

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 September 2016

Work Programme

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report asks the Committee to confirm, amend or add to the list of matters shown on the work programme schedule (attached at Appendix A).

2.0 Work Programme Schedule

- 2.1 The Work Programme Schedule is attached at Appendix A and Members are asked to consider, amend and add to the Committee's Work Programme.

3.0 Mid Cycle Briefing Discussion

- 3.1 Your chairman and group spokespersons have met on a number of occasions since the last meeting about the make-up of the work programme.
- 3.2 Last year, the committee overhauled its work programme, moving away from agendas that seemed, at times, a mini re-run of Executive member business. The aim was to be more outward looking, more thematic with a stronger emphasis on evaluating outcomes. Having now reflected on this, group spokespersons, whilst generally happy with some previously agreed items such as Hospital Admissions for Young People, concluded that the element of scrutiny's role that is about *"...providing 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers"*, currently doesn't feature strongly enough.
- 3.3 Whilst wanting to devote more attention to "assurance" work, lead members have stressed that it is the impact on outcomes and performance which is of most interest, rather than (just) directorate compliance.
- 3.4 The list of suggested items on the Appendix B attached reflects these discussions. At this stage it is, however, more of a "wish list" than a final work programme. These ideas have been shared with the Corporate Director for Children and Young Peoples Services. The view was that scope of some themes would benefit from being combined and/or reframed to retain a strategic outlook, and the timings might need to be readjusted if we are to get partners and contributors to this project to attend and help.
- 3.5 Further discussions are planned, so there will be opportunities over the next few months to discuss changes and revisions and put these before the Committee's December meeting.
- 3.6 In the meantime, comments are invited on whether the list represents a good starting point for an effective work programme.**
- 3.7 Your attention is also drawn to the list of planned committee dates for the next eighteen months.**

4.0 White Paper

- 4.1 When Carolyn briefed the committee at its June meeting on the White Paper, members said they would like to take some time out to discuss its implications. Having since spoken to the group spokespersons and to the Director, what would be of most use is a broad ranging discussion/briefing on the changing landscape of education – the increasingly diverse nature of school status, the evolving role of local education authorities etc. If this is feasible, it would certainly help clarify thinking on the items listed - assuming they are agreed.
- 4.2 **The Chairman’s suggestion is to do something along these lines straight after the end of the 16 December Scrutiny Committee meeting. Members’ views are sought.**

5.0 Youth Justice System

- 5.1 The group spokesperson have also agreed to look at the local changes planned to the Youth Justice System, which is under national departmental review for the Ministry of Justice. The review is examining evidence on what works to prevent youth crime and rehabilitate young offenders, and how this is applied in practice; how the youth justice system can most effectively interact with wider services for children and young people; and whether the current delivery models and governance arrangements remain fit for purpose and achieve value for money. The final report was expected in July 2016, but has been delayed.
- 5.2 Bearing in mind structural changes at a local level are under consideration, your Chairman has asked that the planned briefing to group spokespersons be held over to the February 2017 Mid Cycle Briefing, by which time a clearer picture will emerge of the direction the North Yorkshire Justice Board intends to take. And then a decision can be taken about how best to bring that to the attention of the full committee

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to confirm, comment or add to the areas of work listed in the Work Programme schedule.

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20 September 2016

Background Documents Nil

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Schedule 2016 / 17

Scope

The Council's corporate organisation and structure, resource allocation, asset management, procurement policy, people strategy, equality & diversity, performance management, communication and access to services.

Partnership working, community development, community engagement, community strategies and community safety. This Committee shall be the Crime & Disorder Committee for the purposes of Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Meeting dates (All 10.30am unless stated)

Committee Meetings	16 December 2016	24 March 2017	9 June 2017	8 September 2017
Mid Cycle Briefings (Group Spokespersons only)	4 November 2016	10 February 2017	21 April 2017	20 October 2017

