

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2018/2019

25 June 2018

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel to consider its work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year.

BACKGROUND

2. At the start of every municipal year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
3. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work.
4. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Below is a list of topics which are anticipated to be of particular interest to the scrutiny panel. Members are advised that the list of possible topics is not exhaustive and that additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting.

Topics agreed in 2017/18, which have not been investigated

- Promoting good emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people.

Topical issues

Topic	Details
Careers advice and guidance	In 2017, the Local Government Association published a position paper detailing the guiding principles for an effective careers system that is locally commissioned and co-ordinated.
Peer support and children's and young people's mental health	In 2017, a report was published by the Department for Education that summarises the findings from a range of activities relating to peer support. The report determines that peer support programmes in schools, colleges, youth groups and online have the potential to provide effective early support that can help identify mental health and emotional wellbeing problems and can prevent them from escalating.

<p>Emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people</p>	<p>In 2016, the Local Government Association published a document entitled 'Best Start in Life – Promoting good emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people'. The document focuses on how local authorities can promote good emotional wellbeing and prevent mental ill-health. The document includes examples of councils that are looking at innovative ways to provide support with a focus on children and families rather than static services, as well as more information about the scale of the problem and what steps can be taken.</p>
<p>Skills for future growth – tackling skills gaps and supporting growth</p>	<p>In 2016, the Local Government Association published a document entitled 'Skills for Future Growth'. The report highlights some of the innovative skills and growth projects being delivered by councils across England. These examples address a range of themes, from working with employers and providers on skills provision, to using procurement policies to secure apprenticeships locally.</p>
<p>Disadvantaged children and school readiness</p>	<p>In 2014, Ofsted published a document entitled 'Are You Ready? Good Practice in School Readiness'. The document captures how the most successful Early Years providers ensure disadvantaged and vulnerable children are better prepared to start school. In 2016, Ofsted published a document entitled 'Unknown Children – Destined for Disadvantage'. The document evaluates the effectiveness of local authorities and early year's providers in tackling the issues facing disadvantaged families and their young children.</p>
<p>Improving Attendance and Behaviour in Schools</p>	<p>Department for Education (DfE) analysis (2016) indicates a significant negative link between overall absence and attainment, with every day missed associated with lower attainment outcomes. In particular, pupils at KS2 and KS4 with no absence were believed to be 1.6 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above, and 4.7 times more likely to achieve level 5 or above, than pupils that missed 15-20% of all sessions (DfE, 2015). It is therefore evident that increasing learning time is integral to enabling children to fulfil their potential. However, pupils in English schools are potentially losing up to an hour of learning each day because of disruptive behaviour in the classroom (Ofsted, 2014), highlighting the need for schools to further improve their culture of learning.</p>
<p>Quality Work Experience</p>	<p>The Youth Select Committee is investigating issues around quality work experience, which was voted in the top three issues by young people in the Make Your Mark ballot.</p> <p>Work experience gives young people the opportunity to develop themselves, hobbies and potential career paths. Young people, however, have said that knowing where to find work experience can be a challenge. This inquiry will explore barriers preventing young people from accessing work experience and what is and isn't currently available for all young people in the UK.</p>

Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
Corporate Parenting	Suggestion from Children's Services To examine Corporate Parenting in Middlesbrough
Emotional Health and Wellbeing	Suggestion from Children's Services To examine current provision, how services are commissioned and innovative ways of providing support.
Learning from the SEND Review	Suggestion from Children's Services To review the learning from the recent SEND Review
Parental Involvement	Suggestion from a Councillor How are schools working with parents? Are we convinced that there are successful links and support mechanisms in place for children, young people and their parents?
School Holiday Provision	Suggestion from a Councillor What holiday provision is currently available in Middlesbrough which provides food and activities? How can current provision be extended to ensure that all children and young people have access?

5. It should be noted that the suggested topics outlined above are exactly that, suggestions. The content of the scrutiny panel's work programme is entirely a decision for the panel to make. When considering the work programme, the panel is advised to select topics that are of interest to it, as well as topics that the panel feels by considering, it could add value to the Local Authority's work.
6. In addition to undertaking the agreed work programme, scrutiny panels have also previously responded on an ad-hoc basis to emerging issues - such as considering relevant new legislation, guidance or Government consultation documents. This approach occasionally results in further topics being identified for investigation or review throughout the year.
7. On occasion ad-hoc scrutiny panels may also be established throughout the year to undertake additional investigations, for example to examine areas of work which overlap more than one scrutiny panel.
8. The scrutiny panel is also advised that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have a responsibility of community leadership and a power to secure the effective promotion of community well-being. Therefore, in addition to the scrutiny panel's generally recognised powers (of holding the Executive to account, reviewing service provision, developing policy, considering budget plans and performance and financial monitoring), panels also have the power to consider **any** matters which are not the responsibility of the Council but which affect the local authority **or** the inhabitants of its area. For example, nationally, local authorities have

undertaken scrutiny work on issues such as post office closures, rural bus services, policing matters and flood defence schemes.

Scrutiny work plan prioritisation aid

9. Members may wish to use the aid attached at **Appendix 1** to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

10. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider and agree its work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year. To assist in this task Helen Watson (Executive Director of Children's Services) will be in attendance to provide an overview of the main services within the scrutiny panel's remit and an outline of priorities, key issues and challenges for the year ahead.
11. When considering its work programme, the scrutiny panel is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:
 - Affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area.
 - Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence.
 - Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months.
 - Do not relate to an individual service complaint; and
 - Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.
12. It is suggested that the scrutiny panel has a mixture of working styles in its programme. This can include detailed and in-depth reviews, shorter topics, or one-off investigations.
13. Once the scrutiny panel has identified the areas of priority, support staff will draw those topics into a programme for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATION

14. That the scrutiny panel identifies two topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2018/19, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. Throughout the report, reference is made to documents published by the Department for Education, the Local Government Association and Ofsted.

Contact Officer

Joanne McNally
Democratic Services Officer (Welfare)
Democratic Services
Finance, Governance and Support
Tel: 01642 728329

Email: joanne_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk