

# Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee

**Date: 8 July 2021**

**Title: Work Programme 2021/2022**

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**Service: Law and Governance**

**Wards affected: All**

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## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the sub-committee to consider the formulation of its work programme 2021/2022.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The sub-committee is recommended to formulate and agree a work programme for 2021/2022 and identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that could be included in the work programme.

## **3. Details**

- 3.1 The sub-committee are invited to give consideration to determining its work programme for the year ahead. In doing so members may wish to take into account the following factors.
- 3.2 The sub-committee is one of a number of overview and scrutiny sub-committees. The role of overview and scrutiny is described in the Council's Constitution as follows:  
"Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development involves councillors of all political parties, as leaders of their communities, examining the delivery of services and influencing decision makers to ensure that they meet the needs, and improve the lives, of people in North Tyneside.

It does this by:

- a) reviewing and challenging the impact of decisions and actions taken by the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations;
- b) carrying out investigations into services and policy areas of interest and concern to communities in North Tyneside;
- c) involving communities in its work and reflecting their views and concerns; and
- d) supporting and assisting the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations in the formulation of their future plans, strategies and their decision making by making evidence based recommendations to them on how services can be improved."

3.3 The Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee has responsibility to perform these roles in relation to the following areas:

- Schools
- Adult Education
- Work Based Learning
- 14-19 Skills
- Safeguarding
- Child Protection
- Early Years
- Children's Centres
- Youth Offending
- Preventative Services
- Substance Misuse Services
- Looked After Children
- Youth Services and Play
- Connexions
- Children's Health and Wellbeing
- Vocational Learning

3.4 To ensure that the work programme is effective it is suggested that when evaluating topics for inclusion in the work programme the following criteria should be considered:

- Is it timely?
- Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the North of Tyne Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
- Will it add value/contribute to policy development?

3.5 The sub-committee has the option of establishing sub-groups (of around 4/5 members) to carry out in-depth investigations. The 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 can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.

3.6 A proposed outline work programme for 2021-2022 is attached. Members of the sub-committee are invited to raise any others 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 1 - Outline Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee work programme 2021/2022

#### **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:

- Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee minutes and work programme 2019/20

**Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee – Outline Work Programme 2021-2022**

Required

- Exploitation of Children Update – twice per year

Proposed

- Review of children's wellbeing following pandemic. Can we develop a holistic measure including educational development/attainment that will inform design, development and delivery of services, again person-centred? And to identify some priorities to act on immediately? (September 2021)
- Review of children's wellbeing following pandemic. Can we develop a holistic measure including physical and mental/psychological wellbeing etc, that will inform design, development and delivery of services, again person-centred? And to identify some priorities to act on immediately? (September 2021)
- Children's Readiness for School Response Report and Action Plan Update (September 2021)
- To provide a report since the last report in September 2020 on the extent of Local Authority support available to schools in managing their response to COVID 19 and the plethora of government guidance. (September 2021)
- Support for Children with Special Needs and Disability in the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Corporate Parenting in the Covid Pandemic
- Children and Young People's Mental Health
- Update on Post 16 Education and Skills
- Safeguarding Children and Young People
- Mental Health and Early Years - to look at the ongoing support our young children may need due to the pandemic, not only academic help but also mental health and early years development for pre-school children.
- What can we learn from the pandemic to support children and families going forward
- Educational Attainment of pupils