



Lambeth

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE 07 OCTOBER 2020

Report title: 2020-21 Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme

Wards: All

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance: Councillor Andy Wilson

Report Authorised by: Director of Legal and Governance: Alison McKane

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REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee's work programme as currently drafted and provides a record of recommendations and actions arising from previous meetings (Appendix 1).

FINANCE SUMMARY

There are no financial implications beyond the existing Scrutiny budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To consider the work programme as currently drafted (Appendix 1) and identify and prioritise matters for future scrutiny.

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 This is the second meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee of the 2020-21 municipal year. Members should determine issues for inclusion in the work programme going forward. Although some flexibility needs to be retained to enable items to be added at short notice, planning the committee's work programme facilitates scrutiny of those matters the committee consider to be a priority assists in the commissioning of reports and helps ensure that matters are considered in a timely manner. Additionally, issues outstanding/carried forward from the work of previous Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee is set out in Appendix 1.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 Four meetings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee are scheduled in 2020-21 as follow:

- 18 June 2020
- 07 October 2020
- 07 December 2020
- 16 March 2021

Terms of Reference

- 2.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee may set its own agenda within the scope of its terms of reference. Along with general functions that apply to both the 'parent' Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee, the following are specific to this committee:

- The provision, planning and management of children and young people's services – including children's social care; safeguarding children; children in care; troubled families; the Youth Offending Service (YOS); education, learning and schools; Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and education inclusion; education capital estate; and youth and play services.

- 2.3 When considering which items to include in the work programme the following questions can usefully be asked of each proposed topic:

- Are statutory requirements being met effectively?
- Are quality services being delivered?
- Are any audits or external inspections due?
- Are the specific needs of user groups being met?
- Does the service compare well with neighbouring/other comparable authorities and against national performance indicators?
- Is the service an improving one?
- Does the service know what changes are imminent or likely and are preparations being made?
- Is this a priority for the council?

Borough Plan Outcomes

- 2.4 Lambeth's Borough Plan (Future Lambeth) 2016 – 21 sets out the outcomes and objectives that the Council is trying to achieve; these can be a useful tool for scrutiny councillors in their holding to account role and to support the identification and prioritisation of work programme items. The Borough Plan is based around three driving priorities – Inclusive Growth; Reducing Inequality; and Strong and Sustainable Neighbourhoods - which are equally important in fulfilling the council's commitment to make Lambeth a place of 'ambition and fairness for all'. Under one of these headline priorities - 'Reducing Inequality' - the Plan sets out a number of goals and ambitions which align with

the remit of the sub-committee. The committee may therefore want to scrutinise progress towards delivery of these outcomes (bullets below).

2.5 *Ten year outcome:* Make sure that all children in Lambeth get the best start in their education and working lives, and that their transitions between different life stages are as successful as possible. We will do this by ensuring that all of our children's centres, nurseries, schools and colleges deliver good or outstanding education for all, with diverse and high quality academic and vocational pathways. *By 2021 we will have:*

- Increased the proportion children achieving good levels of social, emotional, communication, and language development by the end of Early Years Foundation Stage
- Reduced inequalities in school readiness between children living in poverty, from black Caribbean and Portuguese backgrounds, boys, children in care, children at risk; and the general population
- Ensured that children living in the most deprived wards have the same level of access to good or outstanding primary schools as the general population
- Reduced inequalities in achievement between children in receipt of Pupil Premium, black Caribbean and Portuguese pupils, looked after children and those at risk, boys; and, the general population at key stage 2
- Increased the proportion of children with SEN identified early
- Ensure that more childcare settings in the borough are rated good or outstanding, and more children aged 2 and 3 take up their free early years entitlement.

2.6 *10 year outcome:* Reduce inequality of education, training and employment outcomes for children, young people and adults from different backgrounds. *By 2021 we will have:*

- Narrowed the achievement gap at key stages 3 and 4 between children eligible for Pupil Premium, Looked After Children, children from black Caribbean and Portuguese backgrounds, boys, children with SEN; and the general population
- Improved the identification of, and support for young people at risk of disengagement from education and training
- Increased the numbers of students in Lambeth schools and colleges at KS5 achieving at least 3 A Levels A*- E or equivalent
- Narrowed the achievement gap at Key Stage 5 between: young people on Pupil Premium, black Caribbean and Portuguese young people, looked after young people/those at risk, young people with SEN, disabled young people, boys; and the general population
- Reduced the numbers of young people (16-19) whose status is unknown or who are not in education, employment and training, particularly looked after children, and children with SEN and/or disabilities
- Reduced inequalities in employment rates between young people (aged 25 and under), Looked After Children, people with health issues and disabilities, from black African and black Caribbean and Portuguese groups, residents aged 50+, and, ex-offenders; and the general population
- Reduce the rate of Lambeth young people entering the youth justice system, particularly from those ethnic groups who are currently overrepresented.

2.7 *10 year outcome:* All children receive the support that they need for happy and secure childhoods which give them the best start in life. *By 2021 we will have:*

- High quality universal services in place so that families in Lambeth have the resources and opportunities to give their child the best start in life
- Made sure families experiencing problems are consistently identified, assessed and quickly provided with the support and help that they need

- Support families to be strong and resilient, providing effective support to enable children to achieve their potential and to be safe and secure
- When it is not possible to keep families together, timely and decisive action is taken so that children are afforded permanency, secure attachments and opportunities to grow and thrive.

