

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY 28 JUNE 2016 COMMITTEE

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCRUTINY AND AREA ARRANGEMENTS

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 2016/17.

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). In accordance with the recent independent review of the scrutiny function there will be an increasing emphasis on accountability and performance management in the composition of the work programme for the year ahead.
- 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 Sunderland Strategy and Corporate

Plan, reflect issues highlighted following external assessments and issues raised during the Annual Scrutiny Debate.

3. Draft Work Programme 2016/17

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the issues it wishes to consider for the year ahead. A draft Committee Work Programme based on some of the key issues facing the Council and raised during the Scrutiny Debate is attached marked Appendix 1. This will hopefully provide a useful framework for developing the work programme for the year.
- 3.2 In terms of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee a key theme for the year will be to provide input and monitor progress in the establishment of the new Children's Services Company. A report on the establishment of the new Company was presented to an Extraordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 24th May 2016. A further report is scheduled to be presented to that Committee. Following this meeting, future progress reports will be submitted to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee and will be incorporated into its work programme.
- 3.3 The Committee will also have the opportunity of obtaining the views children and young people. A report on participation and engagement has been included on the agenda for this meeting and members will have the opportunity to consider the avenues available for engagement and obtaining the views of young people.
- 3.4 Arrangements are also being made for members to have the opportunity to meet and speak with social work staff in order to obtain their views and feedback on the operation and development of the service. It is envisaged that the first round of meetings take place in September/October period with others to follow later in the year.
- 3.5 During the year the Committee will also have the opportunity to review service performance and will be provided with regular reports on complaints relating to Children's Services issues.

4. Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Committee consider and agrees a draft Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2016/17 and incorporates emerging issues as and when they arise throughout the forthcoming year;

5. Background Papers

Contact Officer :
Jim Diamond