

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee



Future work at a glance

Updated: May 2014

*This list is updated after each meeting of the scrutiny committee
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Items that appear regularly at committee	
<p>The Council's Forward Plan</p>	<p>The latest version of the Council's Forward Plan is included on each scrutiny committee agenda. The Forward Plan lists all the key County Council decisions that are to be taken within the next few months together with contact information to find out more. It is updated monthly.</p> <p>The purpose of doing this is to help committee Members identify important issues for more detailed scrutiny <i>before</i> key decisions are taken. This has proved to be significantly more effective than challenging a decision once it has been taken. As a last resort, the call-in procedure is available if scrutiny Members think a Cabinet or Lead Member decision has been taken incorrectly.</p> <p>Requests for further information about individual items on the Forward Plan should be addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chairman, ideally before a scrutiny committee meeting.</p>
<p>Committee work programme</p>	<p>This provides an opportunity for the committee to review the scrutiny work programme for future meetings and to highlight any additional issues they wish to add to the programme.</p>

Future committee agenda items		Witnesses
16 June 2014		
Review of School Exclusions.	An update report on the progress to reduce school exclusions including actions taken so far and a feedback from the Peer Review of exclusions.	Asst. Director(Schools, Youth & Inclusion Support)/Head of Inclusion Support Services.
THRIVE Early Help Programme.	An update report on the progress of the THRIVE transformation programme at the end of second year of the programme.	Assistant Director (Safeguarding, LAC & SEN).
Recruitment and Retention of Head Teachers for Primary Schools.	An information report examining the factors involved in the recruitment & retention of Primary School Head Teachers and an outline of the current measures being taken to improve recruitment.	Assistant Director (Schools, Youth & Inclusion Support).
15 September 2014		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources.	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources is the Council's business and budget planning process. The Committee will begin the process leading to detailed scrutiny of the portfolio plans as they emerge in December 2014.	Director/Assistant Directors.
Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care.	A report on the inspection by Ofsted of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and a review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding children board (LSCB). The report will include the action plan submitted to Ofsted in response to the inspections findings.	Assistant Director (Safeguarding, LAC & SEN).
Review of Attainment at the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).	To receive the report of the review of attainment at the Early Year Foundation Stage from the Review Board.	Scrutiny/Assistant Director (Schools, Youth & Inclusion Support).
17 November 2014		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources.	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources. The Committee will look in more detail at departmental portfolio plans and the medium term financial plan for 2015/16.	Director/Assistant Directors.

Current scrutiny reviews and other work underway	Date available
<p>Scrutiny Review of Early Years attainment in East Sussex</p> <p>1. 43% of 5 year olds in East Sussex are meeting all 7 levels of expected development at the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) compared with 52% nationally. This means that children at the EYFS are 9% behind the national average, which has a knock on effect for attainment at Key Stage 1, where children are 8% behind the national average. Therefore, the Scrutiny Committee will focus on this early part of a child’s school career. Possible lines of scrutiny inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the underlying reasons for differences in attainment might lead to better strategies to tackle underperforming early years settings or pupils; • How the Council works with the different types of early years setting to improve educational attainment and how transitions between settings are handled; • An examination of new models of working such as the Early Years Village, and what other local authorities have done to improve attainment. 	<p>September 2014</p>

Potential future scrutiny work (Proposals and ideas for future scrutiny topics appear here)
<p>Raising the Participation Age (RPA)</p> <p>The preparedness of East Sussex for the raising of the participation age (RPA) of young people in education and training) to 17 in summer 2013 and to 18 in 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role the County Council, and others, in helping to overcome barriers to education and work and to align the aspirations of young people with employment and learning opportunities. • Reducing the number of NEETs (people Not in Education, Employment or Training) amongst young people has been of particular ongoing interest for the committee. <p>Recruitment and Retention of Head Teachers for Primary Schools</p> <p>There has been between 22 and 27 East Sussex Primary Schools without a substantive Head Teacher. This is an area of concern due to the impact on the management of these schools and the potential negative effects on educational attainment. National trends indicate that this problem may get worse in the future. Possible lines of lines of enquiry could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An examination of the factors involved, including those specific to East Sussex. • An evaluation of the impact of existing measures to improve recruitment and retention of Head Teachers, to identify what further steps could be undertaken to improve recruitment.

Potential future scrutiny work
(Proposals and ideas for future scrutiny topics appear here)

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) reforms/ Transition from children’s to adults’ social care

An initial scrutiny investigation early in 2013 found that the Transition Service, after a year of operation, had demonstrably reduced the potential for a ‘cliff edge’ drop in services experienced by young people with the most challenging needs as they change from children’s to adults’ social care services. Further scrutiny could be undertaken to investigate:

- the experience of young people with moderate or minor needs as they move from children’s to adults’ social care services.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – the impact of the reforms and the Pathfinder approach that has been trialled in East Sussex.

Early intervention / THRIVE

The Troubled Families Programme (known in East Sussex as Family Keywork) is a key Government initiative. Improving early help and prevention services is a key priority of the Council’s Children’s and Young People Plan. Possible lines of enquiry could include:

- How East Sussex is improving early help and developing effective prevention initiatives. This is a key part of THRIVE.
- The impact of the Family Keywork programme in East Sussex in relation to outcomes for both children and families.
- The role of children’s centres in providing effective early help for children and the potential for making wider use of them to promote community wellbeing for example as community assets through a ‘one-council’ approach.
- The effectiveness of foster carer recruitment.

