

**Meeting:** Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

**Date:** 20 June 2016

**Title:** Work Programme 2016/17

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**Service:** Law and Governance

**Wards affected:** All

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## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the topics received for potential inclusion in the 2016/17 Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee work programme, to set-out the work programme process to date and the next steps for finalising the topics to be included.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The sub-committee is recommended to agree the draft work programme detailed in Appendix C and identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that could be included in the 2016/17 work programme.

## **3. Details**

- 3.1 The process of establishing the 2016/17 overview and scrutiny work programme began in February 2016 with an email to all Members and Tier 1, 2 and 3 managers, seeking ideas for topics scrutiny could usefully look at. It was explained with this request that, as in previous years, the focus of overview and scrutiny would be on contributing to policy development.
- 3.2 The Senior Leadership Team discussed the work programme at a meeting in March 2016, helping to identify some key policy areas for scrutiny to focus on. The work programme process and suggestions received to date was also discussed at a meeting of scrutiny chairs and deputies in March 2016.
- 3.3 In addition to asking senior staff and Members to put forward ideas, an article was also placed in the residents' magazine inviting members of the public to raise any issue that they thought would be suitable for scrutiny to investigate. As a result two suggestions were submitted: one in relation to Alzheimer's support and one in relation to pedestrian routes.
- 3.4 In order to ensure that the topics selected will deliver the greatest value in terms of policy development, relevant officers have done some preliminary work to scope and evaluate the topics that been received. These have been shared and discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair at a pre-agenda meeting. A full list of the suggestions received relevant to Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee is attached as Appendix A. These have been split into topics that would constitute an in-depth investigation (to be undertaken by a sub-group) and monitoring reports that could be dealt with during committee meetings.

- 3.5 In determining which topics should be prioritised for in-depth investigation, the following criteria have been considered:
- Is it timely?
  - Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the NECA scrutiny work programme?
  - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?
- 3.6 Topics which meet all three of the above criteria have been prioritised for in-depth investigation. Scoping documents for each in-depth topic put forward for this sub-committee are attached as Appendix B. This scoping document also contains information relating to whether the topic meets the above criteria. Following this evaluation process, it is recommended that Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee prioritise an investigation into Home Education.
- 3.7 As has been practice in previous years, it is recommended that sub groups (of around 4/5 members) be established to carry out the scrutiny of the topics that have been selected for in-depth investigation. These sub groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, often over a shorter period of time. When dealing with a specific topic, this focused way of working is often more productive than trying to achieve the same in a formal committee setting. Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub group per committee/sub-committee can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.
- 3.8 If there are several in-depth investigation topics identified by a sub-committee that are unlikely to be completed within the municipal year, these can be carried forward to the next municipal year, providing they would still be timely to consider at that time.
- 3.9 During the meeting, Members will have the opportunity to raise any other topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that they think should be included in the work programme. Additional topics raised will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

#### **4. Appendices**

- Appendix A - 2016/17 work programme suggestions for Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee.
- Appendix B – scoping exercise of topics proposed for in-depth studies.
- Appendix C – proposed work programme for the full year.

#### **5. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

- Notes of the Chair and Deputy Chairs meeting held in March 2016.
- Notes of the SLT discussion on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2016/17 municipal year.

## Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee 2016/17

### Monitoring Reports/Committee reports

- 0-19 Proposals – community hubs
- Attainment of Looked After Children
- Apprenticeships
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18  
To receive bi-annual updates on the delivery of the key objectives contained within the 2014-18 Children and Young People's Plan (June 2016/January 2017).
- Corporate Parenting Plan, including Looked After Children
- Education and Skills
- Looked After Children – managing the transition of Looked After Children from childhood to adulthood.
- Principal Social Worker reports
- SEND Inspection
- Troubled Families Programme

### In-depth investigation suggestions

- **School System Changes**

The government white paper Educational Excellence Everywhere (published March 2016) sets out its vision for the future of education and schooling, which states that by 2020 all remaining maintained schools will be academies or in the process of conversion and that a new national funding formula would be introduced. A scrutiny review would look at the changes proposed in the white paper and the associated changes that the authority will have to make as a result of these.

- **Home Education**

To examine the processes that the authority has in place to engage with the parents/guardians of children that are home-schooled. The local authority can only make an informal inquiry to check that the child is receiving a suitable education at home, however, there are intentions to be more proactive in asking for information/providing support but not breaking the law. A scrutiny review could help formulate such strategies/actions. Members could look at patterns and reasons for home schooling and the information/support provided to support parents.

