



Report to the Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee

Title:	The Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee Work Programme 2014-2015
Committee date:	27 th May 2014
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Electoral divisions affected:	All

Purpose of Agenda Item

This report is to agree the Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee Annual Work Programme 2014-2015.

1. Background

The Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee is one of the four scrutiny committees established by Council in May 2013. The Committee's Work Programme will inform the agenda of the Committee over the 2014-2015 Municipal Year and commission reports in advance from the relevant council departments and other organisations.

2. Summary

The Committee considered at its last meeting on 25th March 2014, the Key Topics for Scrutiny 2014-2015. The Committee Work Programme 2014-2015, which is to be agreed by the Committee on 27th May 2014 in consideration of priority topics identified from consultation with Members of the Committee, Cabinet Members and chief officers of the relevant departments, prior consultation with the department and consideration of the



Cabinet Member's Portfolio Plans, the Strategic Plan, and planned council consultations, which identified the Key Topics for Scrutiny.

The agreed Work Programme will be used to inform the Committee's agenda plan for 2014-2015 to plan the work of the Committee throughout the 2014-2015 Municipal Year.

3. Priority Topics for 2014-2015

The priority topics that have been identified to be agreed by the Committee are:

1. Placements of children in care (fostering and adoption)
2. Child Protection
3. Early Help (early help and yearly intervention services available, for children and families)
4. Children's voice – participation and consultation of children in care
5. Children, Ready for School / Early Years (school readiness)
6. Special Educational Needs (SEN) - the Children and Families Act has introduced changes to the approach to SEN including provision up to the age of 25.
7. The Ofsted inspection framework for local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement / (Improving schools through effective local accountability / Strengthening the role of councils and councillors in the local school system)
8. The Ofsted inspection framework for children's services
9. Progress to Good and Outstanding – how are schools progressing to achieve the higher Ofsted rankings
10. School Place Planning – This is a key challenge for BCC. An additional 2,500 places have been created over the past four years and it is important to consider how to manage demand and plan for the future.

The list of priority topics for the 2014-2015 Work Programme, once agreed, will form the Annual Work Programme 2014-2015.

Brief monitoring reports and updates are also anticipated from the Bucks Learning Trust, Educational Standards/performance, Families First, and a review of the implementation of the agreed recommendations of the Narrowing the Gap and Young People Ready for Work Inquiries.

The scrutiny officer, in association with the Chairman of the Committee, will schedule the topics in the agreed Annual Work Programme into the Committee agenda plan throughout the 2014-2015 Municipal Year.

4. Resource implications

There are no financial implication anticipated at this stage. Resource implications will include officer time in support of the scrutiny inquiries undertaken.

5. Next steps

The Select Committee Annual Work Programme will be used to forward plan the agendas of the Select Committee meetings throughout the Municipal Year 2014-2015.