

Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

24 March 2025

Subject:	Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2024/25
Director:	James McLaughlin Assistant Chief Executive
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1 Recommendations

- 1.1 that the Board notes its work programme, which sets out matters to be considered by the Board in 2023/24;
- 1.2 that, the Board considers whether any changes or additions are required to its work programme and in doing so, has regard to the Prioritisation Tool.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 A strong and effective work programme underpins the work and approach of Scrutiny.
- 2.2 It is good practice for work programmes to remain fluid, to allow for scrutiny of new and emerging issues in a timely manner.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Council Plan?

Growing Up in Sandwell	The scrutiny function supports all of the objectives of the Corporate Plan by seeking to improve services for the people of Sandwell. It does this by influencing the policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services.
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Scrutiny is a member led and driven function, driven by members' commitment to improve services and thereby people's lives.
- 4.2 A work programming event for the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board took place on 25 July 2024.
- 4.3 Boards have responsibility for their own work programmes, and it is good practice to keep them under review, to allow for new and emerging issues to be scrutinised in a timely manner.
- 4.4 Scrutiny Procedure Rules allow any member to request that an item is added to a scrutiny board's work programme. Each request should be carefully assessed, using the agreed process, to ensure that resources can be prioritised and that the scrutiny activity will add value.

5 Implications

Resources:	<p>The Scrutiny function is directly supported by the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services Officers within the Council's Law and Governance directorate. Additional technical expertise and evidence on specific matters will be provided by officers within the various directorates of the authority.</p> <p>The strategic resource implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings</p>
Legal and Governance:	Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of overview and scrutiny committees.

	<p>Further powers relating to overview and scrutiny are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Localism Act 2011, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.</p> <p>Any legal and governance implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.</p>
Risk:	<p>Any implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.</p>
Equality:	
Health and Wellbeing:	
Social Value	
Corporate Parenting:	
Climate Change:	

6 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board Work Programme
- Appendix 2 – Prioritisation Tool

7. Background Papers

None.