

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
FAMILY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE – 9 MAY 2024

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGER

FAMILY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the select committee's work programme for the municipal year 2023/24. It details the items for at each select committee meeting, scrutiny activities outside of committee, methods for carrying out scrutiny work, and details of the support available to enable members to scrutinise topics in depth.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Select committee members are recommended to consider areas for the work programme for 2024/2025 based on the review of the last municipal year in Appendix 2.

3 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

- 3.1 The Select Committee has a remit to scrutinise topics related to social services provision for children and families; education, training and youth services and support; early years, childcare and play services; sports education; libraries and other related topics.
- 3.2 The Committee develops an annual work programme based on members' priorities for the municipal year. This focusing of work should help members to maximise their effectiveness and influence and have a defined impact, making a tangible difference to the services of the Council. While each select committee has its own work programme, it is also part of a single work programme for the scrutiny function co-ordinated by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 Key Decisions from the Forward Plan of the Leadership Team, particularly those connected to the topics above, will also be considered as part of the work programme.
- 3.4 The Committee will keep its work programme under review and may need to make adjustments as required if priority issues emerge later in the year. The work programme also needs to balance between holding the Leadership Team to account through pre-decision scrutiny and post-decision review of outcomes,

and policy development overseen by working groups and following up on activities, including recommendations from working groups and committees.

- 3.5 Grenfell recovery is a priority for the Council as set out in the Council Plan 2021- 2023, and is a key strategic risk set out in the risk register.¹ The Housing and Communities Select Committee has ensured that as part of its work programme for 2023/24 there is activity and work on matters of concern for the communities affected by the Grenfell tragedy.
- 3.6 The 2019 Statutory Guidance sets out that scrutiny needs to be clear about what its aims and objectives are for a meeting, and that members should have a clear idea of what the Committee hopes to get out of each session. This includes setting overall objectives and then considering what type of questions and the way in which they are asked to elicit information or develop lines of enquiry.²
- 3.7 Not all the Select Committee's work should take place at formal committee meetings. There may be subjects which are better suited to a different means of scrutiny such as visits, briefings, and seminars outside of committee.

4 REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024

- 4.1 It is timely at the end of the present municipal year for Family Services Select Committee to start to consider suitable items to develop the work programme for 2024/2025. The starting point for this is a review of the existing work programme, set out in Appendix 2. This can identify areas for closer focus, emerging themes and priorities, or Key Decisions which are on the horizon. The review of items from the last year is based on the service areas in the remit of the Select Committee as well as up-to-date information on Key Decisions.
- 4.2 Suggested items can be shared with Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) which will lead the work programming process for the new municipal year. This will start with the scrutiny work programming workshops for non-executive members on the 10th June 2024 for Housing and Communities and Environment select committees and 17th June 2024 for the Family Services and Adult Social Care and Health select committees. OSC also leads on the scrutiny of corporate reports for risk, performance, finance, and complaints which will be of relevance to Housing and Communities Select Committee. A work programme report for Housing and Communities Select Committee will be presented for discussion at the first meeting on 3rd July 2024

¹ Our Council Plan, The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, pp.12-14

² Statutory Guidance on *Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019) p25

4.3 On 28 February 2024 Full Council agreed the timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2024/25. Meetings of Family Services Select Committee will be held on:

- 27th June 2024
- 17th October 2024
- 5th December 2024
- 4th February 2025
- 8th May 2025

5 FURTHER INFORMATION

5.1 Appendix 1 to this report details the Committee Work Programme for 2023/24.

5.2 Appendix 2 to this report consists of the Work Programme Review for 2023/24.

FOR DISCUSSION

Jacqui Hird Scrutiny Manager

Background papers used in the preparation of this report: None other than previously published documents.

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A6 Appendix 1 - Select Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Date of Meeting	Item	Outcomes	Source of Item	Lead Member/Officer
28 th September 2023	Additional Support to Young People	To scrutinise the current provision for additional support to young people including enrichment activities as well as mentoring schemes provided by schools.	Officer	Sarah Newman, Executive Director, Bi-Borough Children's Services. Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family and Children's Services
	Key performance Information	To scrutinise the key performance information from the first quarter.	Annual Work Programme	Sarah Newman, Executive Director, Bi-Borough Children's Services. Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family and Children's Services
	0-11 service provision – Working Group	To agree the membership and terms of reference for the working group on 0-11 service provision.	Annual Work Programme	Cllr Will Pascall, Working Group Chair
	Select Committee Work Programme Report	Select Committee to review the work programme.	Annual Work Programme	Bella Jessop, Scrutiny and Policy Officer Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager and statutory scrutiny officer

7th December 2023	Safeguarding	To scrutinise safeguarding of vulnerable children in the borough with a particular focus on children in care – the fostering and adoption experience.	Annual Work Programme	Sarah Newman, Executive Director, Bi-Borough Children’s Services. Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family and Children’s Services
	Budget Proposals	To scrutinise the budget proposals 2023-24 and make recommendations	Annual Work Programme	Sarah Newman, Executive Director, Bi-Borough Children’s Services. Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family and Children’s Services
	Select Committee Work Programme Report	Select Committee to review the work programme.	Annual Work Programme	Bella Jessop, Scrutiny and Policy Officer Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager and statutory scrutiny officer
8th February 2024	The Council’s offer to care leavers up to age 25.	To scrutinise the offer.	Annual Work Programme	Sarah Newman, Executive Director, Bi-Borough Children’s Services. Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family and Children’s Services

	Bi-Borough Inclusion Strategy	To scrutinise its implementation and follow up on the recommendations made from the Committee's 2020 working group on School Exclusions. To also include alternative provision.	Annual Work Programme	Ian Heggs, Director of Education and Libraries Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family and Children's Services
	Select Committee Work Programme Report	Select Committee to review the work programme.	Annual Work Programme	Bella Jessop, Scrutiny and Policy Officer Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager and statutory scrutiny officer
9th May 2024	Youth Review Proposals	To scrutinise the youth review proposals from February and youth and community groups across the borough, with a specific focus on North Kensington.	Annual Work Programme	Sarah Newman, Executive Director, Bi-Borough Children's Services. Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family and Children's Services
	Education – Grenfell cohort	To review progress for children who are part of the Grenfell cohort.	Annual Work Programme	Sarah Newman, Executive Director, Bi-Borough Children's Services. Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family and Children's Services

	Holland Park	To seek an update on outcomes following the improvements made to Holland Park School. To include an update on community access to the school's facilities.	Continuing Item	Sally Coates, Headteacher Holland Park
	Select Committee Work Programme Report	Select Committee to review the work programme.	Annual Work Programme	Bella Jessop, Scrutiny and Policy Officer Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager and statutory scrutiny officer

A6 Appendix 2

Family Services Select Committee, Work Programme Review 2023/2024

Youth Services

- On the 28th September 2023 there was an update on support provided to young people.
- On the 8th February 2024 the committee received an update on the continued support available for care leavers up to 25.
- A report on the youth review proposals will be discussed at the meeting on the 9th May 2024.
- The Committee agreed to set up a working group to look at the service provision from 0-11 with a focus on the transition at rising 5. The working group will present their report at the meeting on the 27th June.

Education

- At the meeting on the 9th May 2024 a paper to review the progress of the children who are part of the Grenfell cohort will be discussed.
- A report on the outcome of the improvements made to Holland Park School will be discussed at the meeting of the 9th May 2024.
- The Bi-Borough Inclusions Strategy will be discussed at the meeting on the 27th June 2024.

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding of vulnerable children in the borough was discussed at the meeting on the 7th December.

Key Performance Information

- On the 28th September there was a paper on performance information from the first quarter.

Department of Children's Services Budget

- Select Committee discussed the Children's Services Budget proposals on 7th December 2023.
- There will be finance scrutiny of the council's Budget 2025/2026, including departmental budgets, led by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.