

People Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
School Exclusions	<p>The previous Committee agreed in March 2020 to undertake a Scrutiny Review of issues relating to school exclusions. The Committee also agreed the Terms of Reference proposed by the Scoping Board. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the availability of schools to contribute to further work on this review, it was subsequently paused with the intention to recommence it at a suitable future date.</p> <p>The Committee has indicated it wishes to recommence this review and, subject to agreement at the November 2021 meeting, will do so in School Term 4 (Spring 2022).</p> <p>Membership of the Review Board: Councillors Adeniji, Field and Maples and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.</p>	To be confirmed when review recommences in Spring 2022.
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
Adult Social Care Workforce	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that the challenges seen nationally in recruitment and retention of the ASC workforce are reflected in East Sussex. The Committee noted that the previous Committee undertook a scrutiny review of ASC Workforce Challenges in 2019 but the context to these challenges had developed and they have been brought into sharp focus by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Subject to agreement at the November 2021 meeting, the Committee will therefore undertake scoping for a further short review of ASC workforce challenges. Building on the previous scrutiny review, this will scope whether there are new opportunities and innovative ways to address ASC workforce challenges in ESCC's own workforce and the independent sector following the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Membership of the Scoping Board: to be confirmed.</p>	Scoping to take place in early 2022.

School Attendance	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that overall school absence and persistent absence rates across East Sussex are high, when compared to national and statistical neighbours; and that East Sussex has a significant number of children and young people deemed too ill to attend school due to anxiety and poor mental health, and increasing levels of Emotionally-Based School Avoidance (EBSA).</p> <p>In light of this, and subject to agreement at the November 2021 meeting, the Committee will undertake scoping for a review of school attendance to understand more about the drivers of school absences, the impact of school absences on children and young people, the work the Department is undertaking in response, and whether there are areas where scrutiny could make recommendations for change or improvement.</p> <p>Membership of the Scoping Board: to be confirmed.</p>	Scoping to take place in early 2022.
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Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review Topics

Suggested Topic	Detail
Elective Home Education	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that issues relating to the increase in the numbers of children being electively home educated (EHE) remain a concern for the Children's Services Department and expressed an interest in scrutinising the work the Department is doing in response.</p> <p>The Committee also heard about national developments expected to impact future policy and the approaches of local authorities in this area, including an Education Committee enquiry into strengthening home education (published July 2021) and a judicial review into the approach taken by Portsmouth City Council to assurance on EHE. The Government's response to the Education Committee's enquiry has been published since the awayday. This commits the Government to share further details on plans for a form of local authority administered statutory registration to identify children not in school, and proposals for supporting home educated children in the Government's upcoming response to the Children Not in School Consultation. The outcome of the judicial review is outstanding but is expected to have a bearing on both future Government guidance and the approach councils feel empowered to take on EHE.</p> <p>Subject to agreement at the November 2021 meeting, the Committee will therefore retain this as a potential area for review, to be progressed once both the Government's response to the Children Not in School Consultation and the Portsmouth City Council judicial review decision are published.</p>

Scrutiny Reference Groups

Reference Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a Reference Group to monitor progress of the East Sussex Health and Social Care Integration Programme and identify areas for future scrutiny. It will review HASCIP progress reports provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and meet on an ad hoc basis as required to consider issues arising in more detail.</p> <p>Relevant HWB reports to be circulated to the group as they become available.</p> <p>The Reference Group last met on 28 October 2020, with a further meeting planned for December 2021.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, di Cara, Geary, Howell, Ungar and Webb.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Planned for December 2021</p>
Loneliness and Resilience Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a Loneliness and Resilience Scrutiny Reference Group at its meeting in March 2021. The purpose of the group is to provide scrutiny input into a loneliness project being undertaken by the Adult Social Care and Health Department. The project will aim to develop practical solutions that will help address some of the key negative impacts of loneliness on local communities in East Sussex.</p> <p>The Group's first meeting took place in August 2021 and another is planned for later November, or early December 2021.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, Geary, Maples, Howell, Ungar and Webb.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Proposed for November 2021 or early December 2021</p>
Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed in June 2018 to establish a Reference Group to focus on reviewing data on educational attainment in East Sussex and related issues. The group meets on an annual basis.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Adeniji, Field and Howell and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Early 2022</p>
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	<p>RPPR Board meet to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and spending and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the scrutiny committee.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>December 2021</p>
Strategic Commissioning Review of Early Help Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The purpose of this Reference Group is to provide scrutiny input into the Children's Services Department review of Early Help services.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Further meeting TBC if appropriate</p>

