



Scrutiny Work Programme (draft)
Strong Families, Children and Young People
Scrutiny Panel 2022-2023

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Work Programme considerations:

- 1. Is the issue in the public interest?**
- 2. How can scrutiny add value by looking at it?**
- 3. Where is the evidence to support looking at this issue?**
- 4. Can we evidence impact?**
- 5. Is there a change to National Policy?**
- 6. Does it affect citizens across the City?**
- 7. Are there performance concerns?**
- 8. Is it a safety issue?**

Strong Families, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Cllr Rita Potter	Vice Chair: Cllr Adam Collinge	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl Piggott-Smith
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Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Notes
23 June 2022	15 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Residential Provision Phase 2 – Business Case • Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group - Written Statement of Action • Work Plan - Urgent Item agreed by Chair and Vice Chair 	Alison Hinds Rachel King Brenda Wile Julia Cleary Earl Piggott Smith	
13 July 2022	5 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Ofsted inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (LACS) action plan • Principal Social Worker Annual Report 2021 - 2022 • Children and Young People Social Work Self Evaluation 	Alison Hinds Brenda Wile Jennifer Rogers Alison Hinds	

5 October 2022	27 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Provision in the City and holiday provision, Youth Violent Crime Update and St John Ambulance Cadets Performance Update - Our City:Our Plan (tbc) 	<p>Andrew Wolverson Alison Hinds Hannah Pawley</p> <p>James Amphlett</p>	
11 January 23	3 January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group: Written Statement of Action Education Excellence: Update and monitoring Virtual School Head Annual Report 	<p>Brenda Wile Julia Cleary</p> <p>Brenda Wile</p> <p>Darren Martindale</p>	
15 March 2023	7 March 2023	TBC		<p>Young Carers – inc lived experiences</p> <p>MASH 24 Update</p>

Scrutiny Panel Remit & Functions – Strong Families, Children and Young People

- Ensuring that Children have the best start in life and good early development
- Ensuring high quality education that closes the attainment gap
- Ensuring that children and young people grow up happy with good physical, social and mental health and wellbeing
- Ensuring that every young person in the city is equipped for adulthood with life skills and ready for work
- Ensuring that families are strengthened where children are vulnerable or at risk.

Performance Measures

- % of Early Years and Childcare settings rated Good or Outstanding
- % of take up of 2-year-olds benefitting from early education
- % of schools in the city that are rated Good or Outstanding
- Average Attainment 8 score per pupil
- % gap in Attainment 8 score gap between advantaged and disadvantaged children
- Children in year 6 with excess weight
- % of 16 and 17 year-olds in education, employment or training
- % of 16 and 17 year-olds with SEND in education, employment or training
- % of care leavers in education, employment or training
- First time entrants into the Youth Justice System
- Attendance at holiday schemes run by the council
- Rate of children open to social care per 10,000 population under 18
- % of repeat referrals into Childrens Social Care with 12 months
- % of children and young people in care who have had 3 or more placements in the year

General Role of the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels

Within the terms of reference set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Scrutiny Board will:

1. Co-ordinate the work of the Scrutiny Panels and Scrutiny Review Groups.
2. Receive annual reports from the Councillor Champion and give consideration to the work undertaken and issues that the Councillor Champion wishes scrutiny to consider investigating further.

3. Maintain regular dialogue with the Cabinet on service improvement, performance management of cross-cutting issues, policy development and budgetary provision.
4. Oversee and ensure access to appropriate learning and development for scrutiny Councillors.
5. Discharge the call-in procedures relevant to its overarching role.

The Scrutiny Panels will:

1. Maintain regular dialogue with the Cabinet, Scrutiny Board and Councillor Champions.
2. Ensure that members of the public and stakeholders are informed of and involved in issues within the remit of each Panel.
3. Discharge the call-in procedure relevant to their terms of reference.

Appendix A: Roles and Responsibilities

1. Chair of Scrutiny Panel:

- To attend fortnightly meetings with the SEB lead and Scrutiny Officer
- To attend agenda setting meetings and other relevant briefings on a regular basis
- To contribute to the work planning for the panel and to bring forward relevant topics and issues for inclusion
- To chair meetings in a fair and open way and to encourage participation from panel members
- To attend Scrutiny Board (where appropriate) to provide feedback and updates on progress
- To prepare, when possible, questions in advance of a meeting to allow for healthy debate and to ensure that clear resolutions are made that add value and show impact
- To act as champion for scrutiny and to represent the best interests of the citizens of Wolverhampton

2. SEB Lead:

- Meet with the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Scrutiny Officer fortnightly to discuss upcoming issues, updates from previous meetings, workplans and any other relevant business as agreed by all parties.
- Recommend topics for inclusion on the workplan, working proactively with the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Officer to address any issues/opportunities/challenges that fit with the remit of the panel.
- To advise on the viability of any issues put forward by the panel for inclusion on the work plan.
- To attend relevant Scrutiny Panel meetings and provide an update at each meeting on any relevant issues within the remit of the panel. Also, attending Scrutiny Board (as appropriate) to provide feedback.
- To act as a champion for scrutiny in the Council and to encourage engagement with the scrutiny function and promote a healthy culture within which scrutiny can thrive

3. Scrutiny Officer:

- Provide support and guidance to the panel, its members, officers, partners and other stakeholders regarding the scrutiny function
- To ensure openness and transparency in the scrutiny function and to make sure that information is continuously shared and communicated between all relevant parties in a timely and suitable fashion
- To ensure that the appropriate persons are invited to meetings and that they are given adequate time to prepare and to provide guidance and support where appropriate
- To manage the administration of all relevant panels and meetings within statutory timescales
- To carry out research and information gathering exercises when required
- To provide advice on policy and legislation where appropriate
- To ensure that all resolutions are followed up and responses or actions fed back, monitored and recorded
- To act as liaison between the Chair and the SEB lead to ensure a shared understanding of priorities and work planning.
- To manage the agreed work plan and its outcomes to show impact and added value