



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Lesley Little

Email: Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622614

Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023

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 **COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL** on **THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2023** at **10.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson
Chief Executive

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

C Ball, W Daley (Chair), R Dodd (Vice-Chair), S Fairless-Aitken, A Scott, C Seymour, M Swinburn, T Thorne, H Waddell and A Watson



Dr Helen Paterson, 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
- 4)

The minutes of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Meeting held on Tuesday 18 July 2023, as circulated, to be agreed 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 where a matter arises at a meeting;

- a. Which **directly relates to** Disclosable Pecuniary Interest ('DPI') as set out in Appendix B, Table 1 of the Code of Conduct, to disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote and not to remain in room. Where members have a DPI or if the matter concerns an executive function and is being considered by a Cabinet Member with a DPI they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with the matter.
- b. Which **directly relates to** the financial interest or well being of a Other Registrable Interest as set out in Appendix B, Table 2 of the Code of Conduct to disclose the interest and only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain the room.
- c. Which **directly relates to** their financial interest or well-being (and is not DPI) or the financial well being of a relative or close associate, to declare the interest and members may only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak. Otherwise, the member must not take part in discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.
- d. Which **affects** the financial well-being of the member, a relative or close associate or a body included under the Other Registrable Interests column in Table 2, to disclose the interest and apply the test set out at paragraph 9 of Appendix B before deciding whether they may remain in the meeting.
- e. Where Members have or a Cabinet Member has an Other Registerable Interest or Non Registerable Interest in a matter being considered in exercise of their executive function, they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with it.

NB Any member needing clarification must

contact monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Members are referred to the Code of Conduct which contains the matters above in full. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

- 4. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM 2022 - 2023** (Pages 5 - 14)

To provide the Committee with an overview and assurance as to the work related to school improvement undertaken by the School Improvement Team across Northumberland in the academic year 2022 – 2023.
- 5. SEND STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT** (Pages 15 - 24)

This purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress against actions described within the Northumberland SEND Strategy 2021-2024.
- 6. REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER** (Pages 25 - 44)

(a) Forward Plan

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions. Any further changes to the Forward Plan will be reported at the meeting.

(b) Family and Children's Services OSC Work Programme

To consider the work programme/monitoring report for the Family and Children's Services OSC for 2023/24.
- 7. URGENT BUSINESS**

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.

Name:		Date of meeting:	
Meeting:			
Item to which your interest relates:			
Nature of Interest i.e. either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Table 1 of Appendix B to the Code of Conduct, Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest (as defined by Appendix B to Code of Conduct) (please give details):			
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?		Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>	No - <input type="checkbox"/>

Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest.

Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in **Table 1**) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
 - c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2** you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied
9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well- being:
- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body

	<p>where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the councillor’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.
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* ‘director’ includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* ‘securities’ means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- b) any body
 - i. exercising functions of a public nature
 - ii. any body directed to charitable purposes or
 - iii. one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the **Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in the Council Chamber - County Hall on Tuesday, 18 July 2023 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

W Daley (Chair) (in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

C Ball
S Fairless-Aitken
T Thorne

R Dodd
M Swinburn

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

A Hodgson
P Rickeard (Virtual)

D Lennox

TEACHER UNION REPRESENTATIVES

J Sanderson

OFFICERS

C Angus
S Aviston
S Gerrard

A Kingham

L Little
D Street

Scrutiny Officer
Head of School Organisation and Resources
Director of Law and Governance/Monitoring
Officer
Executive Director - Children, Young People
and Education
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Director of Education, SEND and Skills

ALSO PRESENT

G Renner-Thompson

Cabinet Member

Around 5 members of the press and public were present.

8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Seymour, Waddell and Watson.

9 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 1 June 2023, as circulated, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

10 **CABINET REPORT - OUTCOMES OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR THE BERWICK PARTNERSHIP**

The Cabinet report set out an analysis of the representations and responses received from interested parties and stakeholders during the four-week statutory consultation, which commenced on 11 May and closed on 8 June 2023, in relation to proposals for schools in the Berwick Partnership.

Cabinet was being asked to make a final decision on whether or not to approve the proposals, including school closures, set out in the statutory proposal. At the same time, Cabinet was being requested to make a final decision on whether or not to approve the non-statutory proposals relating to the voluntary schools within the Berwick Partnership. The decision of the DfE's Advisory Board in relation to the proposed changes to St Cuthbert's Catholic First School and Berwick Academy, which formed an integral part of the overall proposed reorganisation, was also to be noted by Cabinet.

S Aviston, Head of School Organisation and Resources provided a comprehensive and detailed introduction to the report advising that the background papers for the report were available on the Council's website as part of the Cabinet papers. The Chair advised that as Cannon P Rickeard, the representative of the Church of England Diocese, had been unable to attend the meeting in person he had joined virtually and whilst he would be unable to take part in any vote he could however comment or ask questions on the report.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee the following information was noted:-

- Assurance was provided that the ethos and standards of the good and outstanding schools which were to close would be preserved and carried through to the new systems. The Local Authority had been working with Headteachers regarding the staffing protocol with consultation undertaken on the new staffing structure so that good and outstanding teaching staff were not lost. Protecting the ongoing employment of existing staff was paramount and fundamental in order to manage the transition and provide continuity for pupils. In view of the low participation process by residents, schools with support from the Local Authority would provide reassurance to parents on such issues as pastoral care for pupils. The Headteachers were all in support of the changes to the partnership and wished to ensure that the transition was as smooth as possible for all involved.
- The Local Authority with the agreement of Schools Forum had set a contingency budget through the DSG to support some of the additional pastoral staff that would be required and any personal development identified as part of the training needs analysis.

- If agreed by Cabinet, an Implementation Group would be set up, which would be chaired by S Aviston, and would bring all together to ensure that wrap around support was in place to support the transition. The School Improvement team would provide continuous monitoring ensuring standards were maintained and changes were in the best interests of all the young people within the partnerships, and close working would continue with Berwick Academy to continue the trajectory of improvements. The possible need for additional resources for School Improvement as highlighted by Members would be fed back to Cabinet.
- It was clarified that the need for improvements in facilities at St Cuthbert's had not been raised by the school itself and had only been raised by the Diocese. There was some flexibility in relation to funds and further consultation and assessments would need to be undertaken.
- The School Organisation Plan which was produced on an annual basis took into account house building along with birth rates and these had been built into predictions for the partnership. A review of data was underway and figures would be submitted to the Department for Education within the next few weeks.
- In relation to the social value guarantees that could be included in the procurement process, including apprenticeships, it was advised that any contract awarded by the Council had social value conditions embedded, and any tendered work carried out would be no different. Officers provided their assurance that contractors would be held accountable for fulfilling these requirements.
- Assurance was provided that there would be no loss of playing fields or play provision and if Cabinet approved the proposals, as part of the business case for Berwick Academy there may be an element of enhancement.
- It was clarified that all school buildings currently met the DfE standards for air quality and ventilation and this would continue going forward.

Members in recognising the huge amount of work that had been undertaken in getting to this position thanked Officers and welcomed the investment into education within the Berwick Partnership. Headteachers and Governing Bodies were also thanked for their work in supporting the process and the number of challenges during such a large number of consultations was recognised.

A vote was taken and it was unanimously:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the recommendations outlined in the report were supported by this Committee

11 **REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER**

C Angus, Scrutiny Officer advised that following the Scrutiny Review and revisions to the Constitution that the Cabinet Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Programmes would now be presented together. The Forward Plan would now reflect decisions that had already been taken to allow monitoring of those decisions to be undertaken by scrutiny. It would also allow future items to be viewed further in advance in order to allow scrutiny to have some influence on decisions when required.

