

Children And Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 June 2025

Work Programme

Report from: Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services

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 13 May 2025 with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and the agenda items for 11 June meeting were confirmed as per the work programme.

5. Medway Education Travel Assistance Policy and Post 16 Transport Statement Consultation 2025

- 5.1 On 19 May 2025, Members received notification of the commencement of the consultation of the proposed changes to the Education Travel Assistance Policy from September 2025 and Post 16 Transport Policy Statement from September 2026.
- 5.2 Democratic Services have liaised with officers to ensure that the Committee has the opportunity to consider this item as pre- decision scrutiny. It has been agreed that this item will be taken at the Committee meeting of 7 August 2025 once the consultation has closed and findings can be reported to the Committee to help frame discussion and scrutiny of the proposals, ahead of consideration by Cabinet on 26 August 2025.

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: [Cabinet Forward Plan](#)
- 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: Educational Capital Programme Update
Description: This report will provide an update on recently announced Basic Need and High Needs capital allocations. It will recommend a number of school projects to be carried out using that funding to ensure that sufficient school places are available.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 8 July 2025
Title: Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency - Annual Report 2024/2025
Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Adoption Service. The report will initially be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 26 August 2025
Title: Annual Fostering Report 2024-25
Description: This This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Fostering Service. The report will initially be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 26 August 2025

7. Performance Data Workshops

- 7.1 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.
- 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 It was agreed that a data workshop session would be arranged to take place before the next Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report is taken at the 2 December 2025 meeting.
- 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.
- 7.5 At present there are no outstanding briefing notes and information requests.

8. Implications for children in care

- 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 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.

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