

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2021

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider issues for inclusion in the work programme of the Committee for the municipal year 2021/22.

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:-

To review and scrutinise any matter relating to the service performance and commissioning for children, young people and their families including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Family Support and Children's Social Care, Corporate Parenting, Educational Attainment and Skills, Relationship with Schools and 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). The work programme should also reflect and be aligned to the key priorities of the Council as set out in documents such as the Sunderland Strategy and Corporate Plan.

3. Draft Work Programme 2021/22

- 3.1 On 17 September 2020, the Committee held a work programme development session to discuss the issues to be considered in the year ahead. Jill Colbert and Simon Marshall were also in attendance.
- 3.2 Reference was made to the importance of focusing on those issues of most importance. This should help the Committee to achieve more positive outcomes. It was also felt that the use of themed meetings or focusing on a particular topic should be considered where appropriate.
- 3.3 The table below provides details of the issues considered for inclusion in the work programme:-

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.
Single Item (Items to be scheduled when dates known)	
Effect of Covid on the lives and development of children and young people	To consider the impact of the Covid pandemic on the overall educational, emotional and physical well being of children and young people through the course of their development.
Effect of Welfare Inequalities on Children in Sunderland	To consider the impact of the Covid pandemic on welfare/educational inequalities in the city. What are the issues and what is the situation in the various neighbourhoods in the city. What is effect on the working poor?
Impact of Covid 19 on Child Mental and Physical Health	To assess the longer-term impact of Covid on child mental services and their physical well being
Support available to catch up on lost education during Covid	How can schools work to catch up on lost education due to the Covid pandemic? What work going on to support children from low income families?
Impact of Covid on Primary/Secondary Transition	To consider the impact of Covid on children transitioning between primary and secondary school. Has Covid had an impact attainment and readiness for the transition?
Impact of Covid on Post 16 Transition	To consider the impact of Covid on children transitioning between school and further education/work. Has Covid had an impact attainment and readiness for the transition?

Effect of the Skills and Post 18 Education Bill	To consider the implications of the Bill for skills development and training in the city
Employment/Apprenticeship Opportunities for young People	What are employers in the city doing to increase the number and quality of employment/apprenticeship opportunities? How can we lobby employers to provide more opportunities?
Provision of activities for young children	What activities are available for young children (5-8yrs)
Youth Offending	To assess whether there has been any affect levels of crime and disorder as a result of Covid 19?
Drug Use Among Young People	To consider the impact of Covid 19 on the level of drug use amongst young people and its impact on anti social behaviour in the city?
Child Exploitation and Missing Children	To receive an update on the work going on in the city to tackle this issue.
Domestic Violence	Have we seen an increase in domestic violence as a result of Covid? What the challenges we face?
Sexual Harassment in Schools	To consider the incidence and impact of sexual harassment in schools and the action being taken to tackle it.
Children's Residential Social Care	To consider the operation of the residential social care sector and action being taken to improve it
TfC Performance Report	To receive periodic performance monitoring information
Ofsted Monitoring Visits - Feedback	To consider the feedback received following an Ofsted inspection or monitoring visit.
Children's Services Complaints Report	To receive periodic report on compliments and complaints.

3.4 A draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22 is attached as **Appendix 1**.

3.5 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

That the Scrutiny Committee consider the feedback from the work programme session and consider the issues for inclusion in the work programme for the coming year.

5. Background Papers

None
