

Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024 –2025

Date At 10am in Committee Rooms 3&4	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
19 Jun 2024	Committee Work Programme 2024/25 IRP Programme: Deliver Savings and Balance the Budget	To note the Committee Terms of Reference and agree key issues to be considered by the Committee during 2024/25 and the scrutiny methods that will be used to undertake this work.	Committee meeting single item: written report. Deadline for reports: 3 June 2024	Christian Scade - Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services	N/A	This is a standard item for all future Committee meetings. Outcome: The Committee noted their Terms of Reference and agreed their work programme.
19 Jun 2024	Member Visit to City of Birmingham School (COBS) IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme	To build member understanding of the work of the City of Birmingham School to meet the needs of young people so to inform the work of the Committee.	Site Visit.	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	Steve Howell – Headteacher Barry Bowles - Chair of the Management Board Sunil Vyakaranam - Deputy Head Helen Ellis - Director, SEND and Inclusion	Outcome: Cllrs Kerry Jenkins (Chair), Adam Higgs, Zafar Iqbal, and Shehla Moledina visited COBS and gained a greater understanding of the work of COBS to meet the needs of young people, and the outcomes will be used to inform the work of the Committee.

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17 Jul 2024	Birmingham School Attendance Strategy 2024 - 2028 IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme	To comment / make recommendations on the draft strategy prior to it going to Cabinet for approval.	Committee meeting single item: written report. Deadline for reports: 1 July 2024	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	Razia Butt - Director of Thriving Children and Families Edwina Langley - Lead Attendance Officer Alan Michell - Head of Admissions	Members are keen to look through the lens of SEND and COBS / alternative provision when discussing items at committee meetings, and transport is recognised as being an important part of attendance for schools. Outcome: the Committee commented on the draft strategy, further work will be undertaken in relation to councillors assisting in the promotion of school attendance, and further updates on the strategy will be provided annually.
17 Jul 2024	Implications and Impact of Identified Savings	To examine the impact and implications of the delivery of budget saving	Task and Finish Group	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member,	Lee Yale-Helms on behalf of James Thomas	Savings to be considered at this meeting were agreed

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	IRP Programme: Deliver Savings and Balance the Budget	areas identified by the committee.		Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	- Chief Executive, Birmingham Children's Trust Adrian Weissenbruch - AD, Children and Young Peoples Travel Service Paul Durrant - Finance Business Partner	by the Committee in June: Savings: 89, 90, 150, 146, 148, 151, and 185. Future items relating the Budget Savings and Financial Recovery are to be scheduled. Outcome: the recommendations will be reported to the Corporate and Finance OSC for discussion on 26 September 2024.
11 Oct 2024 11.00 – 12.00	Alternative Solution for Schools HR, Payroll and Finance Business Case	To note the contents of the business case and provide comment and feedback on the recommended approach.	Committee meeting single item: written report. Deadline for reports: 26 September 2024	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families	Catherine Taylor-Ludolf, HR Shared Services - School HR & Payroll Programme Lead	Outcome: Comments from O&S Committee was reported to Cabinet on 15 October where the comments were noted.

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	<p>IRP Priority: Oracle Reimplementation</p> <p>Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria: Delivery of Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities</p>			Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families		<p>The committee has requested to be updated prior to September 2025 on the monitoring of the impact of these changes on schools, and how schools were managing to administer their HR, Payroll and Finance.</p> <p>The committee has requested to continue to be updated on how schools' participation in engagement activities and processes was being managed and monitored.</p>
23 Oct 2024	Update on Birmingham Strategic Youth Justice Plan 2023- 2028	An update on the performance and progress of the five-year plan published in 2023.	Committee Meeting: Single item	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families	David Stringfellow – Director, Commissioning and Specialist Services,	The Strategic Youth Justice Plan: 2023 – 2028 was previously discussed by the Neighbourhoods O&S Committee and the

