

# Report of the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 12 July 2023

**A**

---

## **Subject:**

**Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – DRAFT Work Programme 2023/24**

## **Summary statement:**

**This report includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee DRAFT work programme for 2023/24.**

## **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

**Community Cohesion and Equalities related issues are part of the work remit for this Committee.**

---

Clr Debbie Davies  
Chair – Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## **Portfolio:**

**Children and Families**

Report Contact: Mustansir Butt  
Overview and Scrutiny Lead  
Phone: (01274) 432574  
E-mail: [mustansir.butt@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:mustansir.butt@bradford.gov.uk)

## **Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's Services**

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft work programme for 2023/24, which is attached as appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 Also attached as appendix 2 to this report is a list of unscheduled topics for 2023/24.
- 1.3 Appendix 3 is resolution tracking, which indicates the recommendations that the Committee made in 2023/24 and the progress against those recommendations.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to produce a work programme.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for "the strategies, plans, policies, functions and services directly relevant to the corporate priority about services to children and young people." (Council Constitution, Part 2, 6.3.1).
- 3.2 Best practice published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that "work programming should be a continuous process". It is important to review work programmes, so that important or urgent issues that arise during the year are able to be scrutinised. Furthermore, at a time of limited resources, it should also be possible to remove areas of work which have become less relevant or timely. For this reason, it is proposed that the Committee's work programme be regularly reviewed by members of the committee throughout the municipal year.
- 3.3 The work programme as agreed by the Committee will form the basis for the Committee's work during the year, but will be amended as issues arise during the year.
- 3.4 This Committee has agreed to undertake a programme of detailed scrutiny reviews, with the Committee undertaking the Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review, in the last municipal year. The other scrutiny reviews include:
  - Looked after Children.
  - Children's Homes.
  - Fostering.
  - Children's Mental Health.
  - Recruitment and retention of Social Workers.
  - SEND, (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
  - YOT, (Youth Offending Team).
- 3.5 At its meeting on Tuesday 15 March 2022, the Executive, during their discussions relating to supporting children and their families to thrive post pandemic, recommended that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertake a scrutiny review into Child Poverty across the District.

3.6 The Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on Wednesday 1 February 2023, agreed to undertake a Scrutiny Review into persistent absence across schools in the Bradford District.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

4.1 None.

#### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

5.1 None.

#### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

6.1 None.

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

##### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

##### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

None.

##### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

##### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

None.

##### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

None.

##### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Work of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee has ward implications, but this depends on that nature of the topic.

##### **7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

This will be a key area of work for the Committee.

## **7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

None.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 The Committee may choose to add to or amend the topics included in the 2023-24 work programme for the committee.

9.2 Members may wish to consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that it may wish to conduct.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That members consider and comment on the areas of work included in the work programme.

10.2 That members consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that they may wish to conduct.

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix One – 2023-24 DRAFT Work Programme for the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix Two – Unscheduled Topics.

Appendix Three – Resolution Tracking.

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Council Constitution.

2022-23 Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.