The first meeting of the SEND Task and Finish Working Group would take place after this meeting and the date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 7 September 2023.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....



Northumberland County Council

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 23

Report of the School Improvement Team 2022 - 2023

Report of Audrey Kingham - Executive Director of Children, Young People & Education

Cabinet Member for Inspiring Young People: Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson

1. Purpose of report

To provide FACS with an overview and assurance as to the work related to school improvement undertaken by the School Improvement Team across Northumberland in the academic year 2022 – 2023.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- Review the performance of the team over time
- Comment on the team's ability to support and develop leadership in schools
- Give further direction to the team as they continue to operate
- Note the changes to funding imposed by the DfE

3. Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the "Tackling Inequalities" priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan - in particular, "Children and young people have the best start in life and grow up well".

It is also relevant to the "Driving Economic Growth" priority as good education and improved school results will help our children and young people increase their outcomes and aspirations to become the future leaders and contributors to our economy.

4. Key issues

- School performance in Northumberland, as measured by Ofsted outcomes, is the highest it has ever been
- Key Stage 1 and 2 results in 2023 suggest that pupil performance in Northumberland is bouncing back
- The investment in the service by the local authority, in response to the removal of the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant, has meant that school improvement has remained a high priority across Northumberland and the team have continued to build on the successes of recent years.

5. Background

5.1 In October 2013 Ofsted undertook a focused inspection of Northumberland schools. The report concluded, “*the local authority is not well placed to provide an accurate and up-to-date view of each school’s performance and the progress made by pupils,*”

5.2 The school improvement service was remodelled in 2014. At that time, many schools in Northumberland were not well prepared for their own Ofsted inspection and needed external support. Too many schools were receiving poor Ofsted outcomes. Too many Northumberland pupils were not achieving their potential.

As of 31 July 2023, Ofsted outcomes are the highest they have ever been:

	Number of schools Good or better	Total schools	% Good or better	North East (12 LAs)¹	National Average²
First/Primary	119	123	96.7%	93%	90%
Middle/Secondary /High	26	30	86.7%	76%	81%
Special	8	10	80%	89%	89%
Total	153	163	93.8%	90%	88%

5.3 4 new schools have not received an inspection and so are not included in the data above. Those schools are:

- NCEA Grace Darling Church of England Primary School
- NCEA James Knott Church of England Primary School
- NCEA Thomas Bewick Church of England Primary School
- NCEA William Leech Church of England Primary School.

6. Current Team

6.1 The School Improvement team consists of 6 full time staff (A Head of School Improvement and 5 School Improvement Leaders), and a part time administrator. All of the team have experience of headship across a range of ages, phases and localities. Two of the team are practising Ofsted inspectors, and 1 is undertaking the training at present. The central team are supported by 18 School Improvement Partners, (who

¹ [State-funded school inspections and outcomes: management information - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/state-funded-school-inspections-and-outcomes-management-information)

² [State-funded school inspections and outcomes: management information - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/state-funded-school-inspections-and-outcomes-management-information)

work between 6 and 24 days per year) all of whom are experienced educators.

6.2 The School Improvement Team work to support all the 6 Education & Skills priorities, in particular priorities 1, 2 and 3. (see appendix 1)

6.3 The team work closely with the Church of England diocese. A number of schools have been supported through close partnership working between the two school improvement teams including Tritlington C of E First School, Norham St Ceolwulfs C of E First School and Whitley Chapel C of E First School.

6.4 In January 2022 the Department for Education (DfE) announced the removal of the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant – a grant designed to enable councils to fulfil their core school improvement activities, with the amount received by each council proportionate to the number of maintained schools in their area. The grant was cut by 50% for the financial year 2022 – 2023 and removed entirely from April 2023. In 2020-21 the grant received was £388,910. This grant enabled the team to subsidise the true cost of school improvement activities to schools engaged in the school improvement SLA and training.

7. Support Provided to Schools in 2022 – 2023

7.1 112 (67%) of Northumberland's schools utilised the support and challenge of a School Improvement Partner from the School Improvement Team in 2022 - 2023. Only 1 maintained school chose not to work directly with us, and they have not done so for a number of years (they are a Church of England school and use a School Improvement Partner from the diocese).

7.2 The support and challenge take place during termly school visits. Inciteful reports focussed on key areas for development are shared with the Headteacher and Governors to ensure they have an external viewpoint regarding the quality of provision at their school. Reports are stored securely and shared with Ofsted during inspections. Schools also have access at any time to the rest of the team to work on specific areas - this can range from middle leadership development to specifics around individual pupils.

7.3 We estimate that there have been over 1000 in person visits made to schools by the wider team in 2022 – 2023.

7.4 One specific area we have focused on is the mental health of headteachers. To that end we brokered the support of [Heads Up 4 HTs](#), a company specialising in the area. Feedback has been 100% positive with one headteacher calling it “career-saving”. This support has been provided free of charge to over 60 Northumberland headteachers in 2022 – 2023.

7.5 Over 100 schools used the team to support the Headteacher Appraisal cycle.

7.6 Over 50 teachers have been supported through the induction process in their first years of teaching. This element of our work will cease from September 2023 as the

DfE have stopped local authorities from acting as the Appropriate Body for Early Career Teachers; the role can now only be fulfilled by Teaching School Hubs³.

7.7 Over 140 schools used the team to provide moderation and assessment support at Key Stage 1 and 2.

7.8 Of the 53 schools inspected in the 2022 – 2023 academic year 38 had on site support during the inspection (as they purchase the SLA). This involved meeting the inspection team and providing our view of the strengths and weaknesses of the school and attending feedback at the end of the process.

7.9 Team members began work in a Cumbrian school in 2022 and returned in the summer of 2023. We also have work planned with a North Tyneside school later this year.

7.10 The team has continued the rollout of training in conjunction with the Education Endowment Foundation and Newcastle Research School, which began in 2020. This relationship will develop in the new academic year as Town End Research School (Sunderland) have asked the team to work with them.

7.11 The team manage a [website](#) that provides support, advice and guidance for Northumberland schools. It has received over 51000 views in the academic year 2022 – 2023.

7.12 All new headteachers are invited to a 12-month induction programme. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. There have been 41 new headteachers since December 2021.

7.13 An extensive training programme and multiple networks further support schools, leaders and teachers. Networks include middle leadership, senior leaders, RE teachers, Pupil Premium Leaders, small school headteachers, and standardisation for year 2 and year 6 teachers. Over 1000 Northumberland school staff attended training delivered or brokered by the team in 2022 – 2023.

