CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE 26th November 2026

REPORT OF Joanne Robinson – Statutory Scrutiny Officer

SUBJECT Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme

STATUS Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM

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 the bi-annual review of the 2026/27 work undertaken by the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel 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.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

This report and its appendix summarise the 2026/27 agreed work programme and the panel's timetable of activities to undertake this work.

The panel may also consider any topics it wishes to retain, postpone or add to this or next year's work programme as the work programme remains flexible. It is good practise to keep the work programme under review and the half-year stage seems an appropriate time to do so.

The panel may wish to comment on achievements to date, mindful of the Annual Scrutiny Report that will be submitted to the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2026.

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. 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.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

North East Lincolnshire Council has committed to becoming a Marmot Place and to embedding the Marmot Principles across policy development, service delivery and decision-making. Whilst this report relates to the scrutiny work programme, scrutiny activity plays an important role in supporting the Council's ambition to reduce health inequalities by considering how policies, services and decisions may impact on the wider determinants of health. Through its review and challenge function, the panel can help ensure that recommendations contribute to creating fairer, healthier and more equitable outcomes for residents across North East Lincolnshire.

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 2025/26
Panel tracking reports
Panel work programme

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Zoe Campbell – Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

JOANNE ROBINSON
STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

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

Tuesday 21st July 2026 4:30pm	Thursday 10th September 2026 4:30pm	Thursday 12th November 2026 4:30pm	Thursday 14th January 2027 4.30pm	Thursday 4th March 2027 4:30pm
• 2025/26 Quarter 4 Council Plan Performance Report • Work Programme 2026/27 • Over Arching Children's Services report inc budget	• Quarter 1 Finance Monitoring 2026/27 and Council Plan Performance Report • Youth Justice Plan • Youth Diversion/Youth Club Provision (integrated response) • Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 2025/26	• Quarter 2 Finance Monitoring 2026/27 and Council Plan Performance Report • Alternative Provision • Children's Mental Health and ICB update • Foster Friendly Borough • Work Programme (6 monthly review	• Council Plan refresh (7th Dec Cabinet Report) • Skills Strategy & Action Plan 2027-2030 (pre Cabinet) • Fostering Offer and Recruitment • Kinship Zone update • Elective Home Education Annual Report	• Quarter 3 Finance Monitoring 2026/27 and Council Plan Performance Report • Scrutiny Panel Work Programme – Review 2026/27 • Exploitation inc Police and youth diversion • Deep dive into the cohort of children in child protection due to domestic violence and neglect (from the Tracking report) .

(TO BE SCHEDULED IN)

Children's Homes/Young Person's voice
Children's Homes – Expected role of Councillor
Exclusions

VISITS

Family Hubs - to be agreed

WORKSHOPS

SEND provision

JOINT WORK

Potential joint work in relation to (TBC)

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