

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 10:00 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA
SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

- 5 - 12**
- 4 **MINUTES**
- To confirm the minutes for the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18 October 2023.
- 13 - 18**
- 5 **ACTION TRACKER**
- To note the action tracker.
- 6 **COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA**
- To note that no comments have been received from the Commissioner on this agenda.
- 19 - 40**
- 7 **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT - THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOLS**
- Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families, Lisa Smith, School Improvement – Lead for Strategic Development, and David Fallows, Head of Digital, Evidence and Performance, in attendance.
- 41 - 44**
- 8 **SEND COMMISSIONER**
- John Coughlan CBE, SEND Commissioner in attendance.
- 45 - 64**
- 9 **WORK PROGRAMME**
- Members to agree the work programme.
- 10 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
- To note the date of the next meeting is 17 January 2024 at 10am in committee rooms 3 & 4.
- 11 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**
- To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).
- 12 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**
- To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

13 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1000 hours on Wednesday, 18 October 2023, Committee Rooms 3 & 4,

Council House

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Kerry Jenkins (Chair)

Councillors: Jilly Bermingham, Debbie Clancy, Adam Higgs, Des Hughes, and Morriam Jan

Other Representatives: Osamugi Ogbe - Parent Governor, Rabia Shami - Parent Governor Representative, and Sarah Smith - Church of England Diocese

Also Present:

Councillor Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families

Barry Bowles, Chair of the Management Board, City of Birmingham School (COBS)

Tim Boyes, Chief Executive, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP)

Razia Butt, Director, Thriving Children and Families

Harjinder Dool, AD, Financial Performance and Insight (online)

David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business & Commissioning Intelligence

Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families

Steve Howell, Head Teacher, COBS

Edwina Langley, Lead Practitioner

Alan Michell, Head of Service, School Admissions, Fair Access and Exclusions

Diane Rhoden, Director of Nursing - Safeguarding & Children in Care, NHS Birmingham and Solihull

Clare Sandland, Finance Business Partner – Children and Young People (online)

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Jane Jones for non-attendance, and Cllr Morriam Jan for lateness.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting, and none were declared.

4. MINUTES

(See document No 1)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted that no comments had been received from the Commissioner on this agenda.

6. ACTION TRACKER

(See document No 2)

The Chair advised that a Children's and Young People's Travel Service workshop for all councillors was currently being arranged for Thursday, 16 November 2023, and confirmed the Data Workshop for the Committee has been arranged for Monday, 6 November 2023 at 10.30am.

RESOLVED:

That the action tracker was noted.

7. SCRUTINY OF DELIVERY OF 2023/24 BUDGET SAVINGS AND UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO S114 NOTICE AND FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN

(See document No 3)

Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families, Harjinder Dool, AD, Financial Performance and Insight (online), and Clare Sandland, Finance Business Partner – Children and Young People (online) were in attendance for this item.

The Chair updated the Committee on the recent meeting of the Co-ordinating O&S Committee whereby the establishment of a Budget Task & Finish Group comprising Members of the Finance and Resources O&S Committee, plus Chairs of the other O&S Committees was endorsed. The lead Commissioner had indicated support and the terms of reference were being drawn up with Finance Officers. The Chair undertook to update the Committee on the work of the Finance and Resources T&F Group in relation to the Committee's remit and commented that the work programme was flexible to accommodate these discussions.

The meeting was provided with an overview of Appendix 2 and the Chair highlighted the important role of Scrutiny to ensure the Directorate delivers the best services to children and families in need within budget.

During the debate the Director, Children and Families stated the directorate welcomed scrutiny feedback and committed to bringing work at early stages of planning for input by the Committee. Reassurance was given to families that frontline services are continuing as their budgets were protected and ringfenced.

The Committee agreed for future agenda items reports to include a snapshot of the associated spend/budget information, and impact, similar to the report presented for the Young People's Substance Use Service item.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager provided a summary of research undertaken into the scrutiny function within local authorities subject to a S114 notice or government intervention. She highlighted that scrutiny committees had refocused work programmes on to budget savings, recovery, and improvement plans, so moving forward this is likely to be a theme for Birmingham scrutiny. Research had found scrutiny had played an important role in the improvement process. Member training was a key component and also support provided from CfGS and CIPFA.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The Quarter 1 2023/24 savings set out in Appendix 1 was noted.
- The update for Q2 attached as Appendix 2 was received.
- The implications of recent events on the scrutiny work programme was considered and it was agreed:
 - The Chair to update the Committee on the work of the Finance and Resources Budget T&F Group in relation to the Committee's remit.

- The Director, Children and Families, to bring work at early stages of planning for input by the Committee.
- Future agenda items to include a snapshot of their associated spend/budget and impact.

8. HIDDEN CHILDREN

(See document No. 4)

Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families, Barry Bowles, Chair of the Management Board, COBS, Tim Boyes, Chief Executive, BEP, Razia Butt, Director, Thriving Children and Families, David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business & Commissioning Intelligence, Steve Howell, Head Teacher, COBS, Edwina Langley, Lead Practitioner, Alan Michell, Head of Service, School Admissions, Fair Access and Exclusions, and Diane Rhoden, Director of Nursing - Safeguarding & Children in Care, were in attendance for this item.

The Chair welcomed the attendees to the meeting and highlighted that school exclusions, part time timetables, and unsuitable school places item had previously been discussed at the 22 February 2023 committee meeting.

Officers presented the report and during the ensuing debate the following points were raised:

Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions

Increases in permanent exclusions is a complex landscape which included worsening behaviours following the pandemic, pressures on school budgets resulting in less support, and changes to DfE guidance. Prevention work included the new staffing resource planned for the Thriving Children and Families division.

BEP

The Committee was informed that BEP was the contracted provider for school improvement and acted on an informal basis to support all schools with permanent exclusion issues through seven Local Sharing Panels. Reassurance was given that whilst this is a national issue, head teachers in the city take school exclusions seriously. The bulk of the work was with secondary schools and each school is part of one of the Local Sharing Panels.

COBS (the Local Authorities Pupil Referral Unit)

COBS was the biggest PRU in the country. Additional secondary provision will be secured by commissioning additional places and reallocating primary places to meet the changing cohort of exclusions. The challenges included the length of the Service Level Agreement (SLA), infrastructure, budgets, and support for children with SEND.

In response to a question regarding capacity at COBS, the meeting was informed that the bigger picture sits with the Inclusion Strategy, and work included preventing exclusions, re-integrating students back into mainstream education more quickly, increasing capacity – and not just at COBS, and looking at quality alternative provision.

The Committee was concerned that COBS was seen by some as the “last chance Saloon” and there may be a stigma associated with attending COBS. Reassurance was provided, to which the meeting was informed that COBS provided high quality teaching based on the national curriculum, and compared well with other PRUs, which is a huge achievement.

There was no generic length of stay for students at COBS, rather decisions were made on a child by child basis. Steve Howell agreed to provide the data on the length of stay at COBS.

The Committee agreed for a visit to COBS to be organised to increase Members’ understanding of the issues raised in the debate.

Attendance Strategy

Officers are working on a new Attendance Strategy which will link with the Inclusion Strategy.

Out of Sight Group

Diane Rhoden is the Chair Out of Sight Group, which is a subgroup of the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP). They work together to identify points they may lose contact / sight of children and young people and identify gaps between universal services.

Children in Elective Home Education (EHE) are of interest to the Out of Sight Group and there is a weekly triage for children they are worried about, which is a multi-agency discussion, and there has been significant improvements in last 6 months.

Children with SEND

In response to the concern of children with SEND being excluded, the Committee was informed that a small proportion of students at COBS have an EHCP, and the importance of the Out of Sight Group with oversight of the BSCP, and support of the Children’s Trust to identify need was also highlighted.

Governance

In response to a question regarding governance arrangements around permanent exclusions decisions, managed moves, reintegration, and preventative work that fell beyond the contractual arrangements with BEP, the meeting was informed that directorate staff were working beyond their job descriptions to facilitate the current work. A more sustainable solution with a team in place in the local authority was required and the Director, Children and Families, suggested the draft plans for this be brought to a future committee meeting for comment.

Next Steps for the Committee

The increase in behavioural problems and speech and language being less developed when children start primary schools can be included in the Early Years Education Entitlement item being discussed at the 17 January 2024 committee meeting.

It was suggested that the Committee should undertake further focused work on EHE, and part time timetables and it was agreed this could be considered after the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry had finished in the new year.

The Chair summed up the Committee's deliberations and concluded that alternative provision can be a positive experience which needed proper co-production, she welcomed the commitment shown, and highlighted the Committee's responsibility to scrutinise and follow up on work referenced in the report, due to the importance of removing barriers for children to receive quality education, improve attendance, and meet the needs of children and young people in all forms of education.

