



Children and Young People Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee Work Programme Report

Date: 10 March 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Emma Aye-Kumi, Scrutiny Manager

Outline and recommendations

This report gives Committee members an opportunity to review the Committee's work programme and make any modifications required.

- **To note the Committee's terms of reference attached at Appendix A;**
- To consider the completed work programme attached at Appendix B.
- To consider potential items for the Committee's work programme in the next municipal year and possible items for future task and finish groups for the next municipal year.
- To review the forward plan of key decisions to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

Timeline of decision-making

Children and Young People Select Committee (CYP) Work Programme 2019/20 – draft agreed at CYP 30.04.19

CYP Select Committee Work Programme 2019/20 – agreed by Business Panel 07.05.19

CYP Select Committee Work Programme 2019/20 – reviewed at meetings of CYP on 30.04.19, 12.06.19, 11.07.19, 17.09.19, 16.10.19, 05.12.19, 23.01.20

Summary

- 1.1. The committee drew up a draft work programme at the beginning of the municipal year for submission to the Business Panel for consideration.
- 1.2. The Business Panel considered the proposed work programmes of each committee on 7 May 2019 and agreed the overview and scrutiny work programme.
- 1.3. This is the last scheduled meeting of CYP for the 2019/20 municipal year. The Committee's completed work programme is attached at Appendix B. The Committee is asked to put forward suggestions for the 2020/21 work programme and for potential task and finish groups.

Recommendations

- 1.4. The Committee is asked to:
 - **Note the Committee's terms of reference attached at Appendix A;**
 - **consider the completed work programme attached at Appendix B,**
 - **suggest potential items for the Committee's work programme in the next municipal year and possible items for future task and finish groups for the next municipal year.**
 - **review the forthcoming key decisions set out in Appendix C, and consider any items for further scrutiny**

CYP Select Committee 2019-20

- 1.5. The committee had eight meetings in the 2019-20 municipal year. The completed work programme is attached at Appendix B.
- 1.6. The Children and Young People Select Committee has scrutinised a range of children's services this year. The Committee identified the Early Help Review as a priority at the start of the year, and has been closely involved in the development of the approach which covers Children and Family Centres, family support work, health visiting and the youth service etc and will continue to be involved in the coming municipal year.
- 1.7. The Committee carried out a short review of the impact that living in temporary accommodation has on children and young people. As part of this work, evidence was gathered from homeless families, schools and through a visit to one of Lewisham's hostels. Following on from this work, the Committee has been invited to the next meeting of Housing Select Committee on 12 March for an item on homelessness prevention and placement policy.
- 1.8. Other key areas for the Committee have included CAMHS waiting times for Lewisham children, secondary school improvement and BAME achievement. A major topic is Children's Social Care improvement following the "Requires Improvement" Ofsted judgement in July 2019 where the focus has been on policy, resources and timelines. The Committee also finalised our recommendations on reducing school exclusions and addressing the disproportionate numbers of excluded black children of Caribbean heritage.
- 1.9. The Committee also heard from parents and carers and commented on the Council's new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy and made suggestions for inclusion in the Council's new Children and Young People Plan.
- 1.10. In July the Committee held a joint meeting with Healthier Communities Select Committee which looked at BAME mental health inequalities, and resulted in two

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referrals to Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). The first

- 1.11. Over the course of the year, the Committee made a number of referrals including on the Council budget cuts. This included highlighting the lack of equalities information and detail on budget cut proposal RES 20 relating to nursery provision. This was supported by Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee and led to this cut proposal being deferred for further investigation.

Prioritisation and planning for 2020-21

- 1.12. Five meetings of CYP Select Committee are provisionally scheduled for the next municipal year with the proposed dates as follows:

9 June

24 September

26 November

21 January

11 March

- 1.13. A work programme report will be put forward at the first meeting of CYP Select Committee for 2020-21 for members to discuss and agree. The report will take account of the Committee's previous work and may incorporate:

- The scrutiny prioritisation process and potential key themes and priorities for 2020/21
- 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;
- suggestions from officers;
- relevant decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

- 1.14. When deciding on items to include in the work programme, the Committee should have regard to:

- the criteria for selecting and prioritising topics;
- the Committee's terms of reference;
- the capacity for items in terms of the Committee's time and resources;
- the context for setting the work programme and advice from officers;

