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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
WORK PROGRAMME**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

**Summary**

2. Members will recall that, at the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2011, a discussion was held and agreement reached on areas which this Scrutiny Committee would like to focus its work and work has been and is currently being, undertaken in relation to some of those areas. Work is still due to commence on others.
3. Members are now requested to consider the current status of the work programme and suggest any further areas of work which Scrutiny would like to undertake.
4. Monitoring and Co-ordination Group at its meeting held on 27 January, 2014 approved the addition of work programme items relating to Anti-Racism Funding in Schools; Music and Performing Arts in Schools; and IT Support to Social Services and Social Work Services.

**Recommendations**

5. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme:

**Paul Wildsmith,  
Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources**

**Background Papers**

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Allison Hill : Extension 2291



S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to the address Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington, through scrutinising the services provided by the NHS Trusts.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of local elected members contributing to the Healthy Darlington Theme Group.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

## MAIN REPORT

### Work Programme

6. A key role of Scrutiny is to ensure that the programme is able to deliver the service improvement and the budget savings necessary and Members need to take this into account when considering their Work Programmes and ensure that any work focuses on delivering outcomes rather than service delivery.

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Child Poverty and Vulnerable Children Review Group	To examine Child Poverty and Vulnerable Children.	Members invited to attend a 'one-off' meeting arranged by Health and Well Being Scrutiny to evidence gather on Obesity on 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2013. Review Group established: 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> April, 2013. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2013. <b>Review Ongoing.</b>
Attendance at Key Stage 1 and Reception Review Group	To examine attendance at Key Stage 1 and Reception in the local schools.	Final report to Scrutiny on 27 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012. Completed. Action Plan Update on 18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2012. Update report received on 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2013. <b>Further updates programmed for Autumn 2013.</b>
Participation in Education and Training to 18 years Review	To examine the new legislation and the impact locally.	Report to Scrutiny on 7 <sup>th</sup> January, 2013. <b>Report to this meeting.</b>

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Safeguarding and Looked After Services Inspection Action Plan	To monitor the performance against the targets contained in the Action Plan development as a result of the recommendations made by Ofsted following the Safeguarding/Looked After Children Inspection.	Update on Action Plan to Scrutiny on 10 <sup>th</sup> September, 2012. <b>Further updates to be programmed.</b>
Review of Oral Health Care	To examine Oral Health Care and the barriers to children accessing dental care	Presentation to Scrutiny on 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 2013
Academies Update	To receive an update on Academies within the borough.	Report to Scrutiny on 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 2013 Report to Scrutiny 28 <sup>th</sup> October, 2013. <b>Update report to this meeting Ongoing</b>
Young Carers Action Plan	To examine the Young Carers Action Plan	Report to Scrutiny on 22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2013. Approval at Scrutiny on 24 <sup>th</sup> June to establish a Task and Finish Review jointly with Adults and Housing Scrutiny. <b>Ongoing.</b>
Medium Term Financial Plan – Budget Proposals	To advise Members of the decision of Cabinet in relation to a number of budget savings proposals from areas which fall within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.	Report to Scrutiny on 24 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013. Impact on decisions to be re-assessed at a later date. Special Meeting 6 <sup>th</sup> January, 2014 to look at MTFP and implications on Childrens' Social Care.

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Performance Management	To advise Members on the Council's Performance Management Framework which was adopted in 2012 and for performance information to be used to inform any future work programme of this Scrutiny Committee.	Presentation to Scrutiny on 24 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013
IT Support to Social Services and Social Work Services	To examine the use of information technology and mobile working in Childrens' Social Care (Adults and Children)	Representatives of Adults and Housing Scrutiny be invited to participate in the work. <b>Ongoing</b>
SEN/disabilities and Pupil Premium	To receive an overview to look at special needs from social care, education and health aspects. Possible Review to follow to look at pathfinder and education funding in detail.	Presentation to Scrutiny on 28 <sup>th</sup> October, 2013 for SEN and 16 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013 for Pupil Premium. <b>Update report to this meeting.</b> <b>Ongoing</b>
Extension of funding to 21 for children in Foster Care	To receive an update on the changes to the legal duty to provide support to enable young people to remain in foster care until the age of 21 years, if needed.	Verbal update to Scrutiny on 16 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013. Further updates to be programmed. <b>Ongoing</b>
Anti Racism in Schools	To gain knowledge and information regarding the anti racism campaign in schools based on work in the tees valley	Presentation to this meeting of Scrutiny by a representative from Show Racism the Red Card.
Music and Performing Arts in Schools	To examine the position with regard to the uptake of Music and Performing Arts in Schools and the funding available	Presentation by the Durham Music Service to the meeting of Scrutiny scheduled for 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2014. <b>Ongoing</b>

## **Quad of Aims**

7. If Members wish to add any item to the Work Programme a Quad of Aims would need to be developed and submitted to Monitoring and Co-ordination Group prior to being brought to Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that it does contribute to the strategic aims of the Council.

## **Forward Plan**

8. Members are also requested to consider Cabinet's Forward Plan, which is available on the Council's website, to assist in determining any further items which they might wish to include on their Work Programme and if so, complete the necessary documentation.

## **Medium Term Financial Plan**

9. Members held a Special Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 and gave consideration to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2019/20 and the budget implications for areas within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.
10. Members gave consideration to the controllable spend in children's social care, which is the number of children looked after at any one time. As the number increases (average of £50,000 per child per year) then so do other costs such as legal costs, travel etc. There are currently 189 young people looked after and there have been 210 in the past. The proposal is to continue to provide an effective preventative service, closely aligned to partners and to social work teams, to provide early support for families where there is a risk the child may come into care.
11. Work will be undertaken to reduce the cost of placements, through reviewing the fostering service and making greater use of brokerage of placements.
12. Members discussed the national increase in the number of children looked after and the requirement to monitor closely the increased case loads and the additional pressures on the social workers. Members also considered the role of the social workers and ways in which they could be assisted by better use of technology and suggested that this be an area to focus on in future.