

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 October 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 recommended to agree that the scrutiny of the Supported Accommodation Strategy be undertaken by the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee, subject to the invitations for participation being extended to the representatives from the other committees, as set out in section 7 of the report.

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, and Opposition Spokesperson and the agenda items for the meeting were confirmed as per the work programme. It was agreed to add the Corporate Parenting Board Annual report to the meeting agenda and defer the Children's Social Care Complaints and Compliments report to 10 December 2026 meeting.

5. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 5.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 22 September 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: 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: 20 October 2026
Title: School Admissions Co-ordinated Schemes and Arrangements 2027
Description: This report will ask the Cabinet to approve the Co-Ordinated School Admission Schemes. The Schemes set out how the local authority will co-ordinate the processing of applications to schools. The arrangements also set out the relevant entry arrangements.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 15 December 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 A session took place on 21 September 2026 on SEND and Children's Social Care Reforms. Members were provided with a broad overview of the reforms, including some of the underlying principles.
- 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	
Supplementary question on agenda items from 12 August 2026 meeting	12 August 2026		

7. Supported Housing Strategy

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.

- 7.4 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.

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