

Agenda

Children and young people scrutiny committee

Date: **Friday 30 April 2021**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Virtual Meeting**

Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call Matthew Evans, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260176 or e-mail sarah.buffrey@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the meeting of the Children and young people scrutiny committee

Membership

Chairperson **Councillor Carole Gandy**
Vice-Chairperson **Councillor Diana Toynbee**

Councillor Graham Andrews
Councillor Paul Andrews
Councillor Kath Hey
Councillor Phillip Howells
Councillor Mike Jones

Co-optees **Andy James** **Parent Governor Representative – SEND Sector**
Sam Pratley **Church Representative – Diocese of Hereford**

Agenda

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES To receive details of members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a member of the committee.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive declarations of interest in respect of Schedule 1, Schedule 2 or Other Interests from members of the committee in respect of items on the agenda.	
4. MINUTES To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting on 23 March 2021.	5 - 12
5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC To receive any written questions from members of the public. <i>Deadline for receipt of questions is 5:00pm on Monday 26 April.</i> <i>Accepted questions and answers will be published as a supplement prior to the meeting. Please submit questions to:</i> councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk .	
6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL To receive any written questions from members of the council. <i>Deadline for receipt of questions is 5:00pm on Monday 26 April.</i> <i>Accepted questions and answers will be published as a supplement prior to the meeting. Please submit questions to:</i> councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk .	
7. WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW To agree the work programme and meeting dates for the 2021/22 administrative year. To agree the scoping document for the paediatric therapies task and finish group.	13 - 30

Minutes of the meeting of Children and young people scrutiny committee held at Online meeting only on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 1.00 pm

Present: Councillor Carole Gandy (chairperson)
Councillor Diana Toynbee (vice-chairperson)

Councillors: Paul Andrews, Kath Hey, Phillip Howells and Mike Jones

Co-optees: Andy James and Sam Pratley.

In attendance: Councillor Felicity Norman and Councillor Trish Marsh

Officers: Assistant Director Education, Development and Skills, Assistant Director Safeguarding and Family Support, Deputy Solicitor to the Council, Head of Learning and Achievement, Principal Educational Psychologist, Public Health Specialist, Strategic Business Intelligence Manager, Head of Additional Needs, Schools Capital Investment Adviser, Statutory Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services Officer

Others in attendance: Rebecca Dwight, Lead for CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing.
Dr Katie Powell, CAMHS Service of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust:
Elaine Cook-Tippins, CAMHS.
Sally-Anne Osbourne, CAMHS
Christine Price, Chief Officer, Healthwatch Herefordshire

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Andy James declared an interest in the Herefordshire capital investment strategy 2021 – 2030 for specialist settings educating children and young people with special education needs and disabilities item as a parent governor at Westfield School.

During the item Mr James left the committee as an education co-optee and acted as a witness. Mr James left the meeting prior to the vote on the item.

29. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings on 12 January and 19 January are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

30. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Pages 5 - 8)

A copy of the public questions received, responses provided and the supplementary questions are attached at appendix 1.

31. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES MENTAL HEALTH

The committee received a report from the cabinet member children and families. The committee received presentations from the children and families directorate, the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Herefordshire Healthwatch.

During the debate the points below were raised:

- An updated report on children and young people's mental health to be allocated to the September meeting of the committee in 2020.
- The circulation of the mental health and wellbeing survey to all committee members once completed.
- The work undertaken between the council and the clinical commissioning group to produce a mental health pathway for looked after children.
- The mental health and wellbeing survey and the sharing of school-specific data.
- The resourcing of the educational psychologist team.
- Support for work that focused on healthy relationships particularly within school curriculums.
- The fragmented nature of mental health services for children and young people and mapping work taking place to clarify the responsibilities of local organisations. Work was taking place with the mental health partnership to draft a map of services which would be available on the Wellbeing Information and Signposting for Herefordshire (WISH) website.
- The impact of COVID-19 and the impact on frontline services for children and young people's mental health.
- Support for emotional literacy support assistants (ELSAs) and a recommendation to investigate an increase in the number of ELSAs in schools.
- A phone line for parents to contact with concerns and the early help phone line which would provide this function. Details of the early help phone line would be circulated to members of the committee following the meeting.
- The target waiting times for assessment for the children and adolescents mental health service (CAMHs) and the actual waiting times following the merger of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG).
- The grading of the eating disorders, the current incidence and the waiting times for treatment.
- The importance of listening to young people and the outcomes from the Healthwatch survey which identified the provision of safe spaces in schools as a priority. A recommendation to encourage schools to look at the provision of safe spaces was proposed.
- The mental health support team in schools and detail of the selection of the four high schools chosen.

