

Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme June 2020 – March 2021

Topic/Issue	Purpose of scrutinising this issue & Source	Timing
CYPSSC – January 2021 – March 2021		
Children First Improvement Programme	Performance monitoring - To seek assurance and evidence that appropriate progress is being made on the children first improvement journey and outcomes are improving for children and families. Focus: To include outcome of Focussed Ofsted visit.	7 January 2021
Strategic Budget Savings	Pre Decision Scrutiny- to review any service-related strategic budget savings as part of the budget process.	7 January 2021
Early Help Redesign	Service Improvement – to assess and provide recommendations on the draft proposals for the redesign of early help.	7 January 2021
West Sussex Reset Plan and Key Performance Indicators	Performance Monitoring – to consider the draft reset plan and key performance indicators relevant to the portfolio area.	7 January 2021
Mental Health	Joint inquiry session with HASC and West Sussex Youth Cabinet. Performance Monitoring - To review emotional health and wellbeing support for children and young people. To include the Action Plan of the Sussex Wide Children and Young People Emotional Health and Wellbeing Report and the impact of Covid-19 on mental health of children and young people. Range of witnesses to be invited to provide evidence.	24 February 2021
Inclusion	A themed session in Inclusion To cover the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND and Inclusion Strategy • Alternative Provision • Exclusions – School Approach to inclusion • Attainment Gap due to Covid-19 	10 March 2021

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Needs Block deficit (impact of SEND and Inclusion strategy on this) <p>Performance Monitoring - To review the County Council's approach to inclusion and how all children have equal rights to achieve their full potential. Committee to look at what is working well, how objectives are being met and identify any recommendations/areas for improvement/focus.</p>	
Children First Improvement Programme	Performance monitoring - To seek assurance and evidence that appropriate progress is being made on the children first improvement Journey and outcomes are improving for children and families. Focus: tbc	10 March 2021
CYPSSC –Confirmed items for timetabling		
Early Help Redesign	Pre Decision Scrutiny– to review the outcome of the public consultation and provide recommendations to Cabinet on the final proposals prior to a decision being taken.	Summer 2021
West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	Performance Monitoring – to consider the successes and areas of improvement for the Partnership and to identify any areas for future scrutiny.	Summer 2021
Foster Service Review	Policy development/pre decision scrutiny – To review and provide recommendations on the proposals of the foster service review (recruitment and retention).	Spring 2021 – update to BPG on 22 February 2021.
Regional Adoption Agency	Service Improvement - To assess the impact of the Regional Adoption Agency (requested by BPG in February 2020 & SC in 2019) and scrutinise its first year of operation (established April 2020).	Summer 2021
Support for School Governors	Raised at CYPSSC on 14 April & 9 January- to identify any areas of improvement for the support, training and guidance provided to school governors and to consider recruitment and retention issues.	Summer 2021

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Visits to residential homes	To form part of a training day for CYPSSC members (originally scheduled for June 2020). Will be linked with above agenda item.	TBC post pandemic
Post-16 and NEETS	Performance Monitoring - To focus on the impact on young people on the changes to the services following the cessation of ECF funding in December 2020.	Update to BPG on 22 February 2021 to discuss appropriate timing.
Business Planning Group – items for BPG to consider for Scrutiny (including those raised by Committee Members under 'Items for Future Scrutiny').		
Attainment Gap for disadvantaged Children and Children Looked After	Performance Monitoring – to understand reasons for attainment gap and explore how this can be reduced, including Early Years. To include monitoring progress of disadvantaged children and Children Looked After. BPG to monitor impact of work being progressed and feedback from schools forum to identify any potential areas for future scrutiny.	BPG 22 February 2021 to receive update on progress and identify areas for future scrutiny.
School Funding	Pre decision scrutiny – to review the proposals for school funding for 2021/22 and provide recommendations to the Cabinet Member ahead of a decision being taken (decision due January 2021).	Confirmed no scrutiny required in January 2021 (will be removed from Work Programme).
High Cost Residential Placements and Residential Homes	Service Improvement – To review plans for post-16 residential placements and the re-opening of some children's residential homes. (requested by BPG in February 2020).	Chairman to liaise with Corporate Parenting Panel to assess if future scrutiny is required.
Elective Home Education	Performance Monitoring - Discussed at BPG in March 2020 – agreed to await government feedback/guidance on EHE before considering if further scrutiny is required. Impact of Covid-19 on EHE also to be considered.	TBC – will be explored at future BPG once further government guidance is available.
Adoption of the Children First Strategic Approach	Pre-decision scrutiny –to review the proposed Children's First Strategic	Briefing on work of new