³ [Appropriate body reform and induction assessment - government consultation response \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

8. The impact of academisation

8.1 Northumberland has a mixed economy of maintained schools and multi-academy trusts. We work with all schools, engagement with academies and multi academy trusts varies depending on the philosophy of each trust. The table below shows the engagement with each MAT/standalone academy in the county:

Multi Academy Trust	Number of Northumberland schools in the trust	Schools that the Northumberland LA school Improvement team provide services to
Tyne Community Learning Trust	9	Highfield Middle, Ovingham Middle and Prudhoe Community High Schools
Three Rivers Learning Trust	9	None
Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust	8	None
Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust	8	None
Wise Academies	7	None
Pele Trust	6	Belsay Primary, Darras Hall Primary, Heddon St Andrews Primary, Ponteland Primary, Richard Coates CE Primary Schools
North East Learning Trust	3	None
Hadrian Learning Trust	2	None
Northern Education Trust	1	None
Good Shepherd Trust	1	None
Eden Academy Trust	1	None
Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust	1	None
Emmanuel Schools Foundation	1	None
Total	57	8

Standalone Academies	
Cramlington Village Primary	Have provided school improvement services since the school was set up
Berwick Academy	Providing school improvement services again from May 2023
Ponteland Community Primary Academy	Have provided school improvement services since 2014
Cramlington Learning Village	None

8.2 The tendency is for schools that join multi academy trusts to be expected to purchase school improvement services from the central services of that MAT. However, we are increasing our work with the Cheviot Learning Trust (a merger between Three Rivers Learning Trust and Tyne Community Learning Trust) as they have asked us to provide services to Chantry and Newminster Middle Schools from September 2023.

8.3 Whilst the 2022 White Paper⁴ has been shelved it is clear the DfE continue to promote become part of multi academy trusts. The DfE expect strong academy trusts to expand, and the continual erosion of funding to local authorities for school improvement activity is a clear indication of the direction of travel.

9. The Impact of the Team

9.1 All school leaders look to the School Improvement Team for support and guidance with ongoing development, particularly in times of challenge. Ofsted hold the team in high regard valuing their opinions and relying on them to guide inspectors toward appropriate judgements.

9.2 Ofsted have commented very favourably on the impact of the work the team undertakes with schools, describing the work as “honest and purposeful,” “focused support and challenge,” and “critical friendship.” Termly meetings with Ofsted are positive and robust.

9.3 Schools hold the team in high regard, describing their work as “The best training, I have ever attended,” “I have been going around in circles for months and you sorted it within hours,” and “without the support of [a team member] I would have resigned months ago.”

- In August 2017 76% of schools were judged good or better by Ofsted, 10% below the national average.
- In April 2022 88% of schools were judged good or better, 2% above the national average.
- In July 2023 93.8% of schools were judged good or better, 5.8% above the national average.

9.4 Ofsted have picked out a number of schools where the impact of the team is demonstrable:

9.5 At Tritlington First School Ofsted said, “Leaders benefit from strong and effective governance. The innovative school-based leadership and interim executive board have driven improvements, including in curriculum thinking”. Two members of the team have sat on the interim executive board for a number of years.

9.6 At Otterburn Primary School Ofsted said, “Leaders and governors have secured significant improvements in school”. A member of the team has acted as the Chair of Governors, and the interim headteacher was brokered by the service.

9.7 The team won the Leaders' Choice Award for Team of the Year at the Excellence Awards in November 2022.

⁴ [Opportunity for all - Strong schools with great teachers for your child \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101441/opportunity-for-all-strong-schools-with-great-teachers-for-your-child.pdf)

10. Future Inspection Activities

10.1 All schools are due to be inspected between May 2021 and July 2025. The School Improvement Team are fully focused on helping those schools not yet inspected, or due reinspection, prepare fully. We do this by focusing developing strong leadership, high quality teaching and robust school systems.

10.2 Of the 10 schools that are not yet "Good":

- 4 are academies, and 1 is in the process of converting
- 2 are local authority special schools
- 2 are local authority primary schools
- 1 is a local authority secondary school

11. Conclusion

1. The School Improvement Team are skilled, experienced and have a track record of supporting schools and improving outcomes
2. Feedback received indicates School leaders are very pleased with the service they receive
3. Training for school and setting staff is focussed on needs, evidence-based, and well received by recipients
4. The challenge and support provided to schools is being acted upon by school leaders as noted in following reports and increasing Ofsted outcomes
5. Ofsted gradings are at their highest on record. For the first time in memory there are no Inadequate secondary/high schools in the county.
6. Northumberland is expected to be one of the top performing local authorities in the northeast, in terms of Ofsted outcomes, once the data is published in October 2023.
7. The additional funding allocated to school improvement by the local authority to plug the gap left by the removal of the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant, has enabled the team to continue to support schools to improve the life chances of pupils, thus narrowing inequalities
8. Through their close working with schools the School Improvement Team can provide an accurate and up to date view of performance of schools, and support and challenge to continue the improvement journey.

12. Implications

Policy	<p>The actions set out in this report support the vision and values of the Council's Corporate Plan.</p> <p>All DFE/ESFA policies and guidance are reviewed, interpreted, and shared.</p>
Finance and value for money	All budgets and decisions conform to expected DFE/ESFA funding requirements.
Legal	<p>Northumberland County Council has statutory responsibilities with schools and academies as well as colleges and post 16 providers. The statutory responsibilities are clearly defined within policy and priorities for Education and Skills; within specific officer roles and also within the Education Strategy Board structures that engage with schools and academies and wider stakeholders to engage and to assure all that statutory duties are met. Formal reporting routines are embedded across the corporate calendar to ensure oversight and decision making is clear.</p>
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	Not applicable
Risk Assessment	Not applicable
Crime & Disorder	The report has considered Section 1 (CDA) and the duty it imposes and there are no implications arising from it.
Customer Consideration	Service plans and systems are approached from the pupil/family/customer perspective. All pupil facing approaches include the pupil/customer journey aim to improve satisfaction.
Carbon reduction	The increase in online meetings has continued the reduction in travel and carbon footprint.
Health and Wellbeing	Staff well-being is of high importance. Systems such as Kooth and Qwell are in place to support pupils and staff as well as bespoke arrangements to meet the needs of particular circumstances.
Wards	The service supports all wards in Northumberland.

Background papers: Appendix 1: Education and Sills Priorities 23/24

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Stephen Gerrard
Executive Director of Resources and Transformation (S151 Officer)	Jan Willis
Executive Director of Children, Young People and Education	Helen Paterson
Chief Executive	Audrey Kingham
Portfolio Holder(s)	Guy Renner-Thompson

Author and Contact Details

This report has been prepared on behalf of Audrey Kingham, Executive Director of Children's Services by Dave Cookson, Head of School Improvement.

(dave.cookson@northumberland.gov.uk)

APPENDIX 1

EDUCATION AND SKILLS PRIORITIES 23/24

1. Know the strengths and weaknesses of our schools and other educational providers and report their performance to the Council and the community.
2. Challenge and support improvement in the performance of our schools and settings so that all children and young people, including disadvantaged and SEND learners, achieve the best educational outcomes:
 - We will support across the early years sector to ensure all children are school ready and that the schools are ready for every child
 - We will support all first, primary and middle schools to ensure their pupils have the skills and knowledge required to access the secondary curriculum
 - We will support improved transition, progress and performance for Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 to promote access for all learners to their first-choice destination
3. Improve the lived experience and outcomes for learners with SEND:
 - We will work in partnership with all stakeholders, including championing the voice of children, young people and their families, jointly working with Health and Social Care, to fully implement the Local Area 0-25 SEND Strategy
 - We will lead on the development of a fully inclusive education system
4. Develop the vocational education offer to provide clear pathways into apprenticeships, further education, higher education, and employment for all our young people and adults:
 - We will develop a curriculum and facilities which both supports the ambition of learners and links to the workforce requirements for Northumberland
 - We will build on key relationships between education & industry
 - We will produce clear guidance for schools and settings on what good careers advice looks like to ensure all young people are supported to achieve their aspirations.
5. Develop appropriate high quality educational provision that meets the needs of all children and young people as close to their home communities as possible:
 - We will strive to deliver the right number of places to meet all learner needs in the right place at the right time
6. Ensure the Education and Skills Service fulfils its statutory duties within the legislative framework (including the School Admissions Code, Exclusions, Attendance, Virtual School, School Organisational Regulations, Early Years Sufficiency and those relating to SEND):
 - We will meet our own statutory duties
 - We will further develop relationships with the Regional Director and Academy Trusts to ensure they adhere to their statutory duties whilst ensuring equality of access to education
 - The Local Authority will work closely with children, young people, their families, schools, settings and all other partners to deliver on these priorities.