The cabinet member children and families explained that it was encouraging that so much good work was in progress.

The recommendations below were proposed by Councillor Gandy, seconded by Councillor Paul Andrews and approved by the committee.

RESOLVED: The committee recommends:

- **That an update report on CYP mental health is presented to the meeting on 14 September;**
- **That the mental health and wellbeing survey is circulated to all members of the committee once completed;**

- That the executive investigates an increase in the number of support assistants trained in emotional literacy in local schools;
- That the executive looks to work with schools to encourage the identification of safe spaces, as raised by Healthwatch.

32. HEREFORDSHIRE CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2021-2030 FOR SPECIALIST SETTINGS EDUCATING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES SEND

(Mr Andy James fulfilled the role of a witness and had no vote on this item.)

The committee considered a report from the cabinet member children and families concerning the Herefordshire Capital Investment Strategy 2021-2030 For Specialist Settings Educating Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities SEND. The head of additional needs and the schools capital investment adviser introduced the report.

Mr James spoke as a witness and read aloud a statement from the Westfield Governing Body. He requested that the feasibility study covers 2-16 and 16-19 age ranges and that it is not limited to 2-16 before the consultation concerning the future of the sixth form at Westfield School was undertaken. The wording in the strategy document suggested that the decision had already been made.

The schools capital investment adviser provided detail concerning the proposals in the report concerning the Westfield School and the process undertaken to develop the proposals. She explained that the feasibility study needed to be conducted urgently to avoid losing the funding set aside for this purpose by the Council. She stated that there would be a need to re-apply for funding for the feasibility study if there were to be further delay of the project when everyone agrees that improved facilities are desperately needed. The schools capital investment adviser further explained that the recommendation described in the strategy is based on the information available to date and that officers are recommending a 2-16 age range but the consultation concerning the future of the sixth form at Westfield School will further inform the decision.

Councillor Trish Marsh as the member for Leominster South spoke as the local member to the Westfield School. Support was expressed for the request that the feasibility study covers 2-16 and 16-19 age ranges and that it is not limited to 2-16 before the consultation concerning the future of the sixth form at Westfield School was undertaken.

The schools capital investment adviser explained that it had been already agreed with Westfield School governing body that the age range in the title to the feasibility study (i.e. 2-16 yrs) would be removed and the consultation on the sixth form provision undertaken once the final strategy had been agreed and published.

During the debate the committee raised the following points:

- The fire risk assessment that had been undertaken at Westfield School.
- The lack of detail in the report concerning the change to the age ranges in title of the Westfield School feasibility study.
- The suitability of the current buildings at Westfield School and the restricted nature of the site.
- A recommendation that the capital strategy clarifies that the feasibility study would cover the current full age-range at Westfield and that the consultation regarding the future of the sixth form centre would be separate. Both will inform the final Council decision.

- Detail in the strategy concerning the educational provision for children with autism and a recommendation that further detail is presented to the committee at a later date following discussion with the representatives from the local branch of the National Autistic Society.

Mr James left the meeting at 3.22 p.m.

The cabinet member children and families explained that the strategy was for improvements across the whole of the county covering all types of provision for specialist needs.

Councillor Carole Gandy proposed and Councillor Phillip Howells seconded the recommendations below which were put to the vote and agreed by the committee.

RESOLVED: That the committee supports the strategy but recommends:

- **That the strategy clarifies that the outcomes of the 6th form consultation for Westfield school will inform the scope of the feasibility study; and**
- **Requests that further detail is presented to a future meeting of increasing provision offered for children with autism.**

It was proposed by Councillor Carole Gandy that the remaining business on the agenda be deferred until a later meeting date, to be confirmed. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Paul Andrews and agreed by the committee.