Background / information reports available to the Committee (Items in this list appear on committee agendas when proposed for scrutiny)		Date available
Performance monitoring	Performance monitoring is an integral part of scrutiny. The committee is alerted to the relevant quarterly reports that Cabinet and lead Members receive. Members can then suggest matters for scrutiny to investigate in more detail.	Every quarter

Background / information reports available to the Committee (Items in this list appear on committee agendas when proposed for scrutiny)		Date available
Performance monitoring Continued.....	<p>In the performance reports, achievement against individual performance targets is assessed as either 'Red', 'Amber' or 'Green' ('RAG'):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green' means that the performance measure is on target to be achieved • 'Amber' means that there is concern about the likelihood of achieving the performance measure by the end of the year • 'Red' means that the performance measure is assessed as inappropriate or unachievable. <p>Requests for further information about individual items in the performance reports should be addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chairman.</p>	Every quarter
Children's Services statutory complaints report 2012-13	This includes information about compliments and other representations for the period April 2012 – March 2013.	November 2013

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<p>Accessibility help Zoom in or out by holding down the Control key and turning the mouse wheel. CTRL and click on the table of contents to navigate / Press CTRL and Home key to return to the top of the document. Press Alt-left arrow to return to your previous location.</p>	

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Glossary of terms and acronyms appearing in Children's Services Committee papers

Term	What it means
CAMHS	The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides advice, diagnosis of mental disorders and therapeutic work with young people to treat complex, severe or persistent mental health difficulties.
Child Protection Plan (CPP)	A detailed inter-agency plan setting out what must be done to protect a child from further harm; to promote the child's health and development; and, if it is in the best interests of the child, to support the family to promote the child's welfare.
Children in care	Children being looked after by the local authority. See also LAC – Looked after children.
Children's Centre	East Sussex Children's Centres offer all families with children under five a range of services, information and support. Services vary depending on local needs but typically include: advice; home visiting; family 'drop-in'; child health information; help finding specialist and other services they can't provide directly.
Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)	The CYPP sets out the shared priorities of the Children and Young People's Trust partners to improve the lives of children, young people and their families in East Sussex.
Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT)	The East Sussex CYPT is a group of partners that work together in different ways to improve what we provide for children, young people and families.
DfE	Department for Education (Government department)
Early years foundation stage (EYFS)	The EYFS is a set of welfare and learning and development requirements, which must be followed by providers of care for children below 5 years old – the age of compulsory education in the UK.
ESBAS	East Sussex Behaviour & Attendance Service
Key Stage 1 (KS1)	The two years of schooling in maintained schools in England and Wales normally known as Year 1 and Year 2, when pupils are aged between 5 and 7.
Key Stage 2 (KS2)	The four years of schooling in maintained schools in England and Wales normally known as Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, when pupils are aged between 7 and 11.

Term	What it means
Key Stage 3 (KS3)	The three years of schooling in maintained schools in England and Wales normally known as Years 7, 8 and 9, when pupils are aged between 11 and 14.
Key Stage 4 (KS4)	The two years of school education which incorporate GCSEs, and other exams, in maintained schools in England, Wales, normally known as Years 10 and 11 in England and Wales.
Key Stage 5 (KS5)	An unofficial label used to describe the two years of post-compulsory education for students aged 16-18, or at sixth form, in England and Wales.
LAC (Looked After Children)	Children who are either looked after or in the care of a local authority, or are provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by a local authority. We use the term 'children in care' to include all children being looked after by a local authority.
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)	The Children Act 2004 places a duty on every local authority to establish an LSCB. Members of the East Sussex LSCB include an independent chair, two lay members and senior representatives from a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies. The LSCB coordinates the work undertaken by its members to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in East Sussex, and to ensure that the safeguarding work is effective. See http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk
NEETs	People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training .
Pupil Premium	The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and is an additional payment paid directly to schools by the government for every pupil who has been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel.
RPA (Raising the school participation Age)	From summer 2013, all young people will have to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. From summer 2015, this will change to their 18th birthday.
RPPR	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources is the County Council's budget and business planning process.
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protecting children from maltreatment - preventing impairment of children's health or development - ensuring that children are growing up with safe and effective care - undertake that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.
Schools Forum	A body which advises the local authority on how the schools budget is spent. Members include headteachers, school governors and councillors.
SE7(South East 7)	South East 7 group of local authorities is a partnership of local authorities in the South East that are committed to working

Term	What it means
	together on some key work areas for mutual benefit.
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND Pathfinder	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder is a national programme trying to find better ways to help families who need it. The main thing is to put families at the centre of the process when assessing their needs and those of their child, to give them more choice and control over the help they can get.
THRIVE Transformation programme	In East Sussex - a means of improving outcomes for children by investing more money in the early help services to give families the support they need <i>before</i> they get into difficulties. The thinking is that if families solve their problems before they escalate, the need for more costly social care services, such as Child Protection Plans or taking children into care, is reduced.
TYS Targeted Youth Service)	The Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Service offers young people advice, information and support around issues such as: sexual and mental health, drugs and alcohol, family and relationships, money and accommodation. Youth work sessions include: sports and arts based activities, getting involved in youth councils and local volunteering opportunities.
Youth Offending Team	The Youth Offending Team aims to cut youth crime by changing the behaviour of young people who offend. It helps them get into mainstream education and health services, so that they can be diverted from crime in the future.
VSB	Virtual Schools Bank.