

CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	25 th July 2024
REPORT OF	Assistant Chief Executive
SUBJECT	Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme
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 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 2024/25 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 2024/25 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 2023/24
Panel tracking reports

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Bev O'Brien – Scrutiny Advisor

HELEN ISAACS
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)

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

Thursday 11 th July 4:30pm	Thursday 19 th September 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"> • Quarter 1 Finance Monitoring 2024/25 and Council Plan Performance Report • Improvement Update • Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions • Local offer to care leavers and youth voice and influence update 	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement Update • Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions • Alternative Provision • Front Door 	<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

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
- Progress of the SEND specialist free school.

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)