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	<p>IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme</p> <p>Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria: Life and Limb Services</p>		Deadline for reports: 7 October 2024	Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	<p>Birmingham Children's Trust</p> <p>Dave Webb - Interim Head of Service, Youth Offending Service, Birmingham Children's Trust</p>	<p>Education, Children and Young People O&S Committee in August 2023. It was approved at City Council on 12 Sep 2023 and the papers are available here.</p> <p>Outcome: The Committee noted the update and provided feedback.</p> <p>The Committee requested to be provided with quarterly briefing notes to explain what was happening in relation to the improvement journey being rated Good, the risks identified and the impact they were having.</p>

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						The Committee requested future updates need to be succinct, or a summary is to be provided.
23 Oct 2024	<p>Children and Young Peoples' Travel Service (CYPTS)</p> <p>IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme</p> <p>Scrutiny development plan criteria Safe and effective key services for vulnerable people</p>	<p>An update and assurance to be provided on the service and September 2024 mobilisation.</p> <p>To also provide an overview of the impact of changes to the post 16 transport policy, including number of appeals, and number of changes to the transport packages.</p>	<p>Committee Meeting: single item</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 7 October 2024</p>	<p>Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families</p>	<p>Adrian Weissenbruch - Director, Children's Commissioning and Performance</p>	<p>This was last discussed at the 19 July 2023 committee meeting and the paper is available here and the minutes are available here.</p> <p>Outcome: The Committee discussed the impact of the changes to the post 16-transport policy and requested:</p> <p>Information explaining the plans for post-16 transport policy change and impact to enable the Committee to have further discussions on this.</p>

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						<p>An update report on the attendance work, to include information on post-16s that have moved under the remit of Adult Social Care, as soon as it was available.</p> <p>The up-to-date appeals figures.</p> <p>An update report on utilising empty seats when the work had taken place.</p>
23 Oct 2024	<p>Savings 2024/25 – Progress Report</p> <p>IRP Priority: Deliver Savings and Balance the Budget</p> <p>Scrutiny Development</p>	To inform the Committee of the delivery of the 2024/25 budget savings within the Committee’s terms of reference and the Committee to agree any recommendations.	<p>Committee Meeting: single item</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 7 October 2024</p>	<p>Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic</p>	<p>James Thomas – CEX, BCT</p> <p>Lee Yale-Helms - Director, Finance & Resources, BCT</p>	The report was taken to the Corporate and Finance OSC on 27 September 2024. A separate cover report was provided for each Committee that indicated the savings relevant to their TOR.

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	<p>Plan Criteria: Delivery of Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities, and equality issues arising from the budget</p>	<p>To include the Review of Youth Service, NEET and Careers (Saving 89) and discuss the Young People Services Review report on this saving.</p>		<p>Director, Children and Families</p>	<p>For Saving 89: Steve Kay - Director, Schools and Employability, and Spencer Wilson - Interim Head of Service for Employment and Skills</p>	<p>Outcome: The Committee discussed the progress of delivering the savings and the following to be provided:</p> <p>A paper explaining to Members what was proposed and decided for the Careers and NEET Services.</p> <p>The Young People's Service Review to enable the Committee to explore before the new year undertaking a focussed piece of work (Task & Finish) regarding the future model and what young people would like to see in relation to youth services.</p>

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23 Oct 2024	Delivery of IRP Programme IRP Aim: A council delivering good services. Children and Families Improvement Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria: Delivery of Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities	To inform the Committee of the delivery of the Improvement Recovery Plan Programme within the Committee's terms of reference - Improving Services for Children and Families IRP Programme and the Committee to agree any recommendations.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 7 October 2024	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families		All O&S Committees discussed the progress to date for the IRP Programmes relevant to their remit. Outcome: The Committee was updated on the Improving Services for Children and Families IRP Programme.
4 Dec 2024	SEND Commissioner (12.00 – 1.00pm) IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families	An invitation to the SEND Commissioner to be extended so the Committee can be provided with an update on SEND Improvement and the Commissioner's governance role.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 18 November 2024	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic	Mr John Coughlan CBE	Mr Coughlan CBE last attended on 29 November 2023 and the paper is available here and the minutes are available here . The Third Report to the Secretary of State

