

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY REVIEW – DRAFT SCOPE

1. Topic

Support for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) in West Northamptonshire.

2. Responsible Overview and Scrutiny Committee

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)

3. Purpose of the scrutiny review

To scrutinise and inform the development of support for children with SEND in West Northamptonshire that will address previous areas for improvement regarding children and families' experience of services and that will be more able to deliver effective outcomes for service users.

Key lines of enquiry

- SEND needs assessment: does the local area understand the needs of children with SEND and does it have coherent plans to meet this need?
- How will the new SEND Accountability Board ensure effective oversight of the development and implementation of future provision? How will good engagement with parents of children with SEND be achieved?
- Are plans to co-produce a new SEND strategy and delivery plan for West Northamptonshire appropriate? Will the new strategy and delivery plan meet identified needs? Are the new strategy and delivery plan realistic and achievable?
- How does the local system embed a learning culture to support improving outcomes?

4. Outcomes

To provide ideas and constructive challenge intended to contribute to work on the development of effective support for children with SEND in West Northamptonshire underway during the period of the scrutiny review.

To make evidence-based recommendations to the West Northamptonshire Council Cabinet and/or other applicable decision-makers intended to contribute to the provision of effective support for children with SEND in the area.

5. Approach

The scrutiny review will be carried out by a task and finish panel made up of the following councillors:

1. Councillor Harry Barrett
2. Councillor Muna Cali
3. Councillor Maggie Clubley
4. Councillor Julie Davenport
5. Councillor Rosie Herring
6. Councillor Mark Hughes
7. Councillor Emma Roberts

The task and finish panel will invite a representative of the Northamptonshire Parent Forum Group to join the panel as a co-opted member for the part of its work focussed on SEND needs assessment.

The task and finish panel may make use of the standard working methods applicable to scrutiny reviews, including evidence-gathering meetings (either in-person or virtual); desktop research; targeted evidence-gathering by individual members; and site visits, as appropriate.

6. Information required

Background data

- Information on the level of demand for SEND support in West Northamptonshire, trends, service organisation and capacity, resources and pressures
- Anonymised case studies of the operation of SEND support in West Northamptonshire, including examples of positive and negative experiences for service users
- Local Government Association 2022 peer review of SEND provision in Northamptonshire
- Outcomes from Department for Education-led improvement work in March 2023
- Draft SEND Strategy and Delivery Plan for West Northamptonshire

Views from internal expert advisors

- Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education
- Executive Director People Services
- Assistant Director Education
- Service officers involved in delivering SEND support

Views from external expert advisors

- Representatives of parents of children with SEND
- Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

7. Resources and support

- Service officer support to provide subject expertise to assist the task and finish panel in understanding and using evidence gathered.
- Democratic Services officer support for evidence-gathering and for production of the scrutiny review report.

8. Timetable and key dates

Confirmation of overall scope by People OSC	21 February 2023
Scene-setting meeting	March 2023
Evidence-gathering (specific dates for meetings and other activity to be set by the task and finish panel)	April – July 2023
Approval of draft report by task and finish panel	August 2023
Agreement of final report by People OSC	14 September 2023
Presentation of final report to WNC Cabinet	10 October 2023

The scrutiny panel will report back to the People OSC should it identify any need to request a variation to this timetable or any other amendments to the agreed scope whilst the scrutiny review is in-progress.

9. Follow-up

People OSC will review the impact of the scrutiny review 6 months after the presentation of the final report to decision-makers.