

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

12 April 2021

**Refresh of the Work
Programme**



Report of Paul Darby Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

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 2021/2022.

Executive summary

- 2 The CYP OSC review their work programme each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and is set in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035 three ambitions of:
 - More and Better Jobs
 - People Live Long and Independent Lives; and
 - Connected Communities.
- 3 The report (paragraphs 10-13) provides information for members to note activity undertaken by the committee during 2020/21 and enable discussion to suggest areas for review activity or agenda items to be included in the committee's work programme for 2021/2022.

Recommendations

- 4 The CYPOSC is recommended to:
 - a) Note the proposed CYPOSC work programme in relation to the current Council Plan 2020 -2023 (copy attached at appendix 2) programme.

- b) Note that a further report to agree the CYPOSC work programme for 21/22 will be submitted to the first meeting of the committee in the 2021/2022 municipal year.

Background

- 5 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
 - County Durham Vision for 2035
 - Partnership plans and strategies
 - Performance and budgetary control data
 - Changes in government legislation
 - Local Priorities
- 6 In October 2019, public, private and voluntary sector bodies that make up the County Durham Partnership jointly agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035. This vision was based on a strategic assessment of need using our intelligence platform Durham Insight and was developed following extensive consultation with the public. The vision document that was agreed sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve over the next 15 years and is written around three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham:
- More and better jobs
 - People live long and independent lives
 - Connected communities
- 7 As well as being of key importance to local people's long-term priorities, they remain key strategic ambitions in our response to the COVID-19 crisis, where key impacts relate to employment, health and wellbeing, and communities.

Council Plan 2020 - 2023

- 8 The Council Plan is the primary corporate planning document for the county council and details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Vision for County Durham 2035 together with its own change agenda. It aims to provide a readable and accessible summary for Members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main programmes of work that we will undertake over the coming three years to help achieve these priorities.

- 9 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around three ambitions which are mentioned above. An additional ambition of an excellent council has been developed for the Council Plan to capture the corporate initiatives that the council has identified and that it wants to undertake to transform its operations and enable achievement of the ambitions within the vision.

More and Better Jobs

- Young People will have access to good quality education, training and employment
- Fewer people will be affected by poverty and deprivation in the county.

People Live Long and Independent Lives

- Children and young people will enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing.
- Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will achieve the best possible outcomes

Connected Communities

- Children and young people will have a safe childhood

Current Work Programme

- 10 During 2020/2021, the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee had to prioritise items to come to a reduced number of formal meetings and items to be electronically circulated as briefing reports due to the Coronavirus. However, although there was a reduced number of formal meetings the committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, systematic 6 monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations.

Systematic Review

Children and young people have a safe childhood

- Role of the Social Worker
- Children's residential care homes

Overview Activity

Children and Young People will have access to good quality education, training and employment

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- COVID 19 Update from an Education perspective

Fewer people will be affected by poverty and deprivation in the county

- Child Poverty
- Free School Meals Briefing Report
- Stronger Families Programme Briefing Report

Children and young people will enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing

- Children and Young People's Mental Health
- Healthy Child Programme 0-25
- Best Start in Life
- Young Carers Briefing Report
- The Healthy Weight Alliance Briefing Report
- Smoking in Pregnancy Briefing Report
- Breastfeeding Briefing Report

Children and young people will have a safe childhood

- ERASE Briefing Report
- Neglect in County Durham
- Pre Birth Service Briefing Report
- Signs of Safety Briefing Report

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 objectives within the Council Plan or cut across the remit of other Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 13 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also considered the following areas which cut across objectives within the Council Plan or cut across the remit of other Overview and Scrutiny Committees:
- Children's Adolescent Mental Health Services Update 9 October – Adults Wellbeing Health Overview and Scrutiny Members were invited to attend the meeting.

- ERASE Briefing Report – Children and young people will have a safe childhood – cross cutting with Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members of this committee also received the briefing report
- Smoking in Pregnancy Briefing Report – cross cutting with Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members of this committee also received the briefing report
- Breastfeeding Briefing Report – cross cutting with Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members of this committee also received the briefing report.
- Durham Works Programme – Youth Employment Initiative – cross cutting with Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members of Children and Young People’s OSC were invited to attend Economy and Enterprise OSC for this item

Areas for consideration in the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

- 14 Paragraphs 10-13 of this report identifies the activity undertaken by the committee during 2020/21. The committee has identified a number of these areas for further progress updates and will need to be included in the committee’s work programme for 2021/2022.
- 15 With regard to review activity, members had expressed an interest to look at Education, Health and Care Plans before the onset of the pandemic, but this activity had to be postponed. Members have also raised concerns about the number of eligible families not claiming free school meals and expressed an interest in looking at how this could be increased.
- 16 The committee will receive a further report to its first meeting of the 2021/2022 municipal year detailing the proposed work programme for 2021/2022 and will be asked to agree a topic for future review activity following today’s discussion.

Conclusion

- 17 The report and attached appendices provide information for members to note and comment on activity undertaken during 2020/2021 and requests suggested areas to consider for potential review activity or agenda items within its 2021/2022 work programme.

Background papers

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable