

Work programme for Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Future work at a glance

Updated: January 2018

This list is updated after each meeting of the scrutiny committee.

| Items that appear regularly at committee | |
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| <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 | | Author |
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| 2 March 2018 | | |
| Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2018/19 | To provide the Committee with an opportunity to review its input into the RPPR process for 2018/19 and suggest improvements to the process. | Becky Shaw, Chief Executive |
| ISEND Service Demand. | At its meeting in June 2017, the Committee requested a report be provided which evaluates the impact of the measures set out in the Department's Action Plan to the March 2018 meeting. | Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services |
| Scrutiny Review of Educational Attainment in Key Stage 4 – Teacher Recruitment and Retention | Six month update report monitoring progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Educational Attainment in Key Stage 4 – Teacher Recruitment and Retention | Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services |
| Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report | To update the Committee on the work of SACRE. | Roy Galley, Chairman of SACRE/ Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children Services |
| 25 June 2018 | | |
| East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Serious Case Reviews. | A report outlining the findings and outcomes of the Serious Case Reviews undertaken by the LSCB during 2016/17. In addition, at its June 2017 meeting, the Committee requested that the Local Safeguarding Children Board include the findings of its review of the impact of Serious Case Reviews as part of its annual Serious Case Review report to the Committee in June 2018. | Reg Hooke, Chair of LSCB/ Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services |
| Raising the Age of Participation | At its meeting in June 2017, the Committee requested a progress report on the measures set out in the Department's action plan following the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Raising the Age of Participation. | Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services |

| 1 October 2018 | | |
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| 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 2019/20. | Becky Shaw, Chief Executive |
| Educational Attainment in Key Stage 4 | Teacher Recruitment and Retention: 12 Month monitoring report planned for the 2018 meeting of the Committee. | Scrutiny/Assistant Directors. |
| East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board | Presentation of the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). | LSCB Chair/ Director of Children's Services |

| 27 November 2018 | | |
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| Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) | Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources. The Committee will review the information provided at its September meeting and establish an RPPR board to examine departmental portfolio plans and the budget setting process for 2019/20. | Becky Shaw, Chief Executive |

| Current scrutiny reviews and other work underway | Date available |
|--|--|
| <p>Scrutiny Review Board: Coping with change – the way forward</p> <p>At its November 2017 meeting, the Committee agreed to appoint a Scrutiny Review Board to consider issues relating to how schools are coping with change (with a particular emphasis on a forward-looking approach). Whilst the Committee is interested in developing a clearer understanding of the key changes and their potential impact on all types of school within East Sussex, the Committee have a particular interest in the following issues which might become a focus of the Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the sustainability of small schools; ○ school funding issues, including data on school funding bids to the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) and the impact this is having on under-performing schools; ○ the impact of the 'Federate First' programme (Federation First is a national campaign developed in 2016 by the National Governors Association to raise awareness of the advantages of federations to school improvement); | <p>The first meeting of the Review Board took place on 05/02/18.</p> |

| Current scrutiny reviews and other work underway | Date available |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ how schools are now increasingly making decisions regarding which services they purchase and the impact this may have on performance and attainment. <p>At this first meeting the Review Board will focus on identifying the key issues it would like to investigate further. If a suitable subject for review is then identified, the Review Board will then subsequently agree its terms of reference and its key objectives.</p> <p>Review of Early Help services – Scrutiny Reference Group</p> <p>The Children’s Services Department is undertaking a review of Early Help services. With this in mind, the Committee has been asked to nominate Members who will sit on a reference group. Members of the reference group will be briefed on and be given the opportunity to make contributions to the review.</p> <p>Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group</p> <p>Given the decision to discontinue the Education Performance Panel and the ongoing fundamental changes occurring within the education system, the Committee agreed to appoint an ‘Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group’. The reference group is intended to provide committee members with a forum to discuss in more detail attainment and performance issues. The outcomes and possible recommendations of this meeting will be reported back to the Committee at appropriate intervals.</p> <p>Educational Attainment in Key Stage 4- Teacher Recruitment and Retention: 12 Month monitoring report planned for the October 2018 meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>East Sussex Better Together (ESBT). Joint Scrutiny Board established with representatives from two other scrutiny committees to consider the ESBT programme and specific policy and service developments arising from it.</p> | <p>To be confirmed</p> <p>To be confirmed</p> <p>1 October 2018</p> <p>2 March 2018</p> |

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

At its meeting in September 2017, the Committee also asked that the following matters are added to the work programme:

- **Key Stage 4 outcomes.** With regard to the Assessment Without Levels report, that the Committee's are supplied with the outcomes at Key Stage 4 once the national data is available.
- **Home Education.** The issue of the increase in the numbers of children being home educated is added to the 'potential future scrutiny review' section.
- **Children's Centres.** A position statement setting out the current status of Children's Centres in East Sussex and the Department's future plans for Children's Centres.

| 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 |
| | <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</p> | Every quarter |

| Background / information reports available to the Committee (Items in this list appear on committee agendas when proposed for scrutiny) | | Date available |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| | addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chair. | |
| Children's Services statutory complaints report 2017-18 | This will include information about compliments and other representations for the period April 2017 – March 2018. | November 2018 |

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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. |
| 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 |

| Term | What it means |
|---|---|
| | 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 N ot in E ducation, E mployment or T raining. |
| 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. |

| Term | What it means |
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| 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 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. |