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	Improvement Programme Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria: Safe and effective key services for vulnerable people, Life and Limb services			Director, Children and Families		for Education is available here . The Acceptance of Recommendations from the SEND Commissioners Third Report was debated at Cabinet on 12 Nov 24 and the report is available here .
4 Dec 2024	Improving Services for Children and Families Plan Update IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme Scrutiny Development	To comment / make recommendations on the progress of the improvement plan.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 18 November 2024	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	Fayth Skeete - Head of Strategic, Governance and Planning	This was last discussed at the 15 May 2024 committee meeting and the papers are available here and the minutes are available here . The Independent Chair – Sally Rowe, Improving Services for Children and Families Board sends her apologies, and an invite can be sent for

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	<p>Plan Criteria: Delivery of Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities</p>					attendance at a future committee meeting.
4 Dec 2024	<p>Progress Report on Implementation of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Inquiry Recommendations</p> <p>IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme</p> <p>Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria Monitoring the implementation of scrutiny recommendations</p>	To monitor the recommendations of the Committee’s Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry.	<p>Committee Meeting: single item</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 18 November 2024</p>	<p>Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families</p>	TBC	<p>The report was debated and agreed at City Council on 16 April 2024 and is available here.</p> <p>During the City Council debate Cllr Kooner raised suggestions for working with a) places of worship, b) education establishments and that teachers include ACEs training as part of the compulsory teacher training days, and c) the importance of the Child’s voice being heard independently.</p>

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22 Jan 2025	<p>Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership's (BSCP) 2022/23 and 2023/24 Annual Reports</p> <p>IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme</p> <p>Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria Safe and effective key services for vulnerable people, life and limb services</p>	To make comments / recommendations on the annual reports.	<p>Committee Meeting: single item</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 6 January 2025</p>	<p>Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families</p>	<p>James Thomas - Co-Chair, BSCP (CEX of the Children's Trust)</p> <p>Richard North - Co-Chair, BSCP (Police Commander for Birmingham)</p> <p>Simon Cross, Business Manager, BSCP</p>	<p>The Committee last discussed the BSCP on 16 February 2022. The papers are available here and consist of the Independent Chair's Accountability Report 2020-21, Business Improvement Plan 2021-23, and a power point presentation. The minutes are available here.</p>
22 Jan 2025	Savings 2024/25 – Progress Report	To inform the Committee of the delivery of the 2024/25 budget savings	Committee Meeting: single item	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member,	TBC	

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	<p>Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria: Delivery of Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities, Equity Issues Arising from the Budget</p>	<p>within the Committee's terms of reference and the Committee to agree any recommendations.</p>	<p>Deadline for reports: 6 January 2025</p>	<p>Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families</p>		
22 Jan 2025	<p>Delivery of IRP Programme</p> <p>Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria: Delivery of Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities, Equity Issues Arising from the Budget</p>	<p>To inform the Committee of the delivery of the IRP Programme within the Committee's terms of reference – - Improving Services for Children and Families IRP Programme</p>	<p>Committee Meeting: single item</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 6 January 2025</p>	<p>Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families</p>	<p>Gemma Malhi, Head of Corporate Portfolio Management Office</p>	<p>This could include the overview of the programme and also a specific update on transformation / redesign regarding Thriving, Children and Families, and the Birmingham Children's Trust - Trust 2025.</p>

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26 Feb 2025	Developing the governance around school exclusions, Elective Home Education (EHE) and part time timetables IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme	The draft to come to the Committee to provide an opportunity to comment on proposals.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 10 February 2025	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	Razia Butt - Director of Thriving Children and Families Steve Kay – Director of Schools and Employability	
26 Feb 2025	Birmingham Children's Trust IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme	To provide an update on the Children's Trust (to include the short breaks review).	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 10 February 2025	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director,	James Thomas - Chief Executive, BCT David Stringfellow - Interim Director of Practice, BCT	The Children's Trust provided an update on progress with the Trust Priorities 2022/23 and shared the draft 2023/24 strategic priorities on 5 April 2023 and the paper is available here and the minutes are available here .

