
**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 previous meetings of this Scrutiny Committee, discussions have been held and agreement reached on areas where this Scrutiny Committee would like to focus its work and work has been, and is currently being, undertaken in relation to some of these areas and work is still due to commence on others.
3. The Interim Director, Children's Services gave a presentation to Members at the Scrutiny Meeting held on 2 November, 2015 on the Improvement Plan which has been developed with the assistance of Red Quadrant, the Consultancy Company appointed by the Department for Education to work alongside the authority following the publication of the Ofsted report.
4. Members met on 14 December 2015 to give further consider to the existing work programme as a result of the recent Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers and the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and taking into account the recommendations of the Ofsted Inspectors.
5. The areas of scrutiny suggested by Members at this meeting will be included in the Work Programme.
6. Members are now requested to consider the current status of the work programme and continue to suggest any further areas of work which Scrutiny would like to undertake taking into consideration the Improvement Plan and how this Scrutiny can monitor progress and provide challenge where needed in order to achieve the desired outcomes to improve the services to children and young people in the borough.

Recommendations

7. 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 no implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington
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 Sustainable Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the five themes.
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

8. For Members information, it has been previously agreed that a number of topics be included on the Work Programme of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Terms of Reference have previously been approved. The status of each of those areas is detailed in the table below :-

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Medium Term Financial Plan – Budget Proposals	<p>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.</p> <p>To examine the MTFP and implications on Children’s Social</p> <p>To examine the MTFP 2014/15/15 to 2019/20 and the budget implications for areas under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>To examine further the costs of placements, including independent costs and regulations affecting placement of looked after children</p> <p>To examine the Cabinet Report on the MTFP and the 2016/17 budget proposals and recommendations.</p>	<p>Report to Scrutiny on 24 June 2013. Impact on decisions to be re-assessed at a later date.</p> <p>Special Meeting 6 January 2014</p> <p>Special Meeting on 10 December 2014</p> <p>Report to the meeting held on 5 January 2015.</p> <p>Findings reported to Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 29 January 2015</p> <p>Report on the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Performance Management Framework	To advise Members on Quarter 4 – Performance	Presentation on the agenda to the meeting held on 7 September 2015

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
	<p>To advise Members on the Quarter 1 - Management of Change Programme.</p> <p>To advise Members on Quarter 2 Performance Management Information.</p> <p>To advise Members on Quarter 3 Management of Change Programme</p> <p>To advise Members on Quarter 4 – Year end - Performance Management Information and Management of change Programme.</p>	<p>Report to Scrutiny on 2 November 2015</p> <p>Report to Scrutiny on 22 February 2016</p> <p>Report to Scrutiny on 11 April 2016</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Childcare Sufficiency Review 2014</p> <p>Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015/16 and Action Plan</p>	<p>To give Members an opportunity to be consulted on and monitor the Action Plan.</p> <p>To annually monitor the Action Plan in line with the statutory requirement to report to elected members annually on their duty to secure sufficient childcare.</p>	<p>Report to Scrutiny 3 November 2014</p> <p>Report on the agenda for this meeting</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Young Carers Review Group</p>	<p>Scrutiny to continue to monitor the Young Carers Action Plan following the final report and recommendations presented to Cabinet .</p>	<p>Report on the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Extension of funding to 21 for children in Foster Care</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Verbal update to Scrutiny on 16 December 2013.</p> <p>Update report to the meeting on 13 April 2015.</p>

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
	The statutory requirement to extend the funding was noted as a budgetary pressure. Members to examine the impact of the funding/numbers of children affected and the outcomes for those children.	Report on the agenda for this meeting 2016. Ongoing
Healthy Behaviours Survey 2013	To examine the results of the 2013 Survey undertaken by DAAT within secondary schools and academies in Darlington for Years 7 to 11 To examine the results of the 2014 Health Lifestyles Survey. To examine the results of the 2015 Healthy Lifestyles Survey	Presentation to Scrutiny 9 June 2014. Presentation to Scrutiny on 7 September 2015. September 2016 Ongoing
School Organisation Plan 2012/17	An update on the current school place planning arrangements across the borough and the projected demand for school places.	Report to Scrutiny on 11 April 2016 Ongoing
School Improvement and Educational Results	To examine the data for both primary and secondary schools and in particular performance of vulnerable groups.	Report to Scrutiny on 11 April 2016 Ongoing
Virtual Head Teacher (Calvin Kipling)	To update Members on the work of the Virtual Head Teacher for Looked After Children and plans to improve performance/ attainment and attendance to improve the educational outcomes for LAC.	Report on the agenda for this meeting Ongoing
Section 20 Voluntary Arrangements	To examine the use of Section 20 Voluntary	Report to the Meeting on 22 February 2016

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
	Arrangements.	Ongoing
Health Assessments for Looked After Children	To examine the process around the health assessments for Looked After Children including dental checks.	Report to the Meeting on 22 February 2016.
Workforce Sufficiency (skills/recruitment and retention)		Report to the Meeting on 11 April 2016 Ongoing
Looked After Children	To provide Members with a report on the Looked After Children Profile, number and costs overtime within this authority. Impact on improving outcomes.	Report to the Meeting on 11 April 2016. Ongoing

Further Items

9. To give full focus on the Ofsted Improvement Plan various items that were scheduled to be heard by Scrutiny on 2 November 2015 have now re-scheduled in the work programme.
10. The areas of Scrutiny suggested by Members at the last meeting, which included Section 20 Voluntary Arrangements; the profile of Looked After Children by this authority including geographical spread and the possible reasons for an increase in the number of Looked After Children; health assessments for Looked After Children; competencies in the workforce to include skills and recruitment and retention of social workers, have also been included in the work programme.

Quad of Aims

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

Forward Plan

12. 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.