

Report for Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 8 March 2021

Title: Work Programme 2020-21

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Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report updates the Panel on the progress of its workplan for 2020-21 and outlines the process for developing the workplan for the Panel for 2021-22.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Panel notes the work programme for 2020-21 and the process for developing the work plan for 2021-22.

3. Reasons for decision

- 3.1 The current work programme for Overview and Scrutiny was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 15 October 2020. The current meeting is the last of the year and this report updates the Panel on progress with the implementation of the work plan. In addition, it also outlines the arrangements for the developing the work plan for 2021-22.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1 The Panel could choose not to review its work programme but this could diminish knowledge of the work of Overview and Scrutiny and would fail to keep the membership updated on any changes to the work programme as well as the process of developing the new work plan.

5. Background information

- 5.1 A workplan for the remainder of 2020-21 was developed for the Panel and approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6 October. This is attached as **Appendix A**. The items within it comprised the following:
- Cabinet Member Questions for the two Cabinet Members whose portfolios fall within the terms of reference for the Panel;
 - Reports that the Panel had previously requested to come to future meetings;

- Matters that are routinely reported to the Panel, such as exam and test result and updates on the implementation of the recommendations of previous reviews; and
 - Scrutiny of the budget.
- 5.2 Consideration is now taking place of the Overview and Scrutiny work plan for the forthcoming year (2021/22), which will be the final year of this administration. To inform the development of work plans, the Committee and its Panels (including Children and Young People) will be undertaking consultation with representatives of the local community on the areas within their terms of reference. This will focus on getting their views on what the priorities should be in the work plans for the Committee and Panels.
- 5.3 Several matters have already been highlighted as potential areas for inclusion. These have come from the following:
- Responses to the on-line scrutiny survey that was undertaken in early 2020 as part of earlier work to develop a new work plan that took place before the pandemic; and
 - Outstanding matters from current work plans.
- 5.4 Views are being sought on which of these to give precedence to and if there are any additional matters that should also be considered. There is finite capacity within work plans and it will not be possible to cover everything within it in depth, hence the need to prioritise. However, there are a number of options for how matters can be addressed:
- In-depth reviews;
 - “One-off” reports to Panel meetings; or
 - Questions to Cabinet Members.
- 5.5 Following the consultation process, it is proposed that each of the Panels and the Committee meet informally to consider the feedback from the consultation and develop proposals for their individual work plans. Specific consideration will need to be given to items for the first meetings of 2021/22 so that officers have sufficient time to draft any reports that may be necessary for them to prepare. It is proposed that service officers and relevant Cabinet Members be invited to attend these meetings as well so that their input can be obtained. The meetings will be arranged to take place before the Annual Meeting of the Council. The workplans for the Committee and its Panels will be formally approved by the first Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 2021/22.

Schools Review

- 5.6 The Panel has held two further evidence sessions – on 9th and 24th February - as part of it's review on Schools. All the evidence received to date will now be reviewed to consider if there is a need for any additional evidence before it is possible to reach final conclusions and recommendations.

Virtual Meetings

- 5.7 The need to continue to hold meetings virtually means there will be some limitations on what is possible. It can be challenging to maintain focus for an extended period of time when meeting virtually and meetings will should therefore be kept short and focussed. In addition, the Panel may wish to receive evidence from people who do not have access to the necessary IT or be able to operate it. Certain evidence gathering activities may also not be possible at the moment, such as visits.

Forward Plan

- 5.8 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Council's Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in planning the overview and scrutiny work programme. The Forward Plan is updated each month but sets out key decisions for a 3-month period.
- 5.9 To ensure the information provided to the Panel is up to date, a copy of the most recent Forward Plan can be viewed via the link below:
- <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RP=110&RD=0&J=1>
- 5.10 The Panel may want to consider the Forward Plan and discuss whether any of these items require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the Panel's work.

7. Statutory Officers comments

Finance and Procurement

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. Should any of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny generate recommendations with financial implications these will be highlighted at that time.

Legal

- 7.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.
- 7.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 7.4 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an OSC has the power to appoint one or more sub-committees to discharge any of its functions. In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of Scrutiny Panels (to assist the scrutiny function) falls within the remit of the OSC.

- 7.5 Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies and the work programme and any subsequent reports and recommendations that each scrutiny panel produces must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such reports can then be referred to Cabinet or Council under agreed protocols.

Equality

- 7.6 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 7.7 The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan, as well as individual pieces of work. This should include considering and clearly stating;
- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
 - Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
 - Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
 - Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.
- 7.8 The Panel should ensure equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service users views gathered through consultation.

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix A – Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel; Work Plan for 2020/21

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A