

Work Programme 2015/16

Children's Health, Social Care and Education

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 2nd September 2015

Author:	Director of Law & Democratic Services
Wards:	All Wards
Locality Affected:	All Localities
Parishes Affected:	All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to have a work programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the Municipal Year.
- 1.2 The work programme details the various topics and issues that each Committee intends to look into during the coming year, with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies/bodies to consider.
- 1.3 Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to agree a work programme at the start of the Municipal Year outlining their priorities and likely outcomes of considering these issues.

The work programme is developed taking into account:

- Corporate priorities and objectives, including the Cabinet Forward Plan.
 - Partnership strategic priorities and objectives.
 - The interests and concerns of Members, Council officers, members of the public and other stakeholders such as community and voluntary groups and local businesses.
- 1.4 Committees are encouraged to review the work programme on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to prioritise the workload of the Committee.
 - 1.5 Members are reminded that the work programme must also take into account:
 - The workload of the Committee and of individual members.
 - The capacity of officers to support a review.
 - The resource implications of carrying out a review.
 - The timescales for a review.
 - The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review.
 - 1.6 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have presented the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a role, remit and powers regarding local health matters.

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- 1.7 The Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to be mindful of its role and remit when considering a work programme for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- Review the updated work programme to ensure that it remains relevant.
- Discuss any issues arising from information circulated outside of the Committee meeting.

3. Detail

- 3.1 It is important that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Council and the Borough and produces tangible outcomes for local people that result in real service improvements. Selecting the right topics is crucial to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny will be effective.

The Work Programme attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.2 At its meeting on the 22nd July 2015, the Committee agreed that a Task Group be set up to review the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms. Councillor Shelly, Steve Colledge (Swindon Association of secondary headteachers), Paul Sunners (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education), Valarie Vaughan (Healthwatch) and Steve Henderson (Equalities Advisory Forum) have agreed to consider the reforms and report back with their findings at a future meeting of this Committee.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Committee can choose not to have a detailed work programme, although it is recommended that it is best practice to do so.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's work programme will be met by the Overview and Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

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Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Committee.

Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The remit of the Committee includes the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations and the monitoring performance of corporate priorities.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.6 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Work Programme for 2015/16.