Also, a visit to COBS will be organised and Members can forward questions that were not asked during the discussion.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The Committee noted the report.
- The planning for further development of the governance around school exclusions and part time timetables to be brought to a future committee meeting for comment.
- The Head Teacher to provide the data on length of stay of students at City of Birmingham School (COBS).
- A visit of the Committee to COBS to be arranged.
- The Committee to forward any further questions to the Scrutiny Office.
- The increase in behavioural problems and speech and language being less developed when children start primary schools to be included in the Early Years Education Entitlement item being discussed at the 17 January 2024 committee meeting.
- Further focused work on Elective Home Education (EHE) and part time timetables to be considered after the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry had finished in the new year.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 6)

The following matters were noted:

The Data workshop for the Committee will take place on the 6th November 2023 at 10.30am.

The Children and Young People's Travel Service Workshop for all Members will take place on 16th November 2023.

The following were agreed:

The review of short breaks item programmed for the November committee meeting will be deferred to a future committee meeting and subject to an interim written update

to be circulated to the Committee, which will include a commitment and timescale for when the review will be completed, and a report can be presented to Committee.

The SEND Commissioner to be invited to attend the November committee meeting.

As suggested by the Director, Children and Families, the school improvement re-design item (school improvement – the new relationship with schools) to be added to the work programme for November committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme was agreed and subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S Committee to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The date of the next meeting was 29 November 2023 at 10am.

11. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair invited the Cabinet Member and officers to provide an update on safeguarding and support being offered to schools in light of what was happening in Israel and Gaza. The Committee was informed that resources sent to schools when the situation in Gaza escalated two years ago had been updated and recirculated, and schools were signposted to the Solution Not Sides organisation for support. Support has been provided; this has mainly been in relation to queries regarding fundraising for children effected.

13. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 12.12 hours.

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update / Notes
22 Feb 2023	School Attainment and School Improvement	The recruitment and retention rates of teachers in the city in comparison to other areas.	Awaiting information.
5 April 2023	Children's Trust	The Children's Trust to attend a future committee meeting to discuss the review of short breaks.	An interim update was e-mailed on the 21 November 2023, and it is proposed this item is discussed at the February 2024 committee meeting.
17 May 2023	Action Tracker	The timeline for when the SEND Sufficiency Report would be available to be provided.	The strategy is programmed for the January 2024 committee meeting.
17 May 2023	Young People's Substance Use Service	Aquarius to provide the timeline for the Manchester Met University project.	Aquarius have met with the researchers, and they are preparing a slide deck of their initial findings. They are expecting the project to conclude by the end of the year.
17 May 2023	SEND	<p>The following to be provided via e-mail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spend information for staffing within the SEND and Inclusion Service. Information on the indicators in the APP on the Council's website that state, 'requires baseline.' 	<p>E-mailed the information on 25 August 2023.</p> <p>E-mailed the response on 12 June 2023.</p>
		The Committee to provide further questions in writing for officers to provide a written response.	None were received.
14 Jun 2023	Developing the Education, Children and Young People O&S Committee's Work Programme 2023/24	Members of the Task and Finish Group for the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Inquiry will be followed up.	Cllr. Debbie Clancy replaced Cllr. Simon Morrall on the CCE Inquiry T&F Group, and the Young People's Mental Health Inquiry T&F Group.

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update / Notes
19 July 2023	Children and Young People's Travel Service	A workshop for cultural change and the statutory guidance for the Children's and Young People's Travel Service to be arranged.	The all Councillor workshop was arranged for Thursday, 16 November 2023.
		A breakdown of discretionary and statutory spend to be provided.	
		More information on Personal Transport Budgets to be provided.	
		More information on the new Application and Eligibility Review Panel to be provided.	
19 July 2023	SEND Tribunals	The draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy to be added to the Committee's Work Programme.	Added to the work programme for January 2024 committee meeting.
		Information on the programme of training/briefings being developed regarding SEND for all Members to be provided. If the following is not covered within this, then a workshop to be organised for the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular update from families going through the Tribunal process to understand the family experience and highlight any issues that may inform service improvement. A briefing note outlining how high quality decisions are made when developing Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs), including how learning from Tribunals is shared to improve services. 	Workshops/Sessions for all Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND (this will include Tribunals). Schools (how Councillors can support local schools, e.g., admissions). Safeguarding (the Chair requested whether there could be a workshop for corporate parenting, and the Cabinet Member agreed to check whether the safeguarding workshop/session could include corporate parenting).

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update / Notes
19 Jul 2023	Performance Update	The draft attendance strategy to be brought to the committee meeting in September when discussing the Hidden Children item, and the relevant officers to be in attendance for this.	Hidden Children was an item at the committee meeting in October and the Committee are awaiting the draft attendance strategy.
19 Jul 2023	Work Programme	Cllr. Debbie Clancy to be sent the dates of the evidence gathering sessions for the CCE Inquiry.	Dates were forwarded to Cllr. Debbie Clancy.
		Members to e-mail details of items they wish to be added to the menu of topics/issues.	None were received.
		There were potentially three workshops to be arranged: Children and Young People's Travel Service, SEND Tribunals, and the Data Workshop.	The Children's and Young People's Travel Service Workshop was arranged for Thursday, 16 November 2023. The SEND Tribunals Workshop will not be needed as it will be covered in the workshop/sessions arranged for all Members.
6 Sep 2023	Performance Update	Further discussions relating to the focus and format of performance data presented to the Committee be considered at the Member Data Workshop.	The Data Workshop for the Committee took place on Monday, 6 th November 2023 at 10.30am.
		Information on mental health element of Employment Support Programme be provided to Members.	E-mailed to Members on 9 th October 2023.
		An explanation be given to Members as to whether the percentage figures for the most common reason for staff sickness absence related to days lost to sickness, or the percentage of people sick for each reason.	E-mailed to Members on 9 th October 2023.

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update / Notes
6 Sep 2023	Financial Challenges – Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan	A copy of Director’s communication to head teachers and staff following the announcement of the S114 notice be sent to Members for information.	E-mailed to Members on 20 September 2023.
6 Sep 2023	Work Programme	That subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the SEND Sufficiently Strategy and the Early Years Education Entitlement Deep Dive items be added to work programme for January 2024.	The work programme has been updated accordingly.
18 Oct 2023	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on the Council’s Response to S114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan	The Chair to update the Committee on the work of the Finance and Resources T&F Group in relation to the Committee’s remit.	Ongoing.
		The Director, Children and Families, to bring work at early stages of planning for input by the Committee.	Ongoing.
		Future agenda items to include a snapshot of their associated spend/budget and impact.	Ongoing.
18 Oct 2023	Hidden Children	The planning for further development of the governance around school exclusions and part time timetables to be brought to a future committee meeting for comment.	Added to the work programme under menu of issues for consideration.
		The Head Teacher to provide the data on length of stay of students at City of Birmingham School (COBS).	
		A visit of the Committee to COBS to be arranged.	
		The Committee to forward any further questions to the Scrutiny Office.	None were received.

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE

ACTION TRACKER 2023-24

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update / Notes
		The increase in behavioural problems and speech and language being less developed when children start primary schools to be included in the Early Years Education Entitlement item being discussed at the 17 January 2024 committee meeting.	Work Programme updated accordingly.
		Further focused work on Elective Home Education (EHE) and part time timetables to be considered after the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry had finished in the new year.	Work Programme updated accordingly.
18 Oct 2023	Work Programme	The review of short breaks item programmed for the November committee meeting will be deferred to a future committee meeting and subject to an interim written update to be circulated to the Committee, which will include a commitment and timescale for when the review will be completed, and a report can be presented to Committee.	An interim update was e-mailed on the 21 November 2023, and it is proposed this item is discussed at the February 2024 committee meeting.
		The SEND Commissioner to be invited to attend the November committee meeting.	Invited.
		The school improvement re-design item (school improvement – the new relationship with schools) to be added to the work programme for November committee meeting.	Work Programme updated accordingly.

Birmingham City Council

Education, Children and Young People

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 November 2023



Subject: School Improvement – the New Relationship with Schools

Report of: Sue Harrison, Director Children and Families

Report author: Lisa Smith, School Improvement – Lead for Strategic Development
lisa.smith@birmingham.gov.uk

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report accompanies a presentation which sets out a proposed new relationship with schools that is currently being discussed with school leaders.
- 1.2 The presentation supports consideration by the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposals and provides the opportunity from feedback.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes and provides feedback on the presentation (Appendix 1) that sets out details of a new relationship with schools.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed new relationship set out in the presentation.

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 Local authorities have statutory school improvement functions under Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and additional school improvement expectations as set out in the DfE's Schools Causing Concern guidance.

