

**Children and Young People
Scrutiny Committee**

Work programme

23 November 2021

Work programme rationalisation and prioritisation

- Potential items of business have been identified previously and other items may be proposed. These need to be rationalised and prioritised, reflecting the time and resources available.
- Should this go on the work programme?

Yes, if...

- ✓ the issue is strategic, county-wide and not limited to just a few communities...
 - ✓ scrutiny is being proactive, able to make a difference at the right time...
 - ✓ additional transparency and influence can be added to the topic at hand...
 - ✓ there is considerable public interest in scrutiny lifting the lid.
- How can the issue be dealt with most efficiently and effectively?
 - a briefing note
 - a seminar / workshop
 - an agenda item
 - a task and finish group

Annual reports

The following reports are recommended to be considered by the committee on an annual basis:

1. Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and Child Protection (CP)
2. Adoption Service
3. Fostering Service
4. Principal Social Worker
5. Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
6. Health & Wellbeing
7. Herefordshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership
8. Corporate Parenting
9. Youth Justice Plan
10. Complaints/Compliments and Comments

Agreed meeting dates

Thursday 5 August 2021 – mainstream agenda

Tuesday 7 September 2021 – improvement focus

Tuesday 12 October 2021 – mainstream agenda

Tuesday 23 November 2021 – improvement focus

Tuesday 7 December 2021 – mainstream agenda

Tuesday 11 January 2022

Tuesday 22 March 2022

Agenda items

Thursday 5 August 2021, 2:30 pm

Publication deadline: 28 July
Questions deadline: 30 July

Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
<p>Youth Justice Plan</p> <p>[Pre-decision call-in of Policy Framework item]</p>	<p>Standard annual item to endorse the current plan for approval by Council and consider any comments to inform the production of the plan for the next financial year.</p>	<p>Keith Barham, Head of Service, West Mercia Youth Justice Service</p>	<p>Agenda published 28 July.</p> <p>Due to covid-19 there was no Youth Justice Plan for 2020/21.</p> <p>Draft plan 21/22 due to be considered by Cabinet in September 2021 and by Council in October 2021.</p>
<p>Co-optees report</p>	<p>Following a resolution at Council on 28 May 2021 a report to be presented setting out how co-optees, including the additional representative of the teaching sector, are to be appointed.</p>	<p>Claire Ward, solicitor to the council</p>	<p>Agenda published 28 July.</p>
<p>Work programme</p>	<p>To review and approve the updated work programme.</p>		<p>To approve the latest version of the work programme.</p>

Agenda items

Tuesday 7 September 2021, 2:30pm
Improvement Focus

Publication deadline: - 27 August
Questions deadline: - 1 September

Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
<p>Improvement Plan timescales report [Performance review]</p>	<p>The committee received a report on 20 May 2021 on developments in the children’s legal team. It was requested that the following be added to the work programme for the July meeting:</p> <p>To receive a project plan with timescales of all legal services teams actions, required as part of the overall improvement plan considerations (e.g. new escalation protocol and end of life protocol). As part of the project plan, a tasks vs resources available breakdown be produced to identify who does what to show 1) where resources and gaps existing; and 2) the actions and timescales to address them.</p>	<p>Cath Knowles, Interim Director for Children and Families</p> <p>Kate Charlton, Interim Head of Legal Services</p>	<p>Deferred from 27 July meeting.</p>

Agenda items

7 September cont.		Publication deadline: - 27 August Questions deadline: - 1 September	
Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Update on the children services improvement journey –including director’s update report [performance review – improvement]	Agreed at committee 5 August 2021, linked to projected cycle of improvement meetings.	Cath Knowles, Interim Director for Children and Families	Delivered

Agenda items

Tuesday 12 October 2021, 2:30 pm

Publication deadline: - 4 October
Questions deadline: - 6 October

Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
<p>Children’s Centre services, Bromyard [Pre-decision scrutiny]</p>	<p>The committee undertook pre-decision scrutiny on 19 January 2021 on Provision Of Children Centre Service In Bromyard Area. It was resolved that the committee undertake a detailed scrutiny exercise on the proposal involving evidence from service users.</p>	<p>Richard Watson, Childrens Joint Commissioning Manager</p>	<p>A decision was taken on 19 February 2021 to extend the current contract for the delivery of children’s centre services in the Bromyard reach area to no later than 31 March 2022.</p> <p>A further decision on the future of the contract beyond March 2022 will need to be taken in the autumn of 2021 and is proposed to be subject to pre-decision scrutiny.</p>
<p>Effective scrutiny of children’s services: training and development offer</p>		<p>John Coleman, Democratic Services Manager</p>	

Agenda items

Tuesday 23 November 2021, 2:30pm
Improvement Focus

Publication deadline: - 15 November
Questions deadline: - 17 November

Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Update on Children's Services Strategic and Operational Improvement Plan		Darryl Freeman	Scheduled
Independent Review Officer Report		Matthew Sampson	Scheduled
Carers Portal		Matthew Sampson	Will discuss in briefing