Northumberland County Council

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SEND STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

Report of Audrey Kingham, Executive Director of Children, Young People & Education

Report of Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson, Lead Member for Inspiring Young People

1. Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to Tackling inequalities priority within the corporate: plan 2023. In particular, the following actions:

1. Further develop and embed our integrated multi agency approach to working with whole families through the ongoing implementation of Family Hubs so our families will have access to a range of supports from the antenatal period through to children turning 18 (or 25 with SEND)
2. Work towards improving the quality and performance of early year's settings, schools and other educational providers, so that all children and young people no matter their circumstances or educational need have equitable access to education as close to their home communities as possible and achieve the best educational outcomes.

2. Purpose of report

This purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress against actions described within the Northumberland SEND Strategy 2021-2024.

3. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Note the contents of the report;
- 2) Support next steps to be taken

4. **Forward Plan**

This report is part of the FACS Work Programme 2023-24

5. **Background**

[Northumberland's SEND Strategy 2021 - 24](#) was launched in June 2021 following a period of consultation with families and practitioners across education, health and social care. The Strategy has four strategic priorities

1. *'Working Together'* focussing on developing Local Offer, participation and engagement and embedding co-production across the system
2. *'Delivering the right support at the right time'* focussing on joint commissioning arrangements and further developing multi-agency working.
3. *'Inclusive education and success for all learners'* focussing on embedding an inclusive ethos across settings, the graduated approach and promoting aspiration, ambition around educational achievement for children and young people with SEND
4. *'Effectively prepare children and young people for adulthood'* focussing on increasing the range of pathways into employment, providing guidance to young people about pathways and multi-agency working as young people move into adulthood.

The attached reviewed and updated SEND Strategy Action Plan details progress made against specific targets. The following is a summary of progress made and next steps.

Strategic Priority 1 : Working Together

Local Offer – A Local Offer gives children and young people with SEND, and their families, information about what support services are available in their local area. Every local authority is responsible for writing a Local Offer and making sure it is available for everyone to see. Over the last year, work has been ongoing both in terms of building the website and in gaining feedback to inform its development from parents, carers and practitioners. The website is expected to go live in the Autumn Term 2023.

Co-production – Our SEND Strategy stated that as a local area we would work to embed co-production as a way of working across the system. We have reviewed co-production at the SEND Board in January 2022 and January 2023. There are a number of best practice examples across the system eg

- Sensory processing
- Family Hubs

While acknowledging the positive progress we have made, it is important to note that more work is required within this area. As a system we are better at listening to the voice of children and young people when we deliver support than listening to the voice of children and young people to inform planning of services. Analysis of the current situation shows that

- Teams are at different stages of development with participation and engagement work
- Support is required to facilitate participation and engagement within teams, pathways and services
- Consideration for ways to embed listening and reporting of the voice of C&YP and their families as part of business as usual

Strategic Priority 2 : Delivering the right support at the right time

Early Help

During 2022/23, a pilot was held to review and then roll out a Team Around the School model which aimed to support schools to identify children they are worried about at the earliest stage and provide further support and advice about available help. Four schools were identified to be part of the pilot and hold 'Team Around the School' clinics. The clinics in 3 of the 4 identified schools are continuing with all schools reporting this has supported their pastoral offer. In addition, one special school still used the clinic set up prior to this pilot and one additional secondary school is now offered a clinic with the Early Help First Contact Team.

Between November 21 and July 2023 over 24 clinics have taken place, 126 students were discussed, of which 28% were recorded as having emotional health needs and or SEND. This has enabled children, young people and their families to be connected to the right support at the earliest opportunity.

A new team has been developed to support education providers to initiate Early Help Assessments and facilitate Team Around the Family meeting. This is a significant investment of 6 Education EHA workers. The aim was to reach 200 children with EHAs initiated by school in the 22/23 academic year. At the end of the summer term there have been 420 children with education initiated EHAs.

Sensory processing need service

ICB commissioned 3 posts – Band 7 OT, Band 6 OT, Band 3 Technical Instructor to deliver an online support hub, training and support and assessments for those with sensory processing difficulties that impact on daily living.

Aims of the pathway are to

- Increase knowledge, skills and confidence of parents / carers and education staff to support children to regulate their sensory behaviours.
- Enable parents / carers and education staff to employ proactive and supportive strategies to de-escalate challenging behaviours and reduce episodes of self-injurious behaviour and aggression.

- Promote an understanding and awareness of a child's sensory needs and supporting them to develop self-regulatory strategies, which is the foundation for children developing independence in life skills.

Staff are in post and a multi-agency steering group, which includes the Parent Carer Forum are overseeing the development of the online support hub, the referral pathway and process and launch of the pathway. This new pathway will be operational by the end of December 2023.

Graduated response for mental health

Following Covid, identification and meeting the needs of children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural needs has been a continual area of multi-agency focus, from supporting schools to develop a strong pastoral support offer to accessing specialist mental health support.

Referrals to all services have increased significantly putting pressure on services abilities to meet waiting times. A multi-agency 'graduated response for mental health' workstream has been established which brings partners together to produce a clear local offer of support across all the different services, teams and organisations that deliver mental health support. This has resulted in

- The publication of 'Northumberland Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy 2023-26'
- A strategic steering group of senior leads from across all organisations and Northumberland Parent Carer Forum which oversees the delivery of the strategic action plan and has committed to jointly share data to enable a whole system response to understand and meet need
- An operational working group which coordinates the delivery of the action plan

As part of the work on the graduated response to meeting mental health need it has been identified that there is an over reliance on accessing support from NHS and Public Health providers and that support from the VCSE (Voluntary, community and social enterprise) sector is not as well understood or utilised. Following a review of the current graduated response, task and finish groups will be established to work with schools, parent/carers, children and young people and professionals to coproduce how each group would want this information presented and how they want to access it to ensure the offer is accessible and easy to understand.

Strategic Priority 3: Inclusive education and success for all learners

A significant amount of support work has happened over the previous two years to support the consistent implementation of the graduated response across schools in Northumberland. This has included

- Engagement with Whole Education SEND, with 70 schools engaged in a peer coaching and school SEND improvement project.
- Development of an 'in-house- approach to delivering the project into year 3, with over 140 schools and settings signed up. 'Evaluate my School' will be used to self-evaluate and plan actions against 7 key areas in relation to SEND. LA leaders can view evaluations and actions, analysing progress over time.

- SEND reviews which have followed the Whole School SEND format to date, with 9 having taken place 2022-23. From 2023-24 this has been developed to quality assure Evaluate My School input, further ensuring confidence in the evaluation of SEND practice across Northumberland.
- Lead SENCoS continue to support colleagues across settings in their partnerships through informal access and SENCo networks.
- Whole school training, SENCo conferences, support around individual learners and needs
- Analysis of applications for Education Health Care Needs Assessments
- Co-production of SEND support plans and EHC needs assessment request formats, ensuring a more consistent and high-quality approach across Northumberland.