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				Children and Families	Carolyn Connor - Strategic Improvement Lead, BCT	<p>An update on the Children's Trust Ofsted Inspection (ILACS) was provided on 17 May 2023 and the papers are available here and the minutes are available here.</p> <p>An update on the Short Breaks Review was provided on 15 May 2024 and the paper is available here and the minutes are available here.</p>
9 Apr 2025	Delivery of Savings Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria: Delivery of Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities, Equity	To inform the Committee of the delivery of the 2024/25 budget savings within the Committee's terms of reference and the Committee to agree any recommendations.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 24 March 2025	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director,	TBC	

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	Issues Arising from the Budget			Children and Families		
9 Apr 2025	Delivery of IRP Programme Scrutiny Development Plan Criteria: Delivery of Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities, Equity Issues Arising from the Budget	To inform the Committee of the delivery of the IRP Programmes within the Committee's terms of reference and the Committee to agree any recommendations.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 24 March 2025	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	TBC	
9 Apr 2025	School Attainment TBC for April or May IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families	To examine school attainment and what is being done to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 24 March 2025	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director,	Lisa Smith, School Improvement – Lead for Strategic Development David Fallows - Head of Digital,	School Attainment was discussed at the 10 Apr 24 committee meeting. The papers are available here and the minutes are available here .

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	Improvement Programme			Children and Families		
9 Apr 2025	School Improvement TBC for April or May IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme	To examine school improvement and what is being done to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 24 March 2025	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	Lisa Smith - School Improvement – Lead for Strategic Development David Fallows - Head of Digital, Evidence and Performance Evidence and Performance	School Improvement – the New Relationship with Schools was discussed at the 29 Nov 23 committee meeting. The paper is available here and the minutes are available here .
14 May 2025	School Attainment TBC for April or May IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families	To examine school attainment and what is being done to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports:25 April 2025	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director,	Lisa Smith - School Improvement – Lead for Strategic Development	

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	Improvement Programme			Children and Families		
14 May 2025	School Improvement TBC for April or May IRP Aim: A council delivering good services: Children and Families Improvement Programme	To examine school improvement and what is being done to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.	Committee Meeting: single item Deadline for reports: 25 April 2025	Cllr Mick Brown - Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families Dr Sue Harrison - Strategic Director, Children and Families	Lisa Smith - School Improvement – Lead for Strategic Development David Fallows - Head of Digital, Evidence and Performance	School Improvement – the New Relationship with Schools was discussed at the 29 Nov 23 committee meeting. The paper is available here and the minutes are available here .

*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 previously 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.

Topic	Notes including any suggested dates, method of scrutiny
Birmingham Children's Trust (Children's Services)	The Committee has previously received an annual update and may wish to schedule a future report.
SEND	Committee requested regular updates on SEND, including the next joint local area SEND inspection, and an update on the improvement plan to meet the statutory compliance of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS). This may be a briefing session to understand the process.
School Attainment and Achievement Strategies	Draft to come to OSC to provide an opportunity to comment on proposals.
Children and Young People's Travel Service (CYPTS) – Impact of policy changes and budget savings	Discussed at the 23 October 2024 meeting and further information to be provided to the Committee.
Review of the careers 16 – 19, youth service and NEET – impact of changes and budget savings	Discussed at the 23 October 2024 meeting and further information to be provided to the Committee.
UNICEF Child Friendly City	Suggested update on work towards UNICEF Child Friendly recognition.
Child Poverty	
Post 16	This could be a joint piece of work with the Economy and Skills O&S Committee.
Early Years, Primary Education, and Exclusions	Members are keen to gain a better understanding and at the visit to COBS in June requested a visit to the primary unit at COBS and a mainstream primary school is organised.
Draft Achievement Strategy	Summer 2025.
Birmingham School Attendance Strategy 2024 – 2028	Updates to be provided annually (July 2025).

Topic	Notes including any suggested dates, method of scrutiny
Update on Birmingham Strategic Youth Justice Plan 2023-2028	The next annual update to be provided in 2025.
Development of a Youth Strategy	This piece of work would be suited for a T&F/focused piece of work.
Family Hubs Programme	An update on progress and plans, plus how they are to be funded long term and/or what other support is needed to make up for any future drop in funding.

Scrutiny Method Options: Committee meeting single item, Committee meeting single theme, Task and Finish Group, Site Visit, Inquiry Evidence Gathering, Briefings