5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications associated with the proposed new relationship set out in the presentation.

6 Appendices

6.1 Presentation: School Improvement and the new relationship with schools

School Improvement: The New Relationship with Schools

Sue Harrison – Director, Children and Families
Birmingham City Council



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Context

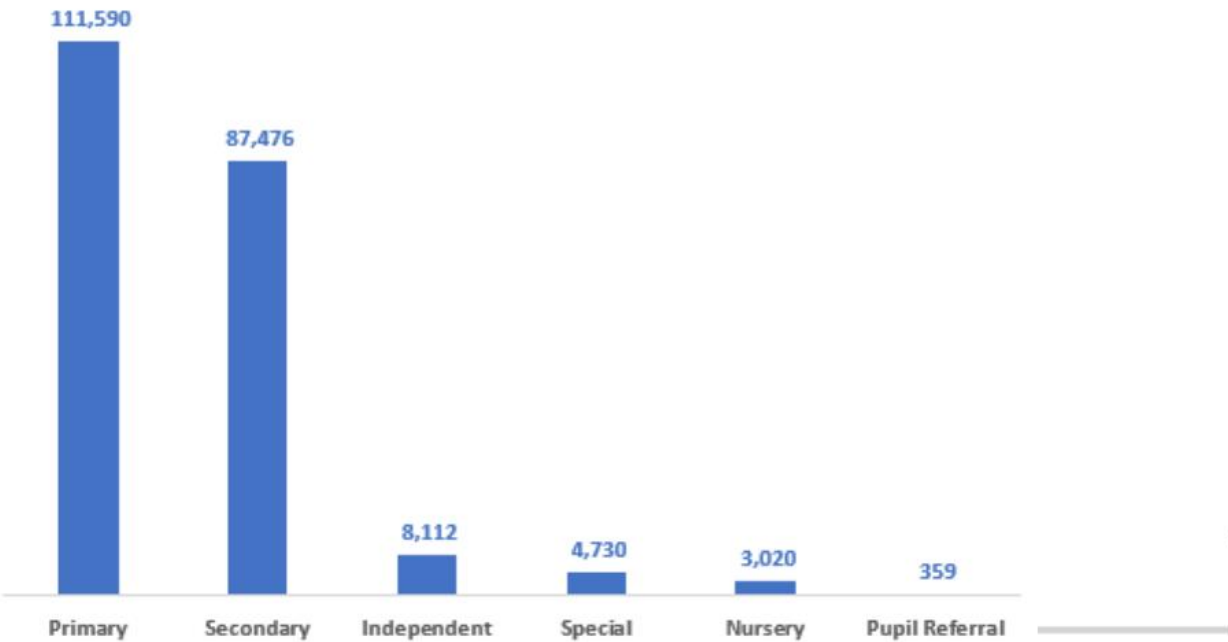
This presentation sets out

- An overview of schools and pupil characteristics in Birmingham
- The current position regarding our relationship with schools
 - What works well
 - School improvement support in the city
- Our new relationship with schools
 - The universal truths underpinning the vision
- Our shared purpose
- Concurrent work
- Next steps, including consultation with school leaders

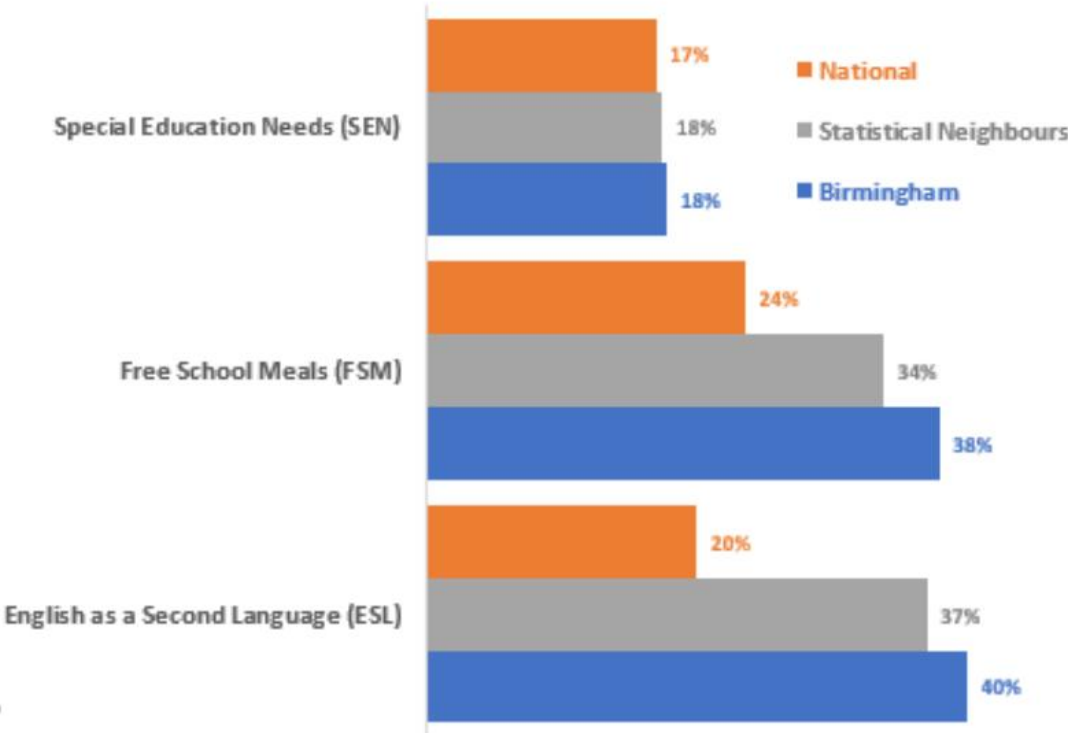
Overview – Pupil Characteristics

- Large population with 215,287 state funded pupils in Birmingham
- High levels of diversity and deprivation
- Large SEN cohort

Number of Pupils by School Type
Based on Jan 2023 School Census for State Funded Pupils



Birmingham Pupil Characteristics and Comparisons
Based on Jan 2023 School Census for State Funded Pupils



Overview – Schools

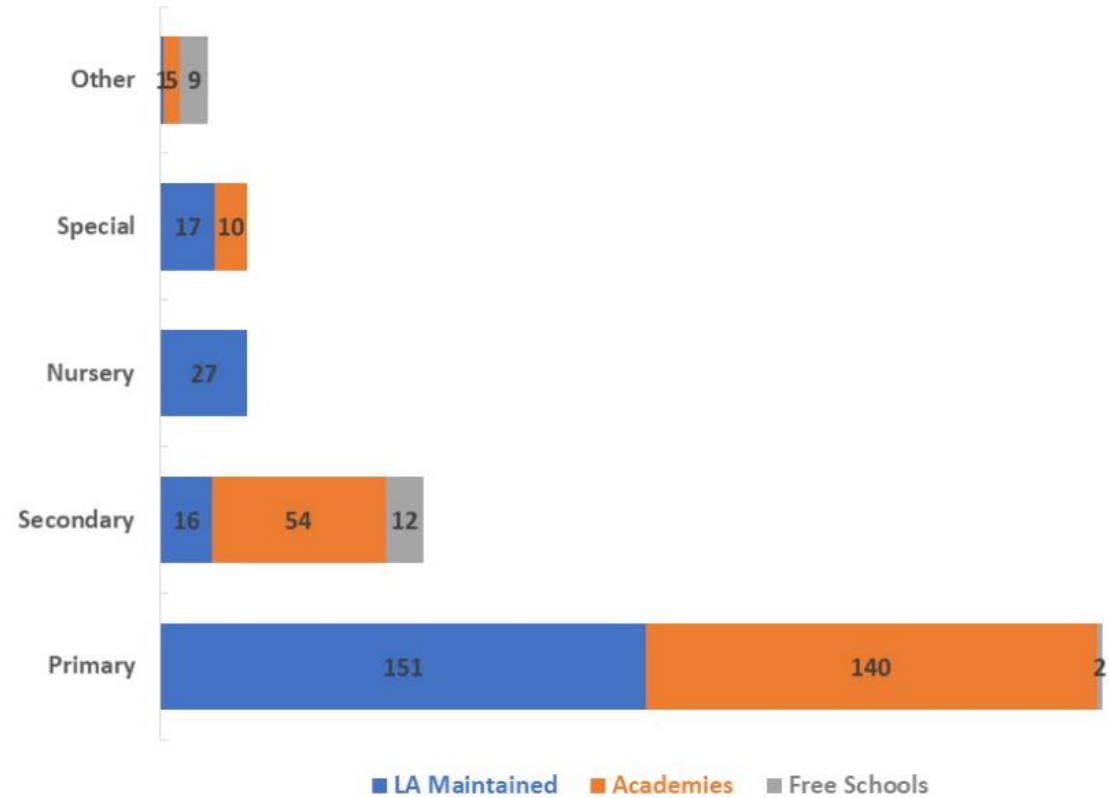
Key Points

There are 444 schools and settings in Birmingham of which 212 (48%) are LA Maintained

