

Northumberland County Council

Family and Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2023 - 2024

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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:

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Work Programme 2023 - 2024**

2 November 2023

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

The report outlines the mechanisms used to explore the quality of practice and identify learning and continuous improvement. This report highlights the quantitative and qualitative methods that used in Northumberland.

7 December 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.

Complaints Annual Report 2022- 23: Children's Social Care and Continuing Health Care Services

To provide Members with an overview of performance against complaints within Children's services and to report to Members decisions made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and Health Services Ombudsman

9 January 2024

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh – Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life

To update members on progress on actions within the JHWS. Members are asked to review this theme and propose amendments to priorities, actions, and indicators to measure progress for the remaining period of the strategy 2023 – 2028.

Joint Health and Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh – Building Blocks Theme

To update members on progress on actions within the JHWS. Members are asked to review this theme and propose

	Adults and children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report	<p>amendments to priorities, actions, and indicators to measure progress for the remaining period of the strategy 2023 – 2028.</p> <p>To provide an overview of the work carried out under the multiagency arrangements for Safeguarding Adults and Children.</p>
7 March 2024		
	<p>Director of Education Annual Report: Key Educational Outcomes (2022-2023 Academic Year)</p> <p>Annual Report of the Virtual School Headteacher and Elective Home Education</p>	<p>Annual report on the key educational outcomes of the previous academic year. The Committee will be asked to identify any further areas for scrutiny.</p> <p>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.</p>
25 April 2024		
	<p>Home to School Transport Review</p> <p>Safeguard Activity Trends & CIS Benchmarking Report</p>	<p>An update on following the Home to School Transport Review presented to FACS in June 2023.</p> <p>The report provides an analysis of trends within social work activity in responding to safeguarding concerns regarding Northumberland's children and young people; highlighting key indicators of performance, with comparisons to national and regional variations.</p>

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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
4	7 September 2023	SEND Self-Evaluation Framework	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and next steps be supported by the Committee.	The Committee will continue to examine SEN services.

5	7 September 2023	Report of the Schools Improvement Team	RESOLVED that the report be accepted and that whilst the Committee noted the changes to funding imposed by the DfE they asked that Northumberland County Council continue to fund the service.	FACS recommends that Northumberland County Council continue to fund the Schools Improvement Team
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