

Meeting:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	18 October 2006
Subject:	Scrutiny Work Programme
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Director, People Performance and Policy
Contact Officer:	Nahreen Matlib, Senior Scrutiny Officer
Portfolio Holder:	Business Development
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

That the Sub-Committee:

- Considers and agrees upon the main topics to be included in the work programme for 2006/07.
- Considers the scheduling of longer term topics for the four-year programme of work (2006-2010).

Reason for report

At its last meeting (27 June 2006), the Sub-Committee received a report outlining suggested topics for its work programme 2006-10. This report gives more detail on the possible prioritisation of topics, the programming of this work and suggests appropriate methodologies. This should help the Sub-Committee determine a more concrete work programme.

When agreed the Sub-Committee's work programme will be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

Benefits

The Sub-Committee has the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of services for local people and the work of the council in a number of ways. By carefully structuring the work programme, the Sub-Committee has the opportunity to:

- Gain maximum benefit out of the value it can add.
- Be strategic in the areas it targets.
- Consider its work levels and any resource implications that may be present.

Cost of Proposals

The work programme will be managed within the scrutiny budget. No additional funding will be sought.

Risks

Failing to consider the work programme in detail may mean opportunities for scrutiny to contribute to the improvement of services for local people and the work of the council may be diminished.

Implications if recommendations rejected

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to agree a work programme each year. Each Sub-Committee contributes to this process by determining its own work programme and feeding this into the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Failure to provide this to Overview and Scrutiny would mean this Committee would not be able to meet its constitutional responsibilities.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

Developing the work programme

2.1.1 At its last meeting, the Sub-Committee considered a preliminary version of a work programme for 2006-2010 and discussed the topics within it. This report provides more detail to this work programme with regard to prioritisation and suggested methodology for topics.

2.1.2 The revised work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee is attached as Appendix A and details the main suggested areas of focus with scheduling details.

2.1.3 The work programme should be seen as an evolving document which will be proactive in its scheduling but with scope to also react to issues that may emerge during the course of the year.

2.1.4 Members will need to consider the resources available to them in undertaking projects. It will be feasible for the Sub-Committee to

undertake one in-depth review at any one time. However, where projects form part of a larger programme of work, the Sub-Committee should consider staggering projects to allow for shorter pieces of work such as a challenge panel or light touch review.

- 2.1.5 In addition to member resources, consideration should also be given to the availability of officer resources, both in terms of within the Scrutiny Team and the teams/directorates subject to review.

Specific issues for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- 2.1.6 This section outlines very briefly the rationale for the topics included in the work programme:

Year One

- **Every Child Matters** – This sets out the five mutually reinforcing outcomes that are most important to children and young people: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic well-being. All organisations involved with providing services to children are required to team up in new ways, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want in life.
- **Children and Young People’s Plan** – The CYPP is a major non-statutory plan. The Plan sets out the framework for improving services and outcomes for young people over the next three years. Members may wish to review performance against the plan, and this may include the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and the Local Area Agreement.
- **Special Educational Needs** – this topic has been addressed by scrutiny on several occasions previously and updates will keep members abreast of progress following scrutiny’s reviews.
- **Healthy Lifestyles** – officer recommendation to follow up outcomes arising from recent internal **review of catering** services. Scrutiny perspectives on potential areas for cost-efficiencies could be sought, as could particular focuses on social care elements or school meals. This would also relate to previous scrutiny work on healthy schools.
- **Development of a Children’s Trust** – all areas are required to have a Children’s Trust in place by 2008 and the committee may wish to ensure that local progress in this is on track.
- **Education of looked after children** - Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on the local authority in its role as corporate parent to promote the educational achievement of looked after children. A recent publication by the IDeA/LGA has provided a toolkit by which to assess how well the authority is meeting this new legislative requirement.
- **Sixth form collegiate** – this is a key development in the borough and progress, as well as emerging issues, will need to be kept within the committee’s attentions. More in-depth work by scrutiny may be warranted once the sixth form facilities have all been rolled out.
- **Parent partnership service** – an issue raised by members as necessary to receive an update on the situation.
- **JAR self assessment and Post JAR programme** – performance issue for the authority.

