

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 JANUARY 2026

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. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny 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.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to recommend to full Council to make the following appointments:
 - 1.2.1 That Jessica Beer be appointed to the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
 - 1.2.2 That Jacqueline Rudden be appointed as a named substitute to the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.

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 3 December 2025 with the 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 18 December 2023 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.

<p>Title: Provisional Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2026/27</p>
<p>Description: This report will set out the provisional proposals for the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2026/27.</p>
<p>Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 13 January 2026</p>

6. Performance Data Workshops

6.1 At the Committee's meeting on 5 March 2020, it was agreed a number of measures to maximise its 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, 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 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	22 June 2025	10 November 2025	
Briefing note on disproportionality	7 August 2025	3 October 2025	

7. Committee Membership – Co-opted Members

7.1 The position on the Committee for a Medway teacher and headteacher is currently vacant as the term for the current representatives end on 22 January 2026 and all Medway Schools were sent information, inviting teachers and headteachers to submit expressions of interest by Friday 21 November 2025. Democratic Services received a total of 2 expressions of interest for the teacher post. There were no applications received for the headteacher post and all schools will be contacted again inviting submission of expressions of interest for the vacant post..

7.2 As there were more expressions of interest than vacant positions the Director of People, along with the Assistant Director, Education and SEND and in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, considered each of the applications against the criteria attached at Appendix 2.

7.3 The outcome of these considerations resulted in the following recommendations being agreed on:

7.3.1 That Jessica Beer from Oaklands School be recommended to full Council to be appointed as the teacher representative on the Committee for a two year term.

7.3.2 That Jacqueline Rudden from Abbey Court School be recommended to full Council to be appointed as the named substitute for the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.

7.4 Jessica Beer has been a teacher in Kent and Medway for 14 year across difference schools. She is part of the senior leadership team at Oaklands and is assistant headteacher for curriculum and learning. She thrives on finding different ways to inspire children to find joy in learning. At Oaklands, she has overseen and has been part of transformational changes such as improvement to SEND provision and changes to the curriculum.

7.5 Jacqueline Rudden has been teaching for 23 years across mainstream, grammar and specialist schools across Medway. She has held the role of Deputy Headteacher at Abbey Court for 7 years. She is deputy safeguarding lead and has extensive experience of safeguarding, she is also designated teacher for children in care at the school. She thrives on working collaboratively with other professionals as well as parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes for pupils.

8. Implications for looked after children

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 looked after children 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 looked after children 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.

Lead officer contact

Stephanie Davis, Democratic Services Officer

Email: stephanie.davis@medway.gov.uk Tel: 01634 332503

Appendices

Appendix 1 Children and Young People O&S Committee Work Programme

Appendix 2 Criteria for Selection

Background papers

None