

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee



Future work at a glance

Updated: February 2012

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> To keep under review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the way Children's Services promotes and delivers services to schools over the next two years, and associated budgets. • School performance and the effectiveness of resources targeted to improvements. • The work of the Schools Forum.

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
5 March 2012		
Targeted Youth Services	<p>The Committee (19 September 2011) requested an evaluation report and progress update that also:</p> <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, targets and other means of measuring outcomes of the service; • Provides greater clarity about the criteria for accessing the service; • Explains the nature of the relationship between the different organisations involved; and • Highlights any relevant issues emerging from the Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010/11 (considered at 21 November 2011 scrutiny committee). 	Brian Hughes, Acting Head of Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service.
Children's Centres strategy	<p>Alongside the Service Review of Children's Centres currently underway, to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How successful children's centres are in reaching 'hard to reach' families and those most in need of their services – and whether more work needs to be done. • Whether the balance of services offered is right and whether children's centres could do more to ensure all children are fully prepared for entry into reception classes. • The impact of the proposed merger of some children's centres. • How future plans for children's centres are likely to impact on the Children's Services transformation programme for social care • Who should run children's centres? • The scope for sharing buildings with other activities without any detriment to the service. 	Debbie Adams, Children's Centres Strategy Manager
Future roles of governing bodies	A presentation and discussion about the future roles of school governing bodies in continuing to ensure the best outcomes for every child and young person in East Sussex	Andrew Read, Independent Consultant (also a governor, parent, inspector, local authority adviser, company director etc.)
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

Scrutiny issue	Objectives and summary	People providing evidence
11 June 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 and Webb
Children's Services: social care transformation programme	Progress report on the impact of the transformation programme.	Penny Gaunt, Deputy Director of Children's Services.
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
November 2012		
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report	Highlights the work of the Local Safeguarding Board during the last year and its business plan for 2012/13. 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; 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)

Background / information reports requested by the Committee		Date
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
School surpluses and deficits	School balances as at 31 March 2011 and action being taken to address any excessive surpluses.	October 2011
Teenage conceptions	Latest data and work being undertaken to reduce teenage conceptions.	February 2011
Annual complaints report 2010-11	Annual Children's Services Complaints Procedure Report for 2010/11.	January 2011
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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