

Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

<u>Corporate Priority</u>	<u>Scheduled Meetings</u>		
Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Date: 31 March 2025 Time: 10:00am Venue: Room 10, Town Hall	Date: 30 June 2025 Time: 10:00am Venue: Room 10, Town Hall	Date: 15 Sept 2025 Time: 10:00am Venue: Room 10, Town Hall

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
Committee Agenda							
Quarterly Performance Reports	Scrutiny Committees are responsible for reviewing the performance reports for priorities relevant to their remit.	To monitor the performance of services within portfolios and to hold Cabinet Members to account.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)/ Public Health (Cllr Murphy)	Jamaila Hussain Shirley Goodhew	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	31 March 2025
Scrutiny Reviews							
Reducing Ketamine Use Among Young People	Concerns have been raised about the levels of ketamine use among young people and the impact it has on their health, their families and communities. Services have observed a rise in the use of ketamine in	To develop an understanding of the issue and consider possible interventions the Council and partners can pursue to reduce numbers of young people gaining	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)/ Public Health (Cllr Murphy)	Michelle Loughlin	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Task and Finish Group	First Meeting 6 December 2024 Next meeting TBC

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	recent years and its serious impact on young people's health.	access to and using ketamine.					
Reducing Vaping Among Young People	The prevalence of vaping among young people both in school and in the community has become a concern for education and public health. Concerns include the negative health impacts of vaping and the lack of clarity regarding the contents of some vaping products and how young people are gaining access to them.	To develop an understanding of the issue and consider possible interventions the Council and partners can pursue to reduce numbers of young people using vaping products.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)/ Public Health (Cllr Murphy)	Shirley Goodhew	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Task and Finish Group	Due to Commence February 2025
Completed Items							
Quarterly Performance Reports	Scrutiny Committees are responsible for reviewing the performance reports for priorities relevant to their remit.	To monitor the performance of services within portfolios and to hold Cabinet Members to account.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)/ Public Health (Cllr Murphy)	Jamaila Hussian Shirley Goodhew	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	2023/24 Outturn – 22 July 2024 2024/25 Q1 – 14 October 2024

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							2024/25 Q2 – 6 January 2025
Review of the provision of mental health services for young people in St Helens.	Research, such as the DfE State of the Nation Report (published 2023) and recent anecdotal reports to Council from local Head Teachers, indicate that significant numbers of children and young people continue to experience challenges with their mental health. Half of all life-time mental health illnesses start in teenage years although treatment is often received only many years later. Mental health is also an equalities issue with the poorest fifth of the population being twice as likely to develop mental health	In the light of continuing mental health challenges experienced by children and young people, it is essential that the accessibility and effectiveness of mental health services for them, including those with SEND, are scrutinised to understand the support available, its strengths and the challenges within the provision.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Matt Davies (C&M ICB)	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	22 July 2024

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	problems in adulthood.						
TESSA Spotlight Review Cabinet Response	TESSA was introduced to provide schools with a streamlined system to use to request support for children and young people with SEND.	To consider the impact of the TESSA process, contribute to its evaluation and make appropriate recommendations.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	22 July 2024
SEND Update Report	An inspection of SEND is expected in Autumn 2024. The Committee has previously received reports at public meetings regarding the Council's preparations for an inspection. The LGO has recommended that an action plan regarding casework and Educational Psychology Team Capacity be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee. At the July 2024 meeting the Committee requested	To review performance in relation to the SEND Strategy and receive an update on Delivering Better Value. To receive an update regarding EHCPs following below target response rate in the Outturn Performance Report for 2023/24.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	14 October 2024

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	an update on EHCPs. The Council is also required to report to the DfE regarding Delivering Better Value in October 2024.						
Response to the Multi-Agency Response to Neglect Spotlight Review	Child neglect is a form of abuse which can impact on a child's physical and mental health and can lead to long term adverse consequences. It arises from many complex issues including parental mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and poverty.	Following the approval by the Committee of the spotlight review report in July 2024 the report has been shared with all agencies that took part in the review with a request for a response to the recommendations to be received by the Committee.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Jamaila Hussain	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	6 January 2025
NEET & Youth Offer	PI E&S-005, Percentage of young people academic are (16-17) not in education, employment or training and not known combined, has been above target of	To examine reasons for an increase in the number of NEETs, the challenges of addressing the issues and what plans services and partners have	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	6 January 2025

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	5.3% throughout 2023/24 and worse than previous year. The closure of St Helens Chamber will have had a negative impact on the provision of apprenticeships and other support.	developed to make improvements and develop a stronger education, employment and training offer for young people in the Borough.					