

Northumberland County Council

Family and Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2021 - 2022

Chris Angus, Scrutiny Officer
01670 622604 - Chris.Angus@Northumberland.gov.uk

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:

School Capital Investment
Children Permanently Excluded from School/Elective Home Education
Education (Guidance about the cost of School Uniforms) Act 2021

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Work Programme 2021 - 2022**

3 February 2022

	<p>PRE-SCRUTINY:- School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2023/2024 Academic Year</p> <p>Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report 2021</p> <p>Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP) Annual Report</p> <p>Adult Learning Service Annual Report: Learning and Skills Service</p> <p>Sufficiency Strategy</p>	<p>Annual pre-scrutiny report on school admissions arrangements. The Committee's comments will be presented to Cabinet at their meeting on 8 February 2022.</p> <p>To present the education outcomes of Northumberland's looked after children for the academic year 2020 – 2021.</p> <p>To provide an overview of the work completed by the NSSP undertaken from 2020-2021</p> <p>The annual report for Learning and Skills Service is provided to report the performance against the Education Inspection Framework; present the work of the Careers Guidance Team and understand the role and impact of the Employability and Skills team within the wider service. The Learning and Skills Service leads a number of specialist areas and provides training for young people age 16-19, adults and apprentices across eight campuses in Northumberland as well as training in the workplace.</p> <p>This report highlights the issues and challenges faced with sufficiency and outlines a detailed strategy which identifies a</p>
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	<p>Home Builds Progress</p> <p>Annual Engagement Statement</p> <p>OFSTED Inspection Framework</p>	<p>range of underpinning data and information. The report will outline how the service plans to meet the needs.</p> <p>Summary of the progress and plans including the outcome of the DfE bid for the building of children's new homes</p> <p>Summary of the annual meeting with Ofsted including formal letter from the inspectorate.</p> <p>An overview of the work undertaken by the Schools Improvement Team following the changes to OFSTED inspection framework.</p>
<p>3 March 2022</p>		
	<p>PRE-SCRUTINY:- Report on Final Decision on Statutory Proposals for Atkinson House</p> <p>Director of Education Annual Report: Key Educational Outcomes (2020-2021 Academic Year)</p> <p>Safeguarding Activity Trend</p>	<p>This report sets out an analysis of the representations (responses) received from interested parties to the statutory proposal published in relation to prescribed changes for Atkinson House Special School in Seghill, a secondary provision for boys with Social, Emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs in Northumberland during the four week statutory consultation that began on 13 January and closed on 10 February 2022</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 provide analysis of social work activity trends and case allocation as well as highlighting national developments regarding the Department for Education safeguarding indicators.</p>

	CIS Benchmarking Annual Report	To inform members of how Northumberland compares with other areas in 2020/21 based on provisional data in the field of children in need and child protection.
	School Transport Governance Arrangements	Review of the current governance arrangements for school transport providers and staff.
7 April 2022		
	PRE-SCRUTINY:- Report on Berwick Partnership Organisation	This report sets out the findings of the informal meetings that have taken place with schools in the Berwick Partnership since April 2021 to discuss the organisational issues facing the partnership and to identify potential models of organisation that could address those issues. The results of an informal survey with parents and the wider community in the area served by Berwick Partnership are also included in the report.
	Development of Family Hubs	Update for members on the development and progress of family hubs in Northumberland.
	Annual Report of Principle Social Worker	To advise and update the Scrutiny Committee about the input and work of the Principal Social Worker in 2020/21 and an overview of the quality of practice and development needs of frontline social workers.

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Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1	17 June 2021	Impact of COVID pandemic on SEND services	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and the support provided over this period be recognised.	Further report to come to the committee on CYPS, waiting times and impact of COVID of children's mental health.
2	17 June 2021	Winter Support Grant Update	RESOLVED that: 1. The content of the report and the successful implementation of the initiatives undertaken with the funding from the Winter Support Grant be noted. 2. The strategy, roll-out and benefits of the activities for children and young people organised through the Holiday Activity Fund across Northumberland during the Easter Holiday be noted.	No further action
3	2 September 2021	Schools Forum Role and Decision Making Powers	RESOLVED that the report be noted	No further action
4	2 September 2021	SEND Revisit	RESOLVED that: 1. The information be noted; 2. A regular update be provided to allow the Committee to provide advice and support.	A further update to return to the Committee at a later date.

5	2 September 2021	Peer Review For Care Leavers Service Update	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members were assured that there was an action plan to take forward improvements to services for care leavers as part of continuous improvement planning in children's social care; and 2. Members would continue to have an overview of the Northumberland offer for care leavers and understand their role as corporate parents for care leavers. 	A further update to return to the Committee at a later date.
6	2 September 2021	Complaints Annual Report 2020/2021 – Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, And Continuing Health Care Services	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	Report to be split between Adults and Children. Report on Adult's Social Care only to return to the Committee in a year.
7	7 October 2021	Seaton Valley Federation	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 12 October, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments
8	7 October 2021	Proposals for Atkinson House	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 12 October, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments
9	7 October 2021	School Organisation Plan for 2021 – 2024	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the Committee welcomed the plan and supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 12 October, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments

10	7 October 2021	Education Infrastructure Contribution Policy	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 12 October, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments
11	7 October 2021	Children's Services Self-Assessment	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	A report to be brought on Home Placement Sufficiency.
12	4 November 2021	Performance and Finance Report (Children's Services)	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	Further report to be presented in 6 months
13	4 November 2021	Children's Home Placement and Sufficiency	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	Full strategy to come to Committee in Jan 22
14	4 November 2021	Social Worker Recruitment and Retention	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action
15	4 November 2021	North East Submission to the Care Review	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted	No further action
16	2 December 2021	Health Education England & NCC Project Choice	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 7 December, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments.
17	2 December 2021	Northumberland Strategic Skills Plan 2021-25	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 7 December, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments.
18	2 December 2021	Northumberland Skills Pathfinder - Curriculum Research	RESOLVED that:	At its meeting on 7 December, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments.

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the content and general approach of the Northumberland Skills Pathfinder Curriculum Research be noted; 2. the use of the document with internal NCC stakeholder groups be authorised; and 3. that work be undertaken with schools and colleges to embed the knowledge of the Ofsted framework which included the use of a broad and balanced curriculum which was designed to meet the needs of their learners and residents. 	
19	6 January 2022	Relocation of Actkinson house	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 11 January, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments.
20	6 January 2022	Seaton Valley Federation	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 11 January, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments.
21	6 January 2022	National Funding Formula and School Funding 2022/23	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 11 January, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments.