

Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel

DATE	31/07/2025
REPORT OF	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
SUBJECT	Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2025/26
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 2025/26 work programme. The panel is asked to agree the work programme.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The panel is asked to consider and agree the work programme for the ensuing 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 2025/26 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 consider any issues it may wish to remove or add to this year's work programme. The panel may also respond to issues of public concern.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

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. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on children and young people 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 children and young people implications by the author(s) concerned.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY 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 2024/25

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor
01472 326285

JOANNE ROBINSON

STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

SUMMARY WORK PROGRAMME: Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel 2025/26

Thursday 31 st July 4:30pm	Thursday 11 th September 4:30pm	Thursday 13 th November 4:30pm	Thursday 15 th January 2026 4.30pm	Thursday 5 th March 2026 4:30pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024/25 Quarter 4 Council Plan Performance Report 2024/25 Provisional Financial Outturn Report Work Programme 2025/26 Improvement update Children's Services workforce update Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions Children's Homes – progress on new children's homes SEND Provision Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 2024/25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 1 Finance Monitoring 2025/26 and Council Plan Performance Report Children's Social Care National reforms Family Hubs Children and young people who are Electively Home Educated Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2024/25 (including SCP DSPs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 2 Finance Monitoring 2025/26 and Council Plan Performance Report Work Programme (6 monthly review) Children in Care and performance update Adoption Maintained Nurseries and Day Care Provisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 to 19 offer (Public Health, including Adolescent Lifestyle Survey and schools' response) Children's Mental Health and ICB update Care Leaver Offer Schools transport (including finances) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 3 Finance Monitoring 2025/26 and Council Plan Performance Report Scrutiny Panel Work Programme – Review 2025/26 and Work Programme 2026/27 Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions School exclusions, attendance and attainment (including reference to academies position)

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Tracking – Forward Plan – Public Questions – Questions to Portfolio Holder

Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions (update every six months, with a written report if required)

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

None currently (all build into work programme)

VISITS

Family Hubs - to be agreed

WORKSHOPS

To be agreed

JOINT WORK

Potential joint work in relation to (TBC)

- Anti-social behaviour with Communities Scrutiny Panel, specifically, use of vapes in young people (aligned to Youth Justice Plan)
- Skills Strategy with Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel