

# CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

<b>DATE</b>	15 July 2021
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Assistant Chief Executive
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Economy Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme
<b>STATUS</b>	OPEN

## CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the Council and its key partnerships. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Priorities.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report reflects work undertaken by the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel; members have suggested, within the panel's terms of reference, topics to be included in the 2021/22 work programme. The panel is asked to agree the work programme.

## MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

### 1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

The appendix to this report summarises the suggested work programme and the panel's likely timetable of activities during 2021/22 to undertake this work. The report will be a live document and progress on each of the work programme items will be monitored throughout the year.

In addition to the work programme items, there will be the opportunity for members to identify agenda items from the forward plan, the Council's quarterly performance and resources report (with a focus on those issues relevant to the remit of the panel) and the tracking of its recommendations. The panel may also respond to issues of public concern.

Members are asked to consider and agree the work programme for the ensuing municipal year.

The panel may also consider any issues it may wish to remove or add to this year's work programme.

### 2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned.

### 3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The work programme demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

### 4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations included within this report.

## **5. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

## **6. MONITORING COMMENTS**

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result, no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

## **7. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

May impact on all wards

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Annual report of scrutiny 2020/21  
Panel tracking reports

## **9. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

**HELEN ISAACS**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)**



**Children & Lifelong  
Learning  
Scrutiny Panel**

**Work programme 2021/22**

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## 1. The role of scrutiny

Effective overview and scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge - examines and review the council's decisions
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public - review and report on issues that affect local people
- Drive improvement in public services - consider the work of partners and other public organisations which affect local residents
- Contributes to the development of future policies and strategies that will help improve services for local people
- Involve local people in council decision making
- Co-ordinates the Councillor Call for Action

You can find out more about scrutiny on the council's website:

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/scrutiny/>

This document sets out the priorities, outcomes and actions which relate directly to the Communities Scrutiny Panel and forms the basis of its work programme for the next municipal year. It also provides a guide for prioritising items for scrutiny.

***This document is 'work in progress; the updating of the work programme is an ongoing task. The work programme in detail describes the panel's desired outcomes, objectives, intentions, outputs and progress. Topics may be added or withdrawn to react to changing priorities.***

## 2. Terms of reference

The scrutiny panels are responsible for scrutinising any matters affecting North East Lincolnshire within their remit. For the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel these include:

◇ Matters relating to the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy	◇ Education, standards, attainment and school improvement
◇ Safeguarding children	◇ Special educational needs and inclusion
◇ Children's social care	◇ Access and educational welfare services
◇ Fostering and adoption	◇ Children's health commissioning
◇ Looked after children and residential care	◇ Health visiting
◇ Corporate parenting	◇ School nursing
◇ Children and young people leaving care	◇ Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
◇ Children with disabilities	◇ Children's complex health care
◇ Integrated family support (Including early intervention and prevention)	◇ Teenage pregnancy
◇ Early years and childcare	◇ Employability and skills
	◇ Area Review Implementation

### 3. Scrutiny of the budget

A key element of the work programme is annual scrutiny of the Council's proposed priorities and budget prior to formal approval by Cabinet and Council in February.

The Executive Scrutiny Liaison Board will determine how budget scrutiny, performance monitoring issues and matters of a corporate nature which affect the Council as a whole, are dealt with.

North East Lincolnshire Council's finance and commissioning plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 as approved in February 2021 can be found [here](#).

### 4. The Council Plan

The Council Plan sets out the priorities for this council and is due to be initially considered by Cabinet in July 2021. The plan will then need to be referred to scrutiny prior to eventual agreement by full Council. As set out above, the panel's work programme remains a flexible document and may need to be adjusted to reflect this panel's role in monitoring Council Plan priority interventions within its remit. It is anticipated that the scrutiny panels will receive regular updates on progress with the key actions contained within the Council Plan.

### 5. Focus for the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel –

#### *Panel suggestions*

The forward work programme of each scrutiny panel should be linked to the delivery of the council's priority outcomes.

The work of this Scrutiny Panel must be focussed on these priorities when making recommendations on important policy matters and must hold the executive and other decision makers to account on those terms. It is important that panels maintain this focus when examining issues and setting agendas.

Members were given the opportunity to identify potential items for the 2021/22 programme.

