

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel
Work Programme 2025/26



Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice. The information in this work programme is intended to be of strategic relevance.

For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this Committee's work programme, please contact Jake Metcalfe (Democratic Advisor) on 01752 305155.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for Consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
16 July 2025	Children's Services – Achieving Excellence Improvement and Transformation Plan	4	For the Panel to scrutinise the improvement and transformation plan of Children's services to ensure the service is delivering the Achieving Excellence Plan.	Vivien Lines + Cllr Laing
	Local Area SEND Improvement Plan: Progress and impact report.	4	For the Panel to scrutinise the delivery and impact of the Local Area SEND Improvement Plan.	Amanda Davis / Cllr Cresswell / Tracy Clasby / Rob Williams
	Pre-decision scrutiny – SEND Capital Programme	4	Expanding SEND places and alternative provision	Amanda Davis
	School Readiness	4	To examine the state of play for children beginning school and how ready they were to start primary school classes.	Cllr Cresswell / EPS Amanda Davis + Heidi Price (Headteacher)
	Youth Justice Annual Report	3	For the Panel to understand the work undertaken by the Youth Justice Team and understand challenges celebrating strengths.	Sarah Wilson/Martine Aquilina/ Cllr Laing
09 October 2025	Child Exploitation Annual Report	4	Continued focus on Child Exploitation and a commitment to have at least one report heard at the Panel meeting during the municipal year.	Martine Aquilina / Cllr Laing

			(Agreed to add to the work programme at all Scrutiny Panel meetings in 2024/25. Agreed to have an annual report for all future municipal years)	
	Transitions to Adulthood	4	To review the work following actions and recommendations at the meeting in February 2024. Whats the impact of the work, whats better than expected and what issues were stubborn. To examine how much of an impact the new legislation would have on current services. (Agreed at the 06 February 2025 Scrutiny Panel meeting)	Cllr Aspinall/ Cllr Laing / Stephen Beet/ Health/ David Haley
	Annual Education Outcomes Report (Provisional)			
11 December 2025				
12 February 2026	Annual Education Outcomes Report (Final Report)			
Items to be scheduled for 2025/26				
2025/26	Childrens Social Media use and impact on education	3	To understand the impacts of children's social media use in school and what the issues were being faced in school. (Agreed to add at the 06 February 2025 Scrutiny Panel meeting)	Cllr Cresswell / Cllr Aspinall / EPS / School Reps / Young people`
	Female Empowerment Programmes	3	For the Panel to receive a report on the empowerment programmes and to have young people involvement. (Agreed to add at the 06 February 2025 Scrutiny Panel meeting)	Cllr Laing / Martine Aquilina
	Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) update	4	For the Scrutiny Panel to receive a regular update on the progress of the backlog. (Budget scrutiny recommendation agreed by Cabinet on 10 February 2025)	Cllr Cresswell / Lisa McDonald
	SEND Capital Programme	4	For the Panel to review the robust monitoring framework which oversees the	Cllr Cresswell / Cllr Lowry /

			SEND Capital Programme to ensure clear accountability for project milestones and progress. <i>(Budget scrutiny recommendation agreed by Cabinet on 10 February 2025)</i>	Oliver Woodhams / Amanda Davis
	Implementation of the Government Reforms for Children's Social Care	5	For the Panel to review the service and whether there were any issues with the implementation of government reforms. <i>(Lead officer recommendation to add to the work programme on 26 February 2025)</i>	Cllr Laing/ Martine Aquilina
	Elective Home Education + Metrics			
	Children's Social Care workforce			
Items to be scheduled for 2026/27				
2026/27				
2026/27				
Items Identified for Select Committee Reviews				
	Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing	5	Agreed by Scrutiny Management Board in February 2025.	Health, CYPFS, EPS, Voluntary Sector, young people, Cllr Aspinall, Cllr Laing, Cllr Cresswell.