

Report of the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 27 September 2023

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Subject:

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

Summary statement:

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

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

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

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

Portfolio:

Children and Families

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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.

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 TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS

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 ASSESSMENT

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 Work Programme for the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix Two – Unscheduled Topics.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Council Constitution.

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