There are 293 primary schools of which 52% are LA Maintained

There are 82 secondary schools of which 20% are LA Maintained

Number of Birmingham Schools and Settings by Type and Phase



*Other includes AP, Post 16 and All Through

**Primary includes Primary, Infant and Junior schools

Overview – Quality Provision

Of the 444 schools and settings in Birmingham there are 382 with a **Good** or **Outstanding** Ofsted rating (86% of Birmingham schools)

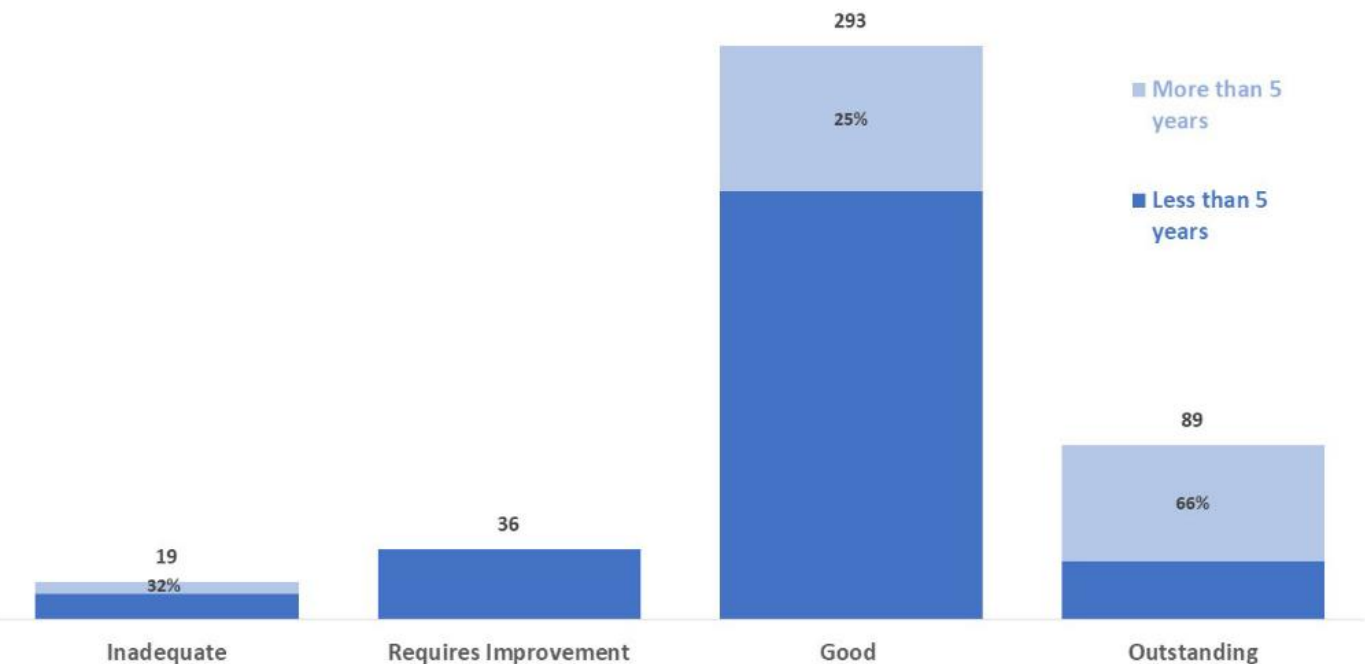
35% (133 schools) of these **Good** and **Outstanding** schools have not been inspected for at least 5 years.

66% (59 schools) of **Outstanding** schools and 25% (74 schools) of **Good** schools have not been inspected for at least 5 years

89% of schools (49 schools) rated as **Inadequate** or **Requiring Improvement** have been inspected in the last 5 years. Only 6 inadequate schools have not been inspected for at least 5 years.

7 schools have not been inspected due to recently converting to Academy Status.

Ofsted Ratings for Birmingham State Funded Schools and Settings
Number of schools shown by time since last inspection and latest Ofsted Rating



Current position

School leaders under most pressure of last 30 years

Years of inadequate SEND provision has had a negative impact on schools

Academies, maintained, VA, foundation, 14-19, free schools

Insufficient special school and resource base places

Reform needed around Alternative Provision

Worryingly high absence rates for primary and secondary schools

Exclusions too high

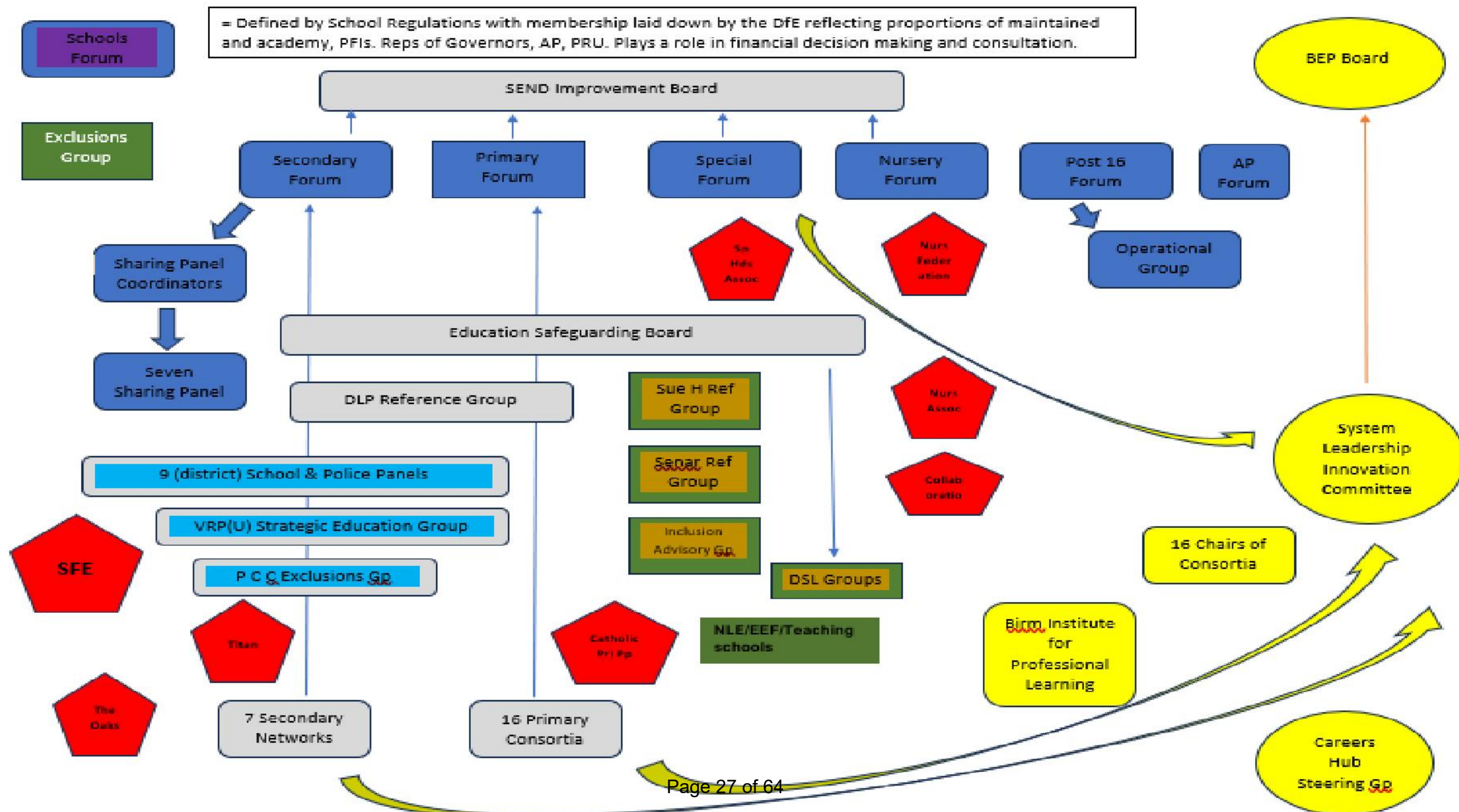
Impact of pandemic – significant challenges at every phase, need for rethinking approaches

Constant churn of senior leadership at the council and lack of systems leadership