	<p>The Reference Group of the previous Committee requested an opportunity to review progress with the implementation of the revised Early Help strategy in spring 2021, but as some changes were postponed this was deferred and a further meeting will be considered if required.</p> <p>Membership of the group: to be confirmed if meeting required.</p>	
Reports for Information		
Subject Area	Detail	Proposed Date
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	A request for the latest position on ESCC's response to supporting increasing numbers of UASC, including those that disappear following arrival, was requested following the Committee's work planning awayday in October 2021.	November 2021
Better Care Fund	Following a request made by the previous Committee at its meeting in March 2021, the Director of Adult Social Care undertook to provide Members with a briefing on developments relating to the Better Care Fund. The Department was awaiting guidance from central government for the 2021/22 financial year. Now this has been received the briefing will be reported to next HASCIP Reference Group, planned for December.	December 2021 HASCIP Reference Group meeting.
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Review	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that the Children's Services Department faces challenges in delivering SEND services following reforms to the system implemented in 2014; and that a national major review into support for children with SEND is currently underway, which may make recommendations or provisions that help clarify roles and responsibilities in the system.</p> <p>The Committee has requested a briefing presentation when the national SEND Review is published on the implications of the Review for ESCC and our planned response to inform potential areas for future scrutiny work. If the Review is delayed much into 2022, the Committee has requested a general briefing on the Council's approach to delivering SEND provision, and challenges within that, to inform potential areas for future scrutiny work.</p>	Dependent on publication of SEND Review by Government
Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date
Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	In response to interest in scrutinising ESCC's work on domestic abuse and VAWG expressed at the work planning awayday, the Committee will receive a briefing presentation on:	Before draft Pan-Sussex Domestic Abuse Strategy consultation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the draft Pan-Sussex Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support 2021-2024, to input comments on the draft Strategy and inform development of the East Sussex action plan for delivery; ESCC's latest work on preventing and responding to VAWG; and the Children's Services Department's work to support children in families with domestic abuse to inform potential future scrutiny work in this area. 	closes on 19 December 2021.
Briefing on ASC White Paper	To gain a better understanding of the potential implications of the Government's White Paper/Adult Social Care reforms once published.	Dependent on publication by Government
Future Committee Agenda Items		Author
24 March 2022		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2021/22	To provide the Committee with an opportunity to review its input into the RPPR process for 2022/23.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report	To update the Committee on the work of SACRE, with the report to include a further update on secondary school performance in relation to the requirements of the National Curriculum and Religious Education.	Roy Galley, Chairman of SACRE / Director of Children's Services
Care Market Support	To update the Committee on the Council's care market support work, including on developments relating to the Bedded Care Strategy (requested by the Committee at its September 2021 meeting); and to inform potential future areas of work for the Committee.	Director of Adult Social Care
Child Exploitation and County Lines	A presentation on work to disrupt county lines and respond to child exploitation, requested following the 2021 work planning awayday, to inform consideration of whether any further scrutiny work on this topic is needed.	Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
16 June 2022		

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15 September 2022		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2023/24	The Committee will begin the process of examining the Departmental Portfolio Plans and budget for the 2023/24 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report	The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report outlines the safeguarding activity and performance in East Sussex during the previous financial year, as well as some of the main developments in place to prevent abuse from occurring.	Chair, Safeguarding Adults Board
Annual Review of Safer Communities	To update the Committee on performance in relation to Safer Communities in 2021/22 and the priorities and issues for 2022/23 that will be highlighted in the Partnership Business Plan.	Tom Hook, Assistant Director - Planning, Performance and Engagement
17 November 2022		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2023/24	The Committee will continue the process of examining the Departmental Portfolio Plans and budget for the 2022/23 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser