

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 |

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| | | | (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 |
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| 11 December 2025 | Families First reform programme | 4 | Children's Social Care workforce | Lisa Davies |
| | Plymouth Childrens Safeguarding Assurance – Annual Report | 3 | <p>Statutory duty to produce an annual report. Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Board.</p> <p>Invite partners, Police/Health/Education</p> | David Haley/ Siobhan Logue |
| | Finance Monitoring Q2 | 4 | Standing item | Matt Fulton |
| | Capital Programme – Scrutiny of | 4 | To link in with Finance Monitoring report. | Lisa Davies/Karen Blake/Vivien Lines |

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| | residential children's home capital programmes | | Amend title – important council programmes Delivery to reduce costs | |
| | Achieving Excellence Programme Q2 Report | 4 | Halfway report of the programme | Lisa Davies/ Vivien Lines |
| | Elective Home Education and metrics | 4 | | Isabelle Kolinsky |
| | Performance Scorecard | 4 | Standing item EHCP timescales | Paul Stephens/Susan London |
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| 12 February 2026 | Annual Education Outcomes Report (Final Report) | | Comparative data – over x number of years Attendance comparative data | |
| 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. <i>(Agreed to add at the 06 February 2025 Scrutiny Panel meeting)</i> | 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. <i>(Agreed to add at the 06 February 2025 Scrutiny Panel meeting)</i> | Cllr Laing / Martine Aquilina |
| | 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. | Si Bellamy |
| | 30 Hours free Childcare | | | |

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| | Young Carers: Implementation of Carers Strategy for CYP. | | | |
| | Youth Parliament – engagement of young people with local democracy and MP's | | | Youth Parliament |
| | 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. |

Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool

| | | Yes (=1) | Evidence |
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| 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? | | |

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| Extent | Does the topic affect people living, working, or studying in more than one electoral ward of Plymouth? | | |
| Replication | 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 |
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| High | 5-6 |
| Medium | 3-4 |
| Low | 1-2 |