

**West Northamptonshire Council**

**Children, Education and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2023/24**

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

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date	Approach	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Comments
Early help offer and 0-19 services	The Committee to consider an overview of the provision and development of services supporting children and families to prevent needs from escalating.	5 February 2024	Committee meeting item	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Executive Director People Services	
School exclusions	The Committee to scrutinise issues connected to an increasing trend in school exclusions in West Northamptonshire.	5 February 2024	Committee meeting item	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Executive Director People Services Assistant Director Education	
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	The Committee to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Strategy following public consultation.	5 February 2024	Committee meeting item	Housing Services Manager	The potential for scrutiny of this topic was raised with the Chair in October 2023. The timing reflects the timetable for adoption of the Strategy.
Provision of free broadband to young people leaving local authority care.	The Committee to consider the current support provided to care leavers and the scope to offer free broadband.	5 February 2024	Committee meeting item	Executive Director People Services	

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date	Approach	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Comments
Severe Weather Emergency Protocol – operation during winter 2023/24	The Committee to receive an update on the recent operation of the SWEP, including any trends or changes in demand.	3 April 2024	Committee meeting item	Director of Communities and Opportunities	
Child and adolescent mental health and the risk of self-harm – impact	The Committee to receive an update on action being taken to address issues raised by the scrutiny review following on from the response to its recommendations given in September 2023.	3 April 2024	Committee meeting item	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Executive Director People Services	
Task and finish scrutiny review: SEND support	The Committee to receive the final draft report from the task and finish panel.	3 April 2024	Committee meeting item	NA	The plan for the scrutiny review identified that the final draft report would be presented on 5 February 2024 but the work is not yet at this point.
Task and finish scrutiny review: support for foster carers	The Committee to receive the final draft report from the task and finish panel.	June 2024	Committee meeting item	NA	
Forthcoming service contracts	The Committee to be advised of any opportunities to provide scrutiny input in developing the requirements for significant service contracts relating to its remit.	10 July 2023 4 January 2024 29 February 2024	Standing item at agenda planning meetings	Executive Director People Services	

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Proposed purpose</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approach</b>	<b>Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Housing Allocation Scheme	The Committee to provide scrutiny input into the development of the new Housing Allocation Scheme.	19 June 2023	Committee meeting item	Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure Housing Services Manager	
Task and finish scrutiny review: special educational needs and disability (SEND) support	The Committee to agree the updated plan for a scrutiny review of support for children with SEND in West Northamptonshire.	19 June 2023	Task and Finish Panel	NA	The scrutiny review was begun in 2022/23 under the former People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Task and finish scrutiny review: support for foster carers	The Committee to consider a proposal form for a scrutiny review of opportunities to improve support for foster carers in West Northamptonshire.	19 June 2023	Task and Finish Panel	NA	
Severe Weather Emergency Protocol	The Committee to scrutinise the aims and use of the SWEP in West Northamptonshire.	25 September 2023	Committee meeting item	Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure Assistant Director Housing and Communities	
Child and adolescent mental health and the risk of self-harm	The Committee to consider an overview of the latest position concerning the provision and development of support in West Northamptonshire for children and young people's mental health.	25 September 2023	Committee meeting item	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration Executive Director People Services	The item would follow on from the scrutiny review of this topic carried out by the former People Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2022/23.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Proposed purpose</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approach</b>	<b>Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Short break services for children with disabilities	The Committee to provide input and challenge on developing proposals for future service provision.	25 September 2023	Committee meeting item	Assistant Director Quality Assurance and Commissioning, Northamptonshire Children's Trust	
Task and finish scrutiny review: support for foster carers	The Committee to agree the detailed plan for the in-depth scrutiny review of support for foster carers in West Northamptonshire.	25 September 2023	Committee meeting item	NA	
Provision of free broadband to young people leaving local authority care	The Committee to receive information about support provided to care leavers.	10 July 2023 4 January 2024	Briefing paper to agenda planning meeting	Executive Director People Services	
Short break services for children with disabilities	The Committee to receive information on progress with the proposed redesign of short breaks and respite services.	4 January 2024	Briefing paper to agenda planning meeting	NA	

#### **Children, Education and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dates in 2023/24**

<b>Agenda planning meeting</b>	<b>Committee meeting</b>
25 May 2023	19 June 2023
10 July 2023	25 September 2023
4 January 2024	5 February 2024
29 February 2024	3 April 2024

#### **Children, Education and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dates in 2024/25 (subject to confirmation by the Annual Council meeting)**

<b>Agenda planning meeting</b>	<b>Committee meeting</b>
20 May 2024	4 June 2024
30 July 2024	24 September 2024
16 December 2024	28 January 2025
10 February 2025	10 March 2025