From this we know that many schools have a good understanding of the graduated response, understand the importance of early identification and the need to put a co-produced SEN Support Plan in place that is robustly monitored. These schools use the support services available and act on the advice provided.

Assurance systems are in place to support the identification of schools and settings who require support around inclusion, including a tableau dashboard, training records (school attendance at NCC training), school SEND reviews, service engagement analysis, SEND placement panel, inclusion panel, Ofsted reports.

The introduction of SEND Advisors has supported increased understanding of the graduated response, what good looks like and the use of reasonable adjustments. The three SEND Advisors are seconded to the Local Authority on a part time basis from their permanent roles as SENCoS in Northumberland schools.

There are a number of Specialist Advisory Teaching Services which support schools and settings around whole school training and support for individual learners. Staff training has been delivered to an increasing number of school staff, based on school feedback and SENCo survey responses. A total number of 1677 staff were trained in the identification and meeting needs of learners with Autism, Emotional Wellbeing, Specific Learning Difficulties and Speech Language and Communication needs in the academic year 21-22.

From the number of requests for EHC needs assessment for neurodivergent learners we know that some mainstream schools experience difficulties providing an inclusive environment for these learners. Referral to the Autism Support Service for support for individual children or young people from schools and other settings increased by 80% between 2021-22 and 2022-23, whilst whole school requests for training and support increased by nearly 200% year on year. As a result, the service is currently under redesign for roll out September 2023, seeking to proactively engage colleagues in educational settings in effective training to promote inclusive, autism accepting practice as well as clear evidence-based approaches to supporting individual autistic difference.

NCC education and children's social care teams work together to coordinate support and challenge to schools and settings across a number of areas including attendance and exclusions and suspensions. Individual school data supports challenge and support being identified, including targeting reduction in suspension and permanent where the SEN Team

Strategic Priority 4: Effectively prepare children and young people for adulthood

Post 16 offer and pathways to employment

Historically, a proportion of young people have chosen Post 16 offers in out of County placements such as Newcastle College, Gateshead College and Tynemet College. This is partly due to geography and easier transport links, particularly so for those young people who live close to the North Tyneside, Newcastle and Gateshead borders. Over the last few years, a focus of work in this area has been to increase provision within Northumberland, creating opportunities to study closer to home with now 71% of Post 16 learners with EHCPs being educated within Northumberland.

During 2022-23 a pilot initiative was launched with three special schools to focus upon working toward work and career readiness, each school having developed an action plan based upon an NCC self-assessment framework. This has allowed NCC to better understand the curriculum that is preparing our young people for careers and how we can support our schools in doing so and will in time allow us to build a closer community of education providers working on this agenda.

In July 2023 the first Northumberland SEND Employment Forum took place in the council chamber at County Hall. A diverse range of attendees were present including Northumbria Water, NE Local Enterprise Partnership, Bernicia, Akzo Nobel, Quotient Sciences, Northumbria Health Care Trust and a wide range of SEND education providers and other stakeholders. A range of young people with SEND spoke about how they had overcome challenges to enter meaningful careers, their words were immensely powerful and the highlight of the event. One of the most reassuring aspects of this forum was the networking conversation that extended long beyond the event drawing to a close, the creation of these connections is what will make this an effective forum to drive change in our approach to work-based education and careers for our young people with SEND. A second forum is under development for October 2023 which will focus upon actions to create work base opportunities for young people, and this will then continue on a quarterly basis.

Creating opportunity to increase work experience placements within Northumbria Health Care Trust, on both a physical and virtual basis to boost inclusivity, is work in progress. NCC are partnering with Health Education England's Choices College work experience team to facilitate this.

NCC are working closer than ever with our post 16 SEND education providers on Supported Internship developments, priority actions are to better connect the EHC planning system, SEND careers team, our post 16 SEND providers, and their individual offers so that more young people understand this pathway and aspire to study on a supported internship. It is anticipated the number of Supported Internships in 2023-24 will be circa double that of 2022-23.

NCC are supporting and challenging our providers to do more in the county and support more of our young people to continue their study in Northumberland. Working more closely has seen a change in direction with more young people attending and studying at providers within Northumberland. This is directly attributable to the priorities set with Education and Skills and the work of the sector led group reviewing and planning provision and destinations in the county

Northumberland County Council has now had a contract with Globalbridge, the award-winning Ed -Tech opportunity platform provider, for two years and is extending this contract for another three years. The platform provides a way that young people can record, log and share their strengths to share with employers. The platform is now being offered to special schools and uptake is starting to be realised in some of our special schools.

Northumberland Skills continue to increase Post 16 places for young people with SEND, from 6 in 21/22, to 26 in 22/23 to 51 secured places for 23/24. A 3-step approach is being implemented

- Entry level 2: Building Resilience and a Self Confidence
- Entry Level 3: Sector specific introductions (Taster pathways)
- Level 1: Occupational Studies – Dedicated Sector Specific Programmes aligned to Post 16 FE (Construction, Engineering, Business Admin, Digital, Childcare)

Conclusion

This report details the work undertaken against key priority areas identified within Northumberland SEND Strategy 2021 - 2024. The strategy was written during Covid and reflects the challenges that were prevalent at the time.

In April this year, Ofsted and CQC published the new framework and handbook for [Area SEND inspections \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114424/SEND_Inspection_Framework_Handbook.pdf). This has extended the remit of the SEND Inspection framework to include Alternative Provision. Work will begin in September 2023 to plan and undertake listening and engagement work, alongside a refresh of the SEND JSNA to set new strategic priorities which will include Alternative Provision to reflect the national change to guidance to local areas.

6. Decision options:

It is recommended that the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Note the contents of the report;
- Support next steps to be taken

7. Implications

Policy	Developments detailed within the report outline steps being made towards strategic objectives.
Finance and value for money: eg: What are the financial implications and how will this be funded.	Efficient systems and processes within SEND underpin the transparent and equitable allocation of SEND finances. Currently there is no need for additional funding.
Legal	The SEND Code of Practice places a number of statutory requirements on Local Authorities and CCGs. These are detailed within the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulation 2014.
Procurement	NA
Human Resources	NA
Property	Capacity planning for the provision of specialist educational placements may involve capital development.
Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?" Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	SEND promotes the inclusion of children and young people within their schools and communities.
Risk Assessment	There is a risk that services will not be effective or efficient if the governance and strategy is not robustly monitored.
Crime & Disorder	Youth offending and SEND populations overlap
Customer Consideration	The views of children, young people and their parents / carers are central to developments and improvements within SEND.
Carbon reduction	SEND school transport arrangements are linked.
Health and Wellbeing	Supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 is a core component of the SEND Code of Practice and associated legislation.
Wards	NA

8. Background papers

Links are embedded within the report.

