

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 August 2026

Work Programme

Report from: Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services

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Summary

This report advises Members of the current work programme for discussion in the light of latest priorities, issues and circumstances, giving Members the opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities.

1. Recommendations

- 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.
- 1.2. The Committee is recommended to agree that the scrutiny of the Supported Accommodation Strategy be undertaken by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, subject to the invitations for participation being extended to the representatives from the other committees, as set out in section 6 of the report.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1. Under Chapter 4 – Rules, Part 4 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 Committee's proposed work programme.

4. Agenda planning meeting

- 4.1. Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. An agenda planning meeting was held

on 22 July 2026 and was attended by Councillor McDonald (Chairperson), Councillor Finch and Councillor Wildey (Opposition Spokespersons).

4.2. The following changes to the work programme were recommended:

- A report providing an update on the recent decisions relating to assessments for ADHD and Autism via the Right to Choose pathway was added to the agenda for August and was also recommended to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered at their August meeting also.
- A report regarding the terms of reference and approach to a Maternity Services review was added to the agenda for the August meeting.
- A report regarding the ICB's General Practice Improvement Plan was added to the October meeting.
- The report on the Neighbourhood Health Plan was deferred to October.

4.3 In addition, the Members were made aware of a paper that had been presented to the ICB Board earlier that week, relating to an Urgent Treatment Centre Review and Case for Change. The Principal Democratic Services Officer was requested to work with ICB colleagues to identify the best time to bring this to Committee and to schedule it in. The point was made that this was likely to be a Kent wide issue at the point changes to the service are proposed, which would require a Kent and Medway NHS Joint HOSC.

5. Cabinet Forward Plan

5.1. The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 1 June 2026. The following items listed on the forward plan relate to the terms of reference of this Committee. The Committee is asked to identify any items it may wish to consider as pre-decision scrutiny (where dates permit) [Forward Plan - 4 August 2026](#).

Cabinet date	Title	Comment
25 August 2026	Gateway 3 Contract Award – All Age Substance Misuse Service This report will seek Cabinet approval of the contract.	
25 August 2026	Neighbourhood Health Plan This report will set out the latest monitoring position.	Scheduled for October (will be slipping for Cabinet)
25 August 2026	One Medway Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Risk Register Review Q1 2026/27 This report will set out the latest monitoring position	Scheduled for August

6. Supported Housing Strategy

- 6.1. The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 introduced a new statutory duty for local authorities to formulate and publish a Local Supported Housing Strategy. The strategies require collaboration across various departments within the Council and with partners to understand the local landscape of supported housing, including supply, unmet need and future demand, and to develop a strategy which sets out the direction of travel to meet identified need.
- 6.2. The strategy will impact on each of Medway's four Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) due to its breadth, including housing, homelessness, adult social care and vulnerable adults, care leavers and vulnerable families, housing benefit, subsidiary and of course budget implications.
- 6.3. Therefore it is recommended that the strategy be taken to the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee (BSaD), with the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Opposition Spokespersons of the other OSCs being invited to attend and participate during the discussion of the item. In addition all relevant officers, across the breadth of the strategy would be present at the one meeting to enable one meaningful and fully informed scrutiny discussion on this incredibly important strategy for the local authority and its residents.
- 6.4. Should all of the OSCs agree then scrutiny of the strategy would be added to the 26 November 2026 meeting of BSaD, when it will be scrutinised before it is then presented to Cabinet in January for consideration and approval. This proposal was discussed at the pre-agenda meetings of all four OSCs and support for this recommended approach was given at each meeting.

7. Committee Development

- 7.1. The Committee has been keen to undertake some additional development opportunities. There has been some good activity in this regard over recent weeks.
- 7.2. A session was held with the ICB on 23 June 2026 to enable Members to understand further and participate in the development of the ICB's Five-Year Strategy.
- 7.3. In addition, a development session was held on 9 July 2026 for Members of both this Committee and the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide more detail on the Children and Young People Mental Health Pathways. This is being delivered by KMMH.
- 7.4. Lastly, a full Member development session is scheduled for 15 September to provide dementia awareness training. Although targeted to Members of this Committee, it is a session that will be beneficial to all members and is therefore being offered to all Members of the Council. An additional session will be offered to those that cannot make it.

8. Memorandum of Understanding

- 8.1. At the last meeting, reference was made to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Committee and NHS bodies across Kent and Medway, to help provide clarity in terms of duties and expectations in how the system will work together. It was hoped this would be shared with Members at the development session in June, to have an early discussion on the draft and for Committee Members to help shape the document. Unfortunately, the document was not ready for that session. Work on the MoU continues and it is hoped to be progressed in the coming months.

9. Financial and legal implications

- 9.1. There are no specific financial or legal implications arising from this report.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Work Programme

Background papers

None