

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 December 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 accept 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 9 September 2025 with the Vice-Chairperson and Opposition Spokespersons and the agenda items for the meeting were confirmed as per the work programme.

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: Gateway 1 Procurement Commencement: Advocacy Service for Parents with Children in or on the Edge of Care
Description: This report will seek Cabinet approval to commence a procurement process in relation to an Advocacy Service for Parents with Children in or on the Edge of Care.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 16 December 2025
Title: Provisional Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2026/27
Description: This report will set out the provisional proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2026/27.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 January 2026
Title: Final Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2026/27
Description: This report will set out the final proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies, following consideration by the Schools' Forum.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 10 February 2026

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 A workshop session took place on Monday 17 November at 5.30pm on Ms Teams. The session focused on the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership and Members received a presentation which detailed the background to Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership, Medway structure, key responsibilities and data on reviews.
- 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
Children's Commissioning QA Processes - Breakdown of what is an issue and what is a complaint	11 June 2025		
Briefing note on work experience data, how we compare Nationally including SEND, comparison between selective and non-selective schools	11 June 2025	10 November 25	
Briefing note on disproportionality	7 August	3 October 2025	

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