

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Review of Annual Work Programme

**REPORT OF:** Mike Barker, Acting Chief Executive and Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

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### **Summary**

The report updates and seeks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views on the current position with regard to the annual work programme.

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### **Background**

1. At its meeting on 14 April 2016, the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme based on the Council's policy framework. This work programme was then agreed by the Council as part of the policy planning process.
2. In line with the process agreed by all OSCs this OSC selected its review topic and case studies using a process designed to help make linkages between potential topics and the Council's policy framework.

### **Proposals**

#### **OSC Review Topics for 2017/18**

3. In advance of the OSC agreeing its review topic for 2017-18, members of the OSC have been invited to identify any issues which may potentially be appropriate for a detailed review by 14 December 2016. It is proposed that those issues put forward by members are added to the list of potential review topics for consideration by the OSC at the start of the municipal year, unless the issue is already being, or would more appropriately be, dealt with through other processes within the Council. Members will be notified if this is the case and advised as to how their issue is being dealt with.

### **Monitoring of OSC Reviews**

4. All of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's have received feedback on the outcomes of the specific reviews undertaken by them during 2015-16. This Committee has received a monitoring report on the outcomes generated by its Review of child protection in Gateshead on 8 September 2016 and will receive a further monitoring report on 6 April 2017.

## Case Studies

5. Case studies have been included within OSC work programmes to provide an additional means of examining specific issues of concern/carrying out more detailed work on a particular topic/measure the impact of a particular OSC's review recommendations over a specific period of time.
6. The case studies for 2016/17 are:-
  - Consequences of Alcohol Consumption in Pregnancy (20 October 2016)
  - Support for Care Leavers who of Not in Education, Employment or Training (2 March 2017)
7. Each OSC has identified specific issues to be considered through the case study method and it was agreed that in view of the timing of case studies within the 2015-16 work programmes that feedback on their effectiveness be sought during its work programme review in 2016/17.
8. During 2015/16 the OSC considered the following case studies :-

- ***Health in Schools (3 December 2015)***

The OSC focused on:-

- The Gateshead Health in Schools Programme – the scope of the new model
- Evaluation of the Gateshead Healthy Schools Programme
- The aims and objectives of the new model and the support in place through the core offer and additional support

Having examined the issues the OSC :

- Considered that it would encourage all schools to buy into the new Health in Schools Core offer to help enhance and support the efforts to address health inequalities and promoting health and wellbeing within their schools.
- considered that it would encourage schools to utilise School Sports Premium money to buy into the Health in Schools Programme.
- Requested an update in 12 months as to the number of schools who have signed up.

In light of the above, the OSC received an update report at its meeting in October 2016.

- ***Targeted and Specialist Support from the NHS for Special Schools (3 March 2016)***

The OSC focused on:-

- Special School provision and developments
- Data around the needs of Special School pupils in Gateshead
- Nurses attached to Special Schools in Gateshead
- Developments at Eslington Primary School

Having examined the issues the OSC

- Requested to receive an annual report on Special Schools and provision.
- Considered that the nurse appointed for the Gateshead Special Schools be given every assistance in gaining access to the NHS IT system as a matter of urgency.

In light of the above, the OSC agreed to add to its work programme an annual conversation with Headteachers of Special Schools.

## **Recommendations**

9. The Committee is asked to

- (i) Note that any issues identified by members of the OSC as potential review topics by 14 December 2016 will be included in the list of review topics to be considered by the OSC at the start of the municipal year unless such issues are being or would more appropriately be dealt with via other Council processes.
- (ii) Give its views on the review monitoring process carried out so far.
- (iii) Give its views on the effectiveness of the case studies carried out in 2015/16.