

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 JUNE 2011

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults

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Summary

This item advises Members of the current work programme and allows them 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. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 Under Chapter 4 – Rules, paragraph 22.1 (v) General terms of reference, each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.

2. Background

- 2.1. Appendix 1 to this report sets out the existing work programme for the committee.

3. Agenda planning meeting

- 3.1 Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. These give officers guidance on information Members wish them to provide when scrutinising an issue. An agenda planning meeting was not held on this occasion as the membership of the committee was not agreed until Annual Council which was two days before the agenda despatch.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The following items have been added to the Forward Plan and are within the remit of this committee: -

End of Year Performance Report 2010/11

July 2011

This report will set out the Council Plan monitoring for the fourth quarter of 2010/11.

Gateway 1 Contract Procurement Commencement: July 2011
Connexions

Cabinet approval is sought to commence the procurement process for the Connexions Service in Medway which provides information, advice and support on a range of issues affecting young people.

Gateway 3 Procurement Tender Process Review and July 2011
Contract Award: Bishop of Rochester Academy

Cabinet approval is sought to approve the contract for this school building project together with the Final Business Case.

Gateway 3 Procurement Tender Process Review and July 2011
Contract Award: Brompton Academy

Cabinet approval is sought to approve the contract for this school building project together with the Final Business Case

Gateway 3 Procurement Tender Process Review and July 2011
Contract Award: Napier Primary School

Cabinet approval is sought to approve the contract for this school building project.

Gateway 3 Procurement Tender Process Review and July 2011
Contract Award: Oaklands Primary School

Cabinet approval is sought to approve the contract for this school building project.

Gateway 3 Procurement Tender Process Review and July 2011
Contract Award: School Condition Programme 2011/12
Boiler and Roofing works

Cabinet approval is sought to approve the contract for boiler and roofing works.

School Organisation Plan July 2011

This report will seek approval from the Cabinet to consult on the draft School Organisational Plan.

Children and Young People Plan July 2011

This report will seek the Cabinet's views on the draft Children and Young People Plan

- 4.2 The end of year performance report 2010/11 has been added to this committee's work programme for the July meeting.
- 4.3 It is recommended that the School Organisation Plan be reported to the committee after public consultation has been sought, which will be later in the year.
- 4.4 The draft Children and Young People Plan has been added to this committee's work programme for the July meeting.

5. Overview and Scrutiny in depth reviews 2011/12

- 5.1 On 14 April 2011, as a consequence of budget reductions, the Council decided to reduce the level of in-depth scrutiny review work across all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to three task groups and/or themed meetings in total per year. Officers were asked to report to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on how this might be co-ordinated and managed. The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be meeting on 9 June 2011 and will consider a proposed way forward on this issue.
- 5.2 The Council's Constitution states that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme, which should take into account the wishes of all Members of the committee.
- 5.3 The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its remit the provision of guidance and leadership on the development and co-ordination of the scrutiny function for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, including guidance on priorities for scrutiny activities.
- 5.4 The programme of in-depth reviews undertaken via task groups and /or themed meetings over the last four years is summarised to show the volume and breadth of activity;

	2007/08	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Business Support	Bereavement Services in Medway		Support for People in temporary accommodation	
Children and Young People	Services for children with disabilities	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Review of Youth Services	Review of Child Protection	Review of Healthy Eating Countering Bullying
Health and Adult Social Care	Mental Health		Telecommunications Masts Supporting Carers	Safeguarding vulnerable adults Transition for children to adult services for young people with a disability
Regen. Community and Culture	Provision of water to meet Medway's future needs Drugs and Alcohol		Provision of residential on-street disabled parking bays	Highway winter service reviews Effectiveness and future of PACTS

5.5 As there are four Overview and Scrutiny Committees it is being suggested to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it should exercise a more pro-active role than previously in prioritising the programme of in-depth scrutiny review work for 2011/12. Recognising there are a number of new Councillors and that committees will need time to discuss and select the topics they would wish to put forward the following process is being suggested:

- (i) **7 to 23 June** - Each committee is invited to agree that the Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons should meet during June and July with appropriate officer support to draw up a shortlist of in depth review topics
- (ii) **19 July – 18 August** – each committee agrees its selection of in-depth review topics to be forwarded to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee for prioritisation with a rationale for each using the template attached at Appendix 2, or something similar. This is a practice used by a lot of authorities and suggested by the Centre for Public Scrutiny as one way of assessing and choosing the topics for in depth review work at a time when it is important to demonstrate the value added by scrutiny work.
- (iii) **Early September:** All Overview and Scrutiny Chairmen and Opposition spokespersons invited to a meeting to review the long list of suggested in-depth review topics with the aim of reaching agreement on a recommended priority order using the feasibility criteria as a guide
- (iv) **20 September:** Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee formally discusses suggested topics and decides how the reviews should be prioritised and timetabled.

5.6 Subject to the outcome of discussion at the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 June 2011, the Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons of the committee will be invited to consider possible topics for in-depth review between now and the next meeting of the committee, in line with the process outlined in paragraph 5.5 above.