Recent improvements in BCT, years of inadequate CSC has made an impact

Financial challenges, including Oracle

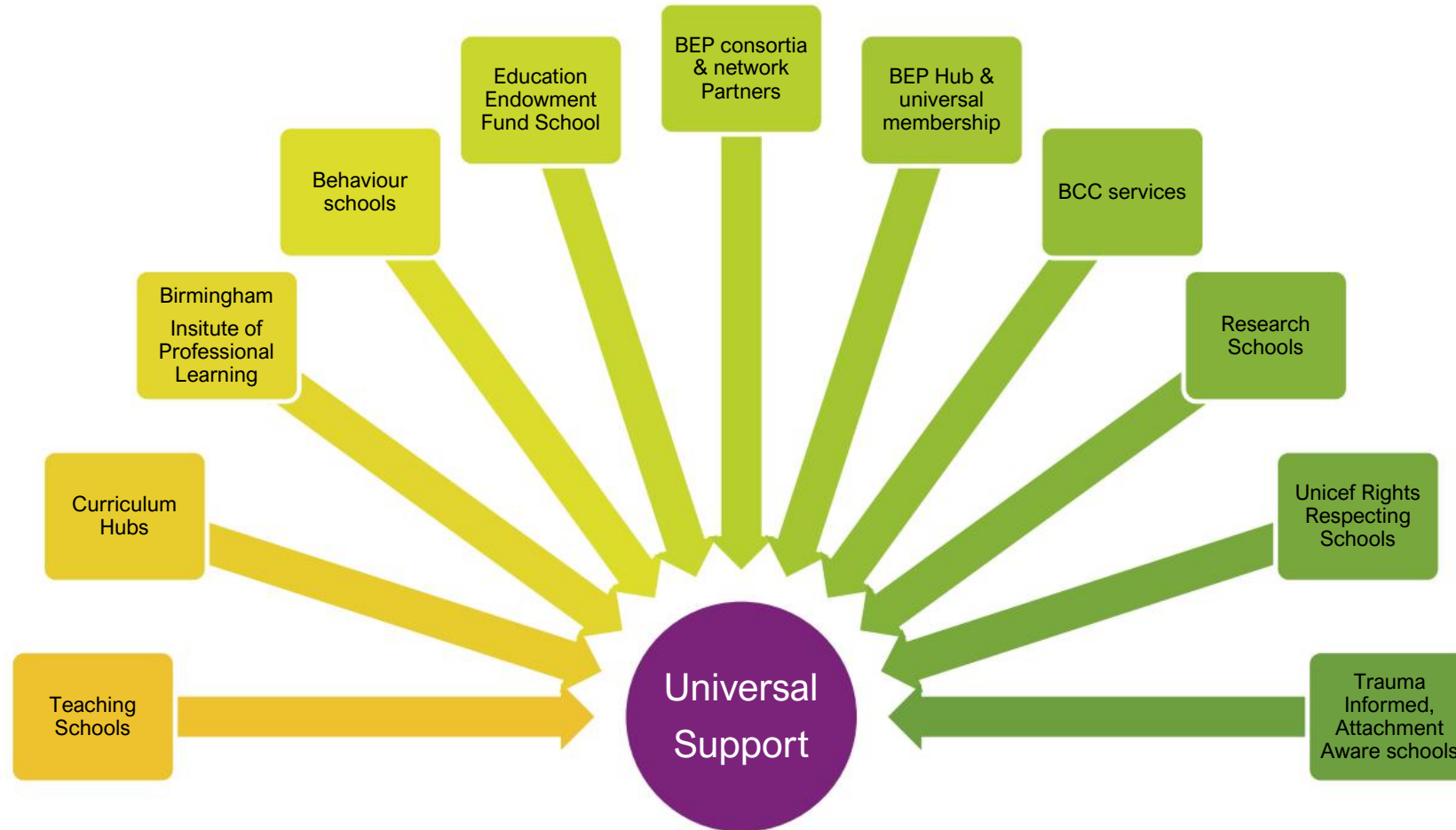
No way of holding schools to account where policy impacts negatively on children or on other schools