RESOLVED: That the remaining business on the agenda is deferred to a later meeting date, to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 4.37 pm

Chairperson

Supplement – schedule of questions received for meeting of children and young people scrutiny committee – 23 March 2021

Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Ms Shore, Bartestree	The Fertile Heart", RSE curriculum at St Mary's RC High School in Lugwardine, teaches that men were "created to initiate sexual relationships" and women to be "receiver responders". This normalises a dangerous gender power imbalance in sexual relationships with the message that women are passive recipients of male sexual acts. This both undermines equality and the importance of understanding consent in sexual relationships. Would the committee agree that this teaching puts both young women and men at risk and is in fact a safeguarding issue that requires Children's Services to act accordingly?	Chairperson of Children's Scrutiny

Response from Assistant Director Education, Development and Skills

We are aware of the programme of study called Fertile Hearts. To the best of our knowledge the school is teaching the programme as recommended by the Archdiocese of Cardiff. It is part of the Catholic education programme and the Archdiocese is responsible for the content of the programme, not the school and not the Local Authority. The school is responsible for how it is taught. We have been advised that it has been implemented in accordance with all required consultations. As such we (as in the Local Authority) cannot prevent its use. Some council members have significant reservations about the programme which has attracted media coverage and the content of the programme is under review. We have been reassured that the Archdiocese keep all new programmes under review, including this one, and will take account of the feedback they have received. We will maintain a contact with the Archdiocese. The programme does not of itself breach Equalities Act legislation but we will seek to be reassured that the way it is used is in line with all relevant legislation.

The Local Authority does not have the power to intervene or challenge the Archdiocesan policy on this programme. The mechanism of challenge to the operation of the policy exists by either parents, pupils, or staff claiming discrimination under the Equality Act 2010, and to the policy itself through the overview provided by the schools' Inspectorate or the Secretary of State.

The policy meets current DFE requirements and as such it allows for the teaching of different faith based perspectives and enables and encourages discussion and debate on such issues.

There have been external evaluations, including inspections and a section 48 (Diocesan inspection) and Ofsted in recent years, neither of which have highlighted any concerns with the wider safeguarding issues raised above. That said, as a consequence of reservations about the content, we will seek to ensure the Archdiocese does keep the content and way of teaching it under review.

Response from the Chairperson of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Officers have outlined above how the Council has very limited influence in respect of the curriculum that is taught in local faith schools and I recognise how frustrating and difficult it is for some residents to understand. I myself before becoming involved in Children's Services did not appreciate this. I know there is concern regarding relationship and sex education taught through the 'a fertile heart' teaching material, I understand that concern and the cabinet member children and families has previously commented on the use of the resource. When the council is informed of safeguarding concerns involving children it will investigate and as a committee we retain an oversight of the performance and effectiveness of those safeguarding services that respond to

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such reports. With respect to the issue you raise I will remain in contact with the cabinet member to understand and question how the council may be working with the Archdiocese of Cardiff to explore the concerns that have been raised. If there is any role for the scrutiny committee to play this can be considered for inclusion on the committee's work programme however I do reiterate that the Council has no power over what schools under the Archdiocese of Cardiff choose to teach within Herefordshire.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your full reply to my question. I welcome your shared concerns about this RSE programme. In the current context where safety of women and girls is at last receiving long needed attention, the content of this programme is indeed extremely concerning. While I would welcome detail about "all the required consultations" and about what is meant by keeping the programme under review, my question is about how you propose to "maintain a contact with the Archdiocese". It is my understanding that the Archdiocese has consistently refused to meet with the Cabinet member. Can you explain how exactly you are maintaining contact? Is there in fact any dialogue with the Archdiocese, or is the Council the email recipient of empty assurance and platitudes? If so, what action is the Council taking to bring about a meeting?

Response from Assistant Director Education, Development and Skills

After a delay contact had been made with the Archdiocese by telephone and email about the issue. It was intended that there would continue to be contact and clarity would be sought concerning the review of the teaching programme by the Archdiocese.

Response from the Cabinet Member Children and Families

A meeting was being arranged with the school at which a representative of the Archdiocese would be present. Once the meeting had taken place outcomes could be shared.

