Committee:	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Date:	16 April 2013

Agenda item:	10
Wards:	All
Subject:	Planning the Panel's 2013/14 work programme

Lead officer:	Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services
Lead member:	Councillor Jeff Hanna, Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Forward Plan reference number: n/a

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Recommendations:

A.   That the Panel reviews its 2012/13 work programme, identifying what worked well, what worked less well and what the Panel would like to do differently next year;

B.   That the Panel suggests items for inclusion in the 2013/14 work programme – both agenda items and potential task group review topics;

C.   That the Panel agree agenda items for its meeting on 4 July 2013;

1.   PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1   To enable the Panel to plan its work programme for the forthcoming municipal year and, in particular, to agree agenda items for the first meeting of the municipal year.

2.   DETAILS

Identifying issues for the 2012/13 work programme

2.1   The scrutiny officers are currently gathering suggestions for issues to scrutinise, either as Panel agenda items or task group reviews. Suggestions are being sought from members of the public, councillors and partner organisations including the police, NHS Sutton and Merton and Merton Voluntary Service Council. Other issues of public concern will be identified through the Annual Residents Survey. The council's departmental management teams have been consulted in order to identify forthcoming issues on which the Panel could contribute to the policymaking process.

2.2   The Panel is therefore invited to suggest items for inclusion in the 2013/14 work programme – both agenda items and potential task group review topics.

2.3   All the suggestions received will be discussed at the Panel's topic workshop on 22 May 2013. As in previous years, participants will be asked to prioritise the suggestions using criteria so that the issues chosen relate to:

- the Council's strategic priorities;
- services that are underperforming;
- issues of public interest or concern;
- issues where scrutiny could make a difference.

Planning the first meeting of the 2013/14 municipal year

2.4   A note of the workshop discussion and draft work programme will be reported to the first meeting of the Panel in the new municipal year. The Panel will be requested to discuss this draft and agree any changes that it wishes to make.

2.5   In previous years the Panel has received presentations from the relevant Directors and Cabinet Members at this meeting. This provides an opportunity to consider their priorities and challenges for the year ahead, alongside the scrutiny work programme discussion. The Panel is asked to consider whether it wishes to have a similar presentation this year.

2.6   The Panel is also asked to identify any other items that it wishes to include on the agenda for its 4 July meeting.

3.   ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1   The Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

4.   CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

Scrutiny topic suggestions are being sought from members of the public, councillors, council officers and partner organisations including the police, NHS Sutton and Merton and Merton Voluntary Service Council.

5.   FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1   None for the purposes of this report.

6.   LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1   There are none specific to this report.

7.   HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1   It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None relating to this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None relating to this report.

10. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

10.1 None

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None