



# Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

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**Date:** 30 May 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held in **COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NE61 2EF**, on **THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018 AT 10.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully,

Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

**To: Members of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Councillors:** Renner-Thompson G (Chair), Campbell D, Cessford T, Horncastle C, Lang J, Nisbet K, Richards ME, Stewart G, Stow K, Wallace R

**Co-opted Members:** Hodgson A, Lennox D, Warner J, Lyst R, Payne S, Sanderson J, Woolhouse R

**Cabinet Members:**

**Councillor W Daley - Deputy Leader & Children's Services**



**Daljit Lally, Chief Executive**  
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## AGENDA

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public

### 1. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

To note the Membership and Terms of Reference for the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee which were agreed by Council on 2 May 2018.

#### 19 Members

#### 10 County Councillors (5:4:1)

#### Quorum - 5

Chair: G. Renner Thompson

Vice Chair: C. Horncastle

Conservative	Labour	Bedlington Independents	Liberal Democrat	Independents Non-grouped
T. Cessford	D. Campbell	R.Wallace		
C. Horncastle	J. Lang			
G. Renner Thompson	K. Nisbet			
G. Stewart	M.E. Richards			
K. Stow				

#### Also:

**2 Parent Governors (voting)** – two vacancies

**3 Church Representatives (voting)** – A. Hodgson, J. Warner, Revd D. Lennox

**4 Teacher Union Representatives (non-voting)** – J. Sanderson, R. Lyst, R. Woolhouse, S. Payne

(all subject to satisfactory DBS clearance)

These representatives may discuss non-education matters but shall not vote on those matters identified as being outside their remit.

#### 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.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

## **3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest) they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.

**N.B.** Any member needing clarification must contact the Legal Services Manager, Liam Henry on Tel: 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this Agenda letter.

## **4. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 3 May 2018, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## 5. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions for June to September 2018. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the committee. (Forward Plan enclosed as **Appendix A.**)

## REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET

### 6. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### 6.1 Regional Adoption Agency

The Cabinet report (attached as **Appendix B**) provides an update on the progress of the development of the proposals for the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) and seeks authority to undertake consultation with stakeholders on the current proposals to create the RAA. The development of a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) for the North East will be subject to approval in September 2018 by the Cabinets of each of the participating local authorities. Comments made by this Committee will be reported to Cabinet on 14 June 2018.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

#### 6.2 School Organisation Plan

The Cabinet report (attached as **Appendix C**) requests Cabinet to review the draft School Organisation Plan for Northumberland and approve the publication of the plan in July 2018, subject to seeking comments from schools and other partners.

The report also outlines the results of the statutory consultation processes for the expansion of The Dales School in Blyth (through the creation of a satellite school in Ashington) and of Hexham Priory School on proposals to increase the number of places available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs in the county. Cabinet are asked to formally approve the proposed increases in places at these schools. Comments made by this Committee will be reported to Cabinet on 14 June 2018.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

## REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY

### 7. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### 7.1 Annual Report Of The Virtual School Headteacher 2016-17

The report (attached as **Appendix D**) presents the education outcomes of Northumberland's looked after children for the academic year 2016-17.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

## **7.2 Safeguarding Activity Trends Quarterly Report**

The report (attached as **Appendix E**) provides analysis of social work activity trends and case allocation as well as highlighting national developments regarding the Department for Education safeguarding indicators.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

## **8. THEMED SCRUTINY**

### **Teacher Recruitment & Retention - Report Of Task And Finish Group**

To consider the report of the Task and Finish Working Group (report attached as **Appendix F**).

## **9. REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER**

### **Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2017/2018.**

Members are asked to consider the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Monitoring Report. (Work Programme attached as **Appendix G**.)

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

*The following report is for information only and can be accessed through Northumberland County Council's Website. If a member of the Committee would like further explanation of the report, or has questions they wish to put to the relevant Policy Board Member, he/she should contact Democratic Services Section in order that appropriate arrangements can be made.*

## **10. POLICY DIGEST**

This report gives details of the latest policy briefings, government announcements and ministerial speeches which may be of interest to members.

NB Reports have not been reproduced/circulated. They can be accessed through the service finder element of County Council's web site at [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk).

## **11. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.



**IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:**

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

<b>Name (please print):</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>
<b>Date:</b>
<b>Item to which your interest relates:</b>
<b>Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):</b>
<b>Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):</b>
<b>Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?</b>

**1. Registerable Personal Interests** – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

- a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or
- b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management ); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

**2. Non-registerable personal interests** - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

### **3. Non-participation in Council Business**

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

**This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.**