



# Northumberland

## County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Lesley Little

Email: Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622614

Date: Wednesday, 26 January 2022

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 **MEETING SPACE - BLOCK 1, FLOOR 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **THURSDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2022** at **9.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

**To Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee members as follows:-**

**C Ball, D Carr, A Dale, W Daley (Chair), R Dodd (Vice-Chair), C Dunbar, L Dunn, M Swinburn, T Thorne and A Watson**

**A Hodgson, L Houghton, D Lennox, P Rickeard and J Sanderson**

Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>. Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Committee meeting.

***Members are referred to the risk assessment, previously circulated, for meetings held in County Hall. Masks should be worn when moving round but can be removed when seated, social distancing should be maintained, hand sanitiser regularly used and members requested to self-test twice a week at home, in line with government guidelines.***



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

### PART I

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

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. MINUTES**

(Pages 1  
- 6)

The minutes of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 6 January 2022, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

**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 of Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. NB Any member needing clarification must contact the monitoring officer by email at [monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk). Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

**4. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

(Pages 7  
- 10)

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions for February to May 2022. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the committee.

**5. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR THE 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

(Pages  
11 - 56)

The report informs Cabinet of the outcomes of the consultation on School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2023/24 Academic Year as required by the School Admissions Code 2021. Approval (determination) of these admission arrangements is also sought. Comments made by this Committee will be reported to Cabinet when they consider the item on 8 February 2022.

**6. VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEADTEACHER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

(Pages  
57 - 78)

The report provides members with the Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report for 2020-21.

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|------------|--|-------------------------|
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>NORTHUMBERLAND STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN NORTHUMBERLAND</b>  | (Pages<br>79 - 122)     |
|            | The report provides Members with an overview of the work by the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership 2020-21.   |                         |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>ANNUAL REPORT FOR LEARNING AND SKILLS SERVICE 2020/21</b>   | (Pages<br>123 -<br>134) |
|            | The annual report for Learning and Skills Service is provided to highlight the performance during the academic year 2020/21; present the work of the Careers Guidance Team and provides an understanding of the role and impact of the Employability and Skills team within the wider service. The Learning and Skills Service contains a number of specialist skills and support areas and provides training for young people age 16-19, adults and apprentices across eight campuses in Northumberland as well as training in the workplace. |                         |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY 2022 - 24</b>  | (Pages<br>135 -<br>168) |
|            | The report is presented to outline the key issues, challenges in relation to placement sufficiency for children in care.   |                         |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>CHILDREN'S HOMES BUILD PROGRESS</b>   | (Pages<br>169 -<br>174) |
|            | The report provides Members with an update on the progress of the children's homes builds/plans.   |                         |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT</b>   | (Pages<br>175 -<br>180) |
|            | The report provides an overview of the Annual Engagement Meeting (AEM) held with Ofsted in October 2021.   |                         |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>OFSTED AND INSPECTION FRAMEWORKS FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>  | (Pages<br>181 -<br>188) |
|            | The report informs Members of the range of inspections and external scrutiny that Ofsted and other inspectorates provide to local authority children services departments  |                         |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND MONITORING REPORT 2021/22</b>   | (Pages<br>189 -<br>198) |
|            | Members are asked to review and note the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Monitoring Report.  |                         |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>URGENT BUSINESS</b>   |                         |

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

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussion 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.**