

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 2 September 2020

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report provides information on the single combined work programme drafted for all of the Lancashire County Council scrutiny committees. A copy of this work programme is set out at Appendix A.

The topics included were identified at a work planning workshop for members of the Internal Scrutiny Committee held on 29 May 2020 and from a previous combined meeting of both the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Committees.

Recommendation

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Review and agree the work programme items for the committee (as at Appendix A).
- ii. Discuss and identify any potential key questions for upcoming items.
- iii. Consider and agree sources of information including key officers/partners to invite for upcoming items.

Background and Advice

The Covid 19 pandemic has required members and officers to work differently and the wider context has also meant that priorities have changed or shifted in emphasis.

The work programme for this year has been combined with the other scrutiny committees given that the primary focus of the scrutiny work programme as a whole is dedicated to the response to the Covid 19 pandemic. For the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, the emphasis is on the impact to services supporting children and young people and the lessons learnt as the county council moves forward.

To enable the committee to have the time to review and scrutinise the key areas highlighted in the work programme, it is recommended where possible that one substantive item is tabled per meeting from October onwards. However, it is important to note that the work programme needs to be flexible in order to accommodate any urgent items that may arise. In addition, the work programme will form a standing item on the committee meeting agenda for regular review and to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

Key discussion areas (questions)

To further enhance the work programme, members are asked to reflect on key discussion areas or questions they would like to consider for each of the topic areas. This will ensure that the senior officers have a clear focus in order to provide the relevant information.

Information sources

In addition to identifying key discussion areas, members are asked to consider information sources and meeting participation for upcoming scrutiny items. This could include seeking views from service users through:

- individual scrutiny members having conversations with individuals and groups in their own local areas,
- use of the rapporteur function,
- compiling a short list of questions for a response by the relevant service,
- or the use of social media.

Further to this, members are asked to consider who they would like to invite to future meetings to help provide a more holistic picture for scrutiny to understand the challenges and produce meaningful but achievable recommendations.

Members are asked to:

- i. Review and agree the work programme items for the committee (as at Appendix A).
- ii. Discuss and identify any potential key questions for upcoming items.
- iii. Consider and agree sources of information and meeting participation for upcoming items.

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA