

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee: Future work at a glance

UPDATED: February 2011

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 not listed elsewhere on the agenda.
Cabinet Forward Plan	Opportunity for members to identify and highlight relevant issues from the Plan for scrutiny to consider. Members can: <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	Exception reports provide a summary on action being taken by the department for those performance targets which are 'amber' (indicating concern about the likelihood of achieving the performance measure by the end of the year) and 'red' (indicating that the performance measure is assessed as inappropriate or unachievable). When particular issues have been identified a report will be submitted to the committee allowing members the opportunity to: <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 an issue where there is concern- consider carrying out a scrutiny review to explore an issue in more depth
Committee work programme	Opportunity for members to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- consider the items programmed in for future meetings- highlight any additional issues they wish to add to the programme

Topic Issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
14th June		
Accountability of school improvement	Report covering a range of issues relating to the role of the county council in holding schools to account for their examination results. To cover: withdrawal of the School Improvement Partners, impact of recent budget cuts to the School Improvement Service and national changes to league tables	Penny Gaunt, Deputy Director of Children's Services
Targeted support to young people	At the RPR board in January members asked that the new model of targeted support be brought to the committee for discussion	
Primary and Secondary behaviour	Policy and practice on behaviour at primary and secondary levels	Nathan Caine, Head of Behaviour and Attendance Service
Scrutiny Review of KS2 mathematics	Update report on progress by the department in taking forward the recommendations outlined in the final report by the review board.	Nina Siddall, Head of Standards and Learning Effectiveness (0-11)
19th September		
College Central (the virtual college)	Report outlining the outcomes achieved by pupils involved in College Central since it was established.	Nathan Caine, Operations Manager, Reintegration and Behaviour Support Services (West)
Reconciling policy and Resources (RPR)	To review and make recommendations on the Adult Social Care portfolio policy steers and to establish a review Board to scrutinise the more detailed portfolio plan as it emerges later on in the year.	Scrutiny Lead Officer

Reports provided to members for information outside of committee meetings	
School surpluses and deficits	<p>Report outlining the position on school balances as at 31 March 2010 and action being taken in addressing excessive surpluses.</p> <p>Sent to members - August 2010</p>
Annual complaints report 2009-10	<p>Children's Services Complaints Procedure Annual Report for 2009/2010</p> <p>Sent to members - September 2010</p>
Recruitment and Retention of Teachers	<p>A short table top review was carried out by Cllr Dowling in 2007-08 to assess the current national and local situation with regard to the recruitment and retention of teachers. An update report in November 2008 highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity and sustainability of School Recruitment Workforce Team had now been addressed • Exit questionnaires were now in line with the one used by ESCC staff • Teacher vacancies were not an issue in East Sussex at that time <p>Committee requested an update report on work being done by the department around succession planning and head teacher appointments.</p> <p>Sent to members - November 2010</p>
Support for young carers	<p>Members had highlighted that they found it hard to get a handle on the number of young people who were caring for their parents, how this impacted on their lives and what support the County Council was able to provide. Information report sent to members on number of young carers in East Sussex, impact of caring responsibility and support available</p> <p>Send to members - November 2010</p>
Reduced timetables	<p>Report outlining the results of the latest audit of schools on how often reduced timetables have been used</p> <p>Due - June 2011</p>
Reducing teenage conceptions	<p>Report outlining the current data on teenage conceptions and the work being done across the county to help reduce this figure.</p> <p>Due - February 2011</p>

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