



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am, Monday, 21 August 2023  
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington. DL1 5QT

**Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.**

1. Introductions/ Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 June 2023  
(Pages 3 - 6)
4. To consider the times of meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.
5. Quality Assurance - Darlington Owned Children's Homes –  
Report of the Assistant Director – Commissioning, Performance and Transformation  
(Pages 7 - 12)
6. Children and Young People Public Health Overview –  
Report of the Group Director of People  
(Pages 13 - 18)
7. Work Programme 2023-2024 –  
Report of the Assistant Director – Law and Governance  
(Pages 19 - 30)

8. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
9. Questions



**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Friday, 11 August 2023**

**Town Hall**  
**Darlington.**

**Membership**

Councillors Ali, Allen, Crudass, Dillon, Durham, Johnson, Layton, Renton, Storr and Toms.

**Statutory Co-optees**

Carly Stonier.

**Non Statutory Co-optees**

Maura Regan, Tim Fisher, Janet Woodcock, John Armitage and Sally Hudson.

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Elections Officer, Operations Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays email: [paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk) or telephone 01325 405805

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 June 2023

**PRESENT** – Councillors Ali, Allen, Crudass, Dillon, Durham, Johnson, Layton, Renton, Storr and Toms.

**APOLOGIES** – John Armitage and Sally Hudson.

**ABSENT** – Carly Stonier, Maura Regan, Tim Fisher and Janet Woodcock.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors Wallis.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Chris Bell (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education and Inclusion) and Paul Dalton (Elections Officer)

### **CYP1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024**

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor Allen be appointed Chair of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

### **CYP2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024**

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor Layton be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

### **CYP3 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024 ON THE DATES AGREED IN THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS BY CABINET AT MINUTE C258/FEB/23**

**RESOLVED** – That meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24, be held at 9.30 a.m. on the dates, as agreed on the calendar of meetings by Cabinet at Minute C258/Feb/2023.

### **CYP4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

### **CYP5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2023**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 27 February 2023

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 27 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### **CYP6 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 3 2022/23**

The Assistant Director of Children's Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to

provide Members with an update on performance against key performance indicators.

The submitted report provided Quarter 3 (October 2022 to December 2022) performance information in line with an indicator set agreed by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group and subsequently by each individual Scrutiny Committee.

The submitted report also highlighted where Children and Young People were performing well and where there was a need to improve. It was also outlined that where indicators are reported annually, quarterly updates will not be available.

Members were keen to discover the extent of staff turnover in Children's Services, and the impact that this had on performance. Members were advised that staff turnover was consistent with the rates across the region, and anecdotally mirrored the national picture. It was noted that the challenge was one that was shared with Adults Services.

Members were also interested to learn more in relation to those Children in Care who needed to be placed 20 or miles away from home, and questioned whether the reason for need was captured. Members were advised that this indicator covered a relatively small number of children.

**RESOLVED** – That the content of the report be noted.

#### **CYP7 THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

The Assistant Director, Children's Services, submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with a summary of the Government Response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, entitled "Stable Homes, Built with Love".

The submitted report stated that the Government had published a response to the Independent Review which took the form of a strategy which identified six pillars upon which the reform of Children's Social Care would be based. The submitted report informed Members that the Council were already actively involved in a Regional Fostering Pathfinder Project, alongside other North-East local authorities, and that the Scrutiny Committee could play a critical role in shaping how Children's Services responded to, and implemented, the other pillars identified within the report.

Members were keen to recognise that, whilst it was preferable that children remain with birth parents, or placed with wider family, families should not always be considered safe spaces for children, and were keen to discover more about how the Council ensured that extended families provided safe spaces.

Members noted that, in relation to the six pillars, it was pleasing to learn that the Council had initiatives in place to address each. Members were particularly interested in hearing more in relation to the fostering and retention programme, and ensuring that this was something that was delivering.

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

#### **CYP8 SEND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ACTION**

The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion, submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the Ofsted / CQC Inspection on the provision of Special Educational Needs (SEND) support in Darlington and the subsequent development of a Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

The submitted report stated that between January 2022 and 1 February 2022, the local area of Darlington was inspected by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) and CQC (Care Quality Commission), and that the purpose of the inspection was to see how well the area had put in place the changes across all services that the Children and Families Act 2014 required for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their families.

The submitted report highlighted that, whilst the lead inspector identified a number of strengths in the local area, there were also two areas of significant weakness identified across Darlington – namely the ineffectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes, and poor preparation for adulthood and post-19 opportunities for children and young people with SEND. It was reported that actions were already taking place to address the highlighted concerns, however the report highlighted the need to accelerate these changes and implement the required improvements.

Members were keen to discover whether partners were working together to receive benefits, and to understand how the voices of young people were heard. Members were disappointed to learn that job opportunities frequently broke down within six months, due to a lack of SEND support, and wondered whether the YEI team would have capacity to coach employers to ensure that these opportunities weren't lost.

Members wanted to learn more about the scrutiny within the school setting, to ensure that actions identified within the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) were being undertaken by a school, and how the reported feedback aligned with the perception of parents. Members were keen to understand how those with SEND needs were involved in the governance development and arrangements.

Discussion ensued on the work undertaken by Third Sector providers, with Members enquiring as to whether there were any metrics as to the success. Members also highlighted the 20% year on year reduction target in terms of the numbers of requests for specialist provision for children and young people whose needs could continue to be met in mainstream education, noting the graduated model.

Focus returned to the relationship between parent and school, with Members seeking assurances around a parent's right to challenge, and the mechanisms in place to facilitate that challenge.

**RESOLVED** – That the Written Statement of Action be noted.

#### **CYP9 WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that

consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously approved work programme.