9. Links to other key reports already published

[SEND Capacity Planning Strategy](#)

10. Author and Contact Details

Sam Barron
Strategic Lead for SEND & Designated Clinical Officer

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11. Final Sign Off by Statutory Officers

Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Stephen Gerrard
Executive Director of Resources and Transformation (S151 Officer)	Jan Willis
Lead Member for Inspiring Young People	Guy Renner-Thompson
Executive Director for Children, Young People and Education	David Street, Director of Education, SEND & Skills on behalf of Audrey Kingham
Chief Executive	Dr Helen Paterson

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Agenda Item 6

DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET SINCE LAST OSC MEETING AND FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2023

DECISION	CABINET DATE/DECISION
<p>Cabinet Papers – 9 May</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2016</p>
<p>Corporate Plan</p> <p>This report presented the Council’s Corporate Plan for 2023-2026. The Plan built on the progress from the previous Corporate Plan and presented a refreshed vision, and three Council priorities. This refresh took account of the changing operating context and the recommendations of the Independent Review of Governance (‘Caller Review’) which reported to Full Council in June 2022. Moving forward, the three Priorities in the Plan would set the context for the Council’s Budget and Medium-Term Financial planning process. Service planning, the performance framework, and staff appraisal process would all contribute to achieving the priorities.</p>	<p>9 May 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) recommend to Full Council the new Corporate Plan 2023-26 for adoption at its meeting of 17th May. (2) note the proposal to Full Council to receive and consider an annual Corporate Plan Achievements Report at Full Council in March each year. (3) note the proposal to Full Council to receive and consider an annual Corporate Plan Performance Report at Full Council at the conclusion of Quarter four of the performance cycle.
<p>North East Bus Service Improvement Plan</p> <p>The report outlined the implications of the Bus Service Improvement Plan for Northumberland bus services and infrastructure</p>	<p>9 May 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the decision of the North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority, acting together through the North East Joint Transport Committee to make an Enhanced Bus Partnership for the region; (2) delegate authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 officer), to accept the funding for bus service improvements, once confirmed, from Transport North East; and

	(3) authorise the creation of a Northumberland Local Bus Board.
Financial Performance 2022-23 – Position at the end of February 2023 (Provisional Outturn 2022-23)	9 May 2023: The report was considered by the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC on 26 June 2023.
Outcomes of the Consultation on Proposals for the Berwick Partnership	9 May 2023: The report was considered by FACS OSC on 4 May 2023.
Public Report from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Members were informed that a Public Interest Report had been issued by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) in relation to a complaint raised by a Northumberland County Council resident in relation to the Post 16 Transport Policy.	9 May 2023: To see the full decision, follow this link: https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MIId=2016
Energising Blyth Programme: Culture Hub and Market Place Outline Business Case The report sought the approval of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and project budget for the Culture Hub and Market Place project. This flagship project will initiate the regeneration of Blyth town centre.	9 May 2023: RESOLVED that Cabinet (1) approve the Outline Business Case (OBC) summarised in this report for the Culture Hub and Market Place project to enable progression to Full Business Case (2) approve a total revised budget in the Capital Programme of £14,705,732. There is a current budget in the Capital Programme of £12,536,685 this report requests approval of £2,169,047 drawn from existing Council funds allocated to the Energising Blyth Programme. The project was funded by HM government Future High Streets Fund and the Council as set out in Financial Tables 3-5 (3) note that Jam Jar Cinema Community Interest Company (CIC) will be formally appointed as the main operator of the Culture Hub and that an operator for the Creative Play concession within the facility will be appointed in due course subject to Cabinet approval of the recommendations in this report (4) delegate authority, in accordance with the Energising Blyth Local Assurance Framework, to the Council's s151

	<p>Officer following consideration by the Energising Blyth Programme Board to approve the Full Business Case and report any subsequent capital implications to Cabinet (via the Capital Strategy Group) for inclusion in the Capital Programme</p> <p>(5) delegate approvals to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration to enter into any contracts relating to the project subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed.</p>
<p>The Future of the Berwick Museum and Art Collections</p> <p>Members were asked to agree the future housing of the Berwick Museum and Art collections in the custodianship of the Council and currently managed by Museums Northumberland within the context of the opportunities and challenges presented by The Living Barracks Initiative.</p>	<p>9 May 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the retention of the Berwick Museum and art collections as part of The Living Barracks initiative, subject to further discussions with relevant partners on the issues set out at paragraph 47 of the report.</p>
<p>The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund 2023/24</p> <p>Members received proposals for the allocation in 2023/24 of a Government grant for adult social care. Urgent approval of a broad approach to the use of this grant was required to comply with a grant condition requiring submission of proposals by 24 May.</p>	<p>9 May 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <p>(1) approve the proposed uses of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) in 2023/24 set out in this report, and the resulting commitments in subsequent years, which it is anticipated can be funded through the increased MSIF grant in 2024/25 and will be covered in later years either by continuation of this grant or by consolidation of the funding into the general local government financial settlement;</p> <p>(2) authorise the Executive Director – Adults, Ageing and Well-Being, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Well-being, to make detailed decisions about the allocation of this grant, within the broad framework set out in this report, taking account of further consultations with care providers and any other relevant information which becomes available.</p>
<p>Cabinet Papers – 13 June</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2247</p>

<p>Ashington Regeneration Programme Establishment – Strategic Sites Acquisition</p> <p>The report update Cabinet regarding the establishment, development and delivery of the £30m Ashington Regeneration Programme, which would have a catalytic impact on the town’s economy and drive forward the implementation of the Ashington Town Investment Plan.</p> <p>The report also sought approval for the strategic acquisition of the Woodhorn Road site and the Wansbeck Square site from Advance Northumberland (Commercial) Limited to create the required development platform to enable implementation of the Ashington Regeneration Programme</p>	<p>13 June 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet endorse the Ashington Investment Plan as the overarching strategy that will provide the context, vision and aspirations for delivery of the phased Ashington Regeneration Programme; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree the establishment of the Ashington Regeneration Programme with two initial phases associated with the Ashington High Street Innovation Programme (HSIP) and Town Centre Renewal of Strategic Sites Programme;</p> <p>(c) Cabinet approve the associated financial profiles as set out in Appendix 1 whilst:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsing the bid submitted to extend the HSIP Programme with a funding ask of £576,898 and acceptance of this additional funding into the Medium Term Financial Plan, if successful • approving an initial allocation of £1,000,000 in the Medium Term Financial Plan to be fully funded by the Government to develop plans for Wansbeck Square Strategic Site • approving an initial grant allocation of £600,000 in the Medium Term Financial Plan to be fully funded by the Government to develop plans for Portland Park Strategic Site • authorising the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration to enter into contracts up to the value of £1.6m for the development of the strategic sites and delivery of public realm capital works, subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed; <p>(d) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration, in consultation with the s151 Officer, to purchase the Woodhorn Road site, at a value up to a maximum of £210,000 from funding already allocated in the Medium Term Financial Plan;</p> <p>(e) Cabinet approve the acquisition of the Wansbeck Square site, and delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration, in consultation with the S151 Officer, to acquire the Wansbeck Square site at a value up to a maximum of £1,365,000 with funding from the Strategic Regeneration Projects budget within the Capital Programme; and</p> <p>(f) Cabinet agree the associated programme management and assurance arrangements to support the programme’s delivery as set out in the report</p>
<p>Enhanced Pothole Repair Pilot</p>	<p>13 June 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p>

