

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 2020/21.

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 2019/20

- 3.1 On 11 August 2020, the Committee held a work programme development session to discuss the issues to be considered in the year ahead. Jill Colbert, Karen Davison 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)	
Child Exploitation and Missing Children	To receive an update on the work going on in the city to tackle this problem. It is suggested that this be undertaken through a special briefing meeting with Members.
Apprenticeships	To discuss with apprenticeship providers the operation of apprenticeship in the city.
Preparations of Schools in Response to Covid -19	Consider an example of good practice in a particular school and ways in which children can access learning.
Operation of Assessment Services for CYP with ASC and ADHD	Consider the operation of relevant services in Sunderland and the challenges faced. Discuss work done in schools via the Parent Carer Forum.
Impact of Covid 19 on Children and Young Families	To assess the impact on young families, single parents and young carers.
Impact of Covid 19 on school attendance	To consider how far the disruption caused by Covid 19 has had an impact on school attendance.
Impact of Covid 19 on Child Mental Health	To assess the longer term impact on child mental health through discussions with the CAMHS partnership. Consider joint meeting with Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
Anti-Social Behaviour Amongst	To assess whether there has been any

CYP	affect levels of crime and disorder as a result of Covid 19. (NB – this issue will be considered by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee. Issues can be fed back to this Committee for further consideration)
Drug Use Among Young People	To consider the impact of Covid 19 on the level of drug use in the city. (NB – this issue will be considered by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee. Issues can be fed back to this Committee for further consideration)
TfC Performance Monitoring Report	To receive periodic performance monitoring information.
Ofsted Improvement Plan	To consider the progress being made in relation to the children services Ofsted improvement plan.
TfC Ofsted Monitoring Visit - Feedback	To consider the feedback received following an Ofsted inspection or monitoring visit.
Children's Services Complaints Report	To receive periodic performance monitoring information.
Visit to front Door of Children's Social Care	Visit to be rearranged following disruption caused by Covid 19.

3.4 A draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20 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
