29 November 2022 meeting	Will be circulated when finalised, anticipated by end of June.

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	06/03/2023	
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 <sup>th</sup> September where up to date information will be gathered

## 7. Committee Membership – Added and Co-opted Members

- 7.1 The position on the Committee for a Medway teacher and headteacher is currently vacant as the term for the current representative end on 22 January 2024 and all Medway Schools were sent information, inviting teachers and headteachers to submit expressions of interest by Friday 24 November 2023. Democratic Services received a total of 2 expressions of interest for each post by the deadline date.
- 7.2 As there have been more expressions of interest than vacant positions the Director of People, along with the Assistant Director, Education and SEND

and in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, considered each of the applications against the criteria attached at Appendix 2.

- 7.3 The outcome of these considerations resulted in the following recommendations being unanimously agreed on:
- 7.3.1 That Alice Pledger from Fort Pitt Grammar School be recommended to full Council to be appointed as the teacher representative on the Committee for a two year term.
  - 7.3.2 That Bruno Lionet from Chatham Grammar School be recommended to full Council to be appointed as the named substitute for the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
  - 7.3.3 That Leanna Rodgers from Thames View Primary School be recommended to full Council to be appointed as the headteacher representative on the Committee for a two year term.
  - 7.3.4 That Vicky Aspin from Abbey Court School be recommended to full Council to be appointed as the named substitute for the headteacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- 7.4 Alice Pledger is in her fourth year as a qualified teacher and is a current head of year. She works extensively to overcome academic and behavioural difficulties with children and provides support and advice to parents and carers. She has gained valuable insight into some of the issues faced by children in their homes,
- 7.5 Bruno Lionet has been teaching for over 20 years and has worked across independent, grammar, comprehensive and academy schools. In his current position, he has been working to increase the profile of STEM. He established a department at a previous school and raised awareness of women in STEM in a grammar school.
- 7.6 Leanna Rodgers has extensive experience as a teacher for over 20 years, a deputy for 3 years and a headteacher for 6 years. She has been an active SENCO since 2016 and is a keen advocate for inclusion. She was a previous member on the Childrens Safeguarding Board in Bexley.
- 7.7 Vicky Aspin has extensive experience on the Committee having been a member of the Committee as a teacher representative for the past two years. She is now a headteacher at her school.
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

Stephanie Davis, Democratic Services Officer

Email: [stephanie.davis@medway.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.davis@medway.gov.uk) Tel: 01634 332503

### Appendices

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

Appendix 2 Criteria for Selection

### Background papers

None