

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 August 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 full Council to appoint Victora Aspin to the headteacher 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 20 June 2026 with the Chairperson,

Vice-Chairperson and Opposition Spokesperson 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 4 August 2026 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: Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency - Annual Report 2025/2026
Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Adoption Service.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 25 August 2026

Title: Fostering Service Annual Report 2025-26
Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council's Fostering Service.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 25 Aug 2026

Title: Medway Youth Justice Plan 2026 - 2027
Description: This report will provide details of the Youth Justice Plan which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. This report will initially be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Cabinet will be asked to make recommendations to Full Council for final consideration and approval.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 22 Sept 2026

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 Due to unforeseen circumstances, the last workshop session was cancelled. There is a session scheduled for 22 September 2026 which will be on SEND and Children's Social Care Reforms.

6.4 A development session was held on 9 July 2026 for Members of both this Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide more detail on the Children and Young People Mental Health Pathways

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
Supplementary question on all agenda items from 10 June 2026 meeting	10 June 2026	14 and 20 July 2026	

7. Committee Membership – Added and Co-opted Members

7.1 The position on the Committee for a Medway headteacher is currently vacant as the term for the current representative ended on 22 January 2026 and all Medway Schools were sent information, inviting headteachers to submit expressions of interest by Friday 21 November 2025. There were no applications received for the headteacher post, and all schools were contacted again on 2 further occasions, on 12 February 2026 and 21 May 2026, with no applications received. Members were asked at a meeting of the Committee to encourage schools in their Wards to consider applying for the post. The Democratic Services officer approached a previous co-optee to enquire if she would be interested in joining the Committee again, and following consideration by the headteacher, an application of interest was received.

7.2 Victoria Aspin has over 23 years' experience in education across mainstream as well as specialist settings. She has worked within Medway since 2005 and has been a headteacher for the past three years.

7.3 She is currently leading a complex specialist provision and has extensive leadership experience at both school and system level. As a Specialist Leader

of Education (SLE) with the Medway Teaching Schools Alliance since 2012, she has supported a wide range of schools to develop effective SEND and behaviour provision.

8. Implications for children in care

- 8.1 Members should ensure they focus on outcomes for children in care. 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.

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None