

West Northamptonshire Council

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

	Topic identified and scheduled
	Topic identified but not yet scheduled
	Topic completed

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Panel	Comments
Integrated Care across Northamptonshire (iCAN)	The Committee to scrutinise progress made with the development of iCAN and the position on key risk factors.	21 September 2021 – A task and finish panel has been set up and will conclude its review in 2022/23	Executive Director People Services	Yes	The task and finish panel will meet 6 times from January 2022 to April 2023, aligned to iCAN contract gateway review points, to scrutinise delivery of iCAN programme outcomes.
Task and finish scrutiny review: Special educational needs and disability (SEND) support	To approve the scope for a scrutiny review on this topic, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 21 November 2022.	21 February 2023 – A task and finish panel has been set up and will conclude its review in 2023/24	NA	Yes	
Housing Allocations Policy	The Committee to consider the development of a Housing Allocations policy for West Northamptonshire.	3 May 2023	Assistant Director Housing and Communities	No	The Committee has been advised that corporate work is due to produce proposals in mid-2023.
Fostering services	The Committee to consider the outcomes of the Ofsted inspection of fostering services in Northamptonshire published in March 2023.	3 May 2023	Executive Director People Services		

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West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy	The Committee to scrutinise the outcomes delivered by the Anti-Poverty Strategy in the first year after it is adopted.	3 May 2023	Executive Director People Services	No	The Committee will seek to scrutinise the substance of the Annual Report two months before it is presented to Full Council.
Debt and Money Advice Transformation Project	The Committee to provide scrutiny input into the development and delivery of the transformation project.	21 June 2022 21 February 2023 To be confirmed	Director of Communities and Opportunities	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 21 February 2023 to request that more detailed plans for the future Debt and Money Advice service to be developed be presented to the Committee at an appropriate future meeting.
Individual debt and West Northamptonshire Council's approach to debt recovery	The Committee to consider an overview of issues relating to individual debt in West Northamptonshire and the Council's approach to debt recovery.	To be confirmed	Assistant Director Revenues and Benefits	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 21 February 2023 to add this topic to its work programme.
School performance	The Committee to invite the Regional Director to discuss school performance in relation to academy schools in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed	Executive Director People Services Assistant Director Education Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education	No	The Committee sought to schedule this topic in the first half of 2022 but the-then Regional Director was not able to attend on scheduled meeting dates. This matter was pursued again in September 2022. It initially appeared that the Regional Director would be able to attend the meeting on

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					21 February 2023 but their attendance ultimately could not be secured. The Chair has subsequently written to the Department for Education concerning engagement with the Regional Director.
West Northamptonshire Council homecare framework	The Committee to consider an update on progress with the proposed new framework.	To be confirmed	Executive Director People Services	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 8 December 2022 to request that a progress update be brought to an appropriate future meeting.
Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy 2022-32 outcomes framework	The Committee to consider the outcomes framework intended to measure progress with the delivery of key outcomes in the ICN Strategy.	To be confirmed	Executive Director People Services	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 8 December 2022 to scrutinise the developing outcomes framework for the ICN Strategy.
Healthwatch West Northamptonshire work	The Committee to invite Healthwatch West Northamptonshire to give an overview of issues identified through its work.	To be confirmed	Healthwatch West Northamptonshire representatives	No	Healthwatch Northamptonshire (HWN) has previously suggested that an item on this topic could be best scheduled following publication of HWN's Annual Report in the summer. The Committee may wish to schedule an item early in 2023/24 on HWN's Annual Report for 2022/23.

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Communities and Opportunities Directorate key contracts and delivery plans	The Committee to consider the Directorate's key contracts and associated delivery plans	To be confirmed	Director of Communities and Opportunities	No	
Provision of free broadband to young people leaving local authority care.	The Committee to provide scrutiny input into the potential development of proposals by West Northamptonshire Council.	To be confirmed	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education	To be confirmed	The Full Council meeting on 23 September 2021 referred a motion on this topic to the Committee, to consider the issues involved.
Rough sleeping	The Committee to provide scrutiny input on responses to rough sleeping in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed	Director of Communities and Opportunities Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	To be confirmed	The Committee has identified the following potential focus areas for scrutiny: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the potential to continue to apply the principles of the 'everyone in' approach used during the COVID-19 pandemic severe weather shelter provision.
Support for people living with dementia	The Committee to scrutinise how well people living with dementia are supported in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed	Executive Director People Services Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	To be confirmed	The Committee has identified that work on this topic might take as a starting point the response to the Northampton Borough Council scrutiny review on dementia-friendly communities.

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Sports and Leisure needs assessment	The Committee to consider the needs assessment for sports and leisure provision in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed	Director of Communities and Opportunities	The Committee has previously identified wider issues relating to sports and leisure provision as a potential topic for an in-depth scrutiny review.	This item was originally scheduled for late-2022 but the time required for the corporate work has since changed and late-2023 is now more likely.
Sports and leisure provision	Scrutiny of how West Northamptonshire Council works together with other service providers and community groups to provide the best overall offer to residents from all parts of the community.	To be confirmed – early 2022/23 originally suggested	Director of Communities and Opportunities	The Committee to consider setting up a task and finish panel to carry out an in-depth scrutiny review.	The Committee considers that this work could be an example of scrutiny on the wider theme of the community impact of Council services: looking at how the Council identifies needs, other support available in the community that helps to meet those needs, and therefore how the Council can focus resources to have the most impact.
Provision of housing support for refugees	The Committee to consider an update on the provision of housing support for people coming into West Northamptonshire as refugees.	To be confirmed	Assistant Director Housing and Communities	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 25 October 2022 that it should seek to maintain oversight of this issue.