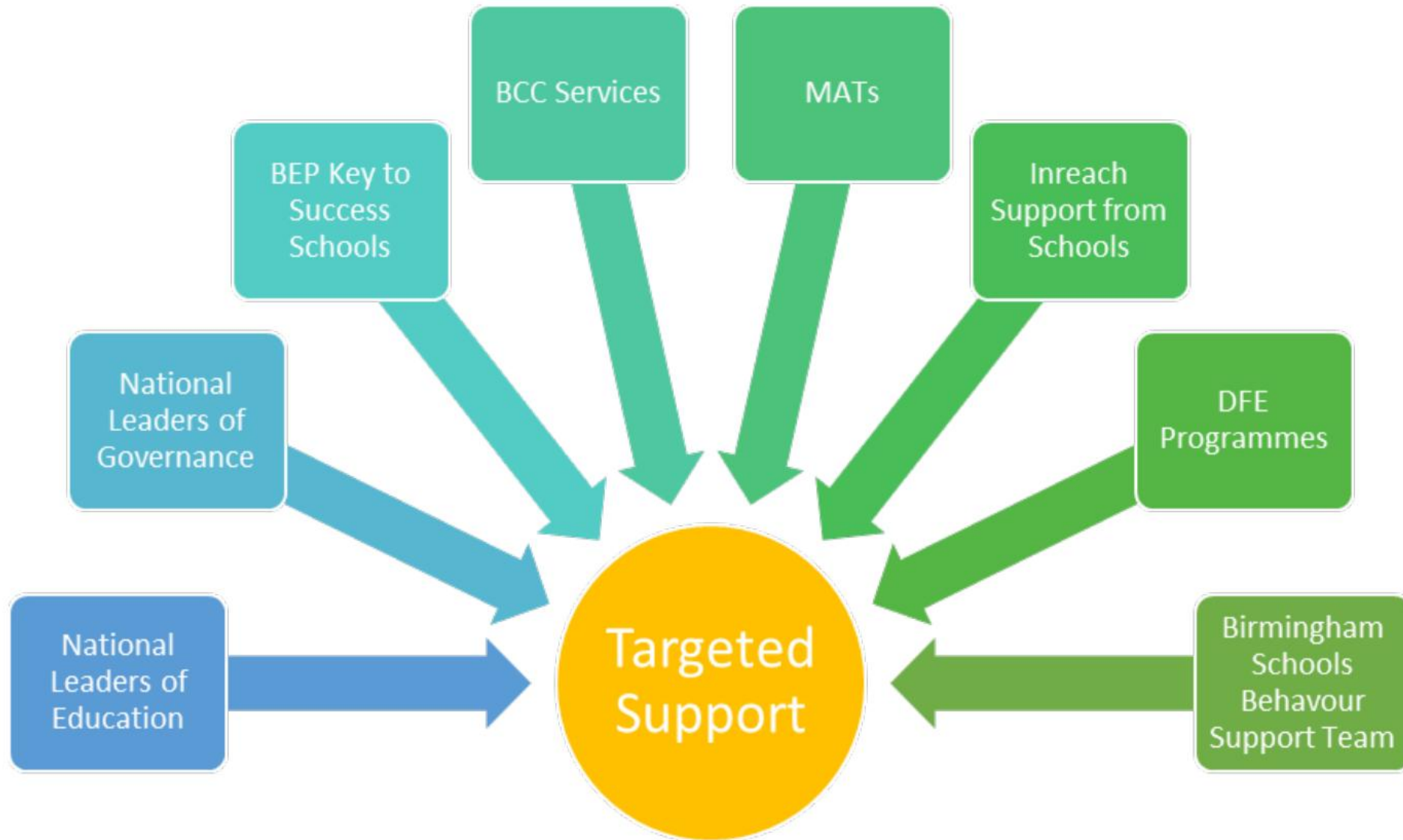


Keeping what's great and building on it

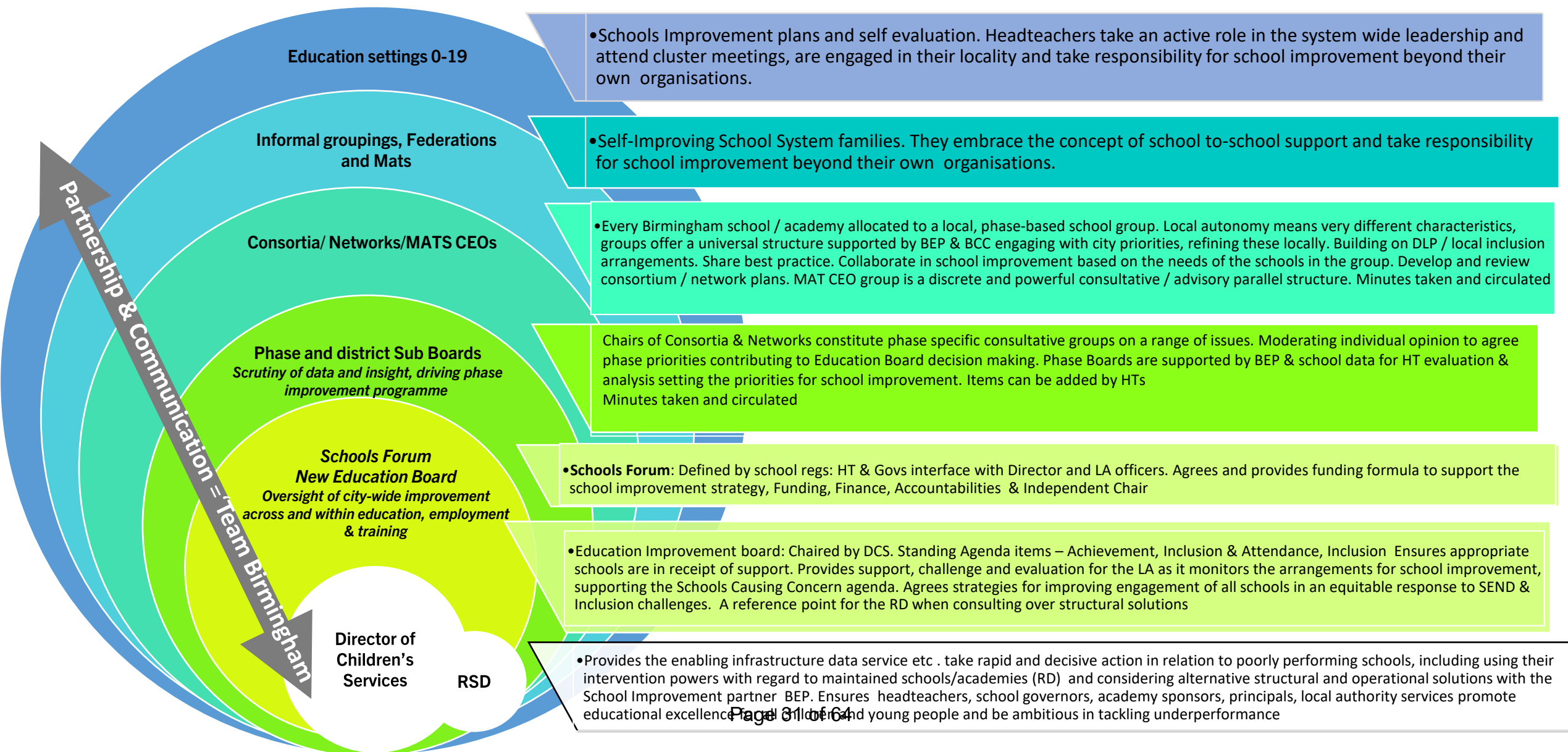
- Positive relationships between schools in localities
 - Positive engagement from schools with Director for Children's Services, who is building a stable leadership team to last.
 - Innovation in Birmingham results in great teaching and learning
 - 251 UNICEF Rights Respecting schools and 175 Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware schools
 - Inclusion and SEND strategies have been adopted by the council and we are beginning to see an improvement in SEND services and attainment
 - Achieving good coordinated partnership work between BCC, BEP and schools around DLP
 - Birmingham Children's Partnership has launched a Children's Plan
-
- But we need to recognise that there has been a lack of education strategy across the city – schools have carried on working themselves but now there needs to be a genuine partnership with the local authority
 - Schools see children every day – local authority committed to providing teams around schools to ensure that children thrive

Wide range of existing school improvement support in the city





New ways of working



Our new relationship with schools

- The council must own its statutory duties relating to schools causing concern and school improvement
- Every headteacher needs to have an equal voice in the system
- Collegiate working is the only way through some of the complex challenges we face in Birmingham
- Local authority services will be held to account in a professional way
- Individual schools and governing boards will be held to account in a professional way
- This requires a significant system change if we are going to deal with the ever-growing pressures that are affecting our frontline teachers and school leaders.

Universal truths underpinning the vision

Statutory duty on the council in terms of education performance for all children

Need to understand all our children – we're all corporate parents

Inclusion, SEND, attendance and achievement are everyone's business

Owning difficult spaces and leaning in together to create solutions/way forward

Openness and transparency is a critical element of the school/council/BEP relationship

Effective communication underpins the vision, adopting a strengths-based and relationships-based approach

The proposed model

Every school will
be part of a
locality network

Every locality
network will be
represented at
district boards

All district boards
are represented
on the Education
Board

Clear terms of reference for all groups to be drawn up
Interest from HTs for network and district chairs is welcomed (one academic year term)

Our shared purpose

Inclusion

- Clear key priorities set out in the SEND and Inclusion Strategies
- Inclusive City steering group and Head Teacher Strategic Advisory Group

Attendance

- Attendance Strategy currently being developed
- School Attendance Workshops for schools, headteachers and parents

Achievement

- DLP Phase 2 projects to improve educational outcomes for children and young people who are SEND support or have an EHCP
- BCC working with BEP to identify 'Key to Success' schools

Concurrent work to be completed by September 2024

- We will be revising the schools causing concern strategy and policy
- We will be launching the data dashboard bringing together all our key indicators around school performance, risks and achievements
- We are continuing to work with the Regional Schools Director and MAT CEOs
- We will shortly go out to advert for Director Schools and Employability

Next steps

- Headteachers will be able to contribute at workshops where we'll unpick how the new model will work
 - What sorts of roles will help – what do you want from a good school improvement officer?
 - How should that support be offered?
 - How are you going to help us to shape it going forwards?
- Pilot network and district boards with clear terms of reference – spring and summer term
- Establish temporary transformation board to oversee the pilots and sharing the learning
- We'll reflect on the learning from the discussions and pilots
- We'll agree with schools the network arrangements during the summer term
- New relationship launched – September 2024

Thank you to everyone who has worked with us to get us to this point

- Alison Taylor, Headteacher Cherry Orchard Primary School
 - Bridget Jay, Headteacher Welsh House Farm Community School
 - Craig Clarke-Castello, Headteacher Lea Forest Academy
 - David Camps, Headteacher Nechells Academy
 - Guy Rimmer, Principal Ark St Albans Academy
 - Julie Eaton, Headteacher Selly Oak Trust School
 - Mike Dunn, Headteacher Swanshurst
 - Tim Boyes, Chief Executive BEP
 - Juliet Silverton, School Improvement Director BEP
 - Paul Mitchell, Birmingham City Council
-
- Thank you to the other local authorities who have shared their journeys:
Coventry, Ealing, Haringey, Hertfordshire, Leeds, Sheffield and Warwickshire



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Birmingham City Council

Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 November 2023



Subject: SEND Commissioner Update to the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

Report author: Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
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 0121 303 1727

1 Purpose

- 1.1 SEND Commissioner John Coughlan CBE has been invited to the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide an update and answer questions from members.
- 1.2 The following discussion areas have been raised by Members:
 - Progress on SEND improvements.
 - How the Committee can work and support the Commissioner with improvements.
 - Increasing transparency about plans and progress.
 - An overview of the SEND Commissioner's expanded role on improvement, governance, and long-term sustainability of Birmingham City Council.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee considers the information presented at the meeting by the SEND Commissioner John Coughlan CBE.**

3 Background

- 3.1 In October 2021 the Secretary of State for Education issued a statutory direction to Birmingham City Council requiring the Council to take steps to improve its SEND services, including co-operating with the DfE appointed SEND Commissioner, John Coughlan CBE.
- 3.2 The Council subsequently published an Accelerated Progress Plan that set out:
 - the governance and accountability structures and processes to support improvement.

- the actions the Council is taking to respond to concerns, the impact measures and milestones to which the Council is working on, and the improvements that will be delivered.

- 3.3 The [Accelerated Progress Plan](#) is published on the SEND Local Offer Website.
- 3.4 In February 2022, the SEND Commissioner published his [first report to the Secretary of State for Education](#).
- 3.5 In May 2023, the SEND Commissioner published his [second report to the Secretary of State for Education](#) (dated February 2023). This contained ten recommendations.
- 3.6 On 5 September 2023, [Birmingham City Council Cabinet accepted the recommendations in the SEND Commissioner's second report](#) and considered the action plan setting out how the recommendations in the Commissioner's second report would be addressed and the progress made against these.
- 3.7 In October 2023, Mr Coughlan was further appointed as Commissioner by the Secretary of State for DLUHC to join the wider Best Value intervention that followed the issuing of a 114 Notice for the City Council. This role is to sit alongside the continuing SEND Commissioner role.

