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Merton Council
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 23 June 2021
Time: 7.15 pm
Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

AGENDA

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1	Apologies for absence	
2	Declarations of pecuniary interest	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 4
4	Covid-19 update on implications for Merton - Presentation to follow	
5	Department update Report - to follow	
6	Cabinet Member Current Priorities - Verbal Update	
7	Performance Monitoring Report - to follow	
8	Work Programme Report 2021-2022	5 - 14

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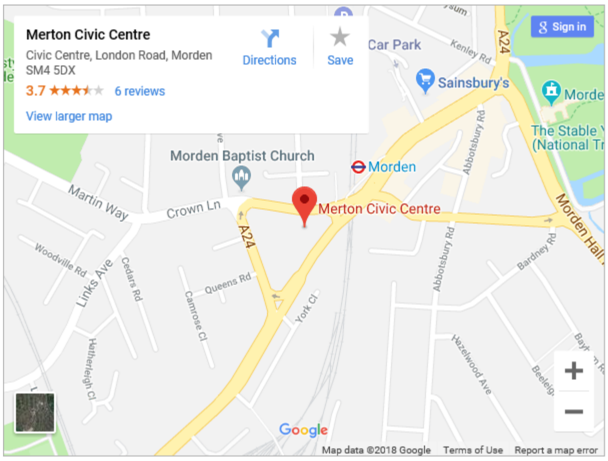
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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel membership

Councillors:
Brenda Fraser (Chair)
Hayley Ormrod (Vice-Chair)
Stan Anderson
Omar Bush
Nick Draper
Edward Foley
Joan Henry
James Holmes
Russell Makin
Dennis Pearce

Co-opted Representatives
Uzma Ahmad
Mansoor Ahmad, Parent Governor Representative Secondary and Special Sectors
Roz Cordner, Education Co-optee.

Substitute Members:
Thomas Barlow
Andrew Howard
Sally Kenny
Carl Quilliam
Dickie Wilkinson

Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that mater and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in**: If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews**: The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews**: Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents**: Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 4035 or by e-mail on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
27 APRIL 2021

(7.15 pm - 9.40 pm)

PRESENT:	Councillors Councillor Brenda Fraser (in the Chair), Councillor Hayley Ormrod, Councillor Stan Anderson, Councillor Omar Bush, Councillor Nick Draper, Councillor Edward Foley, Councillor Joan Henry, Councillor James Holmes, Councillor Russell Makin, Councillor Dennis Pearce, Mansoor Ahmad and Roz Cordner
ALSO PRESENT:	Councillor Eleanor Stringer (Cabinet Member, for Children and Education) Stella Akintan (Scrutiny Officer), Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (Head of School Improvement), El Mayhew (Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion), Jane McSherry (Director of Children, Schools and Families), Karl Mittelstadt (Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships), Keith Shipman (Head of Education Inclusion) and Dr Dagmar Zeuner (Director, Public Health)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There are no declarations of pecuniary interests

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

A panel member highlighted the incorrect spelling of Covid on page three of the minutes. The remainder of the minute was agreed as a true and accurate record.

4 COVID-19 UPDATE - PRESENTATION TO FOLLOW (Agenda Item 4)

The Director of Public Health gave an overview of her presentation and highlighted that:

Covid infection rates have fallen

There are on-going concerns around the possibility of new variants emerging

A panel member asked if self-isolation is having a positive impact on reducing the spread of Covid. The Director of Public Health said surveys have highlighted that compliance with self-isolation is known to be the weakest link in the chain, we need to ensure local communities are aware that the council is able to support self-isolation.

A panel member asked if we are close to achieving herd immunisation. The Director of Public Health said 50% of the population have been vaccinated whilst herd immunity for this disease is 80%, so we are moving towards it.

5 SCHOOL STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT (Agenda Item 6)

The Head of School Improvement and the Social Inclusions Manager gave an overview of the report

A panel member asked about the next steps for the report. The Head of School Improvement said the report will be sent to schools and partners to understand priorities and areas where they are working well.

A panel member asked what support is available for students who are persistent absentees. The Social Inclusions Manager said schools work with the education welfare team to support families. The biggest cause of absenteeism is illness so appropriate support needs will be identified and put in place. The education welfare team will support and challenge parents to facilitate attendance.

