

Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Work programme March 2021

(to be updated following each Panel meeting)

The Panel will consider issues of significant public concern, areas of poor performance and areas where Members think the Council could provide better value for money. This is a "live" document and is subject to change as priorities or circumstances change.

SECTION ONE – Panel Projects identified in the overarching Strategic Work Plan - following discussion at Chairs & Vice-Chairs

1(A) ACTIVE PROJECTS (i.e. within the current Municipal Year) – limited ideally to two items at any one time

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Progress	Contact
School Organisation Scrutiny Steering Group	1. In-depth investigations of proposed school changes 2. Pupil Projections – methodology as applied generally and in particular in respect of new builds, including affordable housing 3. Admission Arrangements Note: The School Organisation Group is a standing sub-group of the CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Panel and not a task and finish scrutiny working group.	Steering Group Corporate Aim: Promoting lifelong learning opportunities Key issues for the public New National Code To include Education Transformation (see below)	Varied, depending on work strand Ongoing - to meet as required. Regular reporting to Panel	Meetings since last Panel: 26 November 2021: Education Commissioning Strategy; Updates on School Expansions and New Schools; School Admissions Arrangements & the Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes and the Relevant Area Consultation 19 January 2021:	

				Term time Consultation; Updates School Expansions and New Schools; School Place Allocations 2021/22	
Children's Improvement Focus Group	<p>At the Children and Young People Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel (CYPS) on 29 October 2020 a report was presented by the Chairman on Scrutiny of the Children's Improvement Plan. It was agreed that the sub-group needed to progress from being a Task and Finish group to becoming a longer-term group focused at a strategic level on scrutinising the delivery of the Children's Improvement Plan and that the group be renamed the Children's Improvement Focus Group.</p> <p>There was also a recognition that in order to fulfil such a role Members needed some peer support, via the Local Government Association, from colleagues who had been on a similar journey. As</p>	<p>Focus Group members: Councillors Wendy Griggs, Steve Hogg, Lisa Pilgrim, Huw James, Nicola Holland</p> <p>to discuss and scrutinise a number of performance datasets in relation to the Children's Improvement Plan-</p> <p>Children's Improvement Performance Summary Key Performance Indicators – How are we Doing?</p> <p>Children's Improvement Board Dataset – Highlights and Exceptions Report</p>	Varied, depending on work strand	<p>Meetings of the Focus Group since the last Panel meeting have taken place on</p> <p>21 January 2021</p> <p>4 February 2021</p> <p>18 February 2021</p>	

	such Cllr Ann Hartley, Shropshire Council, agreed to meet with Focus Group members to provide support and share her scrutiny knowledge and experience.				
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1(B) SCHEDULED PROJECTS (i.e. projects identified in the Strategic Work Plan that: may continue after the completion of the above or may be phased for commencement beyond the current Municipal Year). There is also the potential for these to be re-prioritised and escalated to 1(A) above for immediate action.

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Contact
SEND	<p>As agreed at Panel meeting 18 June 2020.</p> <p>During May 2018, Ofsted undertook a Local Joint Area Review (LJAR) of SEND services in North Somerset. In common with around 50% of Local Areas who have experienced such reviews to date, a written statement of action (WSA) was required to address areas identified for improvement. North Somerset's WSA was approved by Ofsted and DfE in October 2018.</p>	All Member Briefing SEND	Due to take place Autumn 2020 but delayed	
Home to School Transport		All Member Briefing	Delayed due to COVID	

Draft Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	The Childcare Act 2006 (Sections 6, 8-11 & 13) require local authorities to assess the local childcare market and to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. Childcare will only be deemed sufficient if it meets the needs of the community in general and in particular those families on lower incomes and those with disabled children. The term childcare includes provision for under 5's and for out of school care for 5 to 11-year olds.	Reports to Panel		Jenie Eastman
Adoption West – Implemented April 2019		Panel receives reports on progress of implantation		Carolann James
Education Commissioning Strategy	Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 provides Local Authorities (LAs) with a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their areas.	Regular updates to Panel and School Organisation Scrutiny Steering Group		Sally Varley
North Somerset Fostering Strategy		Panel receives updates on progress		
Independent Safeguarding and Reviewing Officers'		Panel receives annual reports		