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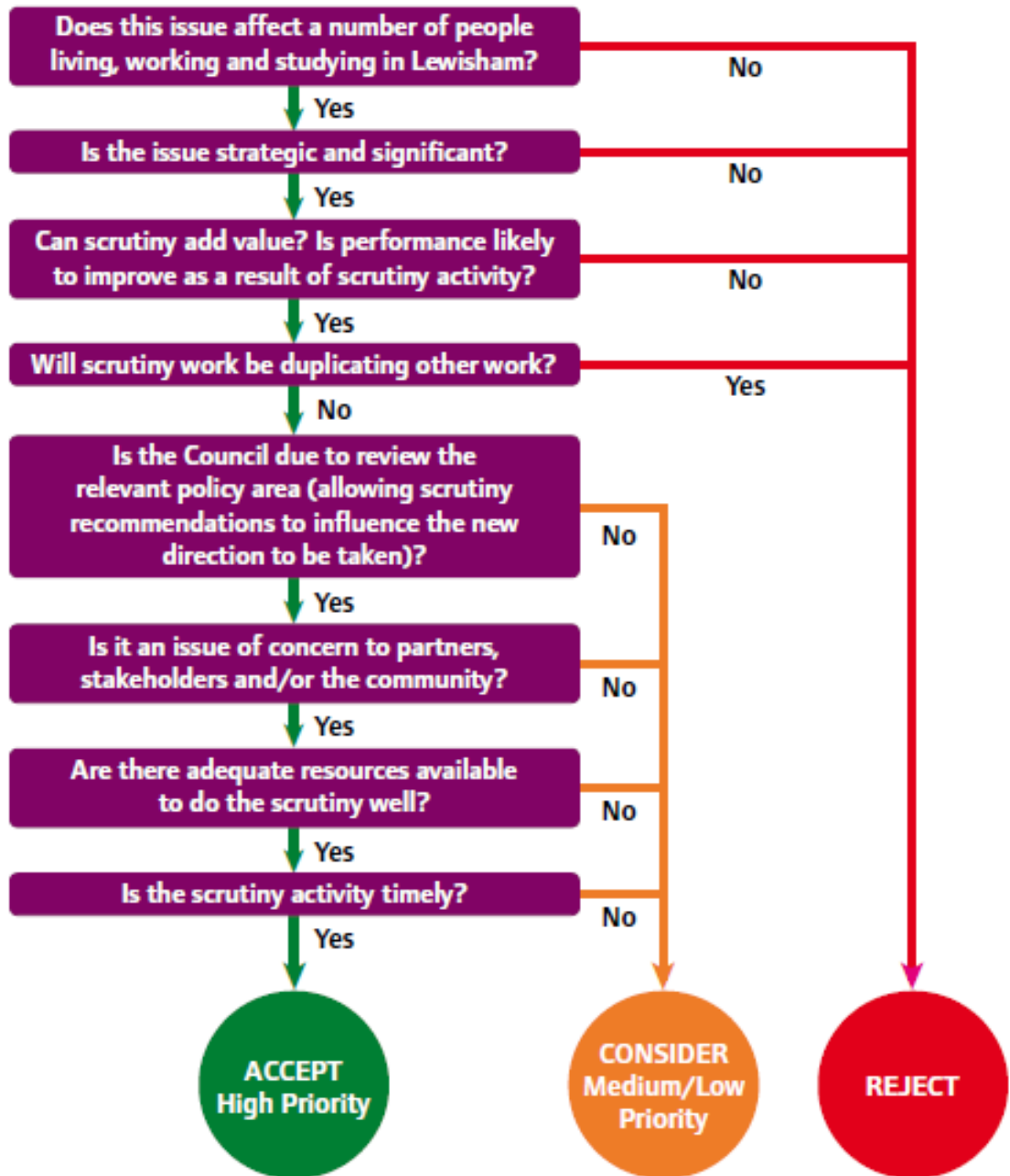
- 1.15. The Committee's terms of reference are included at Appendix A.
- 1.16. The Committee's areas of responsibility, include, but are not limited to:
- Schools and related services
 - Children's Social Care
 - Transition for care leavers
 - Youth services
 - SEND provision for children and young people up to age 25
- 1.17. The flowchart below, based on the model from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) is designed to help Members decide which items should be added to the work programme. It is important to focus on areas where there is a clear recommendation and consideration by the Committee will influence decision-making.

