



Report to Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Thursday 15th October 2020

Report of: Policy and Improvement Officer

Subject: Draft Work Programme 2020/21: Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

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This report aims to assist the Committee in determining a programme of work for the remainder of municipal year 2020/21. The usual pattern of meetings has been disrupted by Covid-19, however meetings are being held virtually, and this Committee met in May and June to consider a Call-In of a decision on Investing in Young People. There are three more meetings now scheduled over November 2020, January 2021, and February 2021.

Section 2.0 of this report is a list of items that have been put forward so far by members of the Committee, it is for the Committee to consider and agree draft work programme, and prioritise items for remaining meetings. Scrutiny work programmes are live documents, so are subject to change, there may be occasion when other appropriate items have to be swapped in to the schedule. Section 3.0 is a guide to assist in determining a work programme.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Consider, identify, and agree topics for draft work programme 2020/21, and prioritise items for remaining meetings

Background Papers: [Sheffield Council Constitution](#)

Category of Report: OPEN

Draft Work Programme 2020/21: Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 15th October 2020

1.0 What is the role of Scrutiny?

1.1 Scrutiny Committees exist to hold decision makers to account, investigate issues of local concern, and make recommendations for improvement. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (formerly the Centre for Public Scrutiny) has identified that effective scrutiny:

- Provides 'Critical Friend' challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers
- Enables the voice and concern of the public and its communities
- Is carried out by independent minded governors who lead and own the scrutiny process
- Drives improvement in public services and finds efficiencies and new ways of delivering services

1.2 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has updated its activity with several blogs and handy advice for scrutiny in Covid-19, and the Covid Act. These can be found on their web pages - <https://www.cfgs.org.uk/> .

1.3 Scrutiny Committees can operate in a number of ways – through formal meetings with several agenda items, single item 'select committee' style meetings, task and finish groups, and informal visits and meetings to gather evidence to inform scrutiny work. Committees can hear from Council Officers, Cabinet Members, partner organisations, expert witnesses, members of the public. Scrutiny Committees are not decision making bodies, but can make recommendations to decision makers.

2.0 List of possible items put forward for 2020/21

2.1

Work programme topics for prioritisation 2020/21
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCSE/A Levels/BTech results 2020 and scenario for 2021 exams
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future restrictions in Covid-19 - impact on schools and Young People
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational disadvantage – has Covid-19/lockdown increased the gap?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth Services – current position after bringing in house
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MAST – update on provision, now and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home schooling – impact of Covid-19, an alternative to school; and safeguarding of those home schooled
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ryegate House – impact of Covid-19, accessibility to services

3.0 Determining the work programme

3.1 It is important the work programme reflects the principles of effective scrutiny, outlined above at 1.1, and so the Committee has a vital role in ensuring that the work programme is looking at issues that concern local people, and looking at issues where scrutiny can influence decision makers. The work programme remains a live document, and there will be an opportunity for the Committee to discuss it at every Committee meeting, this might include:

- Prioritising issues for inclusion on a meeting agenda
- Identifying new issues for scrutiny
- Determining the appropriate approach for an issue – e.g. select committee style single item agenda vs task and finish group
- Identifying appropriate witnesses and sources of evidence to inform scrutiny discussions
- Identifying key lines of enquiry and specific issues that should be addressed through scrutiny of any given issue.

3.2 Members of the Committee can also raise any issues for the work programme via the Chair or Policy and Improvement Officer at any time.

4.0 Meeting Dates 2020/21

4.1 Meetings have been scheduled for Thursdays 10am-12pm on the following dates:

- 19th November 2020
- 21st January 2021
- 25th February 2021

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Consider, identify, and agree topics for draft work programme 2020/21, and prioritise items for remaining meetings

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