PQ 2	Ms Liddle, Hereford	<p>In November, Cabinet Members were alerted to NEW concerns from the public about the safeguarding of victims of peer-on-peer rape; concerns were expressed that not all victims were being shielded from the alleged perpetrator in school.</p> <p>Despite knowing these concerns, Officers have refused to undertake a review of the 2020 alleged rape cases to ensure that no child has been left in class with someone they have identified as the rapist. An FOI request has now established that there were 2 alleged peer-on-peer rapes reported in 2020, suggesting that a review could be completed swiftly.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member children and families shed any light on what, to members of the public, seems to be an extraordinarily negligent position taken by Officers and a distressing repetition of the mistakes of the past?</p>	Cabinet Member Children and Families
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Response:

We do apologise that we will not be able to provide details about the two incidents you referred to in order to protect the confidentiality of all children concerned. In the 2 cases, the local authority looked thoroughly with key partners, and we were assured that safeguarding measures were put in place in the two occasions in a timely and appropriate manner.

We assure you that we were not aware of any referral from internal or external organisations, or individuals with regard to alleged peer on peer rape or sexual assault for children living in Herefordshire that haven't been looked at and responded to appropriately. We would like to remind all individuals and organisations that it is a legal requirement to report any serious safeguarding concern as soon as they become aware to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in order that pupils may be safeguarded quickly.

Supplementary Question:

We are not seeking details about the two incidents or the children involved, we are asking the Officers to contact the school/s where the incidents have occurred and establish whether or not the victims/s are being shielded from their alleged perpetrator/s. Why has this not been done, why have we instead been mis-directed into a spurious argument about confidentiality, and when will it be done?

Response from the Cabinet Member Children and Families

It was important that confidentiality was maintained. Contact with the schools had been made and there was assurance that the matters were being dealt with appropriately.

Response from the Assistant Director Education, Development and Skills

Contact had been made with the schools and appropriate action had been undertaken. Confidentiality was important to avoid the chance that children might be identified.

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PQ 3	Name and Address supplied	<p>In September 2020, Councillors praised the work of families who have been raising awareness of peer-on-peer sexual abuse since 2016. Apologies were made for the failure to take seriously warnings of the risks to children. Officers promised to listen to the voices of victims through a process of reconciliation. Six months on there is still no process underway.</p> <p>Furthermore, some gaps in systems/practice identified by families in 2019 when they met the Director of Children's Services and Cllr Norman have not been plugged; two years on there is still no model guidance for schools, no guidance on the rights of victims under the HRA1998 and EA2010 and no written guidance for schools educating a sex offender.</p> <p>The families are distressed by empty promises and critical gaps in guidance which leave children at risk. How are the Committee feeling?</p>	Chairperson of Children's Scrutiny
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Response from Assistant Director Education, Development and Skills

The draft model guidance for schools was completed in the autumn term and was shared with the University of Bedford, the national lead institution for peer on peer abuse in the UK. The guidance was returned by the University of Bedford in the New Year with a number of recommendations for making what they described as a very good document even better. This work has necessitated officers to gain further input from a wide range of agencies which has been time consuming. I am aware of the frustration this will cause and I apologise for that but we were keen that the process was completed with diligence and full process. The guidance has been out for consultation with education providers and once that process is complete it will be shared with families who have been involved as agreed by scrutiny previously. The final guidance will be officially launched by Herefordshire Council starting next month with a number of training events for education and multi agencies providers led by officers and the University of Bedford.

Response from the Chairperson of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Officers have outlined above updates on the implementation of the recommendations from the peer on peer abuse review. I appreciate that there has now been some time since the scrutiny committee considered the outcomes of the peer on peer abuse review in September 2020 and I like you am concerned that despite our recommendations there appears to have been little progress in their implementation. When the work programme is considered, later on in this agenda, I will propose that the committee receives a full update on progress made, to be scheduled at the next meeting on 1 June.

Supplementary Question:

This family asks whether this Committee will support their call for the immediate implementation of a process of truth and reconciliation overseen by someone the families trust?

Response to Supplementary Question:

A written response would be provided.



Meeting:	Children and young people scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	Friday 30 April 2021
Title of report:	Work programme 2021 - 2022
Report by:	Democratic Services Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To agree: the attached work programme and meeting dates for 2021/22; and the scoping document for the paediatric therapies task and finish group. To note the recommendations tracker.

