

Children and Young People Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee Work Programme	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 8
Class	Part 1 (open)	1 March 2016

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Select Committee with an overview of the work programme for 2015-16 and to advise the Committee about the process for agreeing the 2016-17 work programme.

## 2. Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year each select committee is required to draw up a work programme for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel. The Panel considers the suggested work programmes and coordinates activities between select committees in order to maximise the use of scrutiny resources and avoid duplication.
- 2.2 The meeting on 1 March 2016 is the last scheduled meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee in the 2015-16 municipal year. This report provides a list of the issues considered in 2015-16 (the completed work programme) and asks the Committee to put forward suggestions for the 2016-17 work programme.

## 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- note the completed work programme attached at **Appendix B**;
  - review the issues covered in 2015-16 municipal year;
  - take note of the notice of key decisions attached at **Appendix C**;
  - consider any matters arising that it may wish to suggest for future scrutiny.

## 4. Children and Young People Select Committee 2015-2016

- 4.1 The Children and Young People Select Committee had eight meetings in the 2015-16 year:
- 22 April 2015
  - 13 May 2015
  - 23 June 2015
  - 8 September 2015
  - 20 October 2015
  - 18 November 2015
  - 12 Jan 2016

- 1 March 2016

4.2 Along with all other select committees, the Children and Young People Select Committee has devoted considerable attention to the savings proposals put forward as part of the Lewisham Future Programme. It is anticipated that all overview and scrutiny committees will be tasked with reviewing savings proposals in the 2016-17 municipal year.

4.3 The Committee's completed work programme is attached at **Appendix B**.

## **5. Planning for 2016-17**

5.1 Eight meetings will be scheduled for 2016-17 municipal year. A work programme report will be put forward at the first Children and Young People Select Committee meeting of the 2016-17 year for members to review, revise and agree. The report will take account of the Committee's previous work and may incorporate:

- issues arising as a result of previous scrutiny
- issues that the Committee is required to consider by virtue of its terms of reference
- items requiring follow up from Committee reviews and recommendations
- issues suggested by members of the public
- petitions
- standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule
- suggestions from officers
- decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

### Issues arising from the 2015/16 work programme

5.2 The Committee has already indicated that in addition to standard work programme items, there are some other matters it feels should be considered for further scrutiny:

- The recommendations from the Education Commission
- Updates on the Employee Led Mutual for the Youth Service
- Young People's Mental Health Review – further work looking at incidences of self-harm amongst young people and why this might have increased.
- Performance data on schools including attendance and exclusions.

In addition, Business Panel, at its meeting on 3 February 2016, suggested that the Committee should receive a report on any proposals for the future of the Music Service.

### Children and Young People Select Committee terms of reference

5.3 The Committee's terms of reference are included at **Appendix A**.

5.4 The Council's constitution sets out the Committee's powers. The Select Committee's role is to examine issues relating to the social care, education, training and learning of children and young people up to the age of 19 years and to make

recommendations for best practice across the authority, including monitoring performance.

- 5.5 The Committee is also tasked with consulting and commenting on the actual and proposed contents of the plans making up the Council's policy framework relating to children and young people up to the age of 19, and making comments and recommendations on the provision of education, training and learning by those with special educational needs up to the age of 25 years.
- 5.6 The Committee's terms of reference include but are not limited to examining issues relating to: child protection; early years provision; special needs provision; schools; youth service; young offending; leaving care services; and any other matters relating to children and young people.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There will be financial implications arising from items on the agenda; these will need to be considered, as necessary.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.

## **8. Equalities implications**

- 8.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 8.2 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 8.3 There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

### **Background documents**

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny: the Good Scrutiny Guide

## Appendix A

### Children & Young People Select Committee

- a) To fulfil all Overview and Scrutiny functions as they relate to the social care of children and young people up to the age of 19 years including but not limited to the following activities:-
  - i. the social services functions of the Council under the Children Act 2004, and all functions of the Council under the National Assistance Act 1948, the Mental Health Act 1983, Children Act 1989, the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, Children Act 2004, Children and Families Act 2014 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time
  - ii. to invite representatives of other service providers to children and young people in the area to give account of their performance and to answer questions.
- b) In so far as they relate to the provision of services for those under the age of 19 years, the exercise of all of the Council's powers under all relevant Education Acts from time to time in force. Without limiting the generality of this, this shall include, in particular, schools and school related services.
- c) The exercise of the overview and scrutiny powers of the Council in so far as they relate to people under 19 years of age in the provision of opportunities for education, training and learning outside the school environment including pre-school services.
- d) In so far as they relate to children and young people under 19 years of age, to make comments and recommendations to the Executive on the contents and proposed contents of the plans making up the Council's policy framework.
- e) In so far as they relate to people under the age of 25 years, to make comments and recommendations on the provision of education, training and learning by those with special educational needs.
- f) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, its terms of reference include the following matters:
  - Child Protection - covering provision for vulnerable children including children in need and children looked after, placements, foster care and adoption
  - Early Years provision
  - Special Needs provision
  - Schools and related services
  - Youth Service,
  - Youth offending and challenging behaviour
  - Transitional services for those leaving care
  - Other matters relating to children and young people
- g) To receive and consider referrals from the Healthwatch in so far as they relate solely to people under 19 years of age. Otherwise such referrals will be made to the Healthier Communities Select Committee

- h) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee to hold the Executive to account for its performance in relation to the delivery of Council objectives in the provision of services to children and young people.

**NB** In the event of there being overlap between the terms of reference of this select committee and those of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, the Business Panel shall determine the Select Committee which shall deal with the matter in question.