

4 October 2022

**Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

**Portfolios:** All

**Wards:** All

**1. Summary of report**

This report provides a short summary of the activity of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

**2. Recommendation**

**That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.**

**3. Report**

*Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 26 July and agreed its work programme as follows:

- Budget consultation.
- Children's Services Locality Working
- Residential Homes
- Early Help Strategy - process
- Social Worker recruitment and retention
- Private Fostering.
- Youth Justice – serious violence and young people.
- Exploitation and Safeguarding
- Family hubs update and progress.
- Children's Services Performance and Benchmarking.

The next meeting of the Committee is 27 September 2022 where Members considered the early help strategy and the Youth Justice Annual Plan and strategic priorities.

*Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 30 June and agreed the following items for its work programme:

- School attendance, School attendance bill and Children not in school bill
- SEND and EHCP (meeting targets), alternative provision green paper

- Briefing on OFSTED when available
- Education and Home Learning
- Fair access to all children
- Transitioning from schools
- Making sure the council has provision in place in terms of the Black Country Plan
- Children not in school (linked to both attendance and elective home education)
- School place planning (linked to provision of school places)
- Walsall Right 4 Children
- Schools White paper
- Education Investment and priority areas
- Improving the number of good and outstanding schools
- Attainment and improving educational outcome

The Committee met on 6 September 2022 and considered:

- School Attendance Bill and Children Not in School Bill
- Children not in school (attendance, exclusions, elective home education and children missing education)
- Fair Access and the Fair Access Protocol
- Vulnerable Learners Hub

#### *Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 30 June and agreed the following items for its work programme:

- a) Street Scene Strategy including tree planting and tree management
- b) Waste Strategy including information on the new Household Waste Recycling Centre and Transfer Station
- c) Derelict Properties
- d) Council Bonfire and Fireworks Update and Success Rates
- e) Town Deal
- f) Phoenix 10
- g) West Midlands Local Transport Plan
- h) District Town Centres
- i) Willenhall Framework Plan
- j) Partnership working with West Midlands Police regarding speed enforcement

The Committee next meets on 29 September and will consider the annual report from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and Cemetery Maintenance.

#### *Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 14 July and agreed the following items for its work programme:

- Ambulance response and waiting times.
- Access to GP services and the Walk in Centre.
- Waiting times for A&E and the urgent care centre.
- Report on progress of improvements to inadequate areas found by the CQC for Manor Hospital and maternity services.
- Waiting times for elective surgeries and procedures.
- Childhood Obesity (referred from Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
- Teenage Pregnancy (referred from Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
- Dental provision.
- Transfer of patients into the social care system (bed blocking).

The Committee meets again on 29 September 2022 and will look at access to GP services and the Urgent Treatment Centre.

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