

Committee:	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Date:	22 June 2022
Wards:	All
Subject:	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2022/23
Lead officer:	Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer
Lead member:	Councillor Usaama Kaweesa, Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel
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Recommendations:

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

- i. Finalise the topics for work programme 2022/23 municipal year, and agree issues and items for inclusion (see draft in Appendix 1);
 - ii. Ask Scrutiny Officer to work with colleagues to draw up a draft work programme with a schedule for each topic and bring to the next meeting for agreement.
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to support and advise Panel members to determine their work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year.

This report sets out a summary of discussion by councillors and co-opted members at a topic selection workshop held on 07 June 2022

Panel Members to be aware that there is flexibility in the work programme and it can be revised throughout the year to respond to issues as they arise.

- 1.1 In order to gather items for the agenda, 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 the voluntary and community sector. The Scrutiny Team has consulted with departmental management teams in order to identify forthcoming issues on which the Panel could contribute to the policymaking process.
- 1.2 The panel members who attended a “topic selection” workshop on 07 June 2022 discussed these suggestions. Suggestions were prioritised at the workshop. Participants sought to identify issues that related to the Council’s strategic priorities or where there was underperformance; issues of public interest or concern and issues where scrutiny could make a difference.
- 1.3 A note of the workshop discussion relating to the remit of the Panel is attached

2. Task group reviews

- 2.1 A review on Youth Provision has been put forward as a suggested in- depth task group review for this year.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 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: request for suggestions from all councillors and co-opted members, letter to partner organisations and to a range of local voluntary and community organisations.
 - b. Councillors have put forward suggestions by raising issues in scrutiny meetings, via the Overview and Scrutiny Member Survey 2021, and by contacting the Scrutiny Team direct; and
 - c. Officers have been consulted via discussion at departmental management team meetings.

5. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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.

6. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.

6.2 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.

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 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.

7.2 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.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 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.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 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.

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

10.1 Appendix I – Selecting a Scrutiny Topic – criteria used at the workshop on 07 June 2022

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None

Topics Selection Panel – 7th June

Notes from the discussion

Present: Cllr Usaama Kaweesa (Chair), Cllr Samantha McArthur, Cllr Jil Hall, Jane McSherry, Director of Children Schools and Families and Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer.

It was agreed that some of the topics could be themed and grouped together.

Education in a post pandemic work

The Panel may request further updates during the year as issues emerge relating to the impact of the pandemic.

Rising number of Education Health and Care Plans

It was agreed that this is an important issue, and the Panel will receive an update at every meeting in the departmental update report. The safety valve process means there is lots of work underway at present. The Panel will receive a report on the safety valve process in the autumn.

A SEND Green Paper is out for consultation and is likely to result in significant change to services. A scrutiny review could possibly be beneficial in the future when it is clearer what the new provision will be.

Alternative Education Provision/ Exclusion from education

An overview of Alternative Education Provision will be included in one of the future department update reports.

It was agreed that there will be updates provided on 'disproportionality' looking at work taking place across the children, schools and families department to address this in areas such as youth crime and school exclusions.

Corporate Parenting, Care Leaver Housing and Foster Care Recruitment

It was agreed the Panel will hold a special meeting looking at their Corporate Parenting Role. It will include reports on Care leaver accommodation and foster carer recruitment.

Youth Provision

It was agreed that youth services will be a task group review. It will look at the current provision as well as work within the GLA on the youth offer across London, and good practice from elsewhere. The task group will refine the scope after receiving an overview to gain a better understanding of the issues and how the review can have an impact.

Early Year's Provision

This will be included in the Standards Report and as a departmental update

Speech and language services

There will be updates in the departmental update report

Support for gifted and talented pupils

The annual Standard report looks at progress of higher achievers. A future Departmental update will provide information from schools on the work they are doing to identify gifted and talented pupils to ensure they reach their full potential. A future update will also include an update on the schools and local authority Partnership Attain and its programme of work.

Access to short breaks and respite services

There will be an overview of the issues in a future departmental update report.

Additional topics

Children's mental health

NHS/CCG led report on children's mental health will include eating disorders, self-harming and an update on the mental health trail blazers programme.

Pupils with English as a second language – A future departmental update report will provide an overview on support given to schools and pupils with English language needs and will include the work of the voluntary sector.

Support to young children who have been identified as having significant special needs. A future departmental update report will outline the support and resources including the Portage service which works with families.

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