

Children and Young People Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee Work Programme	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 9
Class	Part 1 (open)	28 February 2017

## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Select Committee with an overview of the work programme for 2016-17 and to propose a draft work programme for 2017-18.

## 2 Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year, each select committee is required to agree 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 28 February 2017 is the last scheduled meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee in the 2016-17 municipal year. The Committee's completed work programme is attached at **Appendix A**; it lists the issues considered in 2016-17. The Committee is being asked to put forward suggestions and agree its priorities for the 2017-18 work programme.

## 3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- note the completed work programme attached at **Appendix A**;
  - review the issues covered in 2016-17 municipal year;
  - take note of the notice of key decisions attached at **Appendix B**;
  - consider the suggested in-depth review topics contained in this report (paras 5.9-5.12), make any further suggestions and agree a topic for review;
  - Consider the draft work programme for 2017/18 at **Appendix C**;
  - work through the prioritisation process at **Appendix D**;
  - suggest and agree items for inclusion in the work programme for 2017/18.

## 4 Children and Young People Select Committee 2016-2017

- 4.1 The Children and Young People Select Committee had eight meetings in the 2016-17 municipal year:
- 13 April 2016
  - 8 June 2016

- 13 July 2016
- 14 September 2016
- 12 October 2016
- 10 November 2016
- 11 January 2017
- 28 February 2017

4.2 Along with all other select committees, in 2016-17 the Children and Young People Select Committee devoted considerable attention to reviewing savings proposals put forward as part of the Lewisham Future Programme.

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

## **5 Prioritisation and planning for 2017-18**

5.1 Eight meetings will be scheduled for 2017-18 municipal year. The Committee is asked to consider a draft work programme report for 2017-18 year for members to fine tune and agree. The draft work programme takes account of the Committee's previous work and incorporates:

- The scrutiny prioritisation process and potential key themes and priorities for 2017/18
- 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.

### Council Finances

5.2 The Council has already made savings of £138.4m to meet its revenue budget requirements since May 2010 and is proposing further savings of £23.2m in 2017/18. It is expected that the Council will need to identify further savings of circa £32.6m for the following two years, 2018/19 to 2019/20. This will bring the total savings in cash terms made by the Council in the decade to 2020 to just short of £200m. Monitoring the impact of savings on service delivery and performance will continue to be of importance to scrutiny committees. Lessons learnt from this process can be used to help shape the scrutiny of future savings proposals as and when they are put forward.

5.3 The latest budget monitoring returns show that there are now 17 schools predicting to be in deficit at the year end. There are 52 schools who are operating an in-year deficit in 2016/17, the schools have balanced their budget by using their carry forward. There are 26 reporting a zero balance at the year end. Budget pressures are most acutely felt by secondary schools due to reduced pupil numbers. These

pressures should ease as bulge classes work their way from primary to secondary schools.

- 5.4 There is a budget pressure of £1.7m in the high needs spending block as a result of increased numbers of pupils with high needs. High needs block spending will be supported by built in growth of £500,000 to the funding settlement for the dedicated schools grant. Schools face continued spending pressures. The schools forum has agreed that all schools will have some reduction in their funding.
- 5.5 There are also significant budget pressures in children's social care, amounting to £3.8m. This includes a forecast underspend of £0.2m on the *no recourse to public funds* budget. Overspends are forecasted in *Children leaving care* (£0.4m), *looked after children* (£2.3m), *Section 17* unrelated to no recourse to public funds (£0.7m), schools transport (£0.7m), short breaks (£0.3m). There were savings proposals to put forward on Attendance and Welfare, Occupational Therapy, Education Psychologists and Multi agency planning that will not be delivered in full this year and a shortfall of £0.4m is expected.

#### Issues arising from the 2016/17 work programme

- 5.6 The Committee has already agreed that the following items should be put forward or deferred for consideration as part of the 2017-18 work programme:
- Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Annual Schools Standards Report (Primary and secondary)
  - Meliot Road update

#### Suggested priorities for 2017/18

- 5.7 An Ofsted inspection of 'Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers' in October/ November 2015 judged Lewisham's services to children who need help and protection to be in need of improvement. There has been a drive across Children's Social Care to improve standards. In line with Council priorities, the Chair has suggested that the Committee focuses on safeguarding.
- 5.8 The Chair has indicated her view that the Committee should also focus on secondary school improvement. Secondary school improvement is a priority for Lewisham. The Council has committed to improving outcomes at KS4 and KS5 and has, in pursuit of this aim, created a Lewisham Secondary Challenge, based loosely on the London Secondary Challenge model. The CYP Select Committee has already begun to look in depth at some aspects of secondary schooling, such as the transition from primary to secondary, and careers information, advice and guidance. It is the Chair's view that further scrutiny of issues affecting the borough's secondary schools improvement, should be a priority for the Committee.

#### Topics for in-depth review

- 5.9 When considering topics for an in-depth review, Members should work through the prioritisation process flowchart at **Appendix D**.

### *Suggestions from Members*

- Getting Best Value out of Pupil Premium
- Recruitment and Retention of School Staff
- Low academic achievement in low income White children – reasons for and responses to
- School deficits
- Teacher workload (Secondary schools)
- Review of progress against Education Commission recommendations
- Autism/ SEND - update on the autism review; support given to non-statemented pupils on the ASD spectrum in mainstream schools; and their progress; bullying and harassment of disabled pupils; post 16 destinations of statemented pupils

### *Suggestions from Young Advisors*

- 5.10 The Chair attended a meeting of the Mayor's Young Advisors on 6 February 2017 where she sought their input as regards selecting a topic for in-depth review. Their suggestion was to look at secondary results and the holistic aspects of secondary education. They considered that such a review would follow on from the committee's work on Transition from primary to secondary school.

### *Suggestions from Officers*

- 5.11 Many of the suggestions above could be incorporated into a larger review of Secondary Education in Lewisham. Such a review could cover:
- Results and attainment
  - Behaviour
  - Parental/ pupil perception of schools
  - Places planning
  - Finances
  - Wider development of young people
  - Recruitment and retention of staff
  - Special Educational Needs
- 5.12 Should the Committee decide to take this route, it is suggested that a longer timescale than usual be allowed for completion of the review, to allow additional time for gathering evidence given the breadth of the review topic.

### Requests from OSBP

- 5.13 At a meeting of OSBP in January 2017, it was requested that CYP Select Committee monitors the implementation of the new Trust arrangements for the Music service. This has been added to the work programme for consideration at the July meeting.

## **6 Children and Young People Select Committee Terms of Reference**

- 6.1 The Council's constitution sets out the Committee's powers, as defined by the Terms of Reference. These are included at **Appendix E**. The Committee should

familiarise itself with the Terms of Reference and consider its remit when selecting items for scrutiny.

- 6.2 The Select Committee's role is to examine issues relating to but not limited to matters such as: 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.

## **7 Financial implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

## **8 Legal implications**

- 8.1 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.

## **9 Equalities implications**

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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