- **Achievement and attainment** – performance monitoring. Members may wish to consider the format and content of performance information that members should receive. Work is underway to establish when data is available in provisional and finalised forms.
- **School nursing** – Concerns have been raised by schools and the Director of Public Health, as well as following up previous scrutiny work on healthy lifestyles in schools. There are particular issues around recruitment and retention, service performance and the interface between the provider (North West London Hospitals Trust) and commissioner (Harrow Primary Care Trust). School nurses are currently assigned to specific clusters but this approach has been inhibited by staff absence. This is a small service and therefore scrutiny would have to consider whether it would add value through any review work.
- **Extended schools** – an examination of the use of schools buildings as community facilities would also need to take account of any work undertaken by the Safer and Stronger Communities Sub-Committee.
- **Community strategy** – strategic issue for the local authority, in which priorities for children and young people will need to be reflected.
- **Question and Answer session** – with the relevant portfolio holder(s) as part of scrutiny's role in holding decision makers to account.
- **Young people's sexual health** – priority area for the PCT and nationally. In particular, Harrow's teenage pregnancy rate is an area of concern as it has risen. Any scrutiny work could relate to the outcomes of the PCT review of sexual health service and seek the views of young people on sexual health services open to them.
- **Obesity** – public health priority area suggested for scrutiny by the PCT. Harrow has a high prevalence rate of diabetes and this has links to obesity. The borough has an Obesity Strategy whose implementation could be explored, as could the use of national funding and specific reference to childhood obesity. Scrutiny of this area could provide the opportunity for cross-committee work as it could tie in with work undertaken by the Adult Health and Social Care Sub-Committee.
- **Diabetic care** – public health priority area suggested by the PCT. Harrow has a high prevalence rate of diabetes and this poses a high risk to obesity. Joined up care from council and PCT services could be explored, perhaps in reference to the Health Equity Audit.
- **Children's health** – children's health is distinct from adult health and so will require separate consideration. In addition, service delivery is changing as a result of the requirement for a children's trusts and the development of children centres.

Year Two (additional topics to above)

- **14 – 19 strategy** – area of policy development. The outcome of a bid to the Learning and Skills Council is imminent. Members may wish to consider means through which the bid is realised; alternatively if it is unsuccessful Members may wish to examine ways in which the council can move forward.
- The **Annual Performance Assessment** and **CYPP/LAA** are also important elements of the committee's role in monitoring performance.
- **Future of schools – demography** – service delivery issue – it has been suggested that the changing demography of the borough may have an

- impact on schools in terms of support that they provide to an increasingly diverse range of pupils.
- **School exclusions** – performance issue – there is potential for evaluating outcomes arising from a consultant’s report on exclusions in 2005 and measures such as the rapid intervention team.
 - **Youth engagement** – there is potential for review of effectiveness implementation of strategy for youth participation. Members may wish to explore the impact of the Harrow strategy so far and how this should be developed in future.
 - **Early years and childcare** – area of policy development, linked to development of a children’s trust and the children’s centres model.

Year Three (additional topics to above)

- **Schools’ organisation** – there is scope to contribute to the shift to age 11 transfer and impact of changing demography of borough.

2.2 Consultation

Consultation on developing the work programme was undertaken with:

- Relevant Executive Directors and Directors;
- The community via Harrow’s website;
- All Members of council.

2.3 Financial Implications

The scrutiny budget for 2006/07 is £340,400 which is made up of £266,050 for salaries and £74,350 for projects and other expenditure. This programme of work will be delivered within this provision.

2.5 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications in this report.

