

Children And Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 March 2025

Work Programme

Report from: Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services

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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 6 February 2025 with the Chairperson.

4.2 At the At the pre- agenda meeting held on 6 February recommendations were made in relation to the work programme as follows:

4.2.1 Defer

- Early Help

4.2.2 Add:

- An information report on Children and Wellbeing and Education Bill.
- The June meeting be Housing themed due to the growing emphasis on housing and the impact on children and young people.

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.

Title: Regional Care Co-Operative
Description: This report will provide an update on the development of the Regional Care Co-Operative including the implications and opportunities of the project.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 11 March 2025

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.

6.4 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 received 27/01/2025	Letter sent 29/02/2024. Email acknowledgement received 07/03/2024, response will be sent in due course. Email received 29/10/2024, responses were not being sent to enquiries due to election period. A response will now be sought immediately
Briefing on Community Nursing Service – comparison across the country on the service against Medway	3 October 2024	15/01/2025	
Data on health checks for young people with LD by GP practice or different wards in Medway	3 October 2024	Briefing note circulated 21/02/2025	
MPACT	N/A	9 December 2024	<i>Agreed at 7 November 2024 pre agenda meeting that this would now be a briefing note. This will be provided after the 3 December meeting.</i>
DoLS	N/A		<i>Agreed at 7 November 2024 pre agenda meeting that this would now be a briefing note. This will be provided after the 3 December meeting</i>

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