6 Role of the Lead Member for Children Services

6.1 The Committee may also find it useful to be reminded of the role of the Lead Member for Children services. There is statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities which states that the Lead Member has the following key roles:

- (a) being politically accountable, through leadership of discussions with Cabinet and other members, for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of all local authority children's services;

- (b) providing political leadership within, and in partnership beyond, the local authority in order to improve outcomes for all children and young people and narrow the outcomes gap for vulnerable groups of children and young people, by:
 - engaging and encouraging local communities and representative organisations to contribute suggestions, comments and ideas on the quality of children's services and how these might be improved
 - setting the overall vision of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)
 - being satisfied that services delivered within the local area are planned, designed, delivered and quality-assured with the involvement of children, young people and their families
 - challenging the Director of Children Services and others, where appropriate;
- (c) championing the interests of children, young people and their families within the local authority's area (including all those receiving services who do not live in the area) by:
ensuring that the local authority celebrates and showcases examples of children and young people's achievements
 - purposeful engagement with local schools, including through visits and dialogue with pupils and staff
 - political engagement with any elected members on the Local Strategic Partnership/s of the Children's Trust, with members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and with local community organisations;
- (d) ensuring that the authority's paid officers maintain a clear focus on effective safeguarding arrangements and promoting the safety and welfare of children across all agencies;
- (e) ensuring that officers are effectively monitoring education arrangements, including standards of achievement, in the local area;
- (f) championing early intervention and prevention in delivering services for children, young people and families;
- (g) exercising political leadership that emphasises the importance of reducing child poverty in the local area;
- (h) contributing to and being satisfied that the local authority demonstrates high standards of corporate parenting, in particular by encouraging Members to promote the educational achievement and health and well-being of looked after children and children leaving care; and
- (i) being politically accountable for the audit arrangements adopted by the Council for ensuring data on children's services (which may come from a range of sources) is reliable.

7 Implications for Looked After Children

- 7.1 Scrutinising services and support for looked after children (LAC) is a key aspect of the remit of this committee. Members should ensure they focus attention on the Every Child Matters outcomes for LAC as well as scrutinising every child matters outcomes for all children in Medway.

8. Health Scrutiny

- 8.1 To keep Members of this committee informed about key activities relating to the scrutiny of children's health this section provides an update of recent or forthcoming activity for both this committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 8.2 The committee are invited to a health scrutiny briefing, which is being held on Thursday 7 July at 6pm in Meeting Room one.

9. Financial and legal implications

- 9.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That Members note the addition of items to the work programme;
- 10.2 The Members consider whether any changes need to be made to the work programme, including whether to add any items from the Cabinet's Forward Plan;
- 10.3 That Members agree that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons of the committee meet with the Director of Children and Adult Services to consider possible in-depth review topics for 2011-12 and possible reports to add to the committee's work programme.

Lead officer contact

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APPENDIX

Work Programme
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Policy framework documents – Children and Young People’s Plan and Youth Justice Plan

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	Holding to account	Sally Mortimore, MSCB Manager	To consider and scrutinise the activity of the MSCB and its draft Business Plan.	7 June 2011
Review of healthy eating amongst children and young people – six month update	Policy development	Nicky Ling, Senior Public Health Manager (healthy weight), Zoe Barkham, Wellbeing Strategy Manager	To receive an update on the implementation of the recommendations from the in-depth review.	7 June 2011
Children’s Social Care complaints 2010-11	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Lynne Bush, Social Care Complaints Manager	To receive and scrutinise a report on the Children’s Social Care complaints received in 2010-11	7 June 2011
End of year performance 2010-11	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	19 July 2011
Medway’s Youth Justice Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny	Keith Gulvin, Youth Offending Team Manager	To consider the draft Youth Justice Plan	19 July 2011
Update on the Child Development Centre	Pre-decision scrutiny	Sally Morris, Assistant Director of Commissioning and Strategy	To consider an update on the Child Development Centre	19 July 2011
Children and Young People’s Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny	Sally Morris, Assistant Director of Commissioning and Strategy	To consider the draft Children and Young People’s Plan	19 July 2011
Council Plan – 1 st quarter monitoring 2011/2012	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Team Manager	To consider the Council Plan – 1 st quarter monitoring 2011/2012	27 September 2011
Council Plan – 2 nd quarter monitoring 2011/2012	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Team Manager	To consider the Council Plan – 2 nd quarter monitoring 2011/2012	6 December 2011

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Council Plan – 3 rd quarter monitoring 2011/2012	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Team Manager	To consider the Council Plan – 3 rd quarter monitoring 2011/2012	14 March 2012
Council Plan – 4 th quarter monitoring 2011/2012	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Team Manager	To consider the Council Plan – 4 th quarter monitoring 2011/2012	To be confirmed
Vetting and barring	Service information	Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults	To receive an update on national guidance in relation to vetting and barring	To be determined
Health Visitors	Service information	Sally Morris, Assistant Director of Commissioning and Strategy		To be determined

Forthcoming meetings:

2011: 7 June 2011, 19 July 2011, 27 September 2011, 6 December 2011.

2012: 19 January 2012, 14 March 2012.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES
PROGRAMME OF INDEPTH REVIEWS 2011/2012**

Committee	Proposed topic	Task Group or themed meeting	Reason for review	National/local context	Performance indicators (where relevant)	Public feedback/interest in issue (where known)
BUSINESS SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 					
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 					
HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 					
REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 					

APPENDIX 2