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Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



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- 1.18. The remit of the CYP Select Committee is broad and for the Committee to ensure its work programme is as tailored and focussed as possible delivering robust scrutiny, it is important to ensure items are prioritised and key outcomes identified. It is likely that, due to the volume of work, the Committee will have to make difficult decisions considering where it can most add value and influence and which items are of most importance to the Council and Lewisham residents. Particular care needs to be taken regarding the potential for duplicating work by other committees and boards.
- 1.19. As well as using the prioritisation process above, the Committee may wish to suggest areas of strategic importance for its work programme in 2020/21 and for possible task and finish groups. At the first meeting of the new committee year, the Committee will agree its work programme.

Different types of scrutiny

- 1.20. It is important to agree how each work programme item will be scrutinised. It is recommended that items for information only do not come to Committee. Typically, the majority of items take the form of single meeting items, where members:
 - (a) agree what information and analysis they wish to receive in order to achieve their desired outcomes;
 - (b) receive a report presenting that information and analysis;
 - (c) ask questions of the presenting officer or guest;
 - (d) agree, following discussion of the report, whether the Committee will make recommendations or receive further information or analysis before summarising its views.
- 1.21. The new structure should free up time to seek different voices when considering topics. This could include independent experts, partner organisations or community representatives.
- 1.22. For each item, the Committee should consider what type of scrutiny is required and whether the item is high or medium/low priority (using the prioritisation process). Allocating priority to work programme items will enable the Committee to decide which low and medium priority items it should remove from its work programme, when it decides to add high priority issues in the course of the year.
- 1.23. Items within the committee's work programme should be linked to the priorities of the Council's Corporate Strategy. The Council's Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022 was approved at full council in February 2019.

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1.24. The strategic priorities of the [Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022](#) are:

Open Lewisham - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.

Tackling the housing crisis - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.

Delivering and defending: health, social care and support - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

Making Lewisham greener - Everyone enjoys our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

Task and Finish Groups

1.25. Subject to agreement at the Council AGM, it is proposed that in addition to 5 meetings per year of each Select Committee, there will be up to six thematic Task and Finish Groups in the course of a municipal year. Members will suggest topics through a proforma and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will agree which topics should be taken forward. Each Task and Finish Group will then carry out in-depth work looking at a particular topic, gathering evidence and research, hearing from expert witnesses and going on visits where required. The Task and Finish Group will produce a final report with recommendations for the Mayor and Cabinet.

Referrals

1.26. Below is a tracker of the referrals the committee has made in this municipal year:

Referral title	Date of referral	Date considered by Mayor & Cabinet	Response due at Mayor & Cabinet	Response due at committee
Select Committee Work Programme		Considered at Business Panel on 7.5.19	N/A	N/A
Exclusions in-depth review	12.6.19	10.7.19	10.10.19	16.10.19
BAMER consultation/co-production of	14.11.19	Considered by Health and Wellbeing Board		5.12.19

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mental health services		(HWB)		
CAMHS ethnicity data (jointly with Healthier Communities Select Committee)		Considered by HWB		5.12.19
Budget Cuts	17.9.19	1. PAC – 24.9.19 2. M&C - 10.10.19		
ICT provision	23.1.20	5.2.20	May/June	

Information Items

- 1.27. Some potential work programme items might be low priority and may only require a briefing report for information to be produced for members outside of a formal committee meeting.
- 1.28. Below is a summary of the information items received by the committee in 2019-20:

Item	Date received
Unregulated Educational Settings	5.12.19 Follow up due – date tbc
Corporate Parenting and LAC annual report	Postponed from 10.3.20 Date tbc
Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board annual report 2018/19	5.12.19

Financial implications

- 1.29. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme will have financial implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

Legal implications

- 1.30. 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.

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Equalities implications

- 1.31. 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.
- 1.32. 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.
- 1.33. 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.

Climate change and environmental implications

- 1.34. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have climate change implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

Crime and disorder implications

- 1.35. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

Health and wellbeing implications

- 1.36. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

Report author and contact

If you have any questions about this report please contact: Emma Aye-Kumi, 020 8314 9534 emma.aye-kumi@lewisham.gov.uk

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Appendix A - Children & Young People Select Committee Terms of Reference

- 1.37. 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:-
- 1.37.1. 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
- 1.37.2. 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.
- 1.38. 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 legislation pertaining to education from time to time in force. Without limiting the generality of this, this shall include, in particular, schools and school related services.
- 1.39. 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.
- 1.40. 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.
- 1.41. 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.
- 1.42. Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, its terms of reference include the following matters:
- 1.42.1. 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
- 1.43. To receive and consider referrals from 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
- 1.44. 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.
- 1.45. 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.

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