(ISROS') Annual Report				
Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements		Panel receives updates		Carolann James
Turning the Tide Edge of Care Service		Panel receives updates on progress		Carolann James
Children's Services Budget Monitor	Forecast spend against budget for Children's Services highlighting key variances, movement and contextual information making reference to principles and outcomes associated with the setting of the Budget	Regular Reports to Panel		Katherine Sokol
Performance Monitoring	<p>The Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel receive regular performance management reports to help members evaluate the extent to which the council and its partners are achieving key plans and objectives for children and young people's services, and to provide appropriate challenge and suggestions to improve performance.</p> <p>This report presents the following standard items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any recent Ofsted inspections of council services 	Regular Reports to Panel		Carolann James

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an analysis of the performance of the relevant Key Corporate Performance Indicators (KCPIs) for Quarter 1 2020/21, that fall under the remit of the Panel. • an overview of the performance of various Key Service Measures for Support and Safeguarding services within the council. 			
Annual Directorate Statements (ADS)	<p>Each year the Directorates within North Somerset produce an Annual Directorate Statement translating the commitments in North Somerset's Corporate Plan into a series of Directorate level commitments.</p> <p>On an annual basis, the Panel to decide which, if any, of the People and Communities commitments for Children's Services should be subject of further detailed reports at future meetings</p>	Annually		

SECTION TWO – proposed projects (listed in priority order). These must be agreed at Panel and will be referred for discussion at Chairs and Vice Chairs – for inclusion to the Strategic Work Plan:

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Proposed method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Contact
Youth Services and Youth Engagement Working group including the Youth Champions and any other interested CYPS Panel members.	To encourage the engagement of young people in the work of the CYPS Panel.	Working Group	Membership of working group and scope to be confirmed.	Cllr Huw James

SECTION THREE – planned Briefings and Workshops. Outcomes may, with Chairman’s agreement, generate Panel agenda items (for inclusion in S4 below) or, with Panel agreement, be escalated to S2 above:

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Date	Outcome	Progress	Contact
0-19 Public Health Nursing Procurement Workshop	Joint Briefing Session with CYPS and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) – November 2020 to provide the Panels with an opportunity to inform the service specification.	17 November 2020 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm			

	<p>To provide an update to the Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny (CYPS) Panel and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) on the process of procurement of the 0-19 public health nursing service, and an opportunity for both panels to contribute views regarding the design of the service.</p>				
Children's Improvement Plan Update	<p>At the Panel meeting on 29 October the key priorities Within the Children's Improvement Plan were Highlighted to Members as being Front Door to Children's Services, Early Help; Performance and Quality Assurance; Corporate Parenting Panel.</p> <p>The Plan had been developed and agreed through the Partnership Children's Improvement Board and subsequently Submitted to Ofsted in October 2020 following the required improvement grading from Ofsted in</p>	17 March 2021 @ 4.00 pm			Carolann James

	<p>March 2020.</p> <p>The briefing update on the Children's Improvement Plan would provide Members with an opportunity to clarify the detail through Q&A.</p>				
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SECTION FOUR - agenda reports to the Panel meetings as agreed by the Chairman. This section primarily provides for the forward planning of agendas for the coming year and a useful record of panel meeting activity. When considering reports at meetings, outcomes may include proposing a workstream, escalating it to S2 above for potential inclusion on the STRATEGIC WORK PLAN.

Panel 1 (18 June 2020)

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Progress	Contact
Ofsted Report	<p>North Somerset Children's Services was inspected by Ofsted under the <i>Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework</i>, between 24 February and 12 March 2020.</p> <p>As well as an overall judgement, the Inspection report would make judgements on our services to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in Need of Help and Protection 	that the Panel form an Ofsted Task and Finish Group to scrutinise and monitor the Improvement Plan following the Ofsted Report	Ongoing – Group renamed Children's Improvement Focus Group and has met to scrutinise various performance data sets.	Carolann James

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Looked After and Care leavers • Leadership and Management 			
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy and Action Plan	<p>During May 2018, Ofsted undertook a Local Joint Area Review (LJAR) of SEND services in North Somerset. In common with around 50% of Local Areas who have experienced such reviews to date, a written statement of action (WSA) was required to address areas identified for improvement. North Somerset's WSA was approved by Ofsted and DfE in October 2018.</p>	<p>(1) that the Panel receive the report and acknowledge the successful delivery of a joint Local Area Action Plan setting out clear goals for service improvement in the coming years;</p> <p>(2) that the Panel consider how it wishes to engage with the ongoing monitoring, review and development of the strategy;</p> <p>(3) that the Panel host an all member briefing on the SEND Action Plan in autumn 2020.</p>	All Member Briefing on SEND to be arranged	Mike Newman

