

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

**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 2022/23.

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 2022/23

- 3.1 On 9 June 2022, the Committee held a work programme development session to discuss the issues to be considered in the year ahead.
- 3.2 At this meeting, Reference was made to the importance of the work programme looking at the issues from a child-based perspective, placing the

child at the centre of the Committees work. This included looking at the links and correlations between the often complex issues affecting the outcomes for children and young people. For example, the influence of early years on a child's well-being, educational attainment, mental health, the incidence of anti-social behaviour and youth unemployment.

- 3.4 Themes should include identifying any gaps in provision and consider how resilient our services are in the face of increasing demand and constrained resources. Also, the ways we can promote greater inclusion and influence the actions of our partners.
- 3.5 It was agreed that the Committee should make greater use of task and finish groups where these are considered most appropriate. It should also consider including the representation and involvement of young people at meetings.
- 3.6 It was felt that there should be more background and preparation before items are submitted to the Committee.
- 3.7 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 <i>(Monthly)</i>	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 <i>(Monthly)</i>	To consider the Council's 28 Day Notice of Key Decisions.
Item Raised in Workshop Session	
TfC Evaluation	To consider issues and priority areas arising out the TfC Self Evaluation
TfC Performance Information and Complaints	To identify indicators which would benefit from a deep dive to get behind the figures and gain a greater understanding of the issues involved. To receive a periodic report on compliments and complaints received
Education	The White Paper Opportunity for All will affect children, families, schools and the role of local authorities. The Committee could look at implications in greater details possible by way of a Task and Finish Group. To consider the action being taken to catch up on lost education due to the Covid pandemic and which programmes are most effective, particularly for SEN pupils.

	<p>To consider the action being taken to address the number of children missing or not going to school. To consider the level of school exclusions</p> <p>To look at specific areas of the SEND Improvement Plan in greater detail, possibly by way of a task and finish group.</p>
Training and Apprenticeship Opportunities	<p>How can we best ensure that care experienced young people can access the training and apprenticeship opportunities available to them</p> <p>Understand the measures available and the action being taken to reduce the number of young people not in education or training.</p>
Consultation with LGBTQ+ Community	<p>To meet with the representatives of young people from the LGBTQ+ community in order to hear their views on issues such as the level of support in schools.</p>
Safeguarding of Children	<p>To consider the implications for the Council of the National Panel review of Child Protection</p>
Future Provision of Services for Children requiring Specialist Support	<p>Consider the future provision of services for the increasing number of children requiring specialist support, given the resource implications moving forward.</p>
Speech Disorder and Language Disorder in Early Years	<p>Understanding of issues, prevalence, and existing provision for this service.</p>
Childhood Obesity	<p>How can we better promote healthy eating among young people. Also, the influence of exercise and sporting provision.</p>
Child Refugees	<p>The support available for Ukrainian children and their families in our schools and communities.</p>
Early Help	<p>To understand the role of Family Hubs as part of integrated family service ensuring families with children and</p>

	young people aged 0-19 receive early help to overcome a range of difficulties and build stronger relationships.
Corporate Parenting	To consider the outcomes and quality of TfC children's residential provision across the City, and how the council supports children who live in them.

3.4 A draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 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
