

## **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**10 June 2026**

### **Work Programme**

Report from/author: Stephanie Davis, Democratic Services Officer

#### **Summary**

This item advises Members of the current work programme and allows the Committee to adjust it in the light of latest priorities, issues, and circumstances. It gives Members the opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities over the year.

#### **1. Recommendation**

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the report and agree the work programme as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to accepting the proposed changes outlined in italic text on Appendix 1.

#### **2. Budget and policy framework**

- 2.1 Under Chapter 4, Part 5 of the Constitution – Overview and Scrutiny Rules, paragraph 21.1 (xv) General terms of reference, each overview and scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the proposed work programme for the Committee during the current municipal year.

#### **4. Agenda planning meeting**

- 4.1 Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. These give officers guidance on information that Members wish them to provide when scrutinising an issue. An agenda planning meeting was held on 13 May 2026 with the Chairperson, and the agenda items for the meeting were confirmed as per the work programme. It was also agreed that the Draft Sufficiency Strategy be taken at this meeting

to enable members to provide views and feedback as part of the governance process prior to submission at Cabinet .

4.2 The Chairperson requested a briefing on quality assurance of the ECHP process and reviews be provided to the Committee. On discussion with officers, it was agreed that the theme for 1 October 2026 meeting be on Reforms with reports to be presented to the Committee on both SEND and Children’s Social Care Reforms. It was also proposed that a data workshop session take place on MS Teams prior to this meeting, date of which will be confirmed in due course.

## 5. Cabinet Forward Plan

5.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 2 June 2026 and can be viewed using the following link: [Cabinet Forward Plan](#)

5.2 Set out below is a list of items featuring on the Forward Plan that fall within the terms of reference of the Children and Young People (CYP) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is asked to identify any items it wishes to consider before the Cabinet decision is taken (where dates permit), other than those already programmed in Appendix 1.

Title: Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency - Annual Report 2025/2026
--

Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council’s Adoption Service.
--

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 25 August 2026
---

Title: Fostering Service Annual Report 2025-26
--

Description: This report will provide detail on the performance of the Council’s Fostering Service.
---

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 25 Aug 2026
--

Title: Gateway 3 Contract Award: Advocacy for Parents with Children in or on the Edge of Care
---

Description: This report will seek Cabinet approval to award a contract for the provision of an advocacy service for parents with children in or on the edge of care, following a procurement process.
--

Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 2 Jun 2026
---

Title: Kinship Zones Pilot
Description: This report will provide an update on the Kinship Zones Pilot. This follows Medway having been selected for inclusion in this national pilot aimed at supporting families looking after vulnerable children who would have otherwise gone into care.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 30 Jun 2026

Title: Medway Youth Justice Plan 2026 - 2027
Description: This report will provide details of the Youth Justice Plan which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. This report will initially be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Cabinet will be asked to make recommendations to Full Council for final consideration and approval.
Anticipated Cabinet Decision Date: 22 Sept 2026

## 6. Performance Data Workshops

- 6.1 At the Committee's meeting on 5 March 2020, it was agreed a number of measures to maximise its involvement and impact in relation to the scrutiny of children's social care.
- 6.2 Part of those measures included the provision of detailed performance data to all members of the Committee on a monthly basis and for performance data workshops to be provided, in between Committees. The purpose of this is to strengthen the capacity for effective scrutiny of performance by providing an informal setting in which detailed analysis of the data can be undertaken. Members can then apply their increased knowledge and understanding to carry out an effective scrutinising role in main committee meetings and in task group activity.
- 6.3 A data workshop session was proposed for 18 May 2026, however, as the Youth Justice Inspection was due to take place from 18-22 of May, the meeting has now been rescheduled to Monday 22 June 6pm on Ms Teams.
- 6.4 On 29 April 2026, a Member awareness development session took place on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). In attendance was Professor Raja Mukherjee, MBE Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Lead, National FASD Clinic, who is the UK's leading expert in this field who provided in depth information into the disorder, effects of alcohol exposure on foetuses, and the prevalence rates of FASD worldwide in particular for countries with high level alcohol consumption such as the UK. Also in attendance was Rachel Jackson who was able to provide valuable insight into the effects of FASD from someone who lives with the lifelong medical condition.

6.5 Members were informed that Kent and Medway had made strides in its approach to supporting children and young people with FASD ahead of other authorities in the country. The Public Health Team provided an extensive range of ongoing FASD training programmes to professionals and organisations across the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise and Faith sectors.

6.6 At Members' request, the following table displays a list of briefing note information requests, when the requests were made, when briefing notes were provided and what is still outstanding.

Subject	Committee at which request was made	Date circulated to Members	Any additional comment

## 7. Implications for children in care

7.1 Members should ensure they focus on outcomes for children in care. This includes considering their physical health; their emotional health; their safeguarding; their educational attainment and progress; their hopes and aspirations for their adult lives and how looked after young people have their voices heard. We know that looked after children can be more vulnerable to sexual exploitation so particular attention should be given to this. As a corporate parent, Members should be a champion for looked after children and have the same high expectations of them as they would for their own child, grandchild, or niece/ nephew.

## 8. Financial and legal implications

8.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

### Lead officer contact

Stephanie Davis, Democratic Services Officer

Email: [stephanie.davis@medway.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.davis@medway.gov.uk) Tel: 01634 332503

### Appendices

Appendix 1 Children and Young People O&S Committee Work Programme

### Background papers

None