A panel member asked about support for elective home education. The Social Inclusions Manager said the local authority will ensure education is appropriate, will send information resources, visit the home and give advice. There has been an increase in the availability of resources due to the pandemic.

A panel member asked for clarification about the Ofsted inspection regime for outstanding schools. The Head of School Improvement said they are prioritising schools which received outstanding before 2015. Schools with long standing outstanding judgements are not subject to routine inspections.

A panel member thanked officers for an excellent report and expressed concerned about lengthy presentations which reduced the time available for the panel to ask questions.
Due to the shortage of time, panel members requested a written response to the following questions:
Currently there are two MEP visits a year to most schools can these be increased
Given the increase in using technology during the pandemic What work is taking place to embed the learning from technology in schools into the curriculum
How can we make the Schools standards Committee more robust?
Is there a volunteer’s programme to support pupils with reading?
What work is taking place to link employers with local young people to provide work experience and also building links with local employers who could provide laptops.

What are the priorities areas for school improvement?

What support is available for children who have struggled with attainment during the pandemic? What will the council do to help schools who need to raise attainment levels?

RESOLVED
The Chair thanked officers for their support.

6 CORPORATE PARENTING (Agenda Item 7)

The Head of Children in Care and Resources gave an overview of the report covering 2019-2020 period giving an overview of support to children in care and care experience young people.

A panel member said the report referred to independence for care leavers but there is no mention of the task group that the panel set up to consider this area and it is important to ensure the recommendations are incorporated into the work. The Head of the Youth Justice and Care leaving team agreed to do some further research on the recommendations from the task group and respond.

A Panel member asked about the recruitment of foster carers, decrease of people in care proceedings from 63 children to 48. The Head of Children in Care and Resources said there a range of reasons including the practice model and they are only using statutory duties when absolutely necessary. There has been increase in foster carer recruitment due to a range of activities.

A panel member asked about the under-representation amongst some ethnic groups for children in care. The Head of Children in Care and Resources said there are a range of reasons including cultural approaches and reporting issues.

7 MERTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (Agenda Item 8)

The Head of Policy Performance and Partnerships gave an overview of the report.

A panel member asked how domestic issues being raised over the last twelve months especially. The Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion said there has been an increase in the severity of presentations and more serious concerns about what is happening in families. There were disproportionally higher rates of concerns around alcohol abuse and domestic abuse prior to the pandemic and this has continued and possibly exacerbated by lockdown. There is an internal review to understand the underlying issues.

A panel member asked what is being done to address the uptick in social care referrals when schools returned and if this can be managed. The Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion said they have recruited additional social workers on a temporary basis, who are carrying out a range of activities such deploying social workers within schools.

RESOLVED

The chaired thanked officers for their report

8 DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE- PRESENTATION TO FOLLOW (Agenda Item 5)

The Director for Children Schools and Families gave an overview of the presentation.

The Assistant Director for Children’s Social Care and Youth Inclusion said the Minute of the previous meeting is incomplete doesn’t include departmental update and performance monitoring. The Chair said she will address this with the scrutiny officer.

A panel member asked about the uptake of the vaccines amongst social workers. The Assistant Director for Children’s Social Care and Youth Inclusion said the figure is 52% through the council we do not real figure as people may have had it elsewhere as and there is no requirement to report it.

9 PERFORMANCE MONITORING (Agenda Item 9)

The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships gave an overview of the report.

RESOLVED
The Chair thanked the officer for the report.

10 TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PANEL (Agenda Item 10)

The Scrutiny Officer asked for potential issues for the panel to consider in the next municipal year. These will be discussed as part of a long list of topics and developed into a work programme at the topic selection workshop on the 7th June.
Panel members agreed to send topic suggestions to the scrutiny officer. The Chair said we need to review the last work programme for the topics not discussed due to the streamlined work programme during the pandemic.

A panel member asked for a continuation of the departmental update and return of cabinet member update

Cllr Ormrod said she has been in discussion with the department about a possible task group review on children’s mental health.

A panel member suggested the bereavement support for young people as a topic suggestion.

