

Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel

DATE	21 st July 2026
REPORT OF	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
SUBJECT	Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2026/27
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 2026/27 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 2026/27 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. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable for this report.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

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

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations included within this report.

6. 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.

7. 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, nature recovery and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on public health, health inequalities or Marmot principles 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 public health, health inequalities and marmot principles by the author(s) concerned.

9. 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.

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

May impact on all wards.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual report of scrutiny 2025/26.

12. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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JOANNE ROBINSON

STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

SUMMARY WORK PROGRAMME: Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel 2026/27

Tuesday 21 st July 2026 4:30pm	Thursday 10 th September 2026 4:30pm	Thursday 12 th November 2026 4:30pm	Thursday 14 th January 2027 4.30pm	Thursday 4 th March 2027 4:30pm
• 2025/26 Quarter 4 Council Plan Performance and Finance Report • Work Programme 2026/27 • Over Arching Children's Services report inc budget	• 2026-27 Council Plan Performance and Finance Report Quarter 1 • Youth Justice Plan • Youth Diversion/Youth Club Provision (integrated response) • Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 2025/26	• 2026-27 Council Plan Performance and Finance Report Quarter 2 • Work Programme (6 monthly review) • Exploitation inc Police and youth diversion • Update on DFE decision re OFSTED Inspection	• Council Plan refresh? • Full provision for children in care inc fostering, out of area transport, provision in schools linked to the reforms	• 2026-27 Council Plan Performance and Finance Report Quarter 3 • Scrutiny Panel Work Programme – Review 2026/27 and Work Programme 2027/28

(TO BE SCHEDULED IN)

Children's Mental Health and ICB update
Children's Homes/Young Person's voice
Alternative Provision – Invite head of provision schools
Monitoring the process and recommissioning of school transport
Kindship Carer Programme
Children's Homes – Expected role of Councillor
Fostering Offer and Recruitment
Elective Home Education
Exclusions

VISITS

Family Hubs - to be agreed

WORKSHOPS

SEND provision

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
- 0-19 offer with Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel