

**Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2021/2022**

Topic/Issue	Purpose of scrutinising this issue & Source	Timing/Approach
Forthcoming Committee Meetings		
Children First Improvement Update	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: Workforce - Social Worker Pay Officer & Management Assessment programme	29 September 2021
Performance and Resources Report – Q1	Performance monitoring – To assess the performance indicators relating to Children and Young People's Services in Our Council Plan	29 September 2021
Attainment Gap in West Sussex	Performance monitoring – to understand the current attainment gap in West Sussex and what is being done to address the gap. Also to explore the impact of the pandemic on the attainment gap and how this is being addressed. To include a focus on early years and the impact of the catch-up programme on trying to reduce the gap.	1 December 2021
Performance and Resources Report – Q2	Performance monitoring – To assess the performance indicators relating to Children and Young People's Services in Our Council Plan	1 December 2021
Children First Improvement Update	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: Quality Assurance	1 December 2021

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Children First Improvement Update	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	12 January 2022
Performance and Resources Report – Q3	Performance monitoring – To assess the performance indicators relating to Children and Young People’s Services in Our Council Plan	9 March 2021
Children First Improvement Update	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	9 March 2022
CYPSSC –Confirmed items for timetabling		
Children First Improvement Update – focus areas	Performance monitoring - Focus areas of reports for future meetings to be confirmed. Potential areas that have been raised by Committee/previous reports include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes of recent Ofsted Monitoring visits and areas highlighted by the recent Commissioner update, e.g. consistent social work practice • Any examples or evidence and/or modelling being presented to the Commissioner and Ofsted to demonstrate the progress the service is making. • Monitoring the progress of cultural change within the service to improve the quality of service to residents. • Partnership working and impacts • Update on performance of initial health assessments for Children looked after (from CPP). • Update on Care Leaders Fellowship initiative and impact on children and young people. • Staff Engagement outcomes 	<i>At each meeting – Focus area for 1 December meeting identified (see above). BPG in November to explore focus areas for January and March 2022 meetings.</i>

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Performance and Resources Report - Q4	Performance Monitoring: To assess the performance indicators relating to Children and Young People's Services in Our Council Plan (to be done quarterly).	Summer 2022 – Date TBC once calendar of meetings is finalised for 2022/23
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.	<i>Establishing when Annual Report will be complete to assess any potential future scrutiny.</i>
Foster Service Review- Phase two	Policy development/pre decision scrutiny – To review and provide recommendations on the proposals of the foster service review (phase 2 - recruitment and retention) ahead of a Key Decision being taken.	<i>Timing being confirmed (12 January 2022 or 9 March 2022)</i>
Education and Skills Strategy	Policy Development – To input into the development of the Education and Skills Strategy that will replace the current School Effectiveness Strategy in 2022. Will include implications of the Skills for Jobs White Paper Link to current School Effectiveness Strategy .	<i>Members to be part of engagement work of Strategy over the autumn. Scrutiny of draft Strategy Early 2022 – exact meeting TBC</i>
Regional Adoption Agency	Service Improvement - To assess the impact of the Regional Adoption Agency (requested by BPG in February 2020 & SC in 2019) and to scrutinise its first year of operation (established April 2020).	<i>Annual Report discussed at Corporate Parenting Panel – proposed to remove from Work Programme and share virtually with Committee members.</i>
Visits to residential homes	<i>To form part of a training day for CYPSSC members (originally scheduled for June 2020). Can be linked to potential item on high cost placements.</i>	<i>To remove from Work Programme – members to coordinate with officers to arrange visits as required.</i>

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Early Help Service – review of new model	Performance Monitoring – to assess the impact of the first year of implementation of the new Early Help Model. What is working well, is it achieving what it set out to do and any areas for improvement (due to be implemented December 2021)	Late 2022/Early 2023
Business Planning Group – items for BPG to consider for Scrutiny (including those raised by Committee Members under 'Items for Future Scrutiny').		
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	Performance Management - To assess the County Councils resilience and approach for managing increased demand.	<i>Short briefing to be provided to Committee members on current approach and to discuss at 17 November BPG to determine if there are any areas for future scrutiny.</i>
Placements for Children we Care for	Service Improvement – To review the County Council's sufficiency strategy for placements, including post-16 residential placements and the re-opening of some children's residential homes, (requested by BPG in February 2020).	<i>To remain on work programme for BPG to continue to monitor</i>
Elective Home Education	Performance Monitoring - to assess the County Council's approach to elective home education. Impact of Covid-19 on EHE also to be considered.	<i>To remain on work programme as further governance guidance is still awaited. Will assess once this guidance has been released to determine if there are an areas for scrutiny.</i>

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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.	<i>Short briefing to be provided to Committee members on current recruitment and retention of school governors to inform BPG discussion on 17 November on if there are any areas for potential scrutiny.</i>
Skills for Jobs White Paper 2021	Policy Development – to assess the County Council's plans on careers advice in schools in response to the Skills for Jobs White Paper. Link to White Paper	To be removed from work programme – implications of White Paper to be included Education and Skills Strategy Item
Business Planning Group – to monitor		
Woodlands Meed	BPG to monitor progress and identify any areas for scrutiny as the project progresses. Link to Woodlands Meed update page .	Ongoing
Post-16 and NEETS	BPG to monitor any trends in numbers (NEETs and unknowns) following the lifting of lockdown and whether there are any areas that may require future scrutiny.	To be removed from work programme as forms part of Performance and Resources Report. BPG to liaise with Corporate Parenting Panel on progress of supporting care leavers into Education/training/employment.

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Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups – proposed		
<i>Needs Assessments and EHCPs – Process, Practice and Delivery</i>	<i>Service Development</i> – To look at the process for needs assessments, issuing of EHCPs and delivery of provisions. To review whether the County Council is providing a consistent approach and delivery to West Sussex Children and Families and to identify any potential areas of improvement. To explore increases in demand for assessments and current resource levels.	Committee asked to agree TFG in principle so that membership and Terms of Reference/scope can be developed. Timing TBC