Committee:	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Date:	23 June 2021
Wards:	All
Subject:	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2021/22
Lead officer:	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer
Lead member:	Councillor Brenda Fraser, Chair of the Children and Young People and Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Contact officer:	Stella Akintan: stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3390

Recommendations:

That members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

i. Consider their work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year, and agree issues and items for inclusion (see draft in Appendix 1);

ii. Consider the methods by which the Panel would like to scrutinise the issues/items agreed;

iii. Agree on an issue for scrutiny by a task group and appoint members to the Task Group;

iv. Identify any training and support needs.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to support and advise Panel members to determine their work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year.

1.2 This report sets out the following information to assist the Panel in this process:

a) The principles of effective scrutiny and the criteria against which work programme items should be considered;

b) The roles and responsibilities of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview and Scrutiny Panel;

c) The findings of the consultation programme undertaken with councillors and co-opted members, Council senior management, voluntary and community sector organisations, partner organisations and Merton residents;

d) A summary of discussion by councillors and co-opted members at a topic selection workshop held on 7 June 2021; and

e) Support available to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel to determine, develop and deliver its 2021/22 work programme.

2. Determining the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview and Scrutiny Panel Annual Work Programme

2.1 Members are required to determine their work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year to give focus and structure to scrutiny activity to ensure that it effectively and efficiently supports and challenges the decision-making processes of the Council, and partner organisations, for the benefit of the people of Merton.

2.2 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview and Scrutiny Panel has a specific role relating to public health, health partners, adult social care and mental health scrutiny and to performance monitoring that should automatically be built into their work programmes.

2.3 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview and Scrutiny Panel may choose to scrutinise a range of issues through a combination of pre-decision scrutiny items, policy development, performance monitoring, information updates and follow up to previous scrutiny work.

2.4 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview have six scheduled meetings over the course of 2021/22, including the scheduled budget meeting (representing a maximum of 21 hours of scrutiny per year – assuming 3 hours per meeting). Members will therefore need to be selective in their choice of items for the work programme.

Principles guiding the development of the scrutiny work programme

2.5 The following key principles of effective scrutiny should be considered when the Commission determines its work programme:

- **Be selective** – There is a need to prioritise so that high priority issues are scrutinised given the limited number of scheduled meetings and time available. Members should consider what can realistically and properly be reviewed at each meeting, taking into account the time needed to scrutinise each item and what the session is intended to achieve.
- **Add value with scrutiny** – Items should have the potential to 'add value' to the work of the council and its partners. If it is not clear what the intended outcomes or impact of a review will be then Members should consider if there are issues of a higher priority that could be scrutinised instead.
- **Be ambitious** – The Panel should not shy away from carrying out scrutiny of issues that are of local concern, whether or not they are the primary responsibility of the council. The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to do anything to promote economic, social and environmental well being of local communities. Subsequent Acts have conferred specific powers to scrutinise health services, crime and disorder issues and to hold partner organisations to account.
- **Be flexible** – Members are reminded that there needs to be a degree of flexibility in their work programme to respond to unforeseen issues/items for consideration/comment during the year and accommodate any developmental or additional work that falls within the remit of this Panel. For example Members may wish to question officers regarding the declining performance of a service or may choose to respond to a Councillor Call for Action request.

- **Think about the timing** – Members should ensure that the scrutiny activity is timely and that, where appropriate, their findings and recommendations inform wider corporate developments or policy development cycles at a time when they can have most impact. Members should seek to avoid duplication of work carried out elsewhere.

Models for carrying out scrutiny work

2.6 There are a number of means by which the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can deliver its work programme. Members should consider which of the following options is most appropriate to undertake each of the items they have selected for inclusion in the work programme:

Item on a scheduled meeting agenda/ hold an extra meeting of the Panel	▪ The Panel can agree to add an item to the agenda for a meeting and call Cabinet Members/ Officers/Partners to the meeting to respond to questioning on the matter ▪ A variation of this model could be a one-day seminar-scrutiny of issues that, although important, do not merit setting up a 'task-and-finish' group.
Task Group	▪ A small group of Members meet outside of the scheduled meetings to gather information on the subject area, visit other local authorities/sites, speak to service users, expert witnesses and/or Officers/Partners. The Task Group can then report back to the Panel with their findings to endorse the submission of their recommendations to Cabinet/Council ▪ This is the method usually used to carry out policy reviews
The Panel asks for a report then takes a view on action	▪ The Panel may need more information before taking a view on whether to carry out a full review so asks for a report – either from the service department or from the Scrutiny Team – to give them more details.
Meeting with service Officer/Partners	▪ A Member (or small group of Members) has a meeting with service officers/Partners to discuss concerns or raise queries. ▪ If the Member is not satisfied with the outcome or believes that the Panel needs to have a more in-depth review of the matter s/he takes it back to the Panel for discussion.
Individual Members doing some initial research	▪ A member with a specific concern carries out some research to gain more information on the matter and then brings his/her findings to the attention of the Panel if s/he still has concerns.

2.7 Note that, in order to keep agendas to a manageable size, and to focus on items to which the Panel can make a direct contribution, the Panel may choose to take some "information only" items outside of Panel meetings, for example by email.

Support available for scrutiny activity

2.8 The Overview and Scrutiny function has dedicated scrutiny support from the Scrutiny Team to:

- Work with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel to manage the work programme and coordinate the agenda, including advising officers and partner organisations on information required and guidance for witnesses submitting evidence to a scrutiny review;
- Provide support for scrutiny members through briefing papers, background material, training and development seminars, etc;
- Facilitate and manage the work of the task and finish groups, including research, arranging site visits, inviting and briefing witnesses and drafting review reports on behalf on the Chair; and
- Promote the scrutiny function across the organisation and externally.

2.9 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview will need to assess how it can best utilise the available support from the Scrutiny Team to deliver its work programme for 2021/22.

2.10 The Panel is also invited to comment on any briefing, training and support that is needed to enable Members to undertake their work programme. Members may also wish to undertake visits to local services in order to familiarise themselves with these. Such visits should be made with the knowledge of the Chair and will be organised by the Scrutiny Team.

2.11 The Scrutiny Team will take the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview and Scrutiny Panel's views on board in developing the support that is provided.

3. Selecting items for the Scrutiny Work Programme

3.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview and Scrutiny Panel sets its own agenda within the scope of its terms of reference. It has the following remit:

- Education, Children's social care, child protection, children's health, youth services and performance monitoring.

3.1 The Scrutiny Team has undertaken a campaign to gather suggestions for issues to scrutinise either as agenda items or task group reviews. Suggestions have been received from members of the public, councillors and partner organisations including the police, NHS and Merton Voluntary Service Council. Issues that have been raised repeatedly at Community Forums have also been included. The Scrutiny Team has consulted departmental management teams in order to identify forthcoming issues on which the Panel could contribute to the policymaking process.

3.2 The councillors who attended a "topic selection" workshop on 07 June 2021 discussed these suggestions. Areas were prioritised at the workshop and a long list was identified. Panel members are asked to rank this list to help to develop the 2021-22 work programme. These are listed at Appendix 1

4. Task group reviews

4.1 The Panel is invited to select an issue for in-depth scrutiny and establish a task group.

5. Public involvement

5.1 Scrutiny provides extensive opportunities for community involvement and democratic accountability. Engagement with service users and with the general public can help to improve the quality, legitimacy and long-term viability of recommendations made by the Panel.

5.2 Service users and the public bring different perspectives, experiences and solutions to scrutiny, particularly if “seldom heard” groups such as young people, disabled people, people from black and minority ethnic communities and people from lesbian gay bisexual and transgender communities are included.

5.3 This engagement will help the Panel to understand the service user’s perspective on individual services and on co-ordination between services. Views can be heard directly through written or oral evidence or heard indirectly through making use of existing sources of information, for example from surveys. From time to time the Panel/Task Group may wish to carry out engagement activities of its own, by holding discussion groups or sending questionnaires on particular issues of interest.

5.4 Much can be learnt from best practice already developed in Merton and elsewhere. The Scrutiny Team will be able to help the Panel to identify the range of stakeholders from which it may wish to seek views and the best way to engage with particular groups within the community.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 A number of issues highlighted in this report recommend that Panel members take into account certain considerations when setting their work programme for 2021/22. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel is free to determine its work programme as it sees fit. Members may therefore choose to identify a work programme that does not take into account these considerations. This is not advised as ignoring the issues raised would either conflict with good practice and/or principles endorsed in the Review of Scrutiny, or could mean that adequate support would not be available to carry out the work identified for the work programme.

