

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024-2025

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken during the forthcoming municipal year.

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee has responsibility to review and scrutinise the county council's Children's Services functions, other matters affecting children, young people and families, and to satisfy the statutory responsibilities related to the education functions of a Children's Services Authority. Accordingly, the work of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee will focus on the following areas:

1. Children's Social Care
2. Children's Services
3. Education and Skills

The programme is determined by the Committee following a planning session at the start of the municipal year. This includes provision for the rights of county councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the committee.

Coordination of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee programmes is undertaken by the Scrutiny Management Board. This is in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Terms of Reference, as set out in the county council's [Constitution](#) (Part 2 Article 5).

Cabinet Members

The Cabinet Member portfolios aligned to the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee's responsibilities are:

[County Councillor Cosima Towneley](#), Cabinet Member for Children and Families

[County Councillor Jayne Rear](#), Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

The areas of responsibility for each Cabinet Member are set out at [Appendix A – Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members](#) to the county council's constitution.

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024-2025

	Committee Meeting Date					
Scrutiny Activity	9 September 2024	6 Nov 2024	18 Dec 2024	29 January 2025	10 Mar 2025	Deep Dive Date TBC in February
Service Area Report to Committee	<p>Report from the Service on Ombudsman Report</p> <p>SEND Delivering and Inclusion; Service Performance; Improvement of Communication.</p>	<p>Principal Social Workers Report</p> <p>0-3 Years Offer & Family Hubs</p> <p>Development of a SEND Strategy 2025-2028</p>	<p>Further Developing Care Leavers Offer and Support (New Ofsted Judgement)</p> <p>Increasing Care Leavers Offer who are in EET</p> <p>Strengthening the partnership approach to support young people at risk of becoming known to the Youth Justice Service</p>	<p>Lancashire Education Strategy 2025-2028</p> <p>Draft SEND Strategy 2025-2028</p> <p>Implementation of Alternative Provision Strategy</p>	<p>Delivering the Where our Children Live programme</p> <p>Building on our Early Help Offer for Children with Disabilities and SEND</p>	<p>Increase the number of children who are in education, employment or training combined with Youth Futures Team update</p> <p>Improve the educational offer to reduce the number of children who do not have a suitable school place</p> <p>Improve engagement with families who have chosen to electively home education their children</p>

Annual Report to Committee				Education Attainment Data Education Strategy Annual Report	Youth Justice Board Annual Report Annual Quality Assurance Checks	
Update Report for Information or Briefing Note				Academisation / Commercialisation Update	Further expansion of Lancashire's House Project	
Short Scrutiny (Rapporteur) Review or Other Scrutiny Review Such as a Deep Dive						
Cabinet Member Required Attendance	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Cabinet Member for Children and Families Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

- **Bitesize Briefing – 25th November 2024 at 2pm via Microsoft Teams – School Place Planning Annual Update**
- **Bitesize Briefing – TBC in December/January – Youth Violence in Lancashire and what is being done to counteract it.**

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee 2024/25 Recommendations Progress

Meeting Date	Report Title	Corporate Priority	Recommendation	Progress Detail
9 September 2024	Report from the Service on the Ombudsman Report	Supporting economic growth; Caring for the vulnerable	<p>(i) A breakdown of data regarding how many complaints from 2023-24 remain outstanding, including how many go to tribunal and associated costs to the council.</p> <p>(ii) Information on KPIs and data relating to the SEND helpline to be included on future reports</p>	
9 September 2024	SEND Update Report	Supporting economic growth; Caring for the vulnerable	<p>(i) Further detail to be provided to the Committee on service satisfaction levels.</p> <p>(ii) Review be undertaken on the information currently available to parents and carers on the issuing on EHC Plans to ensure accessibility.</p> <p>(iii) Review be undertaken of support</p>	

			from the faith and community sector in disseminating information relating to EHC Plans.	
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