

Children and Young People Work Programme 2018/19



This table sets out the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2018/19; the items listed were agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 27 June 2018. This work programme will be considered at every meeting of the Panel to enable it to respond to issues of concern and incorporate reviews or to comment on pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting-by-meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre-decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes.

Chair: Cllr Sally Kenny

Vice-chair: Cllr Edward Gretton

Scrutiny Support

For further information on the work programme of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel please contact: -

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For more information about overview and scrutiny at LB Merton, please visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Meeting date: 27 June 2018 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 19 June 2018*) **COMPLETE**

Theme: setting the work programme			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	POSSIBLE external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance (TBC)
Cabinet Member priorities	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Kelly Braund)	
Children, schools and families glossary	A glossary of acronyms commonly used within the remit of the Children, Schools and Families Department will be provided.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
Briefing for new members: Education, Health and Care Plans	To allow the Panel to understand EHCPs to continue to monitor performance in this area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane McSherry, Assistant Director of Education Karla Finikin, Service Manager – SEN & Disabilities Integrated Service 	
Performance monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring; and Selection of a Panel Member to act as a lead on performance monitoring. 	Mark Gwynne, Interim Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
Department update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	

Routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts task group – monitoring the implementation of the recommendations	The Panel will take an update on what has been achieved in delivering the task group's recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Williams, Programme Manager Economy, futureMerton • Kim Brown, Head of Organisational Development & HR Strategy • Keith Shipman, Social Inclusion Manager • Dawn Jolley, Head of Commercial Services 	
Scrutiny review: user voice	Panel to consider how it can listen to the voices of children and young people so that these can inform its scrutiny of services.	Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	
Agreeing the Panel's work programme	To agree the Panel's work programme and consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a thematic approach to the work programme; • appointing topic leads; • getting the best from performance monitoring; • the Panel's use of task groups; • opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny; and • monitoring task group recommendations. 	Cllr Sally Kenny, Panel chair, and Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer	

Meeting date: 9 October 2018 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 1 October 2018*)

Theme: setting the work programme			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	POSSIBLE external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance (TBC)

Cabinet Member priorities	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Kelly Braund)	
Performance monitoring	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
Department update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	
Pre-decision scrutiny: Regional Adoption Agency	Pre-decision scrutiny prior to Cabinet's consideration in November of authorisation to enter into joint agreement with other local authorities for a Regional Adoption Agency. This is to discharge Merton's statutory duties in respect of adoption (in line with DfE requirements to establish Regional Adoption Agencies across England).	Paul Angeli, Assistant Director, Children's Services	
Pre-decision scrutiny: Children and Young People Plan	This is the plan of the Merton Children's Trust and details the how the partners operating the trust will work together to achieve its priorities. This provides an opportunity for the Panel to undertake some pre-decision scrutiny in the run up to the delivery of a new plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families • Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance 	
Progress monitoring: care leaver accommodation	To monitor progress against the reference to Cabinet on care leaver accommodation made in partnership with the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel in September 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families 	

reference		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance • Steve Langley, Head of Housing Need 	
Scrutiny review: Children and families voice framework	For the Panel to take the annual report on children and families voice. To consider how the work already undertaken to listen to children and families will inform the work of the Panel in scrutinising services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families • Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance 	
Progress monitoring: Prevent task group recommendations	For the Panel to take an update on the progress that has been achieved in delivering the recommendations of this task group.	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer	
Scrutiny review: children's mental health	To receive and approve the terms of reference of the children's mental health task group that will be operating throughout this year.	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer	
Work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any new/additional pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider.		

Meeting date: 7 November 2018 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 30 October 2018*)

Theme: setting the work programme			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic	POSSIBLE external witnesses/visits and

		lead	questioning guidance (TBC)
Children, Schools and Families Budget/business planning (Round 1)	<p>To enable the Panel to comment on the budget proposals and any new or revised savings as part of the first round of the process for agreeing the Council's budget and business plan.</p> <p>The current budget required cost savings to the CSF department. This agenda item also provides the opportunity to understand if this objective is being realised and what impact this is having in terms of service provision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families • Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services, will provide training before the meeting giving a detailed guide to the Medium Term Financial Strategy. <u>All members are encouraged to attend.</u> • Scrutiny of finance – Councillor workbook (the Local Government Association).
Cabinet Member priorities	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Kelly Braund)	
Merton Safeguarding Children Board annual report	An in-depth review of safeguarding for children and young people in Merton. This will focus on strengths and areas for review during the coming period.	Paul Angeli, Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Makin, the Independent Chair of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board attending. • Safeguarding Children – a practical guide for overview and scrutiny councillors (Local Government

			Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny)
Update report: school admissions	To provide a detailed statistical report providing a summary of school admissions in Merton and the resulting spare capacity in the system.	Tom Proctor, Service Management Contracts and School	•
Performance monitoring	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
Department update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	
Work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any new/additional pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider.		

