



Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee

Future work at a glance

Updated: February 2015

*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 March 2015		
School Results and Attainment	A report on the 2013/14 school results with comparisons to national averages and attainment targets set in the Excellence for All strategy.	Director / Assistant Director (Schools, Youth & Inclusion Support)
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report	An update from the annual report of SACRE outlining the trend in GCSE results for RE and a summary of the development plan for SACRE.	Chair of SACRE/ Director of Children's Services
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources.	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources. The Committee will review their input into the RPP&R process, and make recommendations for improvements for the future RPP&R process.	Director/Assistant Directors/Scrutiny.
15 June 2015		
Scrutiny Review of Early Years Attainment	An update report on the implementation of the recommendations of the review.	Assistant Director (Schools, Youth & Inclusion Support)
21 September 2015		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR).	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources. The Committee will start looking at departmental portfolio plans and the budget setting process for 2016/17.	Director/Assistant Directors/Scrutiny.
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report	Presentation of the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).	LSCB Chair / Assistant Director (Safeguarding, LAC & Youth Justice).

Current scrutiny reviews and other work underway	Date available
<p>Scrutiny Review of Raising the Participation Age (RPA) To examine the progress of East Sussex in Raising the Participation Age (RPA) for 16 – 18 year olds in education, employment and training and the reduction in the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The initial lines of enquiry include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating the quality and consistency of careers education information advice and guidance (CE IAG). • Examining tracking and destination data collection to see how this may improve participation. • Reviewing the help and support for vulnerable groups and the impact of services to re-engage and support them. • Investigating whether young people’s skills meet employer’s needs in the local labour market. <p>The Committee has established a review board which is currently working on the initial lines of enquiry for this review.</p>	<p>To be agreed</p>

Potential future scrutiny work (Proposals and ideas for future scrutiny topics appear here)
<p>Early Help / THRIVE Programme In June 2014 the Committee received a report on the evaluation of THRIVE at the end of the second year of the programme. The report outlined the progress against a number key service targets, including the Troubled Families Programme (known in East Sussex as Family Keywork and Early Help). Improving Early Help and prevention services has enabled the Children’s Services Department achieve most of the targets set at the beginning of the THRIVE programme. The Committee will decide what further work is required once the transition plan for the end of the THRIVE programme has been finalised.</p> <p>Care Leavers Following the Ofsted inspection of Children’s Social Care in January 2014, a working group was established to examine the steps that could be taken to improve the outcomes for care leavers. The Committee may request a report to update them on the progress being made to improve outcomes for care leavers.</p> <p>Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) – Serious Case Reviews The Committee heard at the November 2014 meeting that the LSCB had conducted four Serious Case Reviews during 2013/14. The Committee requested that the outcomes of the Serious Case Reviews be reported to the Committee at an appropriate time.</p>

Background / information reports available to the Committee (Items in this list appear on committee agendas when proposed for scrutiny)		Date available
Performance monitoring	<p>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.</p> <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. 	Every quarter
Performance monitoring cont..	<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 2013-14	<p>This includes information about compliments and other representations for the period April 2013 – March 2014.</p>	July 2014

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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.