

**ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

**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 2024/25.

**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 2024/25. 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.

<b>Regular Work Programme Items</b>	
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.
<b>Items Raised At Workshop Session – (Issues to be Timetabled When Date Available)</b>	
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 Policy/Consultation Documents - Feedback	To inform and seek the views of the Committee on relevant Government policy and consultation documents where relevant.
Child and Adolescent Mental Health	Overall update on plans for service delivery. Consider the implications of the reduction in support experienced by young people transitioning into adulthood.
Child Health – Vaping and Dental Care.	Members to invited to the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee when these issues are considered in order to avoid duplication.
Fostering and Adoption – Update and Annual Report	To provide an update on issues relating to the development of fostering in the city and measures being taken to increase the number of foster carers
Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency	Report on the progress made following the Inspection. Invite representatives from Health

response to children and families who need help	and the Police to update.
Early Years Provision - Update	Update on early years provision and impact of Family Hubs.
Self Awareness of Adolescents in Relation to their Personal Safety	Provision available to inform young people of both the risks and the services available in relation to their safety e.g. crime and safety training in schools, fear of crime, grooming, county lines
Short Break Service for Children with Disabilities	To receive feedback on progress later in the year on the new short break overnight facility planned to open in 2025. To also include an update on Breathing Space short break innovation project.
Children's Engagement in Learning and Education	To consider a range of issues and barriers to engagement including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• school attendance and legislation around Fixed Penalty Notices expected later in the year.</li> <li>• educational attainment in Sunderland and tackling the fall in later years relative to the national average</li> <li>• monitor current position in relation to Elective Home Education</li> <li>• Update on SEND services in the city</li> </ul>
Adult Learning	Consideration of the outcome of the forthcoming Ofsted report into the Learning and Skills Service. Consideration of the number of young people in training who go on to obtain employment. Invite Adult Learning Team for update.
Update on Progress with T Level Qualification	To monitor progress on the introduction of the new T Level qualification.
Speech and Language Disorder in Early Years	Understanding of issues, prevalence and existing provision for this service.
Consultation With Young People	To arrange a consultation session with the Youth Council.
Sport, Leisure and Cultural Opportunities for Young People	To consider the range of activities and opportunities for young people in the city including impact of the national curriculum on sport in schools.
<b>Potential Task and Finish Group Topics</b>	
Early Years Entitlement Expansion and National Wraparound Childcare Programme	To consider the implications of programme in terms of providing the affordable and available hours of childcare required to support people to

	get into employment. Consider the support available, role of schools and the services available. Identify any gaps in provision. Update on the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme. Consider what is available at an area level and any potential gaps in provision.

3.3 A draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25 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 2024/25, 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

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