

# Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



6 July 2023

## Refresh of the Work Programme 2023/24 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 2023/2024.

#### 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 2023/2024.
- b) Agree the work programme for 2023/2024 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. The Council Plan is structured around five objectives which capture the three ambitions:
  - Our Economy
  - Our People
  - Our Communities
  - Our Environment
  - Our Council

## **Council Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27**

- 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 2022/2023 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:

## **Scrutiny Review Activity**

- MTFP13 Consideration of income generation and efficiency savings in Children and Young People's Services

## **Consultations**

- Home to School Transport Proposals
- Draft Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2023 - 2028

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

- Children, Young People and Families Partnership Priorities
- Growing up in County Durham – Children, Young People and Families Strategy
- OFSTED ILACS - Durham
- Child Poverty
- Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report
- School Funding Update
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Update
- Sufficiency Strategy
- Early Years Overview
- Reducing Parental Conflict
- Schools Ofsted Update and Educational Attainment
- Response to Children's Social Care Review
- The Pause Programme
- Teenage Conceptions Briefing Report
- County Durham's Youth Council Briefing Report
- Stronger Families Briefing Report
- Support for Young Carer's Briefing Report
- Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report
- Director of Public Health Annual Report
- Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report.

## **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 – Waiting Times
  - 0-25 Family Health Services Update
  - Best Start in Life
    - Support for Young People Not in Education, Employment and Training
  - I – Thrive Workshop

## **Areas for Consideration in the CYP OSC Work Programme**

- 15 Members of the CYP OSC are asked to agree the proposed work programme for 2023/24 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 2022/23. The committee is asked to consider areas for inclusion in the draft work programme for 2023/24 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) from the work programme.

## **Conclusion**

- 18 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 2023/24 to 2026/27](#)
- [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