

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 21 MARCH 2024

REFRESH OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

Summary

1. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider suggestions for its 2024/25 Work Programme prior to it being submitted to Council for approval.

Background

2. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny. The Panel routinely reviews its work programme at each meeting to consider which issues should be investigated as a priority.
3. In addition, on an annual basis, the rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny is approved by Council.

Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25

4. The Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25 is now being refreshed. Panel Members and other stakeholders have been invited to suggest topics for future scrutiny.
5. Members are asked to consider the draft Work Programme and agree its priorities for 2024/25. Issues should be prioritised by using the scrutiny feasibility criteria agreed by OSPB.
6. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board will receive feedback on the HOSC's and Scrutiny Panels' discussions and agree the final Scrutiny Work Programme at its 25 April meeting. Council will be asked to agree the Work Programme at its meeting on 16 May.

Feasibility Criteria

7. The criteria (listed below) will help to determine the scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.
 - Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
 - Is it a key issue for local people?
 - Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
 - Are improvements for local people likely?

- Does it examine a poor performing service?
- Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

Remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

8. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is responsible for scrutiny of:
- Children's Social Care and Families
 - Public Health relating to Families
 - Education and Skills

Dates of Future Meetings

- 22 May 2024 at 10am
- 4 July 2024 at 10am
- 25 September 2024 at 10am
- 18 November 2024 at 10am

Purpose of the Meeting

9. The Panel is asked to consider and prioritise the draft 2024/25 Work Programme and consider whether it would wish to make any amendments. The Committee will wish to retain the flexibility to take into account any urgent issues which may arise.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Draft Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2024/25

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the Proper Officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda and minutes for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 28 April 2023](#)

[Agenda and Minutes for Council on 18 May 2023](#)

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