The following were suggested by the panel:

- SEND Inspection written statement of action.
- New approach to the support and specialist assessment for children with additional needs
- Children's Oral Hygiene and Dentistry
- Children's Social Care Improvement
- School Exclusions
- Contextual safeguarding practice

- Domestic Abuse – SCP New Strategy
- Early Help and Prevention Strategy
- Digital Learning
- Respite care
- Children’s emotional health and wellbeing after Covid.
- Youth Crime Board – To be linked with Communities Scrutiny panel update.
- Family Hubs

and monitoring via regular reporting on:

- Local Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report 2020/21
- Children’s Social Care Statutory Complaints Annual Report 2021/22
- Educational Attainment - to include standards of education received and the progress of young people during the pandemic.
- Virtual Head Annual Report
- NEETs
- Elective Home Education
- Youth Voice and Influence
- Children’s Partnership Annual Report

These were considered by the panel at a work programme workshop on 16 June 2021 where the following topics were also agreed:

- Online Abuse & Bullying
- Service demand for Looked After Children

How the panel will approach this work is included in section nine.

## 6. Who is who

**Chair of the Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel -** Councillor Oliver Freeston

**Deputy Chair -** Councillor Debbie Woodward

**Portfolio Holder: Children, Education and Skills -** Councillor Ian Lindley

## 7. Panel Membership 2021/22

<b>Membership</b>	
Conservative:	
	Cllr Oliver Freeston
	Cllr Debbie Woodward
	Cllr Karen Swinburn
	Cllr Gary Abel
	Cllr James Cairns
	Cllr Georgia Astbury
	Cllr Brian Robinson

Labour:
Cllr Matthew Patrick
Cllr Janet Goodwin
Liberal Democrat:
Cllr Kay Rudd
Co-opted Members:
Maddy Wilson – Youth Voice rep
Greg Marsden - Church of England rep
Substitutes:
Conservatives:
- Cllr Charlotte Croft
- Cllr David Hasthorpe
- Cllr Stephen Harness
- Cllr Daniel Westcott
- Cllr Paul Batson
- Cllr Keith Brookes
- Cllr Tanya Brasted
Labour:
- Cllr Debbie Rodwell
- Cllr Karl Wilson
Liberal Democrat:
- Cllr Nicola Aisthorpe

## 8. Scheduled meetings of the panel 2021/22

All meetings start at 4.30 p.m. in Grimsby Town Hall unless otherwise stated on agenda papers.

15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022

The panel may call special meetings to consider issues in a timely manner or to give focus to important items.



## 9. DRAFT - ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION: Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel 2021/22

AGENDA ITEMS	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 4:30pm	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 4:30pm	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 4:30pm (Education focused)	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 4:30pm	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 4:30pm
<b>Theme ?:</b>					
<b>STANDING / GENERAL / MONITORING plus AGENDA ITEMS:-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Programme 2021/20</li> <li>• Provisional Outturn Report</li> <li>• Social Care Improvement update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2020/21</li> <li>• Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 2020/21</li> <li>• Quarter 1 Finance Monitoring 2021/22</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Attainment (to include demand for school places)</li> <li>• Virtual Head Annual Report</li> <li>• NEETS update</li> <li>• Elective Home Education</li> <li>• Youth voice and Influence.</li> <li>• School Exclusions</li> <li>• Quarter 2 finance monitoring 2021/22</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q3 Finance monitoring report 2021/22</li> </ul>
<b>Items to be considered and not yet allocated:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND Inspection written statement of action.</li> <li>• New approach to the support and specialist assessment for children with additional needs</li> <li>• Children's Oral Hygiene and Dentistry</li> <li>• Family Hubs</li> <li>• Contextual safeguarding practice (inc. performance, lessons learnt)</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse – SCP New Strategy</li> <li>• Early Help and Prevention Strategy (to include service demand for LAC)</li> <li>• Digital Learning</li> <li>• Respite care</li> <li>• Children's emotional health and wellbeing after Covid.</li> <li>• Children in Care update (to include national policy and legislation guidance)</li> </ul>			<b>Work Programme 2021/22 (for information):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Crime Board/Anti-social behaviour – To be linked with Communities Scrutiny panel update (</li> <li>• Online Abuse &amp; Bullying</li> </ul>		

If you would like more information or to find out more about scrutiny you can contact us:

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Town Hall Square  
GRIMSBY  
DN31 1HU

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**or call** (01472) 326285