

Children And Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 August 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. Recommendation

- 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.

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 26 June 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 discussed Commissioning Children’s Community Services. At the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting of 20 September 2023, Members were informed that Children’s Community Services in Medway were exempt from the upcoming procurement of Children and Adult Community Health Services across Kent and Medway, A briefing was later circulated which mentioned an upcoming consultation for Medway and Swale services for children and young people which Scrutiny in Medway had not been made aware of. This is a significant procurement exercise for Medway, as a result, the Chairperson of HASC O&S and the Chairperson of CYP O&S have called a special HASC (who will lead on this matter) meeting on 7 August 2024, with participants of CYP O&S, namely the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Opposition Spokesperson invited to attend the meeting which will consider a report on this mater

5. Cabinet Forward Plan

5.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 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.

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| Title: Youth Justice Plan |
| Description: This report will provide details of the Youth Justice Plan which forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework. The Cabinet will be asked to make recommendations to Council on 17 October 2024 for final consideration and approval. |
| Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 1 Oct 2024 |

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| Title: Annual review of School Place Planning Strategy |
| 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: 22 Oct 2024 |

Title: Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2025/26 Proposals

Description: This report will provide details of the initial budget proposals for 2025/26 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 30 January 2025 and the Committee will send any comments and recommendations to Cabinet on 11 February 2025 for consideration alongside the budget proposals. Full Council will be asked to consider and approve the final budget proposals on 27 February 2025.

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 19 Nov 2024

6. Performance Data Workshops

- 6.1 At the Committee's meeting on 5 March 2020, it was agreed for a number of measures to be put in place to maximise 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 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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 |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 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 |

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| Cookham Wood – 6 monthly briefing to be provided on the improvement journey | 11 January 2024 | Due July 2024 | |
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7. Implications for children in care

- 7.1 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 children in care 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 children in care and have the same high expectations of them as they would for their own child, grandchild, or niece/ nephew.

8. Financial and legal implications

- 8.1 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