2.6 Equalities Impact

Scrutiny reviews make a significant contribution to the improvement of services for Harrow’s multicultural community. When considering any item on the work programme across the year, the sub committee specifically takes into consideration how to engage with and meet the diverse needs of residents.

2.7 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

Individual scrutiny reviews may impact on crime and disorder and where relevant details are given in the Appendix.

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Appendix A: Proposed Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee work programme 2006 – 2010

**APPENDIX A:
PROPOSED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2006–10**

THEME	YEAR ONE (2006/07)	YEAR TWO (2007/08)	YEAR THREE (2008/09)	YEAR FOUR (2009/10)
AGREED FOR INCLUSION IN PROGRAMME				
EVERY CHILD MATTERS	ECM outcome - achieve economic well-being ➤ Report in April 2007	ECM outcome – enjoy and achieve ➤ Report	ECM outcome – be healthy ➤ Report	NSF on children’s health and maternity ➤ Report
		ECM outcome – make a positive contribution ➤ Report	ECM outcome – stay safe ➤ Report	
ISSUES FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES	Children and Young People Plan ➤ Update report in February 2007			
	Special Educational Needs ➤ Update in June 2006			
	Healthy Lifestyles - Review of catering services (including reference to provision of drinking water in schools) ➤ Report in October 2006			
	Development of a Children’s Trust ➤ Report in 2007	Development of a Children’s Trust		
	Looked after children			

THEME	YEAR ONE (2006/07)	YEAR TWO (2007/08)	YEAR THREE (2008/09)	YEAR FOUR (2009/10)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Light touch review, reporting back in October 2006 			
	Sixth form collegiate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report in June 2006 	Sixth form collegiate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report 	Sixth form collegiate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In depth review 	
		14 – 19 strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ½ day challenge panel 		
	Parent partnership services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report in October 2006 			
ASSESSING PERFORMANCE	Joint Area Review self assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ½ day challenge panel – conducted by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2006, as part of Corporate Assessment/JAR self assessment 			
	Joint Area Review outcomes and action plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report in January 2007 	Post Joint Area Review programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report 		
		Annual Performance Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ½ day challenge panel 	Annual Performance Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ½ day challenge panel 	Annual Performance Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ½ day challenge panel
ACHIEVEMENT AND ATTAINMENT	Achievement and attainment – including performance information	Achievement and attainment – including performance information	Achievement and attainment – including performance information	Achievement and attainment – including performance information

THEME	YEAR ONE (2006/07)	YEAR TWO (2007/08)	YEAR THREE (2008/09)	YEAR FOUR (2009/10)
	for schools ➤ Report in February 2007	for schools ➤ Report in February 2008	for schools ➤ Report in February 2009	for schools ➤ Report in February 2010
COMMUNITY ISSUES	School nursing ➤ Challenge Panel in Autumn 2006			
	Extended schools ➤ Update report in October 2006			
	Community strategy ➤ Consultation on refreshed strategy in October 2006			
SCHOOLS		Future of schools – demography ➤ In depth review	Schools' organisation ➤ In depth review – linked to demography review	
HOLDING DECISION MAKER(S) TO ACCOUNT	Question and Answer session with portfolio holder(s) ➤ Special meeting in January 2007	Question and Answer session with portfolio holder(s)	Question and Answer session with portfolio holder(s)	Question and Answer session with portfolio holder(s)
FLEXIBLE - TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PROGRAMME IF TIME ALLOWS				
INDIVIDUAL TOPICS	Young people's sexual health ➤ In depth review	School exclusions ➤ Report		
	Obesity /Diabetic Care ➤ In depth review, linking with work by Adult	Youth engagement ➤ In depth review, using policing and youth as a		

THEME	YEAR ONE (2006/07)	YEAR TWO (2007/08)	YEAR THREE (2008/09)	YEAR FOUR (2009/10)
	Health and Social Care Committee	case study		
	Children and Young People's plan ➤ ½ day challenge panel or report	Early years and childcare ➤ In depth review		
	➤ Children's health specific - ½ day challenge panel			