

TITLE OF REPORT:	Development of Work Programme for 2024-25
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Summary

This report details the Overview and Scrutiny work programme setting process for 2024-25 and a list of suggested topics for inclusion in the work programme, relevant to the remit of the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).

1. A key component to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function is work programme planning that seeks input from a wide variety of sources and identifies priority areas where scrutiny can seek to add the most value.
2. Ideas for topics for scrutiny to consider can be gathered from a wide range of sources including:
 - Elected Members
 - Senior Officers
 - Partner Organisations
 - Corporate Plans and Strategies
 - Complaints system and Ombudsman
 - Evidence from Councillors on issues affecting neighbourhoods
3. Elected Members and relevant officers were invited to submit suggestions for inclusion in the work programme between 20th February 2024 and 5th March 2024.
4. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Families OSC performs the overview and scrutiny role in relation to the following functions:
 - as an education authority
 - in respect of the provision of social services, and other services to children and young people, including specific health services for children and young people (including the function of reviewing and scrutinising matters relating to the health service as set out on the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and associated regulations).
 - to receive and consider monitoring reports on children in the Council's care.
 - to keep under review the Council's arrangements for ensuring that the Council fulfils its role as corporate parent.
5. A list of suggestions received relevant to the remit of Families OSC is appended to the report.

Role of Overview and Scrutiny

1. As per the Council's Constitution, the following principles govern the Overview and Scrutiny Function:
 - It will be an integral part of the Council's framework, working within it not outside or against it
 - It will be a constructive process which is open and accountable
 - It will work alongside the other parts of the Council's structure in making a contribution to policy
 - It will enhance rather than duplicate activity
 - It will look outwards to broader issues affecting local people rather than just internal Council issues

2. This is underpinned by the four fundamental principles of good scrutiny set out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny:
 - provide constructive "critical friend" challenge;
 - amplify the voice and concerns of the public
 - be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
 - drive improvement in public services.

3. Members of the Committee are invited to highlight any additional topics they wish to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the work programme. Work will then be undertaken, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to allocate topics to the Committee's meeting schedule in a timely manner and scope the content of reports. A further work programme report will then be submitted for approval at the first meeting of the 2024/25 municipal year.

4. It is acknowledged that, whilst the majority of the work of overview and scrutiny will be planned in a structured way, there will be flexibility within work programmes for committees to respond to any issues that arise throughout the year.

Recommendations

1. The Committee is asked to:-
 - a) Comment on the emerging issues for this OSC's 2024-25 work programme and highlight any additional issues for consideration.