

Item:

**Children and Young People's  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

**28 March 2019**



**Children and Young People's  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee Refresh of the  
Work Programme**

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**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and  
Partnerships**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

None

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) with the opportunity to review and refresh the work programme for 2019/2020.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The CYPOSC review their work programme each year to reflect the three objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan for the Council's Altogether Better for Children and People priority theme.
- 3 The Council Plan is set in the context of the Sustainable Community Strategy which is undergoing a refresh process. This report reflects the current Council Plan but recognises that a key priority in both the current and the new Plan will be the Transformation Programme.
- 4 The report (paragraphs 10-11) provides information for members to note activity undertaken by the committee during 2018/19 and enable discussion to suggest areas for review activity or agenda items to be included in the committee's work programme for 2019/2020.

## Recommendations

- 5 The CYPOSC is recommended to:
- a) Note the proposed CYP OSC work programme in relation to the current Council Plan 2016-2019 Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme (copy attached at Appendix 2)
  - b) Note that a further report to agree the CYPOSC work programme for 2019/2020 will be submitted to the July 2019 meeting.

## Background

- 6 The current overview and scrutiny committees work programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the:
- Council Plan
  - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
  - Sustainable Community Strategy
  - Partnership plans and strategies
  - Performance and budgetary control data
  - Changes in government legislation
  - Local Priorities
- 7 This year there is change underway in the policy context of the Council as work is taking place to refresh the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). This is being undertaken because the SCS is now almost ten years old. The new vision is expected to be in place in the summer and will inform final versions of scrutiny work programmes. The current Council Plan was developed in the context of the SCS and there will be a chance for update once the new vision is agreed. However the current Council Plan still applies.

## Council Plan 2016 – 2019

- 8 To help improve the performance of the Council, there are currently three objectives for Altogether Better for Children and Young People, underpinned by ten outcomes.

### **Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential:**

- Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years.
- Children and Young People are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood.

- Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential.
- Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain.

**Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life:**

- Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced
- Children and Young People are more resilient
- A range of positive activities are available for Children, Young People and families

**A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families:**

- Children are safeguarded and protected from harm.
- Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.
- Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability.

- 9 Looking ahead to a new Council Plan, the key emerging issue to be considered alongside it is the Council's Transformation Programme which supports progress on many of the objectives above.

**Current Work Programme**

- 10 During 2018/19, the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny Reviews, systematic 6 monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations.

**In Depth Scrutiny Reviews**

**A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families**

- Joint Review of Children's Residential Care Homes –

**Systematic Review**

**Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life**

- Review of Take up of Free School Meals and Holiday Provision

**Overview Activity**

**Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential**

- Participation in Learning

- National Funding Formula and Mainstream Primary and Secondary School Funding
- Summary of Ofsted Inspections of County Durham Maintained Schools
- SEND Inclusion and Exclusion
- Educational Attainment and Standards
- Children's Strategy

**Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life**

- Children and Young People's Mental Health: Local Transition Plan 2018/2020
- Work of the Healthy Weight Alliance
- Growing Healthy 0-19
- Children's Strategy
- Child Poverty

**A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families**

- Children's Strategy
- Child Poverty
- ERASE
- Corporate Parenting Annual Report
- Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan
- The Child Protection Offer
- Neglect in County Durham
- Evaluation of the Edge of Care and Pre-birth Teams

**Performance Monitoring**

- 11 The committee has considered and commented on quarterly budget and performance reports for the Children and Young People's Services Grouping.

## **Cross Cutting Areas**

12 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also considered the following areas which cut across all objectives within the Council Plan's Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme:

- ERASE - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families.
- Children and Young People's Mental Health: Local Transition Plan 2018/2020 - Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life.
- The Work of the Healthy Weight Alliance - Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life.
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families.

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## **Areas for consideration in the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

13 Paragraphs 9-11 of this report identifies the activity undertaken by the committee during 2018/19. The committee has identified a number of these areas for further progress updates and will need be included in the committee's work programme for 2019/2020.

14 With regard to review activity, CYPOSC is still jointly conducting a review into Children's Residential Care Homes with Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee which is expected to conclude in the near future. Looking ahead, members identified Elective Home Education as a potential review topic when it reviewed its work programme at its meeting on 4 July 2018.

15 The committee will receive a further report at its meeting on the 1 July 2019, detailing the proposed work programme for 2019/2020 and will be asked to agree to keep the Elective Home Education as the identified review topic for 2019/2020 following today's discussion.

## **Conclusion**

16 The report and appendix 2 provide information for members to note and comment on activity undertaken during 2018/19 and suggest areas to consider for review activity or agenda items within its work programme for 2019/2020.

## Background papers

- None

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**Contact:** Tom Gorman

[Tel:03000 268027](tel:03000268027)

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

None

### **Finance**

None

### **Consultation**

None

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Crime and Disorder**

None

### **Staffing**

None

### **Accommodation**

None

### **Risk**

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is an important element of the Council's governance and risk management arrangements

### **Procurement**

None