

# Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



7 July 2022

## Refresh of the Work Programme 2022/23 for Children and Young People's OSC

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### Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

#### 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 2022/2023.

#### Executive summary

- 2 CYPOSC review their work programme 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 have an extensive work programme and we must ensure we are able to accommodate issues that may arise during the term of the work programme.

#### 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 2022/2023.
- b) Agree the work programme for 2022/2023 as attached at appendix 2 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.
- c) Identify a topic for in-depth or light touch review activity

## **Background**

- 6 Scrutiny committees adapted to the change during the pandemic and some of those adaptations have become a part of business as usual for the committee such as briefing reports being used to provide information to members of the committee. The CYPOSC work programme is refreshed annually and takes into consideration the priorities of the Committee and areas identified by the service.
- 7 The overview and scrutiny committee's work programmes are informed by:
  - Council Plan
  - County Durham Vision 2035
  - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
  - Partnership Plans and Strategies
  - Performance and Budgetary control data
  - Changes in government legislation
  - Key questions for improving performance.
- 8 The County Durham Partnership agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035 which 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
- 9 Each ambition contains a number of objectives together with some council specific objectives. Following the refresh of the Council Plan in April 2022, it is now structured around five objectives which capture the three ambitions:
  - Our Economy
  - Our People
  - Our Communities

- Our Environment
- Our Council

## **Council Plan 2022 - 2026**

- 10 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.
- 11 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around the three ambitions which are mentioned above and below are the relevant objectives that apply to CYPOSC.

### **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.
- 12 The Council Plan has been structured around five objectives: Our Economy; Our People; Our Communities; Our Environment and Our Council. The key Council Plan objective for CYPOSC is Our People

## **Current Work Programme**

- 13 During 2021/2022 the CYPOSC prioritised items to be considered at formal meetings due to the size of the work programme. Reports on other items were circulated via email to members. The committee has also undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring and considered overview and progress monitoring reports and presentations in relation to the following:

## **Consultations**

- SEND Strategy
- New County Durham Children, Young People's and Families Strategy

## **Areas of Overview and Monitoring Activity**

- Introduction to Children and Young People's Services Overview
- Children, Young People and Families Partnership Overview
- Relationship based Social Work Practice
- Child Poverty
- Overview of Child Protection Process
- Developing a new County Durham SEND Strategy
- Key Findings from Ofsted focused visit
- Free School Meals
- Inclusion/Exclusion Update
- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
- Growing up in County Durham – a new Children and Young People's Strategy
- Impact of Education White Paper: Opportunity for all: Strong Schools with Great Teachers

## **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:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

## Areas for Consideration in the CYP OSC Work Programme

- 15 Members of the CYP OSC are asked to agree the proposed work programme for 2022/23 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. The draft work programme can be found appended to this report at appendix 2
- 16 Paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report identifies the activity undertaken by the committee during 2021/22. The committee is asked to consider areas for inclusion in the draft work programme for 2022/23 considering the current Council Plan and the Vision for County Durham 2035. It is also important that members receive information on OFSTED inspections and the results on the recent inspection report are factored into the draft work programme.
- 17 Members are encouraged to identify areas of scrutiny investigation (in depth and light touch reviews) from the work programme. However, it is anticipated that input from the thematic OSCs will be required into the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 13 development and beyond. This might include more detailed examination of budgets against the context of ongoing financial pressures faced by the Council and the need to identify further efficiencies or areas of income generation. This would impact on the committee's intention to carry out review activity in other areas for this work programme.
- 18 In relation to consideration of the involvement of the committee in the examination of budgets members will find appended to this report at appendix 3 a power point presentation which will be given to members by the Finance Manager (CYPS) to provide more information.

## Conclusion

- 19 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 2022 - 2026](#)
- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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