

Northumberland County Council

Family and Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2017 - 2018

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Terms of reference:

(a) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:

- Early Years
- Education and Schools
- Special education needs and disability
- Adult and Community Education
- Training and Vocational Education
- Lifelong Learning
- Youth Offending
- Social Services for Children and Young People
- Children's Health
- Teenage Sexual Health
- Looked After Children
- Safeguarding - Children
- Youth Services
- Family Services
- Children's Centres

(b) To oversee and monitor school improvement, as follows:

- (i) To receive feedback on the Ofsted inspection of schools.
- (ii) To support the work of the County Council and the progress of schools on the School Intervention and Support Programme in specified categories.
- (iii) To receive an annual report about the number of schools that have been on the School Intervention and Support Programme, the reason(s) for their inclusion, the support given by the Council and the success of this support.
- (iv) To receive an annual report on the performance of schools.

## ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

### Regular updates:

Safeguarding Activity Trends Report  
Finance and Performance Quarterly Report  
Children Permanently Excluded from School  
Schools performance

### Issues to be raised:

Responding to the Introduction of National Schools Funding Formula and Education Act - Andy Johnson  
Review of Looked After Children  
Safeguarding and CSE Update (incl reporting and confidentiality procedures)  
*Work of the Children's, Adult and Community Safety Safeguarding Boards' Sexual Exploitation Sub Committee - Update*  
Academisation - white paper  
Youth Offending  
School Transport Safety

### Themed Scrutiny:

Retention and Recruitment of Teachers

**Northumberland County Council  
Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme 2017 - 2018**

6 December 2017

- Outcomes of consultation on school organisation in Belford

14 December 2017

- Education in the West of Northumberland
- Schools National Funding Formula

18 January 2018

- Director of Education & Skills Annual Report
- Principal Social Workers Report
- SIF Improvement Plan
- The role of the Director of Children's Services - Test of Assurance
- School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2019/20 Academic Year
- Update on Academic Outcomes

6 February 2018

- School Organisation Plan
- Teacher Recruitment & Retention - Report of Task and Finish Group
- Review of School Transport
- Supporting Families in Poverty - name changed from Children in Need
- Elective Home Education
- Finance and Performance - six monthly report

15 March 2018

- Special Educational Needs & Disability Area Outcomes
- Children's Services Improvement Plan

3 April 2018

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**FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OSC  
MONITORING REPORT 2017/2018**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1	29/06/2017	Changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy Payment Options	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee endorsed the recommendations outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the OSC comments when it determined the report on 11 July 2017
2	29/06/2017	Regionalising Adoption Proposals	RESOLVED that Cabinet be asked to consider the comments made by this Committee in endorsing the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the OSC comments when it determined the report on 11 July 2017.
3	29/06/2017	Annual Report of the Virtual School Headteacher 2015-16	RESOLVED that the achievements of pupils in care and the effectiveness of Northumberland's Virtual School be acknowledged and that staff be thanked and congratulated.	No further action identified.
4	29/06/2017	Themed Scrutiny	RESOLVED that a Task and Finish Group be established to look at the Recruitment and Retention of Teachers with the Membership and Terms of Reference to be agreed at the next meeting.	Group established with Membership as follows: M Swinburn (Chair), T Cessford, M Richards, G Renner-Thompson and R Wallace  A report on the findings to be brought to OSC in 2018.
5	20/07/2017	Performance and Finance Quarterly Report	RESOLVED that:  1. The information be noted;	A report to be brought to a future OSC on School Improvement Visits.

			<p>2. The position regarding the £2m unallocated savings was acknowledged and the Committee requested that this figure be removed;</p> <p>3. A report on School Improvement Visits would be brought to a future meeting.</p>	
6	20/007/2018	Safeguarding Activity Trends Report	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action required at this time.
7	08/09/2019	Education in Belford	RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to agree to the recommendations in the report.	Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when determining the report on 12 September 2017.
8	21/09/2017	School Transport Safety	<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>The contents of the reports be noted;</p> <p>The implementation of action points listed under Future Plans be supported; and</p> <p>Schools be encouraged to promote 100% seat belt use.</p>	No further action required.
9	21/09/2017	Northumberland Adult Learning Services Annual Report	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action required.
10	21/09/17	Trans identity & Gender Diversity. Supporting young people in Northumberland	RESOLVED that the resource be approved for launch and made accessible to all schools.	No further action required.

11	21/09/2017	Care Proceedings & Public Law Outline Annual Report	RESOLVED that the information provided be noted.	No further action required.
12	21/09/2017	Special Educational Needs & Disability Strategy	The Interim Director of Children's Services requested comments to be provided by email.	
13	31/10/17	Proposed Closure of Acklington Church of England First School	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee whilst supporting the recommendation to approve the proposal from the Governing Body of the James Calvert Spence Federation to close Acklington CE First School the date of closure should be 31 August 2018.	Cabinet considered and agreed to the recommendation of the OSC at its meeting on 7 November 2017.
14	31/10/17	Consultation process for closing or making changes to schools	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action required.
15	16/11/17	Report by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee noted the contents of the report.	
16	16/11/17	Education Infrastructure Contribution Policy	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations in the report.	
17	16/11/17	Northumberland Safeguarding Children's Board (NSCB) Annual Report	RESOLVED that:-  The report be accepted and noted; and  A report on the Children's Services Improvement Plan be provided at a future date.	A report on the Children's Services Improvement Plan be provided at a future date.

18	16/11/17	Safeguarding Activity Trends (quarterly report)	RESOLVED that no issues were identified and the Committee noted the report.	No further action required.
19	16/11/17	Adoption Agency Annual Report	RESOLVED that the performance information in regard to the period April 2016 - March 2017 be noted.	No further action required.
20	16/11/17	Fostering Agency Annual Report	RESOLVED that the performance information in regard to the period April 2016 - March 2017 be noted.	No further action required.
21	16/11/17	Regional Adoption Agency Update	RESOLVED that the Committee:-  Noted the update provided and endorsed the delayed launch date. Noted that the preferred business model option for Adopt NE in the form of a Local Authority owned Joint Venture still stands, however work was ongoing to look at whether a hosted model might be viable.  Noted that the full business model which had been anticipated would be presented for consideration to Cabinet in late summer/autumn would now be delayed until the new year in 2018.	A further report would be received early in 2018.