Recommendation(s)

That the committee:

- (a) **Reviews and agrees the 2021/22 work programme and meeting dates at appendix 1; discusses any additional items of business or topics for inclusion in the work programme;**
- (b) **approves the scoping document (appendix 2) for the paediatric therapies task and finish group, its membership (including any co-optees) and the appointment of a chairperson; and**
- (c) **notes the recommendation tracker in appendix 3.**

Alternative options

1. It is for the committee to determine its work programme to reflect the priorities facing Herefordshire. The committee needs to be selective and ensure that the work programme is focused, realistic and deliverable within existing resources. The committee needs to develop a manageable work programme to ensure that scrutiny is focused, effective and produces clear outcomes. Topics selected on the work programme should reflect issues of current importance facing children's services at Herefordshire council.

Key considerations

Work Programme

2. The work programme needs to focus on the key issues of concern and be manageable allowing for urgent items or matters that have been called-in. Should committee members become aware of any issue they think should be considered by the committee they are invited to discuss the matter with the chairperson, vice chairperson and the statutory scrutiny officer. The proposed work programme for 2021-2022 is attached at appendix 1.

Constitutional Matters

Task and Finish Groups

3. A scrutiny committee may appoint a task and finish group for any scrutiny activity within the committee's agreed work programme. A committee may determine to undertake a task and finish activity itself as a spotlight review where such an activity may be undertaken in a single session; the procedure rules relating to task and finish groups will apply in these circumstances but the review is likely to be attended by all members of the committee and chaired by the chairperson.
4. The scrutiny committee will approve the scope of the activity to be undertaken by a task and finish group, the membership, chairperson, timeframe, desired outcomes and what will not be included in the work. A task and finish group will be composed of a least 2 members of the committee, other councillors and may include, as appropriate, co-opted people with specialist knowledge or expertise to support the task. The committee will appoint the chairperson of a task and finish group.
5. The committee is asked to determine matters relating to the convening of a task and finish group including the scope of the review to be undertaken, the chairperson, membership, timeframe, desired outcomes, what will not be included in the review and whether to co-opt any non-voting members to the group. Such co-optees could consist of individuals with valuable skills and experience that would assist a task and finish group to undertake a review (see below).
6. During its work programming session on 20 November 2020 the convening of a paediatric therapies task and finish group was proposed. The draft scoping document for the task and finish group is attached, as appendix 2, for the committee to consider and approve. The committee is also asked to agree the membership of the task and finish group and appoint a chairperson.

Co-option

7. A scrutiny committee may co-opt a maximum of two non-voting people as and when required, for example for a particular meeting or to join a task and finish group. Any such

co-optees will be agreed by the committee having reference to the agreed work programme and/or task and finish group membership.

8. The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to exercise this power in respect of any matters in the work programme.

Tracking of resolutions made by the committee which require a response or action

9. A schedule of recommendations made by the committee which require a response or action is appended to this report as appendix c.

Forward plan

10. The constitution states that scrutiny committees should consider the forward plan as the chief source of information regarding forthcoming key decisions. Forthcoming decisions of the children and families directorate are listed below:

Decision and purpose	Date of decision and decision maker
<p>Herefordshire Capital Investment Strategy 2021-2030 For Specialist Settings Educating Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities SEND</p> <p>To approve the Herefordshire Capital Investment Strategy for specialist settings for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) 2021-2030.</p> <p>The strategy seeks to ensure that there is high quality sustainable specialist educational accommodation for children and young people with SEND in Herefordshire.</p>	<p>22 April 2021 by Cabinet</p>

Suggestions for scrutiny from members of the public

11. Suggestions for scrutiny are invited from members of the public through the council's website, accessible through the link below. There have been no suggestions for scrutiny received from members of the public since the previous meeting of the committee.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200148/your_council/61/get_involved/4.

Community impact

12. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts, and encourages constructive challenge, and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review. Topics selected for scrutiny should have regard to what matters to residents.

Equality duty

13. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Matthew Evans, Tel: 01432 383690, email: Matthew.Evans@herefordshire.gov.uk

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
14. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this report concerns the administrative function of the children and young people scrutiny committee, it is not felt that it will have an impact on our equality duty.

