

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee: Work programme at a glance

UPDATED: May 2010

Please note that this list is correct at the time of writing but may be subject to change. The order in which items are listed does not necessarily reflect the order they will appear on the final agenda for the meeting.

Standing Items	Objectives and summary
Announcements	Update, for information, on any matter of significant public or member concern listed not on the agenda elsewhere.
Cabinet Forward Plan	<p>Opportunity for members to identify and highlight relevant issues from the Plan for scrutiny to consider. Members can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - request a briefing paper to be sent to committee members, - request an item on a future scrutiny committee agenda to address specific questions raised
Quarterly Performance Monitoring reports against the Council Plan	<p>Exception report providing a summary on the performance targets relating to the ASC department which are not currently on target. Opportunity for members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - question and challenge action being taken to bring the target back on track - request a more detailed report on the issue - consider carrying out a scrutiny review on the issue
Committee work programme	<p>New ideas and suggestions for scrutiny projects appear here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -

Topic Issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
7th September		
Annual report of Local Safeguarding Children Board	The committee receives the Safeguarding Board business plan and annual report on an annual basis as part of a requirement so that the committee can monitor work of the Safeguarding Board	Fiona Johnson, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance
Annual report - Safeguarding Children – Member and Senior Management monitoring	The Lead Member for Children and Families and senior managers with Children's Services carries out a series of visits to the social care duty teams and conduct quarterly file audits to ensure that services to safeguard children are properly co-ordinated and managed effectively. Opportunity for the committee to monitor concerns and ensure improvements are put in place where necessary	Fiona Johnson, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance
Departmental Value for Money Review	Feedback to the committee on the outcomes, and subsequent changes to services, following the departmental value for money reviews carried out during the year	
Annual Complaints report	Report outlines the number of complaints received by the department, the stage at which they were rectified, common themes identified from the complaints and the action being taken as a result of them. The report is used by the committee to identify key issues for future monitoring or to consider as a future scrutiny review.	Caryl Sequeira, Complaints Manager
Annual report – School surpluses and deficits	The report outlines school balances at 31 March each year. Report to highlight the number of schools with a surplus or deficit and what percentage these are of their overall budget. Report to also highlight the number of schools who are managing their budgets well.	Greg Roberts, Manager, Strategic Finance
Children's Centres	Report to focus on take up at Children's Centres and the impact centres are having on improving outcomes for children.	
14th October – Scrutiny Committee Away Day		

9th November		
Virtual College	Report outlining the outcomes achieved since the establishment of the virtual college to work with pupils who have been permanently excluded or for whom a school place is not appropriate	Nathan Caine – Operations Manager, Reintegration and Behaviour Support Services (West)
Recruitment and Retention of Teachers	Update report on the issues highlighted by the previous tabletop review. A key concern is around succession planning and future head teacher appointments.	
Reintegration and Secondary Behaviour Support Service	The Behaviour Support and Reintegration Service have now been brought together as one team, with a geographical operational split (one team in the west and another in the east) Report to concentrate on how the combined service is working in practice and the outcomes of further reviews on the Primary Behaviour Support Service, Pupil Retention Grant and Pupil Referral Units.	
Scrutiny review of support for school governors	Final update report on progress by the department in taking forward the recommendations outlined in the final report by the review board.	Peter Davidson, Governor Services Manager
Scrutiny Review of Governing Body Clerks	Final update report on progress by the department in taking forward the recommendations outlined in the final report by the review board.	Peter Davidson, Governor Services Manager
March 2011		
Reduced timetables	The committee has previously considered the results from audits of schools on the use of reduced timetables. This report enables the committee to consider the results of the latest audit.	Penny Laven

Distribution list

Scrutiny committee members

Matt Dunkley

Penny Gaunt

Liz Rugg

Vicky Stanton

Becky Haynes

Louise Carter

Hazel Cunningham

Contact Officer: Gillian Mauger, Scrutiny Lead Officer - 01273 481796, gillian.mauger@eastsussex.gov.uk