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Schedule 2016/17

Future Items

Meeting	Subject	Aims/Term of Reference
Each meeting	Work Programme Report	Regular report where the Committee reviews its work programme
16 December 2016	Resilience of outcomes/improvement at KS2 & 4	To consider how the resilience of pupils at KS2 can be reflected within KS4 pupils
24 March 2017	Early intervention in Schools on Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol	To consider how to ensure better early intervention on Smoking, Drugs and Alcohol
	Hospital Admissions	Especially mental health services support for young people, managing cases in the community, whether there has been an increase in cases with complex needs, the nature of the case mix on admission - is it changing. The contribution of inappropriate placements and/or insufficient community resources. Possibly then followed up by a series of discussions with key health personnel on causes of admission, substance abuse, self-harm, eating disorders etc
	Closing the Gap in Educational Achievement	Having looked at this topic last year, Committee agreed to follow up developments, assess progress. How young people are supported to meet their needs and aspirations. How residents learn throughout their lives, are skilled and ready for Employment and fulfil their potential. Would be a review of the strategy. Essentially, are the objectives of the strategy being met?

Please note that this is a working document, therefore topics and timeframes might need to be amended over the course of the year.

PROVISIONAL YP SCRUTINY WORK SCHEDULE: UPDATE

TOPIC	SCOPE	TIMING
Child Poverty – refresh the Child Poverty strategy	Cllr Sanderson referred to this in a recent meeting with portfolio holders/Directors. Janet Jefferson was at the same Health workshop and has asked for an informal briefing to a Mid Cycle Briefing	Possible MCB on 4 Nov 16 or 10 Feb 17.
SATS - pressures on children local concerns	The Chair of the Committee, Janet Jefferson, has relayed concerns raised with her by parents expressing disquiet about the pressure of SATS and its effects - a sense of "...children being set up to fail". Not intended to be a scrutiny item, more a request for a professional, directorate perspective.	MCB on 4 Nov 16.
Youth Justice Review	Members to receive a briefing paper in September about the work, and future, of the Youth Justice System.	Briefing to be taken at Feb 2017 MCB. Paper briefing to be circulated for committee. Possible broader based item on Youth Justice to Committee in March or June.
Resilience of Outcomes/Improvements at KS2	<p>Approach being taken to improve the resilience of pupils at KS2 .Possibly to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile of KS2 performance: eg geographically, by gender breakdown etc. • Understanding conclusions about the reason for relative under-performance in KS2. • Quality of information and data - How we identify lowest achieving pupils etc. • Effectiveness of support provided to schools by the LEA, approach, and capacity, targeted? • What strategies are being employed by governors, head teachers, schools, and how does the EA support this. 	16 December committee meeting (date may be an issue bearing in mind it is the last day of term)

	Scrutiny hear from representatives from schools, trusts etc., as is practical and feasible, in order to gain a good insight.	
Hospital Admissions	Especially mental health services support for young people, managing cases in the community, whether there has been an increase in cases with complex needs, the nature of the case mix on admission - is it changing. The contribution of inappropriate placements and/or insufficient community resources. Possibly then followed up by a series of discussions with key health personnel on causes of admission, substance abuse, self-harm, eating disorders etc	Acknowledged that this is an ambitious undertaking. Plan to be agreed in outline by Group Spokespersons in 4 Nov MCB and then 16 December Committee. Work undertaken in new year.
Place planning. Shaping future education provision	Our projections about need/demand and how the LEA shapes/influences provision. Working with the schools commissioner. Possibly linked to admissions analysis and understanding of exclusions.	4 Nov MCB. (possibly Feb 2017) Earliest for committee 24 March, perhaps even June 2017
School Admissions - status	How work under diversified schools governance. Our admission procedures now and how we expect them, and schools and MAT's attitudes to them, to change. How place allocations are made. A bit about the customer experience ie how easy it is to make applications, quality of information we provide about the process, What is the (parental) experience. Appeals etc.	10 Feb 17 MCB. Earliest for committee 24 March or, more likely, 3 June 2017
School exclusions - Prevalence, profile and role of local authority	What is the position on school exclusions - prevalence, profile and role of local authority? How do we respond, what are the support arrangements, how is the picture changing	Same timetable as Admissions? Discuss informally at 10 Feb 17 Mid Cycle Briefing. Earliest for committee 24 March or 3 June
Traded Services	The status, future and effect on traded services of recent and planned changes in educational provision. Looking at the range of services being provided, whether "traded" or otherwise, and how the pattern of services are likely to change in the future.	Same timetable as Admissions? Discuss informally at 10 Feb 17 Mid Cycle Briefing. Earliest for committee 24 March or 3 June
Closing the Gap in Educational Achievement	Having looked at this topic last year, Committee agreed to follow up developments, assess progress. How young people are supported to meet their needs and aspirations. How residents	Discuss informally at 10 Feb 17 MCB. YP Scrutiny Committee 24 March 2017

	learn throughout their lives, are skilled and ready for Employment and fulfil their potential. Would be a review of the strategy. Essentially, are the objectives of the strategy being met?	
Pupil Premium	<p>Challenging the use of the pupil premium.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How schools use the pupil premium • An understanding of local practices and what works best and comparing local schools' application of the funding and schools in other councils. • Outcomes - which children appear to be benefitting. <p>Do all schools comply with their statutory obligations with regards to publication</p>	<p>MCB initial discussion. 22 July 2017 YP Scrutiny Committee 8 September 2017 May be rolled into work on Closing the Gap.</p>
Supporting Underperforming Schools - especially those in Special Measures	The Department for Education has issued new guidance for local authorities and Regional Schools Commissioners entitled: 'Schools causing concern. Intervening in failing, underperforming and coasting schools. How is this being responded to? How does the authority address its statutory requirements such as: requiring schools to "enter into arrangements", specified support; appoint additional governors; suspend delegated budget.	July MCB initial discussion. Committee meeting 8 September 2017, or later
Early Intervention in Schools on Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol	Need to do a project plan. Agree with group spokespersons	Currently planned for March 2017. Suggest move to July MCB then 8 September 2017 committee
Short Breaks Implementation	Jane will be invited come back with a report on how the year has gone since the provision on short breaks was agreed in March 2016. Discussion to be held on whether the subject should be more wide ranging with an analysis of support for SEND.	22 July 2017 Mid Cycle Briefing
Roles and Responsibilities of Parent Governors	Group Spokespersons think It would be useful to review the changing role of governors and their responsibilities for performance. There is a desire to understand better the new lines of accountability: How can we be sure about the integrity of	Initially to Feb MCB and probably an item for the subsequent Committee meeting on 9 June 2017

	<p>financial information and the robustness of controls and risk management; are governance arrangements ensuring that school bodies, governors in particular, are applying appropriate values and exhibiting appropriate behaviour.</p> <p>What is the picture regarding effective governance and the extent to which schools are transparent and open about their decision making?</p> <p>How the local authority provides training and support, information and clerking services.</p> <p>With whom do councillors, as community leaders in particular, need to work.</p>	
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Proposed YP Scrutiny Committee Meeting Dates

Date	Time	Type	Venue
04 November 2016	10:30 AM	Mid Cycle Briefing	Meeting Room 3
16 December 2016	09:30 AM	Briefing Cttee	Meeting Room 2
16 December 2016	10:30 AM	Main	Brierley Room
10 February 2017	10:30 AM	Mid Cycle Briefing	Meeting Room 3
24 March 2017	09:30 AM	Briefing Cttee	Meeting Room 2
24 March 2017	10:30 AM	Main	Brierley Room
21 April 2017	10:30 AM	Mid Cycle Briefing	Meeting Room 4
09 June 2017	09:30 AM	Briefing Cttee	Meeting Room 4
09 June 2017	10:30 AM	Main	Brierley Room
21 July 2017	10:30 AM	Mid Cycle Briefing	Meeting Room 4
08 September 2017	09:30 AM	Briefing Cttee	Meeting Room 4
08 September 2017	10:30 AM	Main	Brierley Room
20 October 2017	10:30 AM	Mid Cycle Briefing	Meeting Room 4
08 December 2017	09:30 AM	Briefing Cttee	Meeting Room 4
08 December 2017	10:30 AM	Main	Brierley Room
19 January 2018	10:30 AM	Mid Cycle Briefing	Meeting Room 4
09 March 2018	09:30 AM	Briefing Cttee	Meeting Room 4
09 March 2018	10:30 AM	Main	Brierley Room