Resource implications

15. The costs of the work of the committee will have to be met within existing resources. It should be noted the costs of running scrutiny can be subject to an assessment to support appropriate processes.
16. The councillors' allowance scheme contains provision for co-opted and other non-elected members to claim travel, subsistence and dependant carer's allowances on the same basis as members of the council. If the committee agrees that co-optees should be included in an inquiry they will be entitled to claim allowances.

Legal implications

17. The council is required to deliver a scrutiny function. The development of a work programme which is focused and reflects those priorities facing Herefordshire will assist the committee and the council to deliver a scrutiny function.
18. The Scrutiny Rules in Part 4 Section 5 of the Council's constitution provide for the setting of a work programme, the reporting of recommendations to the executive and the establishment of task and finish groups, as below.
19. Paragraph 4.5.28 of the constitution explains that the scrutiny committee is responsible for setting its own work programme. In setting its work programme a scrutiny committee shall have regard to the resources (including officer time) available.
20. Under section 4.5.10 of the constitution a scrutiny committee may appoint a task and finish group for any scrutiny activity within the committee's agreed work programme. A committee may determine to undertake a task and finish activity itself as a spotlight review where such an activity may be undertaken in a single session; the procedure rules relating to task and finish groups will apply in these circumstances. The relevant scrutiny committee will approve the scope of the activity to be undertaken, the membership, chairperson, timeframe, desired outcomes and what will not be included in the work. It will be a matter for the task and finish group to determine lines of questioning, witnesses (from the council or wider community) and evidence requirements.

21. Under section 4.5.19 of the constitution task and finish groups will report their findings/outcomes/recommendations to the relevant scrutiny committee who will decide if the findings/outcomes/recommendations should be reported to the cabinet or elsewhere.

Risk management

22.

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
There is a reputational risk to the council if the scrutiny function does not operate effectively.	The arrangements for the development of the work programme should help mitigate this risk.

Consultees

23. The work programme is reviewed at every committee meeting.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Work Programme 2021/22.
Appendix 2 – Scoping document paediatric therapies task and finish group.
Appendix 3 – Recommendation tracker.

Background papers

None identified.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

23 March 2021

Work Programme 2021/22

Meeting date: 1 June 2021 – 10.15 a.m.		Despatch: 24 May	
Item	Description	Report Author	Form of Scrutiny*
Review of performance and progress against the Safeguarding and Family Support improvement plan. (Quarter 4)	To review progress against the improvement plan produced in response to the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) inspection judgement of June 2018 and the subsequent Safeguarding and Family Support division improvement plan.	Andy Gill	Performance Review
Report of work of prevent and disrupt group to address child exploitation and the current risk of exploitation in Herefordshire. Child Exploitation summit, to include modern day slavery	To provide detail on the work of the prevent and disrupt group to address child exploitation in Herefordshire. To include detail of the current risk of exploitation to children in Herefordshire. To facilitate the child exploitation summit to include a focus on modern day slavery.	Liz Elgar	Performance Review
Meeting date: 27 July 2021 – 10.15 p.m.		Despatch: 19 July	
Review of performance and progress against the Safeguarding and Family Support improvement plan. (Quarter 1)	To review progress against the improvement plan produced in response to the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) inspection judgement of June 2018 and the subsequent Safeguarding and Family Support division improvement plan.	Andy Gill	Performance Review
Youth Justice Plan	To endorse the Youth Justice Plan 2021/22 for approval by full Council and consider whether there are any comments the committee would wish to make that would inform the production of the Plan for 2019/20.		Pre-decision call-in of Policy Framework item
Corporate Parenting Strategy – annual update /	To consider the annual update to the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-2023.	Andy Gill/Gill Cox	Performance Review