4 Any Finance Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation set out in this report.

5 Any Legal Implications

- 5.1 On 15 October 2021 the Secretary of State for Education issued a statutory direction under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, directing the Council to take a number of steps including complying 'with any instructions of the Secretary of State or the SEND Commissioner in relation to the improvement of the Council's exercise of its SEND functions and provide such assistance as either the Secretary of State or the SEND Commissioner may require'. The Council is therefore required to act upon the recommendations set out in the SEND Commissioner's Report dated February 2023.

6 Any Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The inspections of Birmingham's services for children and young people with SEND identified areas of weakness that needed to be addressed.
- 6.2 In considering and fully accepting the Commissioner's recommendations the Council has had regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and in particular notes that the functions carried out by the Council's SEND services are designed to support the aims set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, particularly for those with the protected characteristic of disability.

7 Appendices

7.1 None

8 Background Papers

[Birmingham Local Area Accelerated Progress Plan](#)

[Improving Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Services in Birmingham
First Report to the Secretary of State for Education by John Coughlan CBE,
Commissioner for SEND Services in Birmingham](#)

[Improving Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Services in Birmingham
Second Report to the Secretary of State for Education by John Coughlan CBE,
Commissioner for SEND Services in Birmingham](#)

Birmingham City Council

Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 November 2023



Subject: Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme

Report of: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

Report author: Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
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07927665829

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed work programme for the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24, based on the Committee's meeting in June 2023. Appendix 1 outlines the topics identified, aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny to achieve these objectives.
- 1.2 The report also refers to other topics, which the Committee has identified, for future consideration, and this will be continuously updated during the year.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee:
 - Notes the information set out in Appendix 1 and identifies if any further topics need to be added to the menu of topics for the Committee to explore over the coming year.
 - Agrees, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider during January 2024 – February 2024, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
 - Notes, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S Committee to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

3 Background

- 3.1 The [statutory guidance for local government overview and scrutiny](#) sets out the role it can play in holding an authority's decision makers to account. This makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy.
- 3.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:
- Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge.
 - Amplify the voices and concerns of the public.
 - Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role.
 - Drive improvements in public services.
- 3.3 The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are outlined in [The City Council's Constitution | Birmingham City Council](#) They will:
- Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and/or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference.
 - Consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; relevant to the Council's strategic objectives; relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and likely to make contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.
- 3.4 Effective scrutiny needs to add value. A well planned and timely work programme enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be involved at the right time and in the right way, and ensure their involvement is meaningful and can influence the outcome.
- 3.5 Members often have a number of topics suggested to them and are therefore required to **prioritise** matters for consideration. The Scrutiny Framework sets out the following factors to be considered:
- Public interest: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen.
 - Ability to change: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence.
 - Performance: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well.
 - Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part of the city.
 - Replication: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication.

Looking Ahead

- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will identify a 'menu' of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions) at the start of the year. Each Committee should then regularly review their 'menu' and decide which issues need to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken. Scrutiny activities should be thorough and undertaken in a timely manner.

Scrutiny Methods

- 3.7 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. The approach for 2023-24 enables flexible scrutiny and outlines a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination of approaches. The Committee will choose the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives for each topic.
- 3.8 Based on Statutory Guidance published in 2019, different scrutiny methods include (but are not limited to):
- A single item, or items, on a committee agenda – this method fits more closely with the “overview” aspect of the Scrutiny function and provides limited opportunity for effective scrutiny. It is most appropriate for specific issues where the committee wants to maintain a watching brief.
 - A single item meeting, either as the committee or a more limited number of Members. It has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.
 - A task and finish day - provided that these are properly focused, they ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make recommendations and are effective even for complex topics.
 - A task and finish review – this is an enhancement of the previous option being held over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.

Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 3.9 The Committee's Terms of Reference is to fulfil its functions as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning:
- Education and children's social care.
 - The safety and wellbeing of children, including safeguarding with statutory partners.
 - The needs of all children and young people, families and carers (children's services).
 - Oversight of the Children's Trust.
 - Early years health and wellbeing.
 - Looked after children, corporate parenting.

- Special Education Needs and Disability.
- School improvement, school places and travel to and from school.
- Youth engagement and youth services.
- Development of 14-19 career pathways, enterprise and entrepreneurship in Birmingham schools.

3.10 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives:

- a) Church of England diocese representative (one).
- b) Roman Catholic diocese representative (one).
- c) Parent Governor representatives (two).

3.11 The Committee is chaired by Cllr Kerry Jenkins, and its membership comprises Cllrs: Jilly Bermingham, Debbie Clancy, Adam Higgs, Des Hughes, Morriam Jan, Jane Jones, and Shehla Moledina, and statutory co-optees: Sarah Smith, Justine Lomas, Osamugi Ogbe and Rabia Shami.

4 Work Programme 2023-24

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the topics the Committee will consider over the next few months, and also outlines future items for consideration.

4.2 The Committee may decide to add further items to the work programme during the course of the year. When considering this, the Committee is advised to consider where it can best add value through scrutiny, and how it can prioritise topics for consideration based on the Scrutiny Framework referred to in 3.5.

4.3 The Council's latest [Forward Plan](#) may assist Members in identifying future topics. The following reports are of particular relevance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date of Decision
	None at present.	

4.4 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs are advised to maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the Council's policy priorities in a timely way.

4.5 The work programme, set out in Appendix 1, also cross references the work of the Committee with the Council's Corporate Priorities 2022-26. During the period June – January 2024 the work of this Committee will contribute to Corporate Priority 8 – Support and enable all children and young people to thrive and Corporate Priority 10 – Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens.

5 Any Finance Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

6 Any Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

7 Any Equalities Implications

- 7.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 7.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.
- 7.3 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 7.4 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme – November 2023.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#)

Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework April 2021

Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July	Children and Young People's Travel Service Corporate Priorities: 8	Assurance to the Committee and public that everything is on track for September. Overview of KPIs, performance and finance. Policy development including travel services for under statutory school age and over 16 year olds, including how decisions are made and what criteria is used. Independent travel training, including the views of young people, and how this has been informed and received by the children, parents and carers. Concerns that have been identified and how these will be addressed. The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee Meeting single item: 19 July 2023 at 10am Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023	Adrian Weissenbruch, AD, Children and Young People's Travel Service	Stephen Hughes, Interim Deputy Operations Manager Marie Nicely, Travel Assist Supervisor Abdulahdi Mehraj, PMO Manager John Wood, Change Manager Linda Sutton-Howard, IT Project Manager	Outcome Update / Assurance: The Committee was updated on the preparation for the Children and Young People's Travel Service for start of the 2023/24 academic year and independent travel training. It was agreed that a workshop will be held for all city councillors. This is being planned for 16 th November 2023.
July	SEND Tribunals Corporate Priorities: 8	To update members to on the process for SEND tribunals including data.	Committee meeting single item: 19 July 2023 at 10am	Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion	Kate Harvey, Head of SEND Resolution, SENAR	Agreed at Committee meeting October 2022 (CMIS Link).

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023			Outcome: Update / Assurance: The Committee was updated on the SEND tribunal process. It was agreed to hold a workshop for all Councillors.
July	Performance Update Corporate Priorities: 8	Report on Children and Families Improvement Plan and data. The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting standing item: 19 July 2023 at 10am. Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House. Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance & Planning	Outcome: Update / Assurance: The Committee was updated on the Children and Families Improvement Plan/Programme.
September	Performance Update Corporate Priorities: 8	The report will include statutory and non-statutory services, and how performance contributes to efficiencies, such as interims and permanent appointments. The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting – standing item: 6 Sep 2023 at 10am Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House Paper/Presentation Deadline: 25 Aug 2023	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business and Commissioning Intelligence	Outcome: Update/ informed work programme: Updated on performance methodology. Scrutiny of data informed decision to deep dive into early years take up (Jan 2024) and school attendance data (hidden children Oct 2023).