Members proposed a review of the Performance Indicators received during the year to ensure that they remained relevant; an item on the Dedicated School Grant and the Safety Valve to provide a deeper understanding for the Members of the Committee; a review of Youth Engagement / Communication Strategy, with an additional focus on SEND; an item on Transitional Services (SEND) for 16 – 25 year olds; a review of School Transport and the associated services; and the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

**RESOLVED** – That the work programme be noted accordingly.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
21 AUGUST 2023**

**QUALITY ASSURANCE - DARLINGTON OWNED CHILDRENS HOMES**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update scrutiny committee on our review of service assurance in place for Darlington owned Children’s Homes, share improvement opportunities identified and action being taken to strengthen confidence in this area.

**Summary**

2. The review was prompted by an inadequate rating of services for one home last summer.
3. The review highlights opportunities to improve quality management processes in place to ensure there is more continuous assurance of service performance to regulatory quality standards.
4. The review did not explore how any homes are currently operating or measure services therefore this report is not an assessment of or intended to infer assessment of service quality or performance in any of Darlington’s homes.

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that scrutiny note the work completed to review service assurance and the proposed action plan for improvement.

**Christine Shields**

**Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance & Transformation**

Crime and Disorder	No implications arising from this report
Health and Wellbeing	Supports the strategy to improve the health and well-being of children and young people
Carbon Impact / Climate Change	No implications arising from this report
Diversity	No implications arising from this report
Wards Affected	N/A
Groups Affected	Looked after children and care leavers
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	Supports priorities for children and young people
Efficiency	Supports efficient use of resources and service improvement
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Impacts Looked After Children and Care Leavers

## MAIN REPORT

### Context

6. Darlington owns four children's homes, one offering short term care for up to five children with sensory impairment and / or learning / physical disabilities, the others each providing three placements for children with social, emotional, or behavioural difficulties. We are in the process of mobilising a fifth service to offer outreach and in reach support with residential short break and emergency provision.
7. Registration requirements for children's social care in England are provided for in The Care Standards Act 2000; services must comply with a set of regulations to become, and stay, registered. The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 set out nine quality standards, each having a child-focused outcome statement and underpinning, measurable requirements that homes must achieve.
8. Compliance with these standards is monitored by Ofsted as the regulatory authority for Children's Homes in England. They inspect services by The Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) using a four-point judgement scale (outstanding, good, requires improvement to be good and inadequate) based on the overall experiences and progress of children, considering; how well children are helped and protected (limiting judgement); the effectiveness of leaders and managers (graded judgement). The regulations also provide for monitoring and reviewing arrangements, which must, at a minimum include appointing an independent visitor to visit the home at least monthly (The National Youth Advocacy Service or NYAS are contracted to provide this service in Darlington homes); for the Registered Manager to review quality of care in the home at least bi-annually and an annual review the location of the home to make sure it is both suitable and appropriate in the context of protecting children and young people.
9. Ofsted found one of our homes 'inadequate' across all domains last summer, a decline from three years of 'Good' judgements. A few months earlier, two of our other homes were rated 'Requires improvement to be good' for the second year running, having previously been rated 'Good' between 2017 and 2019. (Appendix B)
10. These judgements led us to question whether we confidently understand service standards in our homes, prompting a review of the quality assurance in place. A task and finish group (including representation from operational management, residential homes, commissioning, contracts, practice quality and young people's participation) was established in November 2022 to review:
  - a. How we plan for and ensure services are designed to achieve outcomes and meet the principles for residential care as set out in The Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations and The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations").
  - b. How we apply, manage, and provide assurance on the Quality Standards that homes are required to meet to achieve overarching outcomes set out in the Regulations.
  - c. How we learn from and respond to Inspection findings and recommendations, including sharing lessons learned across services.



11. The review captured current activity, sought feedback from young people living in our homes and facilitated a future focus session to identify barriers to understanding quality and opportunities for improvement.

### **Information and Analysis**

12. The review explored quality management processes currently in place around four components for effective quality assurance; planning, monitoring, assurance, and improvement.

### **Quality Planning**

13. The Children's Homes Regulations and associated quality standards are understood, registered individuals and management are clear about their roles and there are policies, processes and procedures in place designed to meet regulatory requirements.
14. There is an opportunity to improve how we plan for meeting quality standards by developing a service plan connecting service delivery to the quality standards and the evidence of outcomes in the inspection framework. This will clarify expectations, define what needs to be measured and monitored to demonstrate outcomes and articulate how services meet and evidence quality standards, including how we use regulatory monitoring effectively. It will also help us demonstrate good self-awareness, actively promote standards, and give homes the tools to constructively challenge (where appropriate) if this is being questioned or to confidently acknowledge gaps and talk about related actions or decisions.

### **Quality Monitoring**

15. Regulatory quality monitoring is in place together with established compliance and operational management checks capturing a snapshot of services at a given point in time and identifying corrective action required to address any specific issues identified. Monitoring and Inspection reports contain detailed text specific to the areas of focus at the time of the visit or review and are shared in the original format with operational management and key stakeholders. A limited summary of this information is reported through performance clinic and in practice learning reports.
16. The service quality planning improvements noted at 2.1 will enable us to identify what we need to do to effectively measure performance and develop our monitoring processes to improve how we use information intelligently to detect emerging themes, identify issues before they impact service quality or outcomes and prioritise efforts. We will also have better visibility of good practice and grow an environment where quality promotes and informs improvement. With improved monitoring information we can review where this is reported and the most appropriate governance structure for service performance moving forward.
17. The views and involvement of young people living in homes and the impact of services on their progress is one of