

## 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  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 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	<b>Outcome</b> 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, and this was held on 16 November 2023.
July	SEND Tribunals  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 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 ( <a href="#">CMIS Link</a> ).

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		The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023			<b>Outcome:</b> Update / Assurance: The Committee was updated on the SEND tribunal process.  It was agreed to hold a workshop for all Councillors.
July	Performance Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 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	<b>Outcome:</b> Update / Assurance: The Committee was updated on the Children and Families Improvement Plan/Programme.
September	Performance Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 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	<b>Outcome:</b> 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).

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						<p>Further discussions on the focus and format of performance data was considered at Committee Data Workshop on 6 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><b>Outcome:</b> 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>

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					Birmingham Children's Trust  David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business & Commissioning Intelligence  Fiona Greenway, Interim AD, Financial Performance and Insight  Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Young People  Mohammed Sajid, Interim Head of Financial Strategy  Adrian Weissenbruch, AD, Children and Young People's Travel Service	financial challenges on service provision and spending.

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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><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>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 Budget T&amp;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  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 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><a href="https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance.pdf">Working together to improve school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a></p>

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		<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>	<p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am</p>		<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 &amp; 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 <a href="#">here</a> and the minutes are available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> The Committee was 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>

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						<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	<b>Outcome:</b> Members expanded their knowledge of the rationale, range and purpose of data used across the portfolio and decided

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		performance presented to the committee.				what data to include in future reports.
November	School Improvement – the New Relationship with Schools  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 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.  <b>Outcome:</b> The Committee provided feedback to the proposals and the following was requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timescales for the development of the new policy for school improvement and schools causing concern, which included the consultation, and presentation to Cabinet.</li> <li>• Details of the feedback from the consultation for the new policy.</li> <li>• The timeline for the attendance strategy presentation to Cabinet.</li> <li>• The new Ofsted School Inspection Framework (including timelines for inspections).</li> </ul>



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November	SEND Commissioner  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To provide an update on SEND improvements.  Update could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the SEND Commissioner's expanded role.</li> <li>• Discussion about how the Committee can work and support the Commissioner with improvements.</li> <li>• Increasing transparency.</li> </ul>	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: <a href="https://bit.ly/3g0k85W">https://bit.ly/3g0k85W</a> . The action notes/minutes for the committee meeting are available <a href="#">here</a> .  The Cabinet Report dated 5 September 2023: Acceptance of the Commissioner's recommendations and progress on the first and second recommendations is available <a href="#">here</a> .  The Commissioner's Second Report to the Secretary of State for Education is available <a href="#">here</a> .  <b>Outcome:</b> The Committee was provided with an update.

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January 2024	Improving Services for Children and Families Plan Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To comment / make recommendations on the progress of the improvement programme.	Committee meeting standing item: 17 January 2024  <b>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 18 December 2023</b>  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance & Planning	The Committee received an update on progress of the programme at the July 2023 committee meeting and the report is available <a href="#">here</a> .  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 <a href="#">here</a> .  <b>Outcome:</b> The Committee commented on the improving services for children and families plan and further work is to be undertaken following agreement of the budget proposals (on the agenda for May 2024).
February 2024	SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-2030  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 and 10	For the Committee to comment on the Draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy.	Committee meeting single item: 28 February 2024	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion  Helen Price, Director, Strategy,	The SEND Sufficiency Strategy will be discussed at Cabinet in March.

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	<b>Governance Review:</b> the safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people		Presentation/Paper Deadline: 12 February 2024  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am		Commissioning and Transformation, Children and Families  David Bridgman, Head of SEND Commissioning  Jaswinder Didiyally, Head of Service	
February 2024	Early Years Education Entitlement  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 and 10  <b>Governance Review:</b> the safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.	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	Lindsey Trivett – Head of Early Years and Childcare  Helen Ellis – Director of SEND and Inclusion	Project to increase uptake of early years and profile of families and data on variation of uptake: <a href="#">BCC Early Years - NESTA project   Birmingham City Council</a>
April 2024	School Attainment and Attendance  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 & 10	To examine school attainment and what is being done to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.  The draft attendance strategy to be discussed as part of this item.	Committee meeting single item: 10 April 2024  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 21 March 2024	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	TBC	

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	<p><b>Governance Review:</b> The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.</p> <p>Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 2024/25 budget.</p>	To include budget / resources information.				
April 2024	<p>Birmingham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership's (BSCP) Annual Report</p> <p>Corporate Priorities: 8 and 10</p> <p><b>Governance Review:</b> The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.</p> <p>Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 2024/25 budget.</p>	<p>To update the Committee on the children's safeguarding arrangements in the city.</p> <p>For the committee to be assured of the safeguarding of children in the city.</p> <p>To include budget / resources information (partnership funding including Council funding).</p>	<p>Committee meeting single item: 10 April 2024</p> <p>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 21 March 2024</p>	Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP,	Simon Cross, Business Manager, BSCP	The Committee last discussed this item on 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022. The papers are available <a href="#">here</a> and the minutes are available <a href="#">here</a> .

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May 2024	Refreshed Improving Services for Children and Families Plan  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 and 10.  <b>Governance Review:</b> The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.  Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 2024/25 budget.	To comment / make recommendations on the progress of the refreshed/recalibrated improvement plan.  To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A diagram of the services that will be delivered and outcomes / performance measures.</li> <li>Risks including the impact of corporate transformation – HR and recruitment, Oracle, and finance.</li> </ul>	Committee meeting single item: 15 May 2024  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 26 April 2024  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families TBC  James Thomas, CEX, Childrens Trust	Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance & Planning	To include the Children’s Trust and the independent Chair of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board.  Members have previously asked for an update on the review of short breaks and a briefing paper was e-mailed to the Committee on 21 November 2023. This can be part of the wider discussion with the Children’s Trust.

\*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
Budget Savings	To update and monitor 2023/24 Budget Savings; to provide information on the mobilisation / implementation of the 2024/25 Budget Savings; and update on any recommendations from the Budget Scrutiny T&F Group relevant to the Committee's remit.	TBC	
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 <a href="#">here</a> .
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	
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			

Item/Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
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 \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com/Document.ashx)