

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



23 July 2021

Refresh of the Work Programme 2020/21 for Children and Young People's OSC

Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC) with an updated work programme for 2021/2022.

Executive summary

- 2 CYPOSC review their work programmes each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035.
- 3 The proposed CYPOSC work programme has been framed around the shared County Durham Vision 2035 which has been developed with partners around three strategic ambitions – 'more and better jobs', 'long and independent lives' and 'connected communities.
- 4 Overview and scrutiny work programmes are designed to be flexible to accommodate items which may arise throughout the year. This flexibility is particularly important as we make our way along the government's roadmap out of lockdown. We will consider how best to enable the scrutiny function to respond in these times of continuing uncertainty.

Recommendations

- 5 Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- a) Receive and comment on the proposed CYPOSC work programme for 2021/2022.
- b) Agree the work programme for 2021/2022 as attached at appendix 2 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

Background

- 6 Scrutiny committee meetings have recently returned to meeting in person following the use of remote arrangements under the COVID 19 emergency regulations. During the lock down period work programmes were reviewed to enable remote meetings to focus on matters of highest priority. As a result, regular overview reports were circulated to members via email for comment.
- 7 The number of meetings in the corporate calendar available to overview and scrutiny have been substantially reduced since March 2020 due to staff capacity to support virtual meetings. At this point we are unsure how many meetings we will be allocated for 2021/2022 and will reprioritise work programmes if circumstances change. Any review of work programmes will take place with the chair and vice chair and in consultation with the committee.
- 8 The overview and scrutiny committee's work programmes are informed by:
 - County Durham Vision 2035
 - Council Plan
 - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
 - Partnership Plans and Strategies
 - Performance and Budgetary control data
 - Changes in government legislation
 - Key questions for improving performance.
- 9 The County Durham Partnership agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035 based on strategic assessment of need using our intelligence platform Durham Insight and develop following extensive consultation with the public. This 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
- 10 These remain the strategic ambitions in our response to COVID-19 crisis, where key impacts relate to employment, health and wellbeing and communities. They will also remain key as restrictions ease and we move along the roadmap from national lockdown and we continue with our restoration and recovery.

Council Plan 2020 – 2023

- 11 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.
- 12 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around the 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 wants to undertake to transform its operations and enable achievement of the ambitions within the vision.

More and Better Jobs

- a) Young people will have access to good quality education, training and employment.

Long and Independent Lives

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

Connected Communities

- a) All children and young people will have a safe childhood.

Current Work Programme

- 13 During 2020/2021 the CYPOSC prioritised items to be considered at a reduced number of formal meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic. Reports on other items were circulated via email to members. However, although there was a reduced number of formal meetings the committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring and considered overview and progress monitoring reports and presentations in relation to the following:

Areas of Overview and Monitoring Activity

- Impact of COVID 19 on Children and Young People's Services
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Child Poverty
- Neglect
- 0 – 25 Healthy Child Programme
- Best Start in Life
- Director of Public Health Annual Report
- Impact of COVID 19 on Education Services
- Healthy Weight Alliance
- Young Carers
- Stronger Families Programme
- Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy
- Pre Birth Services
- Signs of Safety Update
- Progress on recommendations from the Children's Residential Care Homes Review
- Progress on Recommendations from The Role of the Social Worker from a Child's Perspective

Budgetary and performance monitoring:

- Quarterly budgetary monitoring for the Children and Young People's Service Grouping.

- Quarterly corporate performance monitoring for the Children and Young People's Service Grouping.

14 In addition, the CYP OSC has also considered the following areas which cut across objectives in the Council plan or cut across the remit of other Overview and Scrutiny Committees including:

- ERASE

Areas for Consideration in the CYP OSC Work Programme

15 Members of the CYP OSC are asked to agree the proposed work programme for 2021/22 that has been prepared and is attached at appendix two. The work programme is very comprehensive drawing on topical areas across the remit of the committee and it should be noted that it is also flexible.

16 Paragraph 13 of the report identifies the activity undertaken by the committee during 2020/21. The committee is asked to consider areas for inclusion in the work programme for 2021/22 in light of the current Council Plan and the Vision for County Durham 2035. Appendix 2 of this report sets out a draft work programme for consideration.

Conclusion

17 The work programme identifies areas of work that fall within the remit of CYP OSC and is flexible in its delivery.

Background papers

- [Council Plan 2020 -2023](#)
- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

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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

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

Procurement

Not applicable