Agenda items

Tuesday 7 December 2021, 2:30 pm

Publication deadline: - 29 November
Questions deadline: - 1 December

Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
<p>Public Health – Dental Health and Childhood Obesity [Performance review]</p>	<p>Current work programme.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To provide an update on work of the council to address childhood obesity.</p> <p>To provide detail regarding the Public Health England better start in life (BSIL) Programme.</p>		<p>Discussion to be had on whether this is an information item that can be better covered by a briefing note or during a performance challenge session</p>

Agenda items

Tuesday 7 December 2021, continued

Publication deadline: - 29 November
Questions deadline: - 1 December

Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Health and wellbeing [Performance review – annual report] To include mental health in schools	Standard annual item Requested to schedule for December at meeting on 7 September 2021.		
Holiday activities provided by schools during covid With a focus on contextual safeguarding	Requested at committee meeting 7 September 2021.		

Agenda items

Tuesday 11 January 2022, 2:30 pm

Publication deadline: 3 January 2022

Questions deadline: -5 January 2022

Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) [Pre-decision call in / policy review and development – Annual Report]		Andrew Lovegrove, Acting Deputy Chief Executive - Chief Finance Officer Josie Rushgrove, Head of Corporate Finance	Arrangements for consideration of the budget may change following outcome of re-thinking governance.

Agenda items

Tuesday 22 March 2022, 2:30pm

Publication deadline: 14 March
Questions deadline: 16 March

Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Work programme 2022/23	Standard annual item - to agree the work programme and meeting dates for the 2022/23 administrative year	Clerk to the committee	

To be scheduled and prioritised or removed (1/4)

Potential agenda items			
Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Corporate Parenting Strategy [Performance review – Annual Report]	Standard annual item. Also focus on leaving care and preparing for adulthood	Andrews Osei, Interim AD Corporate Parenting Children in Care and Fostering and Adoption	Deferred from 27 July meeting
Adoption Service and Fostering Service annual reports [Performance review – Annual Report]	Standard annual item.	Andrews Osei, Interim AD Corporate Parenting Children in Care and Fostering and Adoption	Deferred from 27 July meeting.
Principal Social Worker [Performance review – annual report]	Standard annual item		
Complaints, compliments and comments report. [Performance review – annual report]	Standard annual item		

To be scheduled and prioritised or removed (2/4)

Potential agenda items			
Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and Child Protection (CP) report [Performance review]	Performance Review – annual report		
Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) annual report [Performance review]	Performance Review – annual report	Andrews Osei, Interim AD Corporate Parenting Children in Care and Fostering and Adoption	
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) annual report [Performance review]	Performance Review – annual report		Query if this should come alongside IRO / CP report?

To be scheduled and prioritised or removed (3/4)

Potential agenda items			
Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Funding routes to schools and governance around schools funding			Requested at committee meeting 30 April 2021
Early years intervention and prevention			Requested at committee meeting 30 April 2021
Progress report on savings proposals relating to foster carers and sufficiency strategy			Requested at committee meeting 30 April 2021
Mental health [Performance review]	The committee received a report on 23 March 2021 on Children and Young People's mental health. It was requested that an update report be presented at the September meeting.	Ceri Morgan, Assistant Director Education Development and Skills Public health	Deferred from agenda for October meeting during discussion of the work programme on 5 August 2021.

To be scheduled and prioritised or removed (4/4)

Potential agenda items			
Item [type of scrutiny]:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Paediatric therapies T&F Report [Task and Finish Group]			Scoping document approved at committee meeting 30 April 2021. Timescales for reporting back to be agreed.
Autism provision and nurture hubs [tbc]	<p>The committee received a report on 23 March 2021 on the Capital Investment Strategy 2021-2030 For Specialist Settings Educating Children And Young People With Special Educational Needs And Disabilities SEND. It was requested that further detail be presented to a future meeting of increasing provision offered for children with autism.</p> <p>It was agreed at the committee meeting 30 April 2021 that this be listed as an item to be allocated.</p>		

Workshops / seminars

Topic:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:

Task and finish groups

Topic:	Origin:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Paediatric therapies			Scoping document approved at committee meeting 30 April 2021
Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)			T&F proposed

Briefing notes (1/1)

Topic:	Target date:	Lead officer(s):	Current position:
Outcome of the audit of the reduction in child protection plans	Summer 2021		
Kick Start Programme	June / July 2021		Requested at committee meeting 30 April 2021. To be produced and circulated prior to the item on the impact of the pandemic
NEETs project	September 2021		
Impact of pandemic on opportunities for school and care leavers	12 October 2021	Ceri Morgan, Assistant Director Education Development and Skills	Agreed to receive as a written briefing in discussion of the work programme at meeting 5 August 2021. (Was previously on the agenda for Sept / Oct committee meeting)
Elective Home Education and current trends	November 2021		