### Proposed scopes of the suggested topics for in-depth examination

Title of study	School System Changes
Originating committee/sub-committee	Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee
Membership	TBC
1	Focus of study
	<p>To look at the changes to the school system that will occur as a result of the Educational Excellence Everywhere white paper and the subsequent changes to the local authorities role in delivering education.</p> <p>The white paper covers a number of areas, including a national funding formula, the replacement of qualified teacher status and the curriculum. The headline change from the paper is the academisation of all state schools. The intention of the white paper is that the role of local authorities in maintaining schools will cease entirely by the end of 2022.</p>
2	Objectives
	<p>To learn the principles and changes proposed in the white paper and how this will impact on the local authority.</p> <p>To look at how the local authorities relationship with schools will change in the future and how positive links can be maintained and coordinated.</p>
3	Key questions
	<p>What do the proposals mean for all local authority controlled schools?</p> <p>What are the implications for faith/free schools in the borough?</p> <p>How can the local authority best position itself to provide HR/finance services to academies?</p> <p>Is the authority geared up to coordinate the admissions arrangements for all schools in the borough?</p>
4	Obtaining evidence
	Discussions with officers in Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding.
5	Support required by the group/sub committee
	<p>Officers in Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding.</p> <p>Democratic Services support in administering meetings, carrying out research and writing the final report.</p>
6	Consultees for draft report
	All those consulted during the study.

7	Date draft report required
	TBA
8	Date final report required
	TBA
9	Evaluation
	<p>Any recommendations reported to Cabinet will require a response within 2 months, under the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Cabinet will be asked to clearly state whether or not it accepts the recommendations and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.</p> <p>If recommendations are accepted by Cabinet, the proposed action to implement the recommendations can be monitored by the sub-committee.</p>

### Evaluation of topic

- **Is it timely?**

The White Paper is currently going through the Parliamentary process and the exact detail of changes to be made will not be known for some time. Whilst it is an important issue to be looked at, there would not be enough information to begin this work at the beginning of the 2016/17 municipal year.

- **Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the NECA scrutiny work programme?**

No other similar work to be undertaken is known of at present.

- **Will it add value/contribute to policy development?**

Yes, it will help to shape the future relationship that the local authority has with school within the borough.

**Whilst this topic is an important issue to look at, it would be beneficial to wait until more information is available on the changes that will be brought about by the new legislation. It is therefore advised that the sub-committee allocate this as second priority for an in-depth investigation to allow time for this detail to become available.**

Title of study	Home Education Review
Originating committee/sub-committee	Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee
Membership	
1	Focus of study
	<p>Parents are entitled to take their children out of school and educate them at home. The local authority is only able to make an informal inquiry to check that the child is receiving a suitable education at home. There are intentions going forward for the authority to be more proactive in asking for information and providing support without breaching the law.</p> <p>The study will help formulate what these actions/strategies might be.</p>
2	Objectives
	<p>To establish what existing policies are in place in relation to home schooling and how many young people across the borough are currently being home schooled.</p> <p>To look at best practice and help establish a network or provide information for parents who want to home educate but are unsure where to start.</p> <p>To establish how the authority can build and maintain positive relationships with families home schooling in order for both parties to share key information.</p>
3	Key questions
	<p>What are the key motivations for parents wanting to home educate their children?</p> <p>Is the increased demand on schools places impacting on the number of parents/guardians that choose to home school?</p> <p>Do parents feel supported by the local authority in their choice? Do they require any additional assistance?</p>
4	Obtaining evidence
	<p>Desktop research into home schooling best practice.</p> <p>Officers from Prevention, Early Intervention and Support Services.</p> <p>Speaking to parents/guardians who are currently home schooling to seek their experiences and views on the level of input they require from the local authority.</p>
5	Support required by the group/sub committee
	<p>Officers from Prevention, Early Intervention and Support Services.</p> <p>Democratic Services support in administering meetings, carrying out research and writing the final report.</p>

6	Consultees for draft report
	All those consulted during the process.
7	Date draft report required
	TBA
8	Date final report required
	TBA
9	Evaluation
	<p>Any recommendations reported to Cabinet will require a response within 2 months, under the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Cabinet will be asked to clearly state whether or not it accepts the recommendations and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.</p> <p>If recommendations are accepted by Cabinet, the proposed action to implement the recommendations can be monitored by the sub-committee.</p>

### Evaluation of topic

- **Is it timely?** – Yes, this is something that officers are currently looking at and may have increased importance with the development of the Educational Excellence Everywhere white paper.
- **Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the NECA scrutiny work programme?** This will compliment work being undertaken by the relevant service area.
- **Will it add value/contribute to policy development?** Yes, this topic will allow Members to contribute to new policies and strategies in this area. It will also provide the opportunity to improve the service available to residents.