Panel 2 (29 October 2020)

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Progress	Contact
Children's Improvement Plan: Scrutiny of the Children's Improvement Plan	<p>Following the publication of the Ofsted report in June 2020 and its presentation to the Children and Young People Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 18 June 2020, it was agreed that a sub group would be set up to scrutinise the Action Plan that the Authority was required to submit to Ofsted by 17 September 2020. The task and</p>	<p>(1) that the Panel receive and comment on the report in relation to the Scrutiny of the Children's Improvement Plan;</p> <p>(2) that the Panel agree that the sub group progressed from being task and finish to become a longer-term group focused at a strategic level on scrutinising the delivery of the Children's</p>	Ongoing	Cllr Wendy Griggs

	<p>finish group had sight of the report and met to provide their comments/views to officers. There was a subsequent discussion between the Chairman and the Director in which it was agreed that the sub group should continue beyond the submission of the Action Plan because the Department for Education (DfE) had advised that it was concerned as to why North Somerset continued to 'require improvement to be good.'</p>	<p>Improvement Plan and renamed the Children's Improvement Group;</p> <p>(3) that the Panel agree the input of the Local Government Association in supporting the work of the Children's Improvement Focus Group.</p>		
Children's Improvement Plan: Key Priorities in our Children's Improvement Plan	<p>The report identified the key priorities within the Children's Improvement Plan. The Plan was developed and agreed through the Partnership Children's Improvement Board and subsequently submitted to Ofsted in September 2020 following our required improvement grading from Ofsted in March 2020.</p>	<p>That the Panel receive the report and note the priorities outlined.</p>	Ongoing	Carolann James
Expansion of Ravenswood Special School, Nailsea	<p>The report sought the Panel's support to a consultation with the public and key stakeholders to expand Ravenswood Special School. Formal approval to progress a consultation would be sought from the Executive Member of Children's Services and</p>	<p>The Panel supported the expansion consultation for Ravenswood Special School</p>	<p>Final decision to be made by the Executive in April 2021</p>	Sally Varley

	Lifelong Learning with a final decision made by the Executive in April 2021.			
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Panel 3 (11 March 2021)

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Progress	Contact
SEND Action Plan Update	To provide Panel Members with an update of progress on the SEND action plan, which was provided at the June 2020 meeting. This paper notes specific actions and risks, and grades each area of work as green, amber or red based on the risk. Finally, the recommendations of the recent LGA Peer Review and feedback from the Department for Education and NHS England are considered in terms of our current plans.	(1) Note the update on the SEND Action Plan and the initial response to the LGA recommendations (2). Consider the highlights and risks identified (3) Identify any responses necessary via the Chair of the Panel, who sits on the SEND Programme Board		Mike Newman
SEND Presentation & Q&A	Presentation by NHS representatives on SEND and an opportunity for Q&A session			
Children's Improvement Focus Group Feedback	Update from Cllr Griggs on progress from Children's Improvement Focus Group	To update Panel members on the progress from the Children's Improvement Focus Group		Cllr Wendy Griggs
Corporate Parenting Report	To inform Panel members of the current issues pertaining to children who are looked after, young people leaving the Authority's care and the fostering service. This will enable the panel to evaluate how effectively the whole council is discharging the Council's Corporate	(1) Note the updated information presented in this report (2) To offer comment on both areas for improvement and areas of good performance (3) To raise the profile of corporate parenting responsibilities among their colleague elected members		Carolann James

	Parenting Responsibilities and Duties, particularly in determining how effectively the council and its partners are achieving key plans and objectives for children and young people's services, and to provide appropriate challenge and suggestions to improve performance.			
Executive Member Report – The 2021-2022 Budget – What Does it Mean for our Children?	To update members on the 2021-2022 Budget implications and provide an opportunity for Q&A			Cllr Catherine Gibbons

SECTION 5 - Recommendations - Response from Executive Member

Area for investigation/ Recommendations	When were the recommendations to the Executive agreed?	Expect answer by (first panel meeting after recommendations were submitted)

SECTION 6 - Progress and follow-up on implementing Panel recommendations

Panel Recommendation	Date of Response	Actions – implementation progress