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

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 31st 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.

Recommendations

4. 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.

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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

5. 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 th February, 2013. Review Group established: 1 st Meeting held on 15 th April, 2013. 2 nd Meeting held on 15 th October, 2013. 3 rd Meeting held on 19 th March, 2014. Ongoing.
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 th February, 2012. Completed. Action Plan Update on 18 th June, 2012. Update report received on 7 th January 2013. Further updates to be programmed Ongoing
Participation in Education and Training to 18 years Review	To examine the new legislation and the impact locally.	Report to Scrutiny on 7 th January, 2013. Progress report January, 2015

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 th September, 2012. Further updates to be programmed.
Young Carers Action Plan	To examine the Young Carers Action Plan	Report to Scrutiny on 22 nd April, 2013. Approval at Scrutiny on 24 th June to establish a Task and Finish Review jointly with Adults and Housing Scrutiny. Review to commence Spring 2014 (after the Health Care Bill). Ongoing.
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 th June, 2013. Impact on decisions to be re-assessed at a later date. Special Meeting 6 th January, 2014 to look at MTFP and implications on Childrens' Social Care.
Performance Management Framework	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 th June, 2013.

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
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. Chair and Vice met with the Information Manager on 18 th February, 2014 to discuss the work being undertaken to review of the Care First System. Members to revisit in 3 months for potential Scrutiny involvement. Chair to update Adults and Housing Scrutiny on 4 th March, 2014. Ongoing
SEN/disabilities and Pupil Premium	To receive an overview to look at special needs from social care, education and health aspects. Report to review the SEN pathfinder and allocation of the SEN Reform Grant. To continue to receive updates on the development of the new 0-25 special needs system across Darlington.	Presentation to Scrutiny on 28 th October, 2013 for SEN and 16 th December, 2013 for Pupil Premium. Update report to Scrutiny 10 th February,2014. Update report Autumn 2014. Ongoing
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 th December, 2013. Further updates to be programmed. Ongoing

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
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 st March, 2014. Ongoing
Female genital mutilation (FGM)		Awaiting approval from Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.

Quad of Aims

6. 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

7. 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

8. Members held a Special Meeting on 6 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.
9. 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.
10. Work will be undertaken to reduce the cost of placements, through reviewing the fostering service and making greater use of brokerage of placements.
11. 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.

Sustainable Community Strategy

12. Members held a Special Meeting on 4 March, 2013 to examine Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy, One Darlington: Perfectly Placed which has been refreshed in light of the changes since its approval in 2008.
13. Members gave consideration to how they could contribute to the revised SCS document and to how this Scrutiny Committee can contribute to the objective to reduce inequality by ensuring we have Children with the best start in life.
14. Particular reference was made to the need to measure performance against the key objectives and priorities and how this would be achieved.
15. A revised draft performance development framework has been developed and Members will receive a presentation from the Head of Organisational Planning at this meeting of Scrutiny to outline how the new framework may help Scrutiny in developing their future work programmes to reflect the strategic aims of the Council.