Leaving care and preparing for adulthood	To receive details of what services exist to prepare care leavers and unaccompanied child asylum seekers for adulthood.		
Adoption Service and Fostering Service annual reports	To receive the annual reports from the adoption and fostering services and consider the outcomes and recommendations. To make recommendations to the cabinet member on the operation of the services during 2020/21.	Gill Cox	Performance review
Children's Centre T&F scope	To consider a scoping document for a task and finish group concerning children's centres.		Policy review and development
Meeting date: 14 September 2021 – 10.15 a.m.		Despatch: 6 September	
Impact of pandemic on opportunities for school and care leavers and mental health	To provide a report concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how the council is intending to address the impact on school and care leavers of the potential economic downturn and reduced employment opportunities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and - actions to address mental health problems arising from the pandemic and including a focus on pastoral support in schools and potential forms of funding from government. 	Ceri Morgan	Policy review and development / Performance review
Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) annual report and LADO and IRO annual reports	To receive and scrutinise the HSCP annual reports and IRO and LADO annual reports.	Liz Elgar/Andy Gill	Performance Review
Meeting date: 23 November 2021 – 10.15 a.m.		Despatch: 15 November	
Review of performance and progress against the Safeguarding and Family Support improvement plan (Quarter 2)	To review progress against the improvement plan produced in response to the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection judgement of June 2018 and the subsequent Safeguarding and Family Support division improvement plan.	Andy Gill	Performance Review
Public Health – Dental Health and Childhood Obesity	To provide a report on the high-level action plan for improving oral health in Herefordshire and details of any progress against the recommendations in the oral health needs assessment.		Performance Review

	To provide an update on work of the council to address childhood obesity To provide detail regarding the Public Health England better start in life (BSIL) Programme.		
Meeting date: 11 January 2022 – 10.15 a.m.		Despatch: 3 January	
Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	To seek the views of the committee on the draft medium term financial strategy (MTFS), the budget proposals for 2021-22 relating to Children and Families.	Andrew Lovegrove, Josie Rushgrove	Pre-decision call-in/Policy review and development
Meeting date: 22 March 2022 – 10.15 am.		Despatch: 14 March	
Review of performance and progress against the Safeguarding and Family Support improvement plan (Quarter 3)	To review progress against the improvement plan produced in response to the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection judgement of June 2018 and the subsequent Safeguarding and Family Support division improvement plan.	Andy Gill	Performance Review
Work programme 2022/23	To agree the work programme and meeting dates for the 2021/22 administrative year.	Matt Evans	

Business to allocate– Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) – task and finish group – **Proposed****Briefing Notes:**

Briefing note concerning the NEETs project			Briefing note – September 2021
Outcome of the audit of the reduction in child protection plans			Briefing note – Summer 2021
Elective Home Education and current trends			Briefing note – November 2021

* *Pre-decision call-in, Performance review, Policy review and development*

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Paediatric Therapies Task and Finish Group – Scoping Document

Title of review	Paediatric Therapies Task and Finish Group
Scope	
Reason for review	<p>To consider how the coronavirus has impacted on the provision of paediatric therapies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) • Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) • Children’s Physiotherapy • Children’s Occupational Therapy
Links to the county plan	<p>The review contributes to the following objectives contained in the Herefordshire county plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together
Summary of the review and terms of reference	<p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the performance of paediatric therapies and any delays between referral to treatment in paediatric therapies. • To consider the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on paediatric therapies and how working practices have adapted.
	<p>Terms of Reference:</p> <p>The task and finish group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive performance data (prior to the pandemic and since the outbreak) including waiting times for assessment and referral to treatment. To consider in the context of national and regional statistics. • Receive detail of the range of therapy services available to children and young people in Herefordshire. • Receive and consider referral pathways and clinical criteria to access the services; including urgent and routine referrals. • Receive an assessment of the impact of health needs, such as SALT, on childhood development, e.g. social inclusion and friendships, engagement in education. • Receive detail of the group of children and young people receiving therapeutic services, e.g. CYP with SEND, CYP with cancer, CYP with complex health needs, CYP with eating disorders and CYP with gender dysphoria • To receive and consider feedback concerning services from CYP, families, staff and stakeholders. To determine any themes or predominant issues and where improvement could be realised.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive detail of service resources, current workforce and clinicians' caseloads. • To receive details of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on therapeutic services and adaptations that have been necessary to respond to demand during the periods of lockdown/social distancing. • To develop an understanding of what are the main issues or themes that lead to a referral to therapeutic services from the experience of the clinical staff and why – are there health inequalities? <p>Membership (to be determined):</p>
What will NOT be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The examination of any individual cases. However anonymised case studies might assist the Group in completing the review.
Potential outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the current performance of paediatric therapies; and • An understanding of the impact of the coronavirus on the provision of paediatric therapies.
Key Questions	<p>To consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance data (prior to the pandemic and since the outbreak) including waiting times for assessment and referral to treatment and how does this compare with national and regional statistics? • What are the referral pathways and clinical criteria to access services? • Receive an assessment of the impact of health needs, such as SALT, on childhood development, e.g. social inclusion and friendships, engagement in education. • What groups of children and young people receive therapeutic services, e.g. CYP with SEND, CYP with cancer, CYP with complex health needs, CYP with eating disorders and CYP with gender dysphoria? • What feedback exists concerning the experience of CYP, families, staff and stakeholders of therapeutic services? • What information can be presented of service resources, current workforce and clinicians' caseloads. • What has been the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on therapeutic services and what adaptations have been necessary during the periods of lockdown/social distancing. • To develop an understanding of what are the main issues or themes that lead to a referral to therapeutic services from the experience of the clinical staff and why – are there health inequalities? •
Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet member children and families

