

People Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review Topics		
Suggested Topic	Detail	
Elective Home Education	<p>The Committee heard at their 2021 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 received additional updates on the local situation, as well as national updates, at their November 2022 and November 2023 meetings, including information at the November 2023 meeting on a DfE Consultation that has opened on revised home education guidance for Local Authorities to provide more clarity about 'suitable education' and support to be provided for home educators. In the absence of legislation for a statutory register, the guidance proposes Local Authorities set up a voluntary registration scheme for parents who home educate.</p> <p>The Committee agreed at the November 2023 meeting to retain this as a potential area for review but will await further information from the DfE consultation.</p>	
Scrutiny Reference Groups		
Reference Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
School Attendance	The Committee agreed in July 2024 to convert a planned scrutiny review on attendance into a Reference Group to provide timely input into targeted programmes which were developing at pace. The Group would review attendance data, including data on children who were persistently absent, as well as children with SEND and those who were disadvantaged.	January 2025

	<p>The next meeting is planned for January 2025 and will consider the latest attendance data, progress of current initiatives, and an update on a project with Beacon Academy on emotional school based avoidance.</p> <p>Membership of the Reference Group: Cllrs Field and Howell and John Hayling (Chair) Parent Governor Representative.</p>	
Prevention in Children's Services	<p>The Committee agreed in March 2023 to convert a planned scrutiny review on prevention in Children's Services into a Reference Group in order to provide regular and timely input into key projects and programmes which were under development and progressing at pace. The Group has considered work to develop preventative approaches including Family Hubs and the Family Safeguarding model, and has provided ongoing scrutiny challenge.</p> <p>This Reference Group last met on 17 June 2024 and agreed that after several meetings, it was assured the Department was developing a range of work focused on prevention and that an update on progress of this work to the whole Committee in 6 months would be an appropriate way forward. It was agreed to pause the Reference Group on the understanding that the Group would reconvene if there were significant work or policy developments that would benefit from scrutiny input.</p> <p>Membership of the Reference Group: Councillors Cross and Howell, and John Hayling Parent Governor Representative (Chair)</p>	TBC pending further developments
CQC Preparation Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed at its 2023 awayday to establish a Reference Group to support ASCH with the upcoming CQC inspection and LGA Peer Review.</p> <p>The Reference Group last met on 17 June 2024 and received a presentation from the Department on findings from the recent LGA Peer Review and the Department's response to these findings, including the development of an ASCH Departmental Priority Action Plan. The Group welcomed the positive findings from the LGA report, discussed some of the areas for consideration, and agreed to continue to provide scrutiny support to the Department in its preparations for the upcoming CQC assessment.</p> <p>The next meeting is planned for autumn 2024 and will consider progress on the Departmental Priority Action Plan.</p> <p>Membership of the Reference Group: Councillors Cross, Geary (Chair), Howell, Ungar and Webb.</p>	March 2025
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 reviews HASCIP progress reports provided to the Health and Wellbeing</p>	Next meeting: TBC

	<p>Board and meets on an ad hoc basis as required to consider issues arising in more detail.</p> <p>The Group last met on 24 June 2024 to consider the Shared Delivery Plan year 2 refresh. The Group welcomed the progress of integrated care in East Sussex and discussed the new governance arrangements, hospital discharge, NHS funding, and the specific are of focus in the SDP on Children and Young People at a pan-Sussex level.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, Geary (Chair), Ungar and Webb.</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>The Group met on 27 March 2024 to consider attainment results for the 2022/23 academic year. Members discussed the impact of Covid on attainment for all key stages, the role of Multi Academy Trusts in providing local support to communities, and the impact of short term government funding. The Group agreed the Department was working to support schools through a range of challenges.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Cross, Field (Chair) and Howell.</p>	Next meeting: 18 March 2025
Adult Social Care reforms Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed at its 2022 work planning awayday to establish a Reference Group to consider the impact and implementation of the national Adult Social Care reforms. Implementation of the reforms was subsequently delayed in the 2022 Autumn Statement from October 2023 to October 2025 and the first meeting of the Group will take place closer to implementation.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Geary and Ungar.</p>	TBC pending further developments
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) Board	RPPR Board meets annually 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.	Next meeting: 5 December 2024
Reports for Information		
Subject Area	Detail	Proposed Date
Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date

Future Committee Agenda Items		Author
17 March 2025		
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report	To update the Committee on the work of SACRE.	Roy Galley, Chairman of SACRE / Director of Children's Services
Equality and Inclusion in ASCH Scrutiny Review	12 month monitoring report on progress with the Review's recommendations.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
School Exclusions Scrutiny Review	12 month monitoring report on progress with the Review's recommendations.	Director of Children's Services
Prevention in Children's Services	To update the Committee on key work concerning prevention in Children's Services, including the Family Safeguarding Model.	Director of Children's Services
Children's Services work with IMPOWER	The Committee agreed at its 2024 July meeting to request a further updated on the Department's work with consultants IMPOWER to review and develop cost effective and outcome focused children's care arrangements, including the long term use of foster carers in the county.	Director of Children's Services
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping boards, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2024/25 financial year.	Chief Executive
14 July 2025		
Healthy Ageing Scrutiny Review	6 month monitoring report on progress with the Review's recommendations.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping boards, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To commence the Committee's involvement with the RPPR process for 2025/26 financial year by reviewing the information in the Quarter 4 (end of year) (2024/25) Council Monitoring report and the State of the County report.	Chief Executive
Items to consider for future work programme		

Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	At its 2024 away day the Committee agreed to recommend that a report on the impacts of any agreed savings be brought to the Committee in September 2025 as part of its Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) item.
Carers Partnership Strategy	At its 2024 away day the Committee agreed to recommend that a report on the progress of the Carers Partnership Strategy be brought to the Committee and that it may wish to consider this topic for a future scrutiny review.
Recruitment of foster carers	At its 2024 away day the Committee discussed the vital role of foster carers and agreed that exploring ways to improve the recruitment and application process, including seeking best practice in other local authorities, could be a potential topic for a future scrutiny review.
Transport for all age care	At its 2024 away day the Committee discussed the challenges in transport for care and home to school transport and agreed that this, in collaboration with Children's Services and Adult Social Care and Health, could be a potential topic for a future scrutiny review.