

Children And Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 June 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 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 suggest topics for themed discussion for the 2024/25 cycle of meetings of the Committee.
- 1.3 The Committee is asked to decide if a report on the Local Plan should be presented at the 1 August 2024 meeting.

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 February 2024 with the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Opposition Spokesperson. Members agreed the agenda items for the meetings with no changes to be made

4.2 At the meeting, Members suggested the following:

4.2.1 That the 12 June meeting would not be themed due to the amount of BAU items that needed to be taken.

4.2.2 There would be a focus on the work programme element of the session where Members will be asked to suggest topics for scrutiny for the 2024/25 cycle of meetings.

4.3 Suggested topics for 2024/25 Work Programme

4.4 An email was sent by the Democratic Services Officer on 3 April 2024, asking Members to think in advance of this meeting, of topics that they would like to cover during this municipal year. The suggestions will be collated and used to plan themes for the rest of the 2024/2025 cycle of meetings.

5. Local Plan

5.1 It was reported in the 11 January 2024 work programme report that at the 14 December Agenda Planning Meeting, the Chairperson, and Opposition Spokesperson discussed the suggestion made the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny meeting at its meeting of 30 March 2023 that all Overview and Scrutiny Committees have the opportunity to consider the Local Plan during the consultation period at the Regulation19 stage. The Chairperson and Opposition Spokesperson agreed 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 a higher priority, it would not be appropriate to add the Local Plan to the programme of the Committee.

5.2 The Cabinet is now due to consider the Local Plan report (Regulation 18) on 9 July 2024, this means overview and scrutiny has an opportunity to consider the Local Plan during the August cycle of meetings. Therefore, Members are being asked to decide if they are still of that view that it does not need to be brought to Committee or if they want the Local Plan to be brought to Committee for discussion, in which case the report would be presented at the 1 August 2024 meeting.

6. Cabinet Forward Plan

6.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on and can be viewed using the following link:

6.2 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: Experience of Care as a Protected Characteristic
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to recommend to Full Council on 18 July 2024 that experience of care is recognised as a protected characteristic.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 9 July 2024

7. Performance Data Workshops

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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 as needed, 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.
- 7.3 Members are asked to think to areas of the service that they feel they would like to look into further and for a workshop session to be arranged.
- 7.4 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 2022 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 th September where up to date information will be gathered

Letter to Regional Schools Director on behalf of the Committee	11 January 2024	Response Outstanding	Letter sent 29/02/2024. Email acknowledgement received 07/03/2024, response will be sent in due course
Cookham Wood – 6 monthly briefing to be provided on improvement journey	11 January 2024	Due July 2024	

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