

CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	15 th January 2026
REPORT OF	Joanne Robinson (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
SUBJECT	Tracking the recommendations of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel
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 the strategic partnership. 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 Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each scrutiny panel monitors the progress made on their recommendations through a tracking table, which is included as an appendix of this report.

MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

Members are asked to look at the progress against the recommendations and agree to sign off any recommendations that have been completed or are no longer considered to be an efficient use of resources or where priorities have changed.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 Each scrutiny panel has a standard agenda item to check progress against the recommendations they have previously made.
- 1.2 Members are asked to look at the progress against the recommendations and agree to sign off any recommendations that have been completed, so that they can be removed from the table. It would also be effective to sign off any recommendations that have not been completed but which are no longer considered to be an efficient use of resources, or where priorities have changed.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 of this report lists the recommendations previously made by and which fall within the terms of reference of this panel (and its predecessor).

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 Risk assessments will already have been carried out on the reports that these recommendations have come from.

- 2.2 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

- 3.1 The panel's tracking report demonstrates that the panel monitors progress on its recommendations and required actions. This report further demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial considerations included within this report, beyond scrutiny's enhanced future role in monitoring delivery of the council's budget and medium-term financial plan.

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 5.1 There are no impacts on children and young people as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come from will have been assessed for any such impact.
- 5.2 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 AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come from will have been assessed for impact.
- 6.2 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

- 7.1 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

- 8.1 Potentially impacts on all wards.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

10.1 Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor
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Joanne Robinson
(Statutory Scrutiny Officer)

TRACKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS – CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS/COMMENTS
5 th February 2025	<p>RECOMMENDED TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION - <i>That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask them to compensate local authorities for children who are not full-time pupils at any school and provide more resources to enable local authorities to support the families of home educated children. b. Ask for the proposed local authority powers of consent to electively home educate, be extended to children who are Child In Need, and to stipulate a responsibility on statutory and non-statutory partner agencies to report cases of electively home educated children to the local authority for the purposes of the central register of children not in receipt of education. 	Portfolio Holder for Children and Education	<p>The Portfolio Holder accepted these recommendations and sent them on to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>A response was received back on 25th April 2025, which was sent out to all panel members.</p>
13 th November 2025	<p>SPCLL.40 ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION STRATEGY</p> <p>RECOMMENDED THE CABINET –</p> <p>That the recommendations stated within the Cabinet report be supported, but that a further recommendation be considered that they acknowledge the two-year strategy, recognise and bring forward anticipated outcomes and metrics, so as to assure performance of partnership working.</p>	Democratic Services	<p>The recommendation was approved by Cabinet on 10th December 2025.</p>

<p>13th November 2025</p>	<p>SPCLL.43 URGENT BUSINESS - DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION FREE SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS REQUIRED COUNCIL CAPITAL BUDGET APPROVAL</p> <p>RECOMMENDED TO CABINET –</p> <p>That the recommendations stated in the Cabinet report be supported, but that a further recommendation be considered by Cabinet to explore safeguards around exposure to risk of increasing costs and for the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel to retain oversight.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p>	
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