

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	4	For the Panel to scrutinise the improvement and transformation plan of Children's services to ensure the service was delivering the Achieving Excellence Plan.	Cllr Laing/ Vivien Lines
	Youth Justice Annual Report	3	For the Panel to understand the work undertaken by the Youth Justice Team and understand challenges celebrating strengths.	Cllr Laing/ Martine Aquilina/ Sarah Wilson
	Performance Scorecard	3	STANDING ITEM on the performance of the directorate.	Paul Stephens/ Susan London
	SEND Capital Programme		Expanding SEND places and alternative provision	Amanda Davis
	Local Area SEND Improvement Plan	4	For the Panel to scrutinise the delivery and impact of the Local Area SEND Improvement Plan	Cllr Cresswell/ Amanda Davis/ Tracy Clasby/ Rob Williams
	School Readiness	3	To examine the state of play for children beginning school and how ready they were to start primary school.	Cllr Cresswell/ Amanda Davis/ Heidi Price
08 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)	
	Annual Education Outcomes Report (Provisional)	4	<p>Standing item to the Committee to understand children's progress in achieving their outcomes.</p> <p>YP involvement</p> <p>Comparative data</p>	Amanda Davis / Stuart Hogg
	Place Based Working Group	4	<p>Referred to this Scrutiny Panel from the Chair following a meeting of the Local Area Partnership SEND Improvement Board.</p> <p>City wide challenge for attendance</p> <p>National attendance campaign</p>	Amanda Davis / Rob Williams
	Children's services budget Q1 outturn position		<p>For the Panel to have oversight of the budget position of the service.</p> <p><i>Request from DH to add to the work programme.</i></p>	Matt Fulton
	Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) update including SEND Capital Programme	4	AI inclusion	Amanda Davis /YP involvement /Finance rep/ Stuart Hogg/ Lisa McDonald / Health rep
	Performance Scorecard		Standing Item	Paul Stephens/Susan London
11 December 2025	Families First reform programme			
	Safeguarding Assurance – Annual Report			
12 February 2026	Annual Education Outcomes		Comparative data – over x number of years Attendance comparative data	

	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
	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. (Lead officer recommendation to add to the work programme on 26 February 2025)	Cllr Laing/ Martine Aquilina
	Elective Home Education + Metrics		Cllr Blight request and one of the key objectives in the municipal year.	Isabelle Kolinsky
	Children's Social Care workforce		On-going concerns being raised of 25% of the workforce being agency and responsible to the service not being able to provide a stable workforce to the families they work with. Issues around churn of workers affecting the numbers of social worker changes for children.	Chris Squire
	Children's Services use of AI		Cllr Steel request to add to the work programme on 17/07/2025. Report to provide an understanding on what was being done in the AI space to aid Children's Services workforce and ensure workers spent more time with the families they were working with.	Steve Maddern (Until Si Bellamy starts)
	Transitions to Adulthood			
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.
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Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool

		Yes (=1)	Evidence
P ublic Interest	Is it an issue of concern to partners, stakeholders and/or the community?		
A bility	Could Scrutiny have an influence?		
P erformance	Is this an area of underperformance?		
E xtent	Does the topic affect people living, working, or studying in more than one electoral ward of Plymouth?		
R eplication	Will this be the only opportunity for public scrutiny?		
	Is the topic due planned to be the subject of an Executive Decision?		
Total:			High/Medium/Low

Priority	Score
High	5-6
Medium	3-4
Low	1-2