Key stakeholders / Consultees	Internal – Children and Families Directorate External – Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group – Wye Valley Trust
Potential witnesses	Representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) • Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) • Physiotherapy • Occupational Therapy • Teachers • Families using paediatric therapy services • Primary school teachers
Research Required	•
Potential Visits	
Publicity Requirements	Following the conclusion of the task and finish group, to report back to the children and young people scrutiny committee.

Outline Timetable (to be determined): (following decision by the children and young people scrutiny committee to commission the Review)	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Confirm approach, Terms of Reference, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/meeting dates	Committee meeting – 30 April 2021
Meeting One	
Meeting Two	
Meeting Three	
Present final report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	

Group Members	
Chair	
Support Members	
Co-optees	<i>Tbc</i>
Support Officers	M Evans

Schedule of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee resolutions requiring a response or action

Meeting	item	Recommendations	Action	Status
28 July 2020	Schools update	<p>RESOLVED – That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee recommends that a further survey is undertaken concerning children’s mental health and schooling arrangements during the pandemic; • A briefing note is circulated providing details of the number of private nurseries that have opened in September 2020 and stayed open in October and November; • An update is provided regarding the national catch-up programme; • The work on children’s mental health is prioritised by the committee and includes a review of school pastoral support and a mental health pathway for looked after children; • Further detailed examination of the outcomes of the survey is undertaken to determine how the provision and effectiveness of mental health services were impacted during the lockdown; • An update is provided regarding the attendance rates after the return to school in September. 	An update briefing on the recommendations relating to the schools update will be circulated.	

<p>19 January 2021</p>	<p>Provision of children centre service in Bromyard area: pre-decision scrutiny</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That the committee:</p> <p>1) Has significant concerns about the timing of the proposed decision during the current pandemic and the implications for services users. The committee recommends deferral of the decision and extension of the current contract up to 12 months to enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive consultation with the local community, service users and voluntary sector organisations; • Engagement with the HOPE Family Centre to ensure that the Council has necessary evidence to conduct a full and detailed evaluation of the service provided by the HOPE Family Centre and how it compares to the in-house service; • Greater exploration of alternative options including a potential tendering exercise for a commissioned service; • Work to ascertain what staffing arrangements would be put in place to ensure existing HOPE Family Centre staff have a greater degree of understanding about their future roles within the service; and • The committee to undertake a detailed scrutiny exercise on the 		
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		<p>proposal involving evidence from service users.</p> <p>2) Recommends that in future the committee is made aware of issues of a sensitive and emotive concern to local communities as potential items for scrutiny.</p>		
23 March 2021	Children and Young People Mental Health	<p>RESOLVED: The committee recommends:</p> <p>That an update report on CYP mental health is presented to the meeting on 14 September;</p> <p>That the mental health and wellbeing survey is circulated to all members of the committee once completed;</p> <p>That the executive investigates an increase in the number of support assistants trained in emotional literacy in local schools;</p> <p>That the executive looks to work with schools to encourage the identification of safe spaces, as raised by Healthwatch.</p>		
	Herefordshire capital investment strategy 2021-2030 for specialist settings educating children and	<p>RESOLVED: That the committee supports the strategy but recommends:</p> <p>That the strategy clarifies that the outcomes of the 6th form consultation for Westfield school will inform the scope of the feasibility study; and</p> <p>Requests that further detail is presented to a future</p>		

	young people with special educational needs and disabilities SEND	meeting of increasing provision offered for children with autism.		
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