External Inspections

(i) Ofsted Inspection Lambeth Children's Services

- 2.8 The findings from the Ofsted inspection of Lambeth's Children's Services (*Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers*) was published on 9 May 2018. Ofsted's overall conclusion was that Children's Services in Lambeth 'requires improvement to be good' and are therefore no longer 'inadequate'. However the adoption performance sub-judgement was that this service remains 'inadequate'.
- 2.9 Ofsted made 12 recommendations for further progress, including:
- Recruit enough adopters to meet the need of children in Lambeth.
 - Consider how to better engage young people who are gang affiliated, leaving custody, and those who have more entrenched criminal behaviours, so that they achieve better outcomes.
 - Improve the frequency, quality and consistency of management oversight and supervision in all teams.
 - Ensure that supervision is regular, reflective and challenging, and that managers record the rationale for their case decisions.
 - Improve the quality of assessments so that the lived experiences of children are fully understood and inform plans.
 - Develop an approach for assessing and responding to children detained in custody.
 - Improve oversight of children in care with substance misuse difficulties and ensure that services and interventions are sufficient for them to receive the right help at the right time.
 - Offer more practical and timely help to ensure that young people leaving care gain the skills and attitudes they need to better engage in education, employment or training.

(ii) Youth Offending Service Inspection

- 2.10 The Youth Offending Service (YOS) has been subject to progress reporting to scrutiny on securing improvement and responding to the findings of the full joint inspection of the service conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation published in April 2019.
- 2.11 Arising from the annual Overview and Scrutiny Crime and Disorder Committee and the focus on serious youth violence, OSC made the following recommendation:
- To recommend that the Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee considers whether the educational/training programmes offered by the Youth Offending Services are sufficiently targeted, up to date and meeting clients' needs.
- 2.12 This has been added to the list of issues for follow up/potential future scrutiny as identified by the committee and set out in appendix 1.

(iii) SEND Inspection

- 2.13 SEND inspection of local area services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities was published in March 2020.
- 2.14 The local SEND offer and the findings and recommendations of the inspection will be considered by the Sub-Committee on 07 October 2020, set out in appendix 1.

Performance Information

- 2.15 Information on performance across all matters within Lambeth's Children's Services is contained in the Quarterly Budget and Performance report. This information may support development of the committee's annual work plan and identify priority issues for future scrutiny.

Forward Plan

- 2.16 The Forward Plan lists all key decisions that the Council (including the Health and Wellbeing Board) will take over the coming months. A key decision is defined as an executive decision which will:
- 1) Require an amendment to the Community Plan Outcomes Framework or require a recommendation to Council to amend the Budget and Policy Framework; and/or
 - 2) Result in the local authority incurring expenditure, raising income or making savings in excess of £500,000; and/or
 - 3) Have a significant community impact
- 2.17 The plan is therefore a useful tool for identifying forthcoming decisions where the committee could add value.

3. FINANCE

- 3.1 There are no additional capital or revenue implications arising as a direct result of this report. The work programme will be undertaken within the existing budget provision for Scrutiny within the Democratic Services department within the Legal and Governance directorate.

4. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

- 4.1 There are no legal implication, but advice on specific work programme items may be provided in the future.
- 4.2 There are no additional comments from Democratic Services.

5. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

- 5.1 All members of the council are entitled to suggest items for scrutiny work programmes in accordance with the council's scrutiny procedure rules (Constitution Part 3, Section 6). Suggestions are also invited specifically from scrutiny members as part of their community leadership role and from members of the public. The council's website includes a form for the submission of suggestions and for public notice questions.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 None.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment of the work programme has not been undertaken. Reports commissioned by the Sub-Committee will be expected to address any equalities issues. Any recommendations arising from commissions will have equalities implications considered at the drafting stage.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 8.1 None.

9. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental

9.1 Not applicable.

Health

9.2 Not applicable.

Corporate Parenting

9.3 None as a result of this report, although the Sub-Committee will consider reports relating to the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

Staffing and accommodation

9.4 Not applicable.

Responsible Procurement

9.5 Not applicable.

10. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 See Appendix 1.

AUDIT TRAIL

REPORT HISTORY

Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Councillor Lucy Caldicott	Chair, Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee	25.09.20	dd.mm.yy	
Alison McKane, Director of Legal and Governance	Legal and Governance	25.09.20	dd.mm.yy	
Nisar Visram, Finance	Finance and Property	25.09.20	dd.mm.yy	
Fateha Salim, Legal Services	Legal and Governance	25.09.20	dd.mm.yy	
Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	25.09.20	25.09.20	4

Original discussion with Cabinet Member	N/A
Report deadline	29.09.20
Date final report sent	
Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	No
Key decision report	No
Date first appeared on forward plan	N/A
Key decision reasons	N/A
Background information	Future Lambeth: Our Borough Plan 2016-2021 Forward Plan of Key Decisions Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, 9 May 2018 HMIP inspection of youth offending services in Lambeth, 25 April 2019 Joint Local Area SEND Inspection of Lambeth, 9 March 2020
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme 2020-21