

**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.

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Prioritisation Score</b>	<b>Reason for Consideration</b>	<b>Responsible Cabinet Member/Lead Officer</b>
<b>16 July 2025</b>	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
<b>08 October 2025</b>	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

			<i>(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)</i>	
	Annual Education Outcomes Report (Provisional)	4	Standing item to the Committee to understand children's progress in achieving their outcomes.  YP involvement  Comparative data	Amanda Davis/ Stuart Hogg
	Place Based Working Group	4	Referred to this Scrutiny Panel from the Chair following a meeting of the Local Area Partnership SEND Improvement Board.  City wide challenge for attendance  National attendance campaign	Amanda Davis / Rob Williams
	Children's services budget Q1 outturn position		For the Panel to have oversight of the budget position of the service. <i>Request from DH to add to the work programme.</i>	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
<b>11 December 2025</b>	Families First reform programme	4	Children's Social Care workforce	Lisa Davies
	Plymouth Childrens Safeguarding Assurance – Annual Report	3	Statutory duty to produce an annual report. Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Board.  Invite partners, Police/Health/Education	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

	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
<b>18 February 2026</b>	Annual Education Outcomes Report (Final Report)		Comparative data – over a number of years Attendance comparative data. To provide a young person friendly version. To also include a breakdown by gender and SEND.	Cllr Cresswell/ Amanda Davis/ Isabelle Kolinsky
	Children's Services Finance Monitoring		Financial Monitoring Q3	Cllr Cresswell/ Cllr Laing/ Matt Fulton
	Performance Scorecard		Standing item. To ensure EHCP timeliness data is included.	Cllr Cresswell/ Cllr Laing/ Paul Stephens
	Local Area SEND Inspection update		Inspection update following the SEND inspection in November. Strengths and challenges.	Cllr Cresswell / David Haley/ Amanda Davis
	30 hours Free Childcare		How is this going? Are there any issues/concerns? Are schools having to fill funding gaps? Catered, what is the plan, how will it affect schools and children in the city?	Cllr Cresswell/ Amanda Davis
	Children's Services use of AI		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.	Lisa Davis
<b>Items to be scheduled for 2025/26</b>				
<b>2025/26</b>	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
	Young Carers: Implementation of Carers Strategy for CYP.			
<b>Items to be scheduled for 2026/27</b>				
<b>2026/27</b>				
<b>2026/27</b>				
<b>Items Identified for Select Committee Reviews</b>				
	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
Public Interest	Is it an issue of concern to partners, stakeholders and/or the community?		
Ability	Could Scrutiny have an influence?		
Performance	Is this an area of underperformance?		

<b>E</b> xtent	Does the topic affect people living, working, or studying in more than one electoral ward of Plymouth?		
<b>R</b> eplication	Will this be the only opportunity for public scrutiny?		
	Is the topic due planned to be the subject of an Executive Decision?		
<b>Total:</b>			High/Medium/Low

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>Medium</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>1-2</b>