

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee



Future work at a glance

Updated: October 2011

This list is correct at the time of writing but may be subject to change.

Standing items	Objectives and summary
Council's Forward Plan	An opportunity to consider relevant issues from the County Council's Forward Plan . Committee Members can request a briefing or highlight an item for further scrutiny.
Performance Monitoring	<p>The Committee (14 June 2011) endorsed a new approach to performance scrutiny for Children's Services with indicators and targets. The new indicators should enable a better understanding of the effectiveness of different key initiatives by providing greater context and trend information.</p> <p>Performance monitoring by scrutiny is now largely undertaken as part of individual scrutiny reviews and only by the scrutiny committee on an exception basis. When the committee requests an overview, a quarterly performance monitoring report is added to the agenda. These reports summarise the Council's performance of those activities within the committee's terms of reference. Key service targets assessed as 'amber' or 'red' would automatically be included in any report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Amber' – indicates that there is concern about the likelihood of achieving the performance target by the end of the year; includes recommendations for action • 'Red' – indicates that the performance target is assessed as unachievable or inappropriate.
Future items to be scheduled	<p><u>Accountability for school improvement:</u> The Committee (14 June 2011) intends to keep under review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changes to the way Children's Services promotes and delivers services to schools over the next two years. • Analysis of schools' performance and the effectiveness of resources targeted to support schools to take action to secure necessary improvements. • School results data including: comparative performance of very able children and the take up of further education (noting that much of this data is difficult to acquire). • The Children's Services budget and school budgets to help build a clearer picture as to the separation of responsibilities between Children's Services and schools. • The future use of the Schools Forum budget.

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
21 November 2011		
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report	Highlights the work of the Local Safeguarding Board during the last year and its business plan for 2011/12. Opportunity for questions about the work of the Board, how key issues have been addressed and the Board's future work programme.	Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance; Cathie Pattison, Independent Board Chairman; Marion Rajan, Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager; and Lead Member (Children & Families)
Safeguarding children – Member and senior management monitoring	The Lead Member (Children and Families) and senior managers in Children's Services visit social care duty teams and conduct quarterly file audits to ensure that services to safeguard children are properly co-ordinated and managed effectively. This report outlines the findings from these visits and audit checks to enable scrutiny to monitor any concerns and to ensure that necessary improvements are introduced.	Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance; Lead Member (Children & Families)
Evaluation of Hastings secondary schools' performance	An external evaluation of work undertaken by Ninestiles Plus to secure improvement in three Hastings secondary schools. (Report to be circulated in advance before a decision is made whether to consider the item.)	Penny Gaunt, Deputy Director of Children's Services, Lead Member (Learning & School Effectiveness)
12 March 2012		
Scrutiny review of school exclusions in East Sussex	The review report will address a range of fundamental issues, such as why some schools in East Sussex appear to resort to exclusions more readily than elsewhere.	Review Board Members: Councillors Ensor, Kenward, Webb and Mr Sam Gregory
Targeted Youth Services	The Committee (19 September 2011) requested an evaluation report and progress update that also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains how the new service is working in each of the geographical areas; • Evaluates progress with the development of performance indicators, 	Brian Hughes, Acting Head of Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service.

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
	<p>targets and other means of measuring outcomes of the service;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides greater clarity about the criteria for accessing the service; • Explains the nature of the relationship between the different organisations involved; and • Provides an opportunity to develop the issues of interest highlighted by the Committee. 	
Reconciling policy performance and Resources (RPPR)	To review and suggest improvements to RPPR in the light of the Committee's work; and, to consider the extent to which the Committee's recommendations have been accepted.	Scrutiny
11 June 2012		
10 September 2012		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To review and make recommendations on Children's Services policy steers and to establish a review Board to scrutinise the more detailed portfolio plan as it emerges later on in the year.	Scrutiny

Background and information reports requested by the Committee		
Trust schools and academies	Further detail about: what the terms 'trust school' and 'academy' mean; an explanation of the role of the local authority in respect of these schools; and, advance information on schools that change status. (See Children's Services Scrutiny Committee minutes 19 September 2011).	TBA
Transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care	An outline of how the new service will work in providing a smooth transition from Children's Services to Adult Social Care – <i>from a users' perspective</i> . (See Children's Services Scrutiny Committee minutes 19 September 2011).	TBA
Annual complaints report 2010-11	Annual Children's Services Complaints Procedure Report for 2010/11.	TBA

School surpluses and deficits	School balances as at 31 March 2011 and action being taken to address any excessive surpluses.	October 2011
Perinatal mental health services in East Sussex	Details of services providing specialist care for women with mental health difficulties from pre-conception and pregnancy through to the first year after giving birth.	April 2011
Reducing teenage conceptions	Latest data and the work being done across the county to help reduce teenage conceptions.	February 2011
Annual complaints report 2009-10	Annual Children's Services Complaints Procedure Report for 2009/10.	September 2010
Recruitment and retention of teachers	Work being undertaken by Children's Services on succession planning and head teacher appointments.	November 2010
Support for young carers	Information about young carers in East Sussex, the impact of their caring responsibilities and details of support available.	November 2010

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