6.2 A range of suggestions from the public, partner organisations, officers and Members for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme are set out in the appendices, together with a suggested approach to determining which to include in the work programme. Members may choose to respond differently. However, in doing so, Members should be clear about expected outcomes, how realistic expectations are and the impact of their decision on their wider work programme and support time. Members are also free to incorporate into their work programme any other issues they think should be subject to scrutiny over the course of the year, with the same considerations in mind.

7. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

7.1 To assist Members to identify priorities for inclusion in the Panel’s work programme, the Scrutiny Team has undertaken a campaign to gather suggestions for possible scrutiny reviews from a number of sources:

a. Members of the public have been approached using the following tools: articles in the local press, My Merton and Merton Together, request for suggestions from all councillors and co-opted members, letter to partner organisations and to a range of local voluntary and community organisations, including those involved in the Inter-Faith Forum and members of the Lesbian Gay and Transgender Forum;

b. Councillors have put forward suggestions by raising issues in scrutiny meetings, via the Overview and Scrutiny Member Survey 2020, and by contacting the Scrutiny Team direct; and

c. Officers have been consulted via discussion at departmental management team meetings.

8. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none specific to this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the financial, resource and property issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific financial, resource and property implications.

9. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Overview and scrutiny bodies operate within the provisions set out in the Local Government Act 2000, the Health and Social Care Act 2001& 2012 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

9.2 Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific legal and statutory implications.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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 engagement. The reviews will involve work to consult local residents, community and voluntary sector groups, businesses, hard to reach groups, partner organisations etc and the views gathered will be fed into the review.

10.2 Scrutiny work involves consideration of the human rights, equalities and community cohesion issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

11.1 In line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police and Justice Act 2006, all Council departments must have regard to the impact of services on crime, including anti-social behaviour and drugs. Scrutiny review reports will therefore highlight any implications arising from the reviews relating to crime and disorder as necessary.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none specific to this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the risk management and health and safety issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific risk management and health and safety implications.

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

13.1 Appendix I – Notes from the topic selection workshop

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 None

Appendix 1

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Topic suggestions 2021/22

Topic Suggestion Workshop 7th June 2021

Present: Councillor Brenda Fraser (Chair), Councillor Hayley Ormrod, Councillor Helena Dollimore, Councillor Russell Makin, Councillor Ed Foley, Councillor Joan Henry, Councillor Sally Kenny, Councillor Jenifer Gould and Roz Cordner. **Officers:** Jane McSherry, Director of Children, Schools and Families, Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer.

The following items will be included in the work programme for the year ahead:

Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People after the Pandemic Report to include; the range of services being put in place, update on initiatives schools are involved in. Looking at possible gaps in services and what additional provision is needed. Colleagues from the NHS and local children's mental health charities will also be invited to join the discussion.

Academic catch up of pupils after the pandemic – Report to include; expectations from the Government and Department for Education, overview of activities within schools, particular areas of interest include extracurricular activities, planning for transition from year six to seven, supporting socialising amongst pupils and to ensure support is in place for the most vulnerable children

Primary School places – Report to include; review of the reasons for the current surplus of primary places including looking at the current nursery provision which can lead to transition to primary school. A review of the 'conversion rate' which uses the number of births and other factors which provide an indicator of school places needed. The conversion rate is falling across London due to Brexit impact and families moving out of London. The report will set out how the current process is being addressed with the aim of ensuring schools do not reduce places simultaneously, leading to a deficit of provision.

Digital technology in schools (suggested task group review) – to complete the review started before the pandemic taking into account the massive changes that have taken place. The review looked at how digital technology can enhance learning within schools. The Task Group could focus on;

The learning from the pandemic,
What has been successful and unsuccessful.
Support available to schools who haven't benefitted from the pandemic,
What teaching staff found useful/ challenging,
Learning from other boroughs.
learning from the experiences of the first and second lockdown

School exclusions particularly understanding high rates in BAME groups

Report to include; what is being done to tackle this and if Merton is learning from good practice – this is reported in the annual standards report. Panel members need to decide if they wish to have an expanded report or consider this as a separate item

Apprenticeships – Report to include; looking at how the council works in partnership with employers to support local young people into jobs and training.

Speech and Language services – Report to include; The impact of the pandemic on this service, how successful online provision has been and if this will be continued. update on the challenges in finding providers for this service.

Education and Health Care Plans – Report to include; Looking at ways to reduce the high cost of this provision including providing support and specialist places within the borough. This item will be linked to the review of budgets.

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