

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

**REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT
COORDINATOR**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider and agree a work programme for the Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

- 2.2 To be most effective, the work programme should provide a basis and framework for the work of the Committee, while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to any important issues that emerge during the course of the year. The work programme is therefore intended to be a working document that the Committee can develop and refer to throughout the year.

- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.

- 2.4 The remit of the Children Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee covers the following areas:-

Safeguarding and child protection; Family support and children's social care;
Corporate parenting; Educational attainment and skills; Relationship with schools;
Youth Services.

- 2.5 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review (where necessary).

- 2.6 The work programme should also reflect and be aligned to the key priorities of the Council as set out in documents such as the City Plan and issues raised during the Committee work programme development session held on 8 June 2023.

3. DETERMINING THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 Topics for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme will vary from single issue items for consideration such as policy and performance reports through to regular

updates on issues where the committee have adopted a more focused monitoring role.

- 3.2 The table below summarises the relevant single item issues which are likely to be a regular feature of the work programme for 2023/24. The table also summaries a number of issues and topics that members of the committee have discussed at its recent development session. These items will be programmed into the work programme at relevant dates in discussion with the appropriate officers.

Regular Work Programme Items	
Children Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (Monthly)	To receive the committee's work programme outlining future meetings of the committee and the items scheduled for those meetings.
28 Day Notice of Key Decisions (Monthly)	To consider the Council's 28 Day Notice of Key Decisions.
Items Raised At Workshop Session – (Issues to be Timetabled When Date Available)	
TfC Meaningful Measures Report	To consider the TfC Meaningful Measures Report setting out progress against key indicators
Customer Feedback Report	To consider an overview of customer feedback received which identifies topics and trends in relation to complaints information and areas of organisational learning that have taken place in response to feedback received.
Inspection Feedback Reports	To consider feedback from relevant Inspection and Monitoring Reports
Government Consultation Documents - Feedback	To inform and seek the views of the Committee on relevant Government consultation documents
Public Health Update	To receive an update on the health of children and young people across the city and the impact of public health inequalities
Child and Adolescent Mental Health	Overall update on plans for service delivery. Invite Team and voluntary providers. Also consider services provided in schools. Consider impact of the HAT programme.
SEND Update	Update on SEND services in the city. Details of area variations. Current position of Education Health and Care Plans.
Child Care Services	Impact of forthcoming legislation on the safeguarding of young children. Consider the impact on services.

Fostering – Update	To provide an update on issues relating to the development of fostering in the city
Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help	Report on the outcome of the inspection and implications for the future
Early Help Service - Update	Update on early help services and impact of Family Hubs in narrowing the attainment gap
Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support	Issues involved in the planning of services for the future
Educational Attainment	Update on educational attainment in Sunderland and tackling the fall in later years relative to the national average
Educational Attainment of SEND pupils	Update on educational attainment for SEND pupils. Visit to Sunningdale School.
School Absence	Implications of growth in absence from school. Implications of growth in Elective Home Education. Impact of school exclusions and potential role of Early Help.
Adult Skills	General Update and position statement
Potential Task and Finish Group Topics	
Impact of Covid on Early years	Impact of Covid on early years and implications for the future
The City's vocational education offer	The impact of our current vocational offer and the impact of the development of new provision within the city

3.3 A draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24 is attached as **Appendix 1**, which following discussions with the Committee and officers will see the work programme populated further.

3.4 It should be noted that the work programme is a 'living' document and can be amended throughout the course of the municipal year. Any Elected Member can add an item of business to an agenda for consideration (Protocol 1 within the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook outlines this process).

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the Scrutiny Committee consider the range of topics and issues in the development of the work programme for 2023/24, including a policy review topic, and

incorporates emerging issues as and when they arise throughout the forthcoming year.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Scrutiny Agendas and Minutes
