

Report of the Chair of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 15 December 2021

Subject:

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Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2021/22

Summary statement:

This report includes the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2021/22.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

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

Cllr Geoff Winnard
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 2021/22, which is attached as appendix 1 to this report.

1.2 Also attached as appendix to this report is a list of unscheduled topics for 2021/22.

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 already having started the Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review; the amended Terms of Reference for this scrutiny review are attached as Appendix 3 for member's consideration. 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).

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 2021-22 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.
- 10.3 That members comment and approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix One – 2021-22 Work Programme for the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix Two – Unscheduled Topics.

Appendix Three – Amended Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review Terms of Reference.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Council Constitution.
2020-21 Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.