

**Report for:** Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Title:** Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme

**Report**

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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 sets out how the foundations will be laid for targeted, inclusive and timely work by the Panel on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the overall approach for developing a work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Panels, including Children and Young People, for 2022-24 be noted.

**3. Reasons for decision**

3.1 The report outlines to process that will be used to determine the work plans for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its panels for 2022-24, including the Children and Young People's Panel.

**4. Describe the issue under consideration**

4.1 Following the election, the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to develop a work programme for itself and the scrutiny panels that ensures the Council's scrutiny function is used to its best effect.

4.2 The Council's Cabinet will be looking to implement their manifesto. This also provides an opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny to consider whether it would like to look at how the manifesto commitments can be implemented most effectively and at the greatest benefit to residents – fulfilling the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's role in supporting policy development - as well as how it wishes to monitor the Cabinet's performance at implementing its manifesto.

- 4.3 Overview and Scrutiny has a specific role in community engagement and articulating the concerns of residents and it is therefore important that its work plans also reflect this. Work plans should also reflect the priorities and concerns of other stakeholders as well, including partners. A work planning process has therefore been developed to ensure that this can happen, as in previous years. The outcomes of this will be used to develop a comprehensive work plan for each Overview and Scrutiny body, including the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, for the remainder of 2022/23 and 2023/24. The process can be repeated in 2024, which will be the mid-way point of the current administration.
- 4.4 There are two main elements to the work planning process:
- An on-line scrutiny survey; and
  - A "Scrutiny Café."
- 4.5 The scrutiny survey ran from 26<sup>th</sup> July until 26<sup>th</sup> August and was open to Councillors, officers, partners, community groups and local residents. It asked respondents to identify the areas within each scrutiny body's terms of reference that should be given the highest level of priority. In addition, people were also asked for any specific local issues or problems that they felt warranted particular attention. The results of the survey are currently being analysed.
- 4.6 The Scrutiny Café will be taking place on the morning of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September at the Selby Centre in Tottenham. The purpose of the event is to bring Council officers, partners and community and voluntary sector representatives together to discuss matters that might merit consideration by Overview and Scrutiny, based on the concerns and views of the community and the expected areas of priority for the Council and its partners. The results of the scrutiny survey will be also used to inform the discussion at the Scrutiny Cafe.
- 4.7 The outcomes of the survey and discussions at the Café will be considered by the Committee and its Panels so that they are able to finalise proposals for their workplans. Relevant Council officers will also be invited to advise on proposals. There is finite capacity within work plans and it will not be possible to cover everything within them in great depth, hence the need to prioritise. There are a number of options for how issues can be addressed:
- Scrutiny reviews;
  - "One-off" reports to Panel meetings; or
  - Questions to Cabinet Members.
- 4.8 It is not obligatory for scrutiny bodies to undertake scrutiny reviews but they enable issues to be looked at in greater detail. This approach is particularly suited to complex issues involving a wide range of stakeholders. A key consideration in selecting issues is the extent to which reviews may be able to deliver tangible outcomes.
- 4.9 "One-off" items are normally dealt with through a report from relevant officers or partners. However, scrutiny is a flexible process and other approaches can be incorporated, including inviting external witnesses to give evidence and visits. It is recommended that sufficient space is allowed on each agenda for a

meaningful discussion of issues selected though by avoiding overloading agendas. There are also a number of routine but important matters that will need to be included in the workplan for Children and Young People, such as:

- Budget scrutiny and financial monitoring;
- Exam and test results;
- Scrutiny of the Haringey Safeguarding Children's Partnership; and
- Updates on the implementation of recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews undertaken by the Panel.

4.10 There is an expectation that each Cabinet Member will attend a relevant scrutiny body at least twice per year for Cabinet Member Questions. This provides an opportunity for scrutiny bodies to hear about key developments within each Cabinet portfolio and answer questions. Matters identified through the scrutiny survey or Scrutiny Café could be raised as questions within this.

## **5. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

5.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the OSC's work.

## **6. Statutory Officers comments**

### **Finance and Procurement**

6.1 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**

6.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.

6.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.

6.4 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.

6.5 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**

6.6 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.

6.7 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan and those of its panels, 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.

6.8 The Committee should ensure that 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.

## **7. Use of Appendices**

N/A

## **8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A