

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 July 2024

Refresh of the Work Programme 2024/25 for Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Report of Helen Bradley, Director of Legal and Democratic Services

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 2024/2025.

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 2024/2025.
- b) Agree the work programme for 2024/2025 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 February 2024, it is now structured around five themes which reflect our contribution towards achieving the three ambitions within the Vision for County Durham as well as the council's own improvement agenda:
 - Our Economy
 - Our People
 - Our Communities

- Our Environment
- Our Council

Council Plan 2024– 2028

- 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 of work that we will undertake to help achieve these priorities. The Plan will now be refreshed each year to reflect the integration of corporate and financial planning.
- 11 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around the three ambitions for the county and our own improvement agenda. The ‘our council’ theme captures the corporate initiatives the council has identified and wants to undertake to achieve the ambitions within the vision:
- a) Our resources will be managed effectively.
 - b) Create a workforce for the future.
 - c) Design our services with service users.
 - d) Use data and technology more effectively.
 - e) We will build an inclusive and welcoming employee culture.
- 12 The key themes which apply to the CYP OSC are ‘Our Economy’ and ‘Our People’ with the relevant ambitions detailed below:
- Our Economy**
- a) Young people will have access to good quality education, training and employment.
- Our People**
- 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.
 - c) All children and young people will have a safe childhood.

Current Work Programme

- 13 During 2023/2024 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:

Areas of Overview and Monitoring Activity

- Update on the Starting Well Partnership
- Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Programme
- Child Poverty
- Home to School Transport Outcomes
- Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report
- Family Hubs
- Support for Children and Families on the Edge of Care
- Pre Birth Intervention Update
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Overview
- School Attendance and Inclusion
- Schools Ofsted Update and Educational Attainment
- Elective Home Education Update
- Children's Social Care Demand
- Third Party Payments and Sufficiency - Informal Information Session
- Think Autism - Briefing Report
- Universal Youth Work - 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:

- 0-25 Family Health Services Update
- Best Start in Life
- Preparation for Adulthood
- Valuing Neurodiversity in County Durham
- Children and Young People and Vaping – Update on the Evidence Base
- Sexual Health Strategy
- Support for Young People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training - Briefing Report

Areas for Consideration in the CYP OSC Work Programme

- 15 Members of the CYP OSC are asked to agree the proposed work programme for 2024/25 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 2023/24. The committee is asked to consider areas for inclusion in the draft work programme for 2024/25 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 of recent inspection reports are factored into the draft work programme.

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 2024-28](#)
- [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