

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

Topic/Issue	Purpose of scrutinising this issue & Source	Timing/Approach
1. 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. <i>Focus: Children Looked After – including performance of initial health assessments and impact of Care Leaders Fellowship initiative</i>	12 January 2022
Attainment Gap in West Sussex	Service Development – to consider the County Councils approach to address the attainment gap for children in West Sussex, and if the plans and actions being taken are designed to contribute to improving attainment levels for children.	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 – Fostering Service Phase 2	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: <i>Fostering Service Phase 2 – Pre-decision scrutiny to review the outcome of the consultation and proposals for the fostering service and provide comments to the Cabinet Member ahead of the decision being taken.</i>	9 March 2022
2. 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	<i>At each meeting – Focus areas for 2022/23 meetings to</i>

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	<p>have been raised by Committee/previous reports include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress and impact of workforce changes on Social Work practice and experience for children and families (to include staff engagement outcomes) – Summer 2022 • 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 	<p><i>be discussed by BPG on 2 February 2022.</i></p>
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.	TBC.
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 in early 2022. Scrutiny of draft Strategy Summer 2022 –dates TBC</i>
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	Late 2022/Early 2023

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	out to do and any areas for improvement (due to be implemented January 2022)	
3. Business Planning Group – items for BPG to consider for Scrutiny (including those raised by Committee Members under 'Items for Future Scrutiny').		
Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People	Service Development – to assess the provisions and plans in place to support young people’s mental health and emotional wellbeing.	<i>All member briefing being arranged. Following briefing any potential areas of scrutiny will be explored with HASC.</i>
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	Performance Monitoring - To assess the County Councils resilience and approach for managing increased demand.	<i>Short briefing note has been provided to BPG members on current approach (Nov 21). BPG to receive further update in 6 months to determine if item needs to remain on work programme.</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).	To remain on work programme for BPG to consider if there are any areas for future scrutiny
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.	To remain on work programme as further governance guidance is still awaited. Will assess once this guidance has been released to determine

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		if there are an areas for scrutiny.
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 provided to BPG members on current recruitment and retention of school governors (November 2021) and shared with all Committee members.</i>
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
Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups – proposed		
Needs Assessments and EHCPs – Process, Practice and Delivery	Service Development – To explore the process, criteria and practice of Education Health and Care Needs Assessments and Education and Health Care Plans. 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.	Membership and Terms of Reference/scope being confirmed. Timing TBC