

Briefing Note

Scrutiny Work Programme



To: Scrutiny and Improvement Committees

Date: w/c 11 March 2024

From: Governance Manager

Ref:

1 What is the purpose of this report?

1.1 To provide an update on the progress of the 2023/24 work programme for the Children and Families Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

2 What is the background to this report?

2.1 The LGA and Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CFGs) advise that robust work programming is an essential part of a successful scrutiny process. On this basis, work planning for all of the Committees was undertaken and reported at the first cycle of meetings in July 2023, incorporating the following aspects of the scrutiny remit.

2.2 Policy Development

As part of its policy development role, scrutiny provides opportunities to examine matters in more depth, to inform policy development and drive service improvement. These topics should be clearly aligned to the Council's corporate priorities. For particular 'in-depth' policy development work, there may be the opportunity to undertake some of this work outside of the committee cycle via task and finish panels. This will allow a more flexible approach to work and would be supported by Democratic Service Officers where resources allow.

2.3 Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In addition to the topics identified for in-depth review, Scrutiny Committees will undertake 'pre-decision' scrutiny by considering Cabinet reports that are listed for the current cycle.

2.4 Performance Monitoring/Overview

Committees also have the opportunity to examine a mix of annual reports and performance monitoring documents in their role as 'critical friends'.

2.5 Work programmes will need to be flexible throughout the year and responsive to emerging issues and the business needs of the Council. It is good practice to routinely monitor progress against the work programme, therefore, the work programme will remain a standing item on every agenda to allow Members to monitor upcoming items and make suggestions for the future scrutiny reviews.

2.6 The work programme for Children and Families is attached at Appendix A

Updates on work in progress

2.7

2.8

2.9

3.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to:

1. Note the updates on the Committee's work programme;
2. Make any further suggestions for review topics;

4.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Children and Families Scrutiny and Improvement Committee work programme