

# **CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL**

<b>DATE</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Assistant Chief Executive
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme
<b>STATUS</b>	OPEN

## **CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS**

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the Council and its key partnerships. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Priorities.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report reflects work undertaken by the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel; within the panel's terms of reference, to identify topics to be included in the 2022/23 work programme. The panel is asked to agree the work programme.

## **MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION**

To confirm the panel's work programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

### **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

The appendix to this report summarises the suggested work programme and the panel's likely timetable of activities during 2022/23 to undertake this work. The report will be a live document and progress on each of the work programme items will be monitored throughout the year.

In addition to the work programme items, there will be the opportunity for members to identify agenda items from the forward plan, the Council's quarterly performance and resources report (with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel) and the tracking of its recommendations. The panel may also respond to issues of public concern.

Members are asked to consider and agree the work programme for the ensuing municipal year.

The panel may also consider any issues it may wish to remove or add to this year's work programme.

### **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned.

### **3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

The work programme demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

#### **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no financial considerations included within this report.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

There are no impacts on children and young people as a direct result of this report. The panel will have the opportunity to consider to any implications for children and young people as it considers individual items within its work programme.

#### **6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

#### **7. MONITORING COMMENTS**

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result, no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

#### **8. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

May impact on all wards

#### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Annual report of scrutiny 2021/22  
Panel tracking reports

#### **10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny Advisor

**HELEN ISAACS**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)**



# **Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel**

**Work programme 2022/23**

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# 1. The role of scrutiny

Effective overview and scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge - examines and review the council's decisions
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public - review and report on issues that affect local people
- Drive improvement in public services - consider the work of partners and other public organisations which affect local residents
- Contributes to the development of future policies and strategies that will help improve services for local people
- Involve local people in council decision making
- Co-ordinates the Councillor Call for Action

You can find out more about scrutiny on the council's website:

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/scrutiny/>

This document sets out the priorities, outcomes and actions which relate directly to the Communities Scrutiny Panel and forms the basis of its work programme for the next municipal year. It also provides a guide for prioritising items for scrutiny.

***This document is 'work in progress; the updating of the work programme is an ongoing task. The work programme in detail describes the panel's desired outcomes, objectives, intentions, outputs and progress. Topics may be added or withdrawn to react to changing priorities.***

## 2. Terms of reference

The scrutiny panels are responsible for scrutinising any matters affecting North East Lincolnshire within their remit. For the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel these include:

◇ Matters relating to the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy	◇ Education, standards, attainment and school improvement
◇ Safeguarding children	◇ Special educational needs and inclusion
◇ Children's social care	◇ Access and educational welfare services
◇ Fostering and adoption	◇ Children's health commissioning
◇ Looked after children and residential care	◇ Health visiting
◇ Corporate parenting	◇ School nursing
◇ Children and young people leaving care	◇ Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
◇ Children with disabilities	◇ Children's complex health care
◇ Integrated family support (Including early intervention and prevention)	◇ Teenage pregnancy
◇ Early years and childcare	◇ Employability and skills
◇ Family hubs	◇ Area Review Implementation

### **3. Scrutiny of the budget**

A key element of the work programme is annual scrutiny of the Council's proposed priorities and budget prior to formal approval by Cabinet and Council in February 2023. This is usually achieved via both informal and formal all Member budget scrutiny meetings.

The Executive and Scrutiny Liaison Board will determine how budget scrutiny, performance monitoring issues and matters of a corporate nature which affect the Council as a whole, are dealt with.

North East Lincolnshire Council's finance and commissioning plan 2022-23 – 2024-25 as approved in February 2022 can be found [here](#).

### **4. The Council Plan**

The council plan sets out the priorities for this council and should influence the content of the panel's future work programme. All scrutiny panels will monitor the vital signs and delivery of the council plan via regular performance monitoring reports.

The panel's work programme remains a flexible document and may need to be adjusted to reflect this panel's role in monitoring council plan priority interventions within its remit. It is anticipated that the scrutiny panels will receive regular updates on progress with the key actions contained within the council plan.

## **5. Focus for the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel –**

The forward work programme of each scrutiny panel should be linked to the delivery of the Council Plan. The work of this Scrutiny Panel must be focussed on these priorities when making recommendations on important policy matters and must hold the executive and other decision makers to account on those terms. It is important that panels maintain this focus when examining issues and setting agendas.

At its March 2022 meeting, members were given the opportunity to identify potential items for the panel's 2022/23 programme.

The following were suggested by the panel:

- Use of agency workers in social services and the ability to retain existing employed staff
- Use and success of the Department for Education's holiday activities and school grant.
- Front door and statistical figures
- The Transformation Plan
- Assurance from the Improvement Board in respect of Children's Social Care
- Education White paper
- SEND Green paper
- Matters arising from the Youth Offending Service inspection
- Emerging Health and Care Partnership opportunities

and monitoring via regular reporting on:

- Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2020/21
- Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints Annual Report 2021/22
- Educational Attainment
- Virtual Head Annual Report
- NEETs
- Elective Home Education
- Youth Voice and Influence
- Children's Partnership Annual Report
- Early Help and Prevention Strategy

These were considered by the panel at a work programme workshop on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.

How the panel will approach this work is included in section nine.

## 6. Who is who

### Chair of the Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Paul Silvester

### Deputy Chair

Councillor Tanya Brasted

### Councillor Margaret Cracknell - Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

- Statutory Lead Member for children's services
- Safeguarding of children and young people
- Corporate parenting, care leavers and family support
- Early help
- SEND
- School improvement and education

### Councillor Stephen Harness – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets:

- Financial strategy and corporate governance
- Revenue budget and capital programme
- Digital strategy, inclusion and development
- Shared services and commercial development
- Financial inclusion
- Assets (corporate, commercial, community) and estate management

## 7. Panel Membership 2022/23

Membership	
Conservative:	
	Cllr Paul Silvester
	Cllr Tanya Brasted
	Cllr Daniel Westcott
	Cllr Gary Abel
	Cllr Henry Hudson
	Cllr Charlotte Croft
	Cllr Marion Boyd
Labour:	
	Cllr Matthew Patrick
	Cllr Janet Goodwin
Liberal Democrat:	
	Cllr Lynsey McLean



Co-opted Members:
Maddy Wilson – Youth Voice rep
Substitutes:
Conservatives:
- Cllr Karen Swinburn
- Cllr David Hasthorpe
- Cllr Paul Batson
- Cllr Keith Brookes
- Cllr Mark Smith
- Cllr Georgia Astbury
- Cllr James Cairns
Labour:
- Cllr Kathryn Wheatley
- Cllr Sophia Farren
Liberal Democrat:
- Cllr Nicola Aisthorpe

## 8. Scheduled meetings of the panel 2022/23

All meetings start at 4.30 p.m. in Grimsby Town Hall unless otherwise stated on agenda papers.

21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022
22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2023

The panel may call special meetings to consider issues in a timely manner or to give focus to important items.

If you would like more information or to find out more about scrutiny you can contact us:

Democratic Services  
North East Lincolnshire Council  
Municipal Offices  
Town Hall Square  
GRIMSBY  
DN31 1HU

**or email :** [democracy@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@nelincs.gov.uk)

**or call** (01472) 326285

## 8. SUMMARY WORK PROGRAMME: Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel 2022/23

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 4:30pm	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 4:30pm	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 4:30pm	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 4.30pm	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 4:30pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Social Care Improvement update</li> <li>• Children &amp; Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2022/23</li> <li>• Outturn Report 2020/21</li> <li>• SEND Update and Green Paper</li> <li>• Children's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</li> <li>• Education and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2025.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's social Care Statutory Complaints Annual Report 2021/22</li> <li>• Quarter 1 Finance Monitoring 2022/23</li> <li>• Children's Social Care Improvement update</li> <li>• Education and Skills update – NEETS, Elective Home Education, School Exclusions, Virtual Headteacher Annual Report 2022 etc.</li> <li>• Youth Justice</li> <li>• Use and success of the Department for Education's holiday activities and school grant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Monitoring Report 2022/23 - Quarter 2</li> <li>• Early Help and Prevention Strategy update</li> <li>• Children's Social Care Improvement update</li> <li>• Youth Voice and Influence</li> <li>• The Transformation Plan</li> <li>• Education White paper</li> <li>• Children's Mental Health / Mental Health Capacity Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Social Care Improvement update</li> <li>• New approach to the support and specialist assessment for children with additional needs</li> <li>• Children's Oral Hygiene and Dentistry</li> <li>• Emerging Health and Care Partnership opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter 3 Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23</li> <li>• Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report</li> <li>• Children's Social Care Improvement update</li> <li>• Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel Work Programme – Review 2022/23 and Work Programme 2023/24</li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>

**STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:** Tracking – Forward Plan – Public Questions – Questions to Portfolio Holder

**WORKSHOPS:** Budget, Finance and Commissioning Plan 2022-23 – 2024/25 (informal consultation December 2022 and formal joint scrutiny January 2023)