Meeting date: 16 January 2019 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 8 January 2019*)

Theme: setting the work programme			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	Possible external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance
Children, Schools and Families Budget/business planning (Round 2)	To enable the Panel to consider the Council's budget and business plan proposals. Additionally to forward any comments/recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to compile a scrutiny response on the Budget/Business Plan to Cabinet. To include discussion of major projects identified in the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families • Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services, will provide training before the November meeting giving a detailed guide to the Medium Term

	CSF draft service plans.		Financial Strategy. <u>All members are encouraged to attend.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny of finance – Councillor workbook (the Local Government Association).
Harris Wimbledon update	To monitor progress of the delivery of the new school in line with the Panel's reference to Cabinet in June 2016: 1) ensuring the opening date for the new school is optimised to not destabilise existing Merton secondaries, 2) maximising the design to give pupils the same advantage enjoyed by children at other Merton secondaries, 3) supporting Merton Abbey Primary in agreeing shared use of the site, 4) protecting the financial interests of the borough during the development of the site, 5) sustaining the level of community rental space, and 6) ensuring the safety of pupils using the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families • Tom Proctor, Service Management Contracts and School Organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir Daniel Moynihan, CEO and Sarah Musgrave, Projects Director, of the Harris Group, will attend the meeting to update members on the Harris Federation model for guaranteeing good and outstanding schools. • A visit to Harris Merton is planned for Nov 2018. This will be to see the expansion project and to hear from the provider of the new school first hand and in situ • Free schools: challenges and opportunities for accountability: Centre for Public Scrutiny
Cabinet Member priorities	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr	

		Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Kelly Braund)	
Performance monitoring	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
Routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts task group – monitoring the implementation of the recommendations	<p>The Panel will take an update on what has been achieved in delivering the task group's recommendations. At the meeting in June the Panel resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive information on the work currently being undertaken by Coram with Looked After Children and Care Leavers and to see the resulting strategy; and • Data should be provided to the Panel in six months time including the number of apprenticeships by Directorate fulfilled by those within the target groups. Of these how many have started, stayed and left should be stated. Members requested that an appropriate representative from the HR team attend the meeting to explain these statistics. <p>To include information from the study with children in care that has been undertaken by Coram.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Williams, Programme Manager Economy, futureMerton • Kim Brown, Head of Organisational Development & HR Strategy • Keith Shipman, Social Inclusion Manager • Dawn Jolley, Head of Commercial Services • Mark Gwynne for the Coram research 	
Department update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	

	Panel members.		
Corporate parenting annual report	To review the care provided to those children for which the Council is the corporate parent.	Paul Angeli, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion	Kathy Bundred, Children's Improvement Adviser for the Local Government Association to be invited to attend as an external expert on corporate parenting. A visit by Panel members to the Children in Care Council is being scheduled.
Progress monitoring: Prevent task group recommendations	For the Panel to take an update on the progress that has been achieved in delivering the recommendations of this task group.	Scrutiny Officer	
Work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any new/additional pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider.		

Meeting date: 13 February 2018 (*Deadline for papers: 12pm 5 February 2019*)

Theme: setting the work programme			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	Possible external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance
Cabinet Member priorities	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services	

		(Cllr Kelly Braund)	
Health and wellbeing strategies for children and families	In partnership with public health, look at strategies to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people. To include consideration of the latest immunisation data.	Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite relevant members of the CCG and mental health teams • Invite attendance by Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH) to provide oversight of the commissioned services it provides • <u>10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising local immunisation services</u> (Centre for Public Scrutiny) • <u>Best start in life: promoting good emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people</u> (Local Government Association)
Scrutiny review: welfare benefit reforms	Members' interest is in examining the impact welfare benefit reforms have had on children's wellbeing and school performance. Initially, this will be started by understanding the number and profile of families who have been/will be impacted by the introduction of Universal Credit in Merton	David Keppler, Head of Revenue and Benefits	
Briefing: EHCP	To provide the Panel with information resulting from	Karla Finikin, Head of	

parental research	the survey work with parents involved in the EHCP process.	SEND Integrated Service	
Performance monitoring	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	
Department update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	
Work programme	To amend/agree the Panel's work programme and accommodate any new/additional pre-decision or other items that the Panel may wish to consider.		

Meeting date: 13 March 2019 (***Deadline for papers: 12pm 5 March 2019***)

Theme: setting the work programme			
Item	Purpose/intended outcome	Responsible officer/Member topic lead	Possible external witnesses/visits and questioning guidance
Cabinet Member priorities	Update from the responsible Cabinet Member. Questions from the Panel.	Cabinet Members for Education (Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah) and Children's Services (Cllr Kelly Braund)	
Schools annual report	Members receive the detailed annual schools report giving them the opportunity to focus on attainment for all key stages as well as at foundation stage and for post 16. The report also provides data on the attainment and achievement of key cohorts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families Jane McSherry, Assistant Director of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cathy Dawson, Head of Cricket Green and Chair of the School Effectiveness Partnership has been invited and has accepted to attend to

			<p>provide a schools' perspective on the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits to Key Stage 5 provision to happen before the meeting. • <u>Back to School – Ways for scrutiny to influence local education and support school leaders to improve results</u> (Local Government Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny)
Progress monitoring: care leaver accommodation reference	To monitor progress against the reference to Cabinet on care leaver accommodation made in partnership with the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel in September 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families • Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance • Steve Langley, Head of Housing Need 	
Children's mental health task group draft final report	The draft final report of the task group will be presented to the Panel for approval prior to be taken to Cabinet for its approval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Irons, Task group chair • Scrutiny Officer 	
Performance monitoring	Discussion of the existing basket of performance indicators for on-going monitoring.	Mark Gwynne, Head of Policy, Planning and Performance	

Department update report	Update on developments affecting the Children, Schools and Families Department since the last scrutiny Panel meeting. Questions will be taken from Panel members.	Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families	
Topic suggestions 2017/2018	To seek topic suggestions from the Panel to inform discussions about the 2018/19 work programme	Scrutiny Officer	
Proposal: transitions tracking study	For the Panel to consider the proposal for it to track a cohort of young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and multiple needs through an anonymised case study approach to see how their various needs are met. To be finalised subject to the outcomes from the children's mental health scrutiny task group review.	Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families	