

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
Transport for all age care	<p>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.</p> <p>An initial scoping board was held in May 2025 where Members considered current statutory duties around transport in both adult social care and education; cost pressures; and programmes of work, planned and underway, to address these.</p> <p>The Board agreed that it was not currently the right time for a scrutiny review into this area, due to work in progress, but that potential upcoming changes to transport policy in ASCH would be brought to the Committee when appropriate. The Board was keen to scrutinise areas in Home to School Transport and agreed that a rapid review in the autumn into some specific cost avoidance measures could add value. A scoping board to look at these areas in more detail will be arranged.</p> <p>Membership of Scoping Board: Cllrs Belsey, Cross, Howell and Pragnell and John Hayling (Parent Governor Representative)</p>	Further Scoping Board July 2025
Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review Topics		
Suggested Topic	Detail	
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.	

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>
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Scrutiny Reference Groups

Reference Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
Children’s Services Reforms	<p>The Committee agreed at its March 2025 meeting to convert the existing Prevention in Children’s Services Reference Group and the Attendance Reference Group into a single Reference Group focused on national reforms relating to Children’s Services, with a particular focus on the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill. The Reference Group will consider the impact of these reforms on ESCC and scrutinise the Department’s response to these. The Committee agreed to look at the recruitment of foster carers as part of this work.</p> <p>The Group met in June 2025 and received a presentation on key reforms in children’s social care and the department’s work in response to these, including the establishment of the Transformation Board. The Group agreed that the next meeting would focus on the expected SEND White Paper.</p> <p>Membership of the Reference Group: Cllrs Belsey, Geary and Howell and John Hayling (Parent Governor Representative)</p>	December 2025
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>	TBC (depending on CQC report)

	<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 and Webb.</p>	
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 Board and meets on an ad hoc basis as required to consider issues arising in more detail.</p> <p>The Group last met on 18 June 2025 to consider progress on the Shared Delivery Plan year 2 refresh and Integrated Community Teams. The Group discussed a number of issues including NHS reforms and changes to funding for Integrated Care Boards, hospital discharge and the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place in September 2025 to further consider the impact of NHS reforms.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Belsey, Clark, Geary (Chair) Howell and Webb.</p>	Next meeting: September 2025
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: December 2025
Reports for Information		
Subject Area	Detail	Proposed Date
Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date
Relevant upcoming Member Training Programme items (open to all Members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy: A wellbeing approach - Overview of Education - Substance Misuse including the Alcohol Strategy 	<p>4 September 25</p> <p>15 September 25</p> <p>3 October 25</p>
Future Committee Agenda Items		Author
22 September 2025		

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 2025/26 financial year.	Chief Executive
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 2024/25 and the priorities and issues for 2025/26 that will be highlighted in the Partnership Business Plan.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
20 November 2025		
East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) Annual Report	Presentation of the annual report of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership.	Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
Equality and Inclusion in ASCH	To update the Committee on the progress of the Equality and Inclusion Strategy in ASCH.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Review of ASCH savings proposals	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 or November 2025 as part of its Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) item.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Climate Change Health Impact Assessment	A report to the Committee on the draft Climate Change Health Impact Assessment report.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
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Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2025/26 financial year.	Chief Executive
12 March 2026		
East Sussex Education Attainment and Performance	To update the Committee on the education attainment results for the 2023/24 academic year.	Director of Children's Services

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Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2025/26 financial year.	Chief Executive
Healthy Ageing Scrutiny Review	12 month monitoring report on progress with the Review's recommendations.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health