

CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	14 th November 2024
REPORT OF	Chief Executive (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
SUBJECT	Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme Review
STATUS	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 on progress with the panel's work programme at the half-year stage and provides a formal opportunity for the panel to update its work programme as it considers appropriate.

MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

The panel is asked to consider progress made to date with its work programme and update it if it is felt that items need to be re-prioritised, removed or added. There is also the opportunity for an informal workshop if the panel feel that further discussions are required ahead of any formal scrutiny work.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 This report and its appendix summarises the 2024/25 agreed work programme and the panel's timetable of activities to undertake this work.
- 1.2 The panel's work programme remains flexible and the panel has the opportunity to amend it at any point throughout the Municipal Year. It is good practice to keep the work programme under review and the half-year stage seems an appropriate time to do so.
- 1.3 The review of scrutiny arrangements undertaken earlier this year did recommend that an informal scrutiny panel session be held half-way through the Municipal Year to monitor progress against their individual work programmes. This recommendation is acknowledged but, mindful of the pressures on Members' time, this report is brought to a formal meeting to ensure that the necessary review is undertaken but also to allow the panel the option of a further informal workshop session should it be considered appropriate.

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 2023/24

Panel tracking reports

Work programme report submitted to this panel on 25th July 2024.

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny Advisor

ROB WALSH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)

SUMMARY WORK PROGRAMME: Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel 2024/25

Thursday 11 th July 4:30pm	Thursday 15 th August 4.30 pm Special Joint with Economy, Culture and Tourism	Thursday 1 st October 4:30pm	Thursday 14 th November 4:30pm	Thursday 16 th January 2025 4.30pm	Thursday 6 th March 2025 4:30pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023/24 Quarter 4 Council Plan Performance Report • 2023/24 Provisional Financial Outturn Report • Work Programme 2024/25 • Improvement Update • Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions • Our offer to Foster Carer's • Recommissioning Speech and Language provision • Partners contribution to the Children's agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Action Plan – Progress Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 1 Finance Monitoring 2024/25 and Council Plan Performance Report • Improvement Update – include overseas social workers/social work academy • Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions (verbal) scope for special Oct. • Local offer to care leavers and youth voice and influence update (include a video from young person) • Progress of the SEND specialist free school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 2 Finance Monitoring 2024/25 and Council Plan Performance Report • Improvement Update • Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions • Work Programme (6 monthly review) • School Attendance and Elective Home Education update • Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report – 2023/24 (include partners contribution item and invite to meeting). • Children Homes – Cabinet Report • Council Plan Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement Update • Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions • Front Door • Family Hubs • SEND update • School Transport/Transport costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 3 Finance Monitoring 2024/25 and Council Plan Performance Report • Scrutiny Panel Work Programme – Review 2024/25 and Work Programme 2025/26 • Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions • Alternative Provision/Attainment

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS: Tracking – Forward Plan – Public Questions – Questions to Portfolio Holder – Children Services Improvement Journey – Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions

ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PROGRAMME:

BRIEFING PAPERS:

- Children’s Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 2023/24

FURTHER TOPICS IDENTIFIED AT THE LAST PANEL MEETING (TO BE SCHEDULED IN):

- Overseas Social Workers/Social Worker Academy – update to be provided via the standing agenda item on children’s social care improvement.
- Early Years activity/ Wraparound Childcare
- Finance Report that details how high-cost areas of Children Services has changed overtime

VISITS:

- Front Door
- Launchpad

WORKSHOPS:

- A joint workshop with the Communities Scrutiny Panel on Domestic Abuse.
- Budget Workshops – Jan 2025

JOINT WORK:

- Potential joint work on anti-social behaviour with Communities Scrutiny. Specifically, use of vapes in young people (Youth Justice Plan)

FURTHER TOPICS IDENTIFIED for 2025/26

- Progress of the SEND specialist free school.