

**Northumberland County Council**

**Family and Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2021 - 2022**

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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:**

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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3 March 2022

	<p><b>PRE-SCRUTINY:- Report on Final Decision on Statutory Proposals for Atkinson House</b></p> <p>Director of Education Annual Report: Key Educational Outcomes (2020-2021 Academic Year)</p> <p>Safeguarding Activity Trend</p> <p>School Transport Governance Arrangements</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> <p>Review of the current governance arrangements for school transport providers and staff.</p> <p>To summarise an evidence-based cost proposal to prepare Kirkley Hall equestrian area in readiness to accept Morpeth Group RDA as a base for their ongoing operation.</p>
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	<p><b>PRE-SCRUTINY:- RDA relocation from Tranwell (Pegasus Centre) to Kirkley Hall Campus (Northumberland College)</b></p>	<p>(Confidential report)</p>
<p>7 April 2022</p>		
	<p><b>PRE-SCRUTINY:- Report on Berwick Partnership Organisation</b></p> <p>Development of Family Hubs</p> <p>Annual Report of Principle Social Worker</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Update for members on the development and progress of family hubs in Northumberland.</p> <p>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.</p>

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Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1	17 June 2021	Impact of COVID pandemic on SEND services	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted	No further action

4	2 September 2021	SEND Revisit	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The information be noted;</li> <li>2. A regular update be provided to allow the Committee to provide advice and support.</li> </ol>	A further update to return to the Committee at a later date.
5	2 September 2021	Peer Review For Care Leavers Service Update	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	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	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>Seaton Valley Federation</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that <b>Cabinet</b> 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	<b>Proposals for Atkinson House</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>School Organisation Plan for 2021 – 2024</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>Education Infrastructure Contribution Policy</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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)	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action
15	4 November 2021	North East Submission to the Care Review	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the contents of the report be noted	No further action
16	2 December 2021	Health Education England & NCC Project Choice	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the content and general approach of the Northumberland Skills Pathfinder Curriculum Research be noted;</li> <li>2. the use of the document with internal NCC stakeholder groups be authorised; and</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	At its meeting on 7 December, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments.
19	6 January 2022	Relocation of Actkinson house	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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.
22	3 February 2022	School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2023/2024 Academic Year	<b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	At its meeting on 8 February, Cabinet considered the Committee's comments.

23	3 February 2022	Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report 2021	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the education achievements of looked after children and the ongoing challenges caused by the disruption to education during the pandemic be noted.	No further action
24	3 February 2022	Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP) Annual Report	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the content of the report be noted.	No further action
25	3 February 2022	Adult Learning Service Annual Report: Learning and Skills Service	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The content of the annual report be noted.</li> <li>2. The approach to developing the Northumberland curriculum models to enhance the learning experience and support students to acquire the skills and knowledge to be successful in life be endorsed.</li> <li>3. The performance given the continuing challenges of the global pandemic against operating circumstances and the valuable support provided to all learners with all services be recognised.</li> <li>4. The progress in respect of the improvement actions set out in the 2019/20 report be noted.</li> <li>5. The identified areas for improvement and the routines established to monitor progress be agreed.</li> </ol>	No further action

26	3 February 2022	Sufficiency Strategy	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the contents of the report and the Children in Care and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy be noted.	No further action
27	3 February 2022	Home Builds Progress	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted.	No further action
28	3 February 2022	Annual Engagement Statement	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted.	No further action
29	3 February 2022	OFSTED Inspection Framework	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information and range of inspections be noted.	No further action