<p>The report sought approval to undertake an ‘invest to save’ trial of first-time patch repair of a proportion of actionable carriageway pothole defects, to quantify the costs and benefits associated with this alternative approach to one of the main revenue funded highway maintenance activities undertaken by the Council.</p>	<p>(a) Cabinet approve the commencement of a 3-month ‘invest to save’ trial of first time patch repair of a proportion of actionable carriageway pothole defects in the North and Tynedale Local Area Committee areas of the County, and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the allocation of £492,600 in revenue funds from the severe weather reserve to fund the pilot scheme.</p>
<p>Potential Loan to Northumberland Community Bank</p> <p>The report provided details of a potential loan facility to Northumberland Community Bank (NCB) of £50,000 towards the capital reserve.</p>	<p>13 June 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve a loan facility of £50,000 to Northumberland Community Bank subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCB agreeing to the proposed terms and conditions; • NCC’s Legal Team completing a legal agreement with NCB in advance of any loan drawdown by NCB, containing the terms and conditions set out within this report; and • Subsidy Control implications being investigated and satisfied.
<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Update and Northumberland Delivery</p> <p>The report provided an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme and the UKSPF funded projects secured by Northumberland County Council to support levelling-up activity across the County.</p>	<p>13 June 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>(a) Cabinet endorse the progress and content of the UKSPF Investment and Delivery Plans for the North of Tyne Area;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet welcome and endorse the Northumberland County Council-led UKSPF funded projects, described in this report and summarised in table 1, which secures over £7.085m to deliver a range of levelling-up activities and support for Northumberland’s businesses and residents over 2022 – 2025; and</p> <p>(c) Cabinet endorse the Inclusive Economy Community Partnership project, which, working with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), will build capacity and deliver activities in support of the inclusive economy, focused in our most deprived communities and, if successful, accept £0.4m capital and 1.15m revenue funding into the Medium-Term Financial Plan.</p>
<p>Cabinet Papers – 11 July</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2248</p>
<p>Report of the Communities and Place OSC - Firefighters Decontamination</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the recommendation of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee that financial support for the recommendations made by the fire and rescue service be provided to ensure that Northumberland</p>

<p>District Heating Update and Partnership Procurement</p> <p>To provide a summary of the progress made across the eight District Heating studies completed for the county, feedback on proposed delivery models for the schemes and seek approval to proceed with the next phase of activity</p>	<p>leads the way to reduce the risk of contamination and support fire and rescue personnel.</p> <p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet agree that the council's preferred delivery option for District Heating is Model 3 (Supply Framework). Under this model the Council will enter into a framework agreement with a Heat Provider and agree a form of connection and supply agreement to be used for the supply of heat to the Council across the eight towns, namely Alnwick, Ashington, Berwick, Blyth, Cramlington, Hexham, Morpeth and Prudhoe on a town-by town basis as the schemes go-live; (b) Cabinet approve a procurement exercise to select and appoint a legal and commercial advisor to support the procurement activities needed to appoint a Heat Provider. The forecast cost of the external legal and commercial advisor support is ~£160,000, which it is expected will be 100% funded through the NELEP Energy Accelerator Fund at no additional cost to NCC. In the unlikely case that the NELEP do not fund the project a separate request for NCC to provide funding will be made; (c) Cabinet resource and undertake a procurement exercise to appoint a Heat Provider; (d) Cabinet agree to the inclusion of the council's future heat load to be in scope for commercially viable District Heating schemes in each of the eight locations, provided the commercial, economic and net zero tests are met by the Heat Provider; and (e) the timescales for delivery given market competition, be noted.
<p>Northumberland Stewardship and Rural Growth Investment Programme – Nature Recovery Response</p> <p>To outline the Council's role in leading the region's response to nature recovery as set out in the North East Devolution Deal and, within this context, seek consideration to the declaration of an ecological</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet accept, in principle and subject to the approval of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Cabinet, the role of leading the development of the statutory North of Tyne Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) on behalf of the Combined Authority; (b) Cabinet endorse the Council's role as accountable body for the participation of the English part of the Borderlands area in the Government's Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) programme;

<p>emergency in Northumberland.</p>	<p>(c) Cabinet accept the anticipated grant awards of £0.285 million and £1.000 million respectively for the development of the North of Tyne LNRS and the delivery of the Borderlands LINC into the Council's revenue budget;</p> <p>(d) Cabinet agree to declaring an ecological emergency to further strengthen the Council's commitment to rural stewardship and to demonstrate the significant role of nature recovery in mitigating the climate emergency;</p> <p>(e) Cabinet develop a response, within the context of our Climate Change Action Plan, to the ecological emergency using our new obligations under the Environment Act 2021 as a framework; namely the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy; the strengthened duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity with a requirement to publish action plans and progress reports; and the introduction of mandatory biodiversity net gain in the planning system; and</p> <p>(f) A progress report be made to Cabinet in six months.</p>
<p>Asset Management Framework</p> <p>To provide Cabinet with information relating to the new Asset Management Framework for 2023-2026 that has been developed to guide decision making and clearly outline the strategic plans for the estate to 2026.</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet note the purpose and content of the Asset Management Framework for 2023-2026; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Asset Management Framework; as attached at Appendix 1 – and • Receive further updates on the delivery of the Asset Management Framework on a quarterly basis.
<p>Financial Performance 2022-23 – Final Outturn (subject to audit)</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to report the final outturn position (subject to audit) for the Council against the Budget for 2022-23</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the new grants and amendments to existing grants at Appendix A and the required changes to the budgets. • the net re-profiling to the Capital Programme of £23.940 million from 2022-23 to 2023-24 to reflect expenditure levels in the financial year; and <p>(b) Cabinet note:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A balanced position following a transfer of £5.916 million to the General Fund, after the transfers to Earmarked Reserves agreed as part of the Provisional Outturn report at the Cabinet meeting on 9 May 2023. • that this final outturn is based on the draft Statement of Accounts and is subject to external audit. • the delivery of the approved savings at Appendix B. • the use of the contingency shown at Appendix Q. • the use of reserves shown at Appendix R. • the virements requested by services shown at Appendix S.
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p> <p>The report summarises proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group.</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Children’s Residential Homes:</p> <p>a) Cabinet approve the reallocation of capital funds of £1.260 million in 2023-24 from Black Close House to purchase six private residential properties which will support the development of multi-building children’s residential homes in Northumberland.</p> <p>b) Cabinet approve that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Education to enter into a contract(s) for the acquired units as and when they are identified up to the approved budget limit.</p> <p>(b) BT Openreach Gainshare receipt</p> <p>a) Cabinet approve the receipt of BT Openreach gainshare funding amounting to £2.145 million.</p> <p>b) Cabinet approve the addition of £2.145 million to the Council’s capital expenditure budget in 2023-24 to be split as follows:</p> <p>i) Repayment to Building Digital UK (BDUK) of £0.989 million (46.11% of the total gainshare receipt) as per terms of the Contract; and,</p> <p>ii) £1.156 million into Community Broadband in respect of enabling additional premises to access the £2,500 top up voucher to help provide gigabit connectivity in the hardest to reach areas</p>

	<p>(c) Levelling Up Funding for Rapid Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers:</p> <p>a) Cabinet approve the receipt of Levelling Up funding amounting to £0.453 million awarded to the Council for the provision of ten new rapid EV chargers to be delivered between April 2023 and March 2025, split as follows: £0.347 million in 2023-24; and, £0.106 million in 2024-25.</p> <p>b) Cabinet note the match funding NCC contribution of £0.050 million (10%) from the existing capital allocation in the Climate Change Capital Fund in 2024-25, creating a total budget of £0.503 million.</p> <p>(d) Alnwick Playhouse – Replacement of Lighting Rig:</p> <p>a) Cabinet approve the creation of a new capital project in 2023-24 for the installation of a new lighting rig at Alnwick Playhouse to ensure that the main auditorium is fully health and safety compliant.</p> <p>b) Cabinet approve the reallocation of capital funds of £0.100 million in 2023-24 from Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) to Alnwick Playhouse Lighting Rig to fund installation of the new rig.</p> <p>c) Cabinet note that the Strategic Regeneration Projects budget will reallocate £0.100 million to the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) project in 2024-25.</p>
<p>Energising Blyth Programme: Levelling Up Deep Dive</p> <p>To update Cabinet regarding the establishment, development and delivery of the £20.71m Levelling Up Deep Dive (LUDD) funding awarded to Blyth earlier this year. The report explains how this funding will be added to the Energising Blyth programme in the town to have a catalytic impact on the town's economy and drive forward the implementation of the Blyth Town Investment Plan.</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet accept the award of £20.71m Levelling Up Deep Dive capital and revenue funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and its use as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add £19,630,000 to the Capital Programme as an identified budget allocation for the capital projects identified in this report. • Add £1,080,000 as an identified revenue budget for the revenue funded projects and programme management arrangements outlined in this report; <p>(b) Cabinet note that the funding will be used to deliver new initiatives to support the delivery of the Blyth Town Investment Plan as part of the Energising Blyth Programme including 'Welcoming and Safe Blyth',</p>

<p>This report seeks approval to accept this funding award from UK Government and to take a number of key early steps to enable the implementation of key projects</p>	<p>'Housing Renewal and Town Centre Living' and 'Energy Central Campus: Technical Training Kit';</p> <p>(c) Cabinet approve the associated financial profiles as set out in the report fully funded by the Levelling Up Deep Dive and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a new Blyth Empty Homes Team in 2023 for two years from appointment • Authorise the S151 officer in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Regeneration to enter into internal grant funding agreement for the empty homes team revenue costs subject to confirmation of funding being in place and local assurance being followed • Authorise the S151 officer in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Regeneration to approve initial design fees up to the value of £1,993,469 across the programme • The associated programme management and assurance arrangements to support the programme's delivery as set out in the report. This includes the appointment of a Senior Programme Officer in 2023 to support the programme funded for two years from appointment drawn from the revenue budget above.
<p>Environmental Enforcement Fixed Penalty Notice and Penalty Notice Policy 2023</p> <p>To present the revised Environmental Enforcement Fixed Penalty and Penalty Notice Policy 2023 for consideration and adoption.</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet agree and adopt the proposed policy; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree and adopt the fine levels given in the schedule of the policy.</p>
<p>Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Service for Northumberland – Permission to Award Contract</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide the background to the need to provide a drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service as part of the Council's statutory public health functions, to confirm that the procurement exercise</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the award of the contract to the successful contractor for £3,356,709 per annum. The maximum contract period is October 2023 – March 2030.</p>

has commenced, and to seek permission to award the contract once the exercise is complete	
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FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS

<p>BEST Delivery Partner Delegated Decision</p> <p>On 14th March 2023, Cabinet approved the key decision to proceed with the Tendering and Procurement of Delivery Partners who will be engaged to work alongside us on the delivery of the priorities identified in the strategic business case and support the design and delivery of projects included in the scope of the delivery of the Strategic Business Case (as agreed at Cabinet on 17th January 2023).</p> <p>The 'BEST: Delivery Partner Delegated Decision Report' seeks approval of the recommendation for a key decision in relation to delegating the signing of the contract for the BEST Delivery Partner to the Council 's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services.</p> <p>R. Wearmouth/K.Gardner - 07814484613/ P. Hindhaugh - 07976 886600</p>	<p>12 September 2023</p>
<p>Financial Performance 2023-24 Position at the end of June 2023</p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 30 June 2023.</p> <p>R. Wearmouth/J. Willis - 01670 623424</p>	<p>12 September 2023</p>
<p>Potential Loan to Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council</p> <p>The Report requests members to approve the potential loan facility to Whittingham Callaly and Alnham Parish Council. The loan has been requested due to an error on the 2023-24 precept form and the funds are required for the Parish Council to operate during 2023-24.</p> <p>R. Wearmouth/J. Willis - 01670 623424</p>	<p>12 September 2023</p>
<p>Setting the Scope and Targets for the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26</p> <p>To agree the scope and targets to be addressed in detail in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26.</p> <p>G. Sanderson/N. Johnston - 0447966334778</p>	<p>12 September 2023</p>
<p>Data Academy Pilot</p> <p>Investing via levy funding to upskill Northumberland County Council with data skills with an initial pilot cohort of three potential courses ranging from academic level 3, 4, and 4-6 that relate to upskilling in data using monies from NCC's levy funding budget.</p> <p>R. Wearmouth/A. Kingham - 01670 622742</p>	<p>10 October 2023</p>

<p>Strengthened Biodiversity Duty and Reporting Obligations The legal duty imposed on public bodies since 2006 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity has been significantly strengthened through a legislative amendment to a requirement to take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity, with a planning and reporting framework that has to be complied with. This report sets out the implications of this duty for the Council and sets out the actions that need to be taken over the next year to comply with it.</p> <p>C. Horncastle/D. Feige - 0777 429 5253</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p>
<p>Leisure Programme Update To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme</p> <p>J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463</p>	<p>12 December 2023</p>
<p>Budget 2024-25 , Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28 and 30 Year Business Plan for the Housing Revenue Account The report presents to Cabinet, the updated Budget 2024-25, Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28 and 30 year Business plan for the Housing Revenue Account</p> <p>(R. Wearmouth/Alison Elsdon 01670 622168/07796652072)</p>	<p>16 January 2024 Council 17 January 2024 21 February 2024</p>
<p>Leisure Programme Update To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme</p> <p>J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463</p>	<p>9 April 2024</p>

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Northumberland County Council

Family and Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2023 - 2024

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Chris Angus, Scrutiny Officer
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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 Six Monthly Report
Children Permanently Excluded from School/Elective Home Education
Schools performance
Joint Targeted Area Inspection

Issues to be raised:

Themed Scrutiny:

Issues to be scheduled:

**Northumberland County Council
Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2023 - 2024**

7 September 2023

SEND Self-Evaluation Framework

This report informs the committee of progress made against the four strategic priorities detailed within the Northumberland SEND Strategy 2021-2024

Report of the Schools Improvement Team

A report setting out the strategies and initiatives implemented to enhance educational institutions and their outcomes.

2 November 2023

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Children's Social Care Self-Assessment and Improvement Plan

A report on the performance of Children's Social Care and a plan for addressing future challenges.

Quality of Practice in Children's Social Care

9 January 2024

Potential joint meeting with Health and Wellbeing OSC.

A joint meeting with Health and Wellbeing OSC to consider a range of cross cutting issues such as workforce, mental health, public health, complaints, and safeguarding.

7 March 2024

Director of Education Annual Report: Key Educational Outcomes (2022-2023 Academic Year)

Annual report on the key educational outcomes of the previous academic year. The Committee will be asked to identify any further areas for scrutiny.

Annual Report of the Virtual School Headteacher and Elective Home Education

To present the education outcomes of Northumberland's looked after children for the academic year and information about the

		increase in the number of children who are electively home educated, and the multi-agency support that is in place for families.
25 April 2024		
	Home to School Transport Review	An update on following the Home to School Transport Review presented to FACS in June 2023.

**Northumberland County Council
Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2023-2024**

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1	1 June 2023	Annual Report of the Principle Social Worker	RESOLVED that the contents of the report and work completed over the year be acknowledged and the priorities identified be agreed. Information was requested to be included in next year's report on the progress in raising the profile of becoming a social worker within schools and how the sector could be more welcoming for men.	No further action.
2	1 June 2023	Home to School Transport Review	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	An update on the implementation to be given to FACS at a future date.
3	18 July 2023	Outcomes of Statutory Consultation on Proposals For The Berwick Partnership	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the recommendations outlined in the report were supported by this Committee.	The Committee's comments were considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 th July 2023