

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY 27 JUNE 2017 COMMITTEE

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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 2017/18.

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 2017/18

- 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 Workshop held on 3 May is attached marked Appendix 1. This will hopefully provide a useful framework for developing the work programme for the year.
- 3.2 A key theme for the year will be to continue to monitor progress in relation to the work of Together for Children and regular performance monitoring reports have been included in the work programme.
- 3.3 The Committee will also continue to have representation from young people at its meetings in order to obtain their views and may wish to hold further meetings to meet and speak with social work staff in order to obtain feedback on the operation and development of the service.
- 3.4 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 2017/18 and incorporates emerging issues as and when they arise throughout the forthcoming year;

5. Background Papers

None

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