**This topic meets all the above criteria and it is recommended that this in-depth topic is prioritised for the 2016/17 municipal year.**

## Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee: Work Programme for 2016/17

Agenda Item	Report	Officer	External representatives
<b>20 June 2016</b> (report deadline – 9 June)			
Confirm start time and dates of meeting for 2016/17	Annual Council requested each committee do this at their first meeting of the year.	Elizabeth Kerr	
Work programme 2016/17	To consider and agree the Sub-committee's Work Programme for 2016-17.	Elizabeth Kerr	
Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18	Monitoring the delivery of the Plan.  Recommendation 2 of the Child Poverty Sub Group report in 2014 was that the Sub-committee received a bi-annual performance report on the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18. Cabinet accepted the recommendation. An end of year summary is to be submitted to the June meeting with a mid year progress summary provided in December.	Bruce Parvin/Craig Anderson	
Attainment by Children – Looked After	To provide the committee with information on how the authority is supporting the attainment of children looked after by the local authority.	Jane Pickthall – Virtual Headteacher	
SEND Inspection report	Joint inspections by OFSTED and CQC of the way in which a local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with SEND are underway. This report will detail what the inspection involves and how NTC is preparing for it.	Kath Robinson	
<i>Education Excellence Everywhere</i> White Paper	A presentation on the Education White Paper and other government proposals related to education.	Paul Hanson	
<b>18 July 2016</b> (report deadline – 7 July)			
Child Sexual Exploitation update	To monitor the situation in North Tyneside regarding CSE. The Sub-committee agreed to have regular updates in March 2014.	Kevin Buck	
Home Education Information report	To provide information to the sub-committee to inform the remit of a proposed Sub group to examine the prevalence and impact of home schooling in North Tyneside. Agree remit and membership of sub group if considered appropriate.	Barbara Patterson	

Agenda Item	Report	Officer	External representatives
<b>19 September 2016</b> (report deadline – 8 September)			
Report of the ADHD Sub Group	To agree the report of the ADHD sub group for submission to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.	Elizabeth Kerr	
0-19 Proposals for Community Hubs	To receive a report on the reorganisation of children’s centres and other services to deliver the offer in its entirety from a convenient and accessible community based facility.	Jill Baker	
Education and Skills	To provide an update on the provision of careers education in schools.	Angela James & Mark Barrett/Tim Downing	
Principal Social Worker reports	To provide information on leaders creating the right Environment for Social Work and associated action plans.	Kevin Buck	
<b>17 October 2016</b> (report deadline 6 October)			
Attainment and Progress Report	Report received annually on attainment and progress across the borough. To include information on attainment of Free School meals/Pupil Premium pupils to allow the sub-committee to monitor the effectiveness of the support and challenge programme of the FSM/PP programme to ensure comparable progress to those not in receipt of FSM as requested by O&S on 30/03/15.	Angela James	
Corporate Parenting Plan	Update report on progress	William Kidd	
Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020	Update report on progress.	Jill Baker	
<b>21 November 2016</b> (report deadline – 10 November)			
Child Sexual Exploitation update	To monitor the situation in North Tyneside regarding CSE.		
North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board’s Annual Report 2015/16	To receive the annual report which demonstrates how the Board is effective in co-ordinating safeguarding and joint working arrangements to protect children and young people in the borough.	Sue Burns	Richard Burrows – Chair of the NTSCB

Agenda Item	Report	Officer	External representatives
<b>23 January 2017</b> (report deadline – 12 January)			
Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18	Recommendation 2 of the Child Poverty Sub Group report in 2014 was that CES Sub-Committee received a bi-annual performance report on the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18. Cabinet accepted the recommendation. An end of year summary is to be submitted to the June meeting with a mid year progress summary provided in December.	Bruce Parvin/Craig Anderson	
School System Changes	With reference to the presentation to the June 2016 meeting, to provide information to the sub-committee to inform the remit of a proposed Sub group to examine proposals. Agree remit and membership of sub group if considered appropriate.	Angela James	
<b>20 February 2017</b> (report deadline - 9 February )			
Apprenticeships update	To receive an update on the Authority's Apprenticeship scheme and how apprenticeships are being offered more widely.	Louise Robson	
<b>20 March 2017</b> (report deadline - 9 March)			
Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020	Update report on progress.	Jill Baker	
Child Sexual Exploitation update	To monitor the situation in North Tyneside regarding CSE.	Kevin Buck	
0-19 Proposals for Community Hubs	Te receive a report on the reorganisation of children's centres and other services to deliver the offer in its entirety from a convenient and accessible community based facility.	Jill Baker	
Corporate Parenting Plan	Update report on progress	William Kidd	

Also:

- When any proposals as a consequence of the Education Review are made, CES Sub-committee will receive the proposals before any decision is made by Cabinet for their scrutiny and comment.
- Visit to the TyneMet Ignite Centre