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Integrated Care System / Integrated Care across Northamptonshire (iCAN)	The Committee to receive an overview of the aims of the Northamptonshire ICS and iCAN, and plans for implementation.	20 July 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	No	The Northamptonshire Integrated Care System is likely to be a continuing area for scrutiny in future.
Residential and nursing care for older people	The Committee to receive an overview of current provision and planning towards meeting future needs.	20 July 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	No	
West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy	The Committee to receive an update on progress with the development of the Strategy.	21 September 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	
Northamptonshire children's services performance	The Committee to receive an update on the Ofsted monitoring visit in July 2021 that will focus on children with child protection plans and with children in need plans.	21 September 2021	Director of Children's Services Chief Executive, Children's Trust	No	
Residential and nursing care for older people	The Committee to scrutinise trends relating to performance and capacity of current care homes.	16 November 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	
Adult Social Care transformation	The Committee to scrutinise outcomes from the implementation of the Adult Social Care Target Operating Model (TOM)	16 November 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	

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Northamptonshire children's services performance	<p>The Committee to receive an update covering the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional measures to further improve recruitment and retention of social workers • Achieving consistently good quality practice for all children, supported by full implementation of the practice model <p>Outcomes of the Ofsted monitoring visit due to take place in November 2021.</p>	25 January 2022	<p>Director of Children's Services Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Chief Executive, Children's Trust</p>	No	
School improvement	The Committee to receive an overview of activity by West Northamptonshire Council to support school improvement.	25 January 2022	<p>Director of Children's Services Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education</p>	No	
Special educational needs and disability (SEND) support and alternative provision	The Committee to receive an overview of SEND support and alternative provision (education outside school arranged by the local authority or schools) in West Northamptonshire.	25 January 2022	<p>Director of Children's Services Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education</p>	No	
Healthwatch function	The Committee to receive a briefing paper giving an overview of the Healthwatch function in Northamptonshire.	25 January 2022	NA	No	

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West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy	The Committee to receive an update on progress with the adoption and implementation of the Strategy.	1 March 2022	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	
West Northamptonshire Council Housing Strategy	The Committee to provide scrutiny input in the developing Housing Strategy.	1 March 2022 – The Committee to hold a separate workshop-style session following its formal meeting.	Assistant Director Housing and Communities	No	
Northamptonshire children’s services performance	The Committee to receive an update on performance against key targets and the continuing development of children’s services.	21 June 2022	Chief Executive, Children’s Trust	No	The Committee has also identified the way in which children’s services contributes with other services to dealing with cross-cutting issues as a potential future topic for scrutiny.
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22	The Committee to consider the Annual Report on its activity in 2021/22, for submission to Full Council.	21 June 2022	NA	No	
West Northamptonshire Council Housing Strategy – outcomes from public consultation	The Committee to consider the outcomes of public consultation on the proposed Strategy.	9 August 2022	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	A workshop style remote meeting will be used.	The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group considered potential cross-cutting scrutiny topics on 22 March 2022. It agreed that scrutiny of the Housing Strategy should be open to members of all three Overview and Scrutiny committees.

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West Northamptonshire Council Housing Strategy – draft Strategy	The Committee to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the full draft Strategy.	9 August 2022	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	A workshop style remote meeting will be used.	The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group considered potential cross-cutting scrutiny topics on 22 March 2022. It agreed that scrutiny of the Housing Strategy should be open to members of all three Overview and Scrutiny committees.
Adult Social Care social worker recruitment and retention	The Committee to scrutinise the latest position, focussing on posts supporting the delivery of statutory social care services.	25 October 2022	Assistant Director Safeguarding and Wellbeing Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance	No	
Housing Solutions Transformation Plan	The Committee to consider an overview of the transformation plan for the Housing Solutions function	25 October 2022	Assistant Director Housing and Communities	No	
Special educational needs and disability (SEND) support	The Committee to consider an update on the development of SEND support, to include performance against the timescale for completing Education, Health and Care Plan assessments.	21 November 2022	Executive Director People Services Assistant Director Education Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education	Yes	
Development of Integrated Care Northamptonshire	The Committee to consider an update on the development of the Integrated Care System in Northamptonshire.	8 December 2022	Executive Director People Services Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	

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Task and finish scrutiny review: child and adolescent mental health and the risk of self-harm	To approve the final report of the scrutiny review.	21 February 2023	NA	Yes	

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dates in 2022/23

21 June 2022	8 December 2022
15 September 2022 [NOT HELD]	21 February 2023
25 October 2022	24 April 2023 [RESCHEDULED]
21 November 2022	03 May 2023

Changes to West Northamptonshire Council Overview and Scrutiny committee structure for 2023/24

The Council meeting on 23 March 2023 agreed changes to the future operation of the Overview and Scrutiny Function informed by a review by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. These include splitting the remit of the existing People Overview and Scrutiny Committee between two new committees, one covering Adult Care and Health and one covering Children, Education and Housing. The changes agreed by the Council will come into effect immediately before the Council's Annual Meeting on 18 May 2023.