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
						<p>Further discussions on the focus and format of performance data to be considered at Committee Data Workshop on 6th Nov 2023.</p> <p>Additional information on mental health element of Employment Support Programme has been provided to Members.</p> <p>Clarification has been given on staff sickness absence percentage figures (days lost to sickness, or the percentage of people sick for each reason).</p>
September	Financial Challenges - Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan	To consider the implications of Equal Pay and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the Committee's work programme including agreed savings for 2023/24.	<p>Committee meeting – standing item: 6 Sep 2023 at 10am</p> <p>Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House</p> <p>Paper/Presentation Deadline: 25 Aug 2023</p>	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	<p>Councillor Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Janie Berry, City Solicitor</p> <p>Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive,</p>	<p>Outcome: Members were informed of the Q1 budget savings position 2023/24 for areas relating to the Committee remit.</p> <p>Members discussed with Director, Cabinet Member, S115 Officer and BCT Chief Executive the potential impact of S114 notice and</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
					<p>Birmingham Children's Trust</p> <p>David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business & Commissioning Intelligence</p> <p>Fiona Greenway, Interim AD, Financial Performance and Insight</p> <p>Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Young People</p> <p>Mohammed Sajid, Interim Head of Financial Strategy</p> <p>Adrian Weissenbruch, AD, Children and Young People's Travel Service</p>	financial challenges on service provision and spending.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
October	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on the Council's Response to S114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan	<p>For the Committee to consider a report on current and future Budget Savings and Recovery Plan and implications for Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Quarter 1, 2 and 3 2023/24 savings to be presented to enable the committee to examine progress of delivery of the 2023/24 savings within the remit of the Committee's terms of reference.</p> <p>Committee invited to consider the implications of Council's response to the Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan, Secretary of State DLUHC statement to House of Commons, Section 5 Notice and supplementary Section 114 Notice on the scrutiny work programme.</p>	<p>Committee meeting standing item: 18 October 2023</p> <p>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 9 Oct 2023</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am</p>	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	<p>Harjinder Dool, AD, Financial Performance and Insight</p> <p>Clare Sandland, Finance Business Partner</p>	<p>Outcome: Members were informed of the Q2 budget savings position 2023/24 for areas relating to the Committee's remit.</p> <p>The Chair to update the Committee on the work of the Finance and Resources T&F Group in relation to the Committee's remit.</p> <p>Sue Harrison to bring work at early stages of planning for input by the Committee.</p> <p>Future agenda items to include a snapshot of their associated spend/budget and impact.</p>
October	Hidden Children Corporate Priorities: 8 and 10	To update the Committee on hidden children including exclusions, suspensions, part time timetables, elective home education, findings of the Inquiry on period poverty regarding attendance during their periods, and information on children that	<p>Committee meeting standing item: 18 October 2023</p> <p>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 9 Oct 2023</p>	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	<p>Razia Butt, Director, Children and Families</p> <p>Steve Howell, Head Teacher, City of Birmingham School (COBS)</p>	<p>Duty on local authorities to progress recommendations linked to improving school attendance in Government White Paper by Sept 23</p> <p>Working together to improve school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		<p>have and have not returned following the pandemic.</p> <p>To consider information and data on the equalities implications of hidden children.</p> <p>The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.</p>	Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am		<p>Barry Bowles, Chair, COBS</p> <p>Tim Boyes, Chief Executive, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP)</p> <p>Alan Michell, Head of Service for School Admissions and Fair Access</p> <p>David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business and Commissioning Intelligence</p> <p>Edwina Langley, Lead Practitioner</p> <p>Diane Rhoden Director of Nursing - Safeguarding & Children in Care NHS Birmingham and Solihull</p>	<p>Relevant performance information to be included in the report to enable the committee to conduct a deep dive.</p> <p>The school exclusions, part time timetables, and unsuitable school places item was discussed at the 22 Feb 2023 committee meeting. The papers are available here and the minutes are available here.</p> <p>Outcome: The Committee were updated/assured on the work being undertaken for Hidden Children and it was agreed:</p> <p>The planning for further development of the governance around school exclusions and part time timetables to be brought to a future committee meeting for comment.</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
						<p>Steve Howell to provide the data on length of stay of students at COBS.</p> <p>A visit of the Committee to COBS to be arranged.</p> <p>The increase in behavioural problems and speech and language being less developed when children start primary schools to be included in the Early Years Education Entitlement item being discussed at the 17 January 2024 committee meeting.</p> <p>Further focused work on Elective Home Education (EHE) and part time timetables to be considered after the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry had finished in the new year.</p>
November	Data Workshop	To understand what performance and measurement data is used across the portfolio to enable Committee to make an informed decision on the focus of	Workshop to be held on the 6 November 2023 at 10.30am in Committee Room 2	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business & Commissioning Intelligence	Outcome: Members expanded their knowledge of the rationale, range and purpose of data used across the portfolio and decided

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		performance presented to the committee.				what data to include in future reports.
November	School Improvement – the New Relationship with Schools Corporate Priorities: 8	To consider and comment on the proposals being developed.	Committee meeting standing item: 29 Nov 2023 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 13 Nov 2023 Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	Lisa Smith, School Improvement – Lead for Strategic Development David Fallows, Head of Digital, Evidence and Performance	This item was agreed at the October 2023 committee meeting.
November	SEND Commissioner Corporate Priorities: 8	To provide an update on SEND improvements. Update could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the SEND Commissioner's expanded role. • Discussion about how the Committee can work and support the Commissioner with improvements. • Increasing transparency. 	Committee meeting single item: 29 Nov 2023 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 13 Nov 2023 Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	John Coughlan CBE, SEND Commissioner	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	The SEND Commissioner attended the 19 October 2022 committee meeting and the weblink for the Commissioner's first report to the Secretary of State for Education was provided: https://bit.ly/3g0k85W . The action notes/minutes for the committee meeting are available here . The Cabinet Report dated 5 September 2023: Acceptance of the

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
						Commissioner's recommendations and progress on the first and second recommendations is available here . The Commissioner's Second Report to the Secretary of State for Education is available here .
January 2024	Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report Corporate Priorities: 8 and 10	To update the Committee on the children's safeguarding arrangements in the city.	Committee meeting single item: 17 January 2024 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 18 December 2023 Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP	Simon Cross, Business Manager, BSCP	The Committee last discussed this item on 16 th February 2022. The papers are available here and the minutes are available here .
January 2024	Improving Services for Children and Families Programme Update Corporate Priorities: 8	To comment / make recommendations on the progress of the improvement programme.	Committee meeting standing item: 17 January 2024 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 18 December 2023	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business and Commissioning Intelligence	The data workshop arranged for the 6 th November 2023 will help shape the focus of the report. The Committee received an update on progress of the

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
			Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am		Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance & Planning	programme at the July 2023 committee meeting and the report is available here . Also, the Committee received a summary of the Children and Families Directorate performance approach and progress at the September 2023 committee meeting and the report is available here .
January 2024	Draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy Corporate Priorities: 8 and 10	For the Committee to comment on the Draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy.	Committee meeting single item: 17 January 2024 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 18 December 2023 Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion Helen Price, Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Transformation, Children and Families David Bridgman, Head of SEND Commissioning Jaswinder Didially, Head of Service	

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
February 2024	Early Years Education Entitlement Corporate Priorities: 8 and 10	To examine how best the council can increase the take up of Early Years entitlement for children in the city and the benefits it provides children. To examine the plans for delivering the new and expanding responsibilities for early years.	Committee meeting single item: 28 February 2024 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 12 February 2024 Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	TBC	Project to increase uptake of early years and profile of families and data on variation of uptake: BCC Early Years - NESTA project Birmingham City Council
February 2024	Update on the review of short breaks when it has been completed (TBC) Corporate Priorities: 8	To provide an update on the outcome of the review of short breaks The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting single item: 28 February 2024 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 12 February 2024 Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Lisa Jamieson, Interim Director, Commissioning and Corporate Parenting, Birmingham Children's Trust	TBC	The briefing paper was e-mailed to the Committee on 21 November 2023, and it is proposed a report is discussed at the February 2024 committee meeting.
February 2024	School Attainment (TBC for February or April).		Committee meeting single item: 28 February 2024 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 12 February 2024	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	TBC	

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
			Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am			
April 2024	School Attainment (TBC for February or April).		Committee meeting single item: 10 April 2024 Presentation/Paper Deadline: 21 March 2024	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families		

*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

Menu of Issues for Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
A visit to COBS to be arranged (possibly in the new year).			
A visit for Committee to a school – Adderley Primary School.	To inform future work.		
Child Poverty.			
Regular updates on SEND.			
Update on the next joint local area SEND inspection.			The joint local Area SEND assessment in 2021 is available here .

Item/Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).	To provide an update on the Improvement plan to meet statutory compliance.		
UNICEF Child Friendly City.			
Post 16.		This could be a joint piece of work with the Economy & Skills OSC	
Children and Young People's Travel Service Workshop.	To provide information about the service to aid understanding of the policy and process.	An all Councillor workshop has been arranged for 16 th November 2023.	
The planning for further development of the governance around school exclusions and part time timetables to be brought to a future committee meeting for comment.			
Further focused work on Elective Home Education (EHE), and part time timetables to be considered after the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry had finished in the new year.			

Scrutiny Method Options: Committee meeting - single item, Committee meeting - single theme, Committee meeting – standing item, Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings), On location, Other - (describe).

Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes

Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing |
| 2 Tackle unemployment | 12 Tackle homelessness |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure | 13 Tackle health inequalities |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities | 15 Champion mental health |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture | 17 Improve street cleanliness |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality |
| 9 Make the city safer | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens | 20 Be a City of Nature |
| | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Education and Children's Social Care OSC in June 23:
[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