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	Approach. Work is being progressed through the newly created Children Sub-Group that reports to HWB to develop a Children and Young People Plan.	Sub-Group to be provided at BPG on 22 Feb 2021
Adult Community Learning Curriculum	To review the current curriculum and performance. BPG on 23 November agreed to monitor this through contract monitoring item and identify any areas for future scrutiny as required.	Will be monitored by BPG through Contract Monitoring item.
Business Planning Group – to monitor		
Woodlands Meed	BPG to monitor progress and identify any areas for scrutiny as the project progresses	Ongoing
Total Performance Monitor	To review the latest performance monitor at each BPG and consider any areas that require scrutiny.	At each meeting
Work Programme Planning	To consider updates from the services and stakeholders and consider whether any issues should be subject to formal scrutiny by CYPSSC (when assessed against the BPG checklist).	At each meeting
Contract Monitoring	The BPG agreed to look at contract monitoring twice a year and identify any areas that may require further scrutiny.	Twice a year
Children and Young People Services Training (as requested by Committee)		
Children's Safeguarding Partnership (focus on neglect)	Suggested as a full member day to inform members of the work of the Safeguarding Partnership with a focus on neglect (requested by CYPSSC 4 March 2020).	Complete: Virtual Member Day took place on 17 November 2020.
Exclusions and Alternative Provision	Suggested as a Member Day to inform members of the processes, roles and responsibilities, voice of child, quality assurance and members role with local residents requesting assistance.	Member day being explored with Member Development Group
School Federations	To look at how this is proceeding with schools and how it is assisting with the delivery of the school effectiveness strategy. BPG confirmed this would be more appropriate as a member day to inform all members (rather than scrutiny).	Member Development Group to be asked to consider as topic for future Member Day

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Completed CYPSSC Meetings		
Children First Improvement Programme	Performance monitoring - To seek assurance and evidence that appropriate progress is being made on the children first improvement journey and outcomes are improving for children and families. Focus: To include detail on preparation/outcome of OFSTED monitoring visit and detail on the stability of Social Care workforce (including plans to mitigate any impact of the cessation of the current recruitment and retention offer), and how this is impacting on the outcomes for children and families. There will also be details of the transformation programme.	24 September 2020
Report from Education and Skills Annual Report TFG	Performance monitoring - To review the output of the Education and Skills Annual Report TFG of July 2020 to monitor educational attainment (see below).	24 September 2020
Children First Improvement Programme	Performance monitoring - To seek assurance and evidence that appropriate progress is being made on the children first improvement Journey and outcomes are improving for children and families. Focus: tbc	5 November 2020
The Impact of Covid-19 on Schools and the Educational Outcomes of Children and Young People in West Sussex	Service Improvement - Assessing the impact of school/college closures on children and young people; measures to support the return to education and preparedness for any future emergencies. External Witnesses to be invited (DfE/RSC, School Governors etc)	5 November 2020
Completed Task & Finish Groups		
Education and Skills Annual Report	Performance Monitoring - To review the performance of West Sussex Children in academic year 2019-20 and progress towards achievement against targets in the WS Plan. The TFG will be invited to put forward any recommendations to the Cabinet Member and identify any priorities for further scrutiny.	Complete – met 8 July 2020

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Home to School Transport	Performance Monitoring - Suggested by PFSC as a cross cutting TFG to explore the service provided and contract. Scoping meeting took place on 1 October 2020. Agreed that a TFG is not required at this stage and the impact on Home to School Transport will be included in the SEND Strategy item scheduled to go to Committee.	Complete
Proposed Scope of Services for a Children's Trust	Pre-decision scrutiny. A one off TFG meeting on 9 October to review the proposals ahead of the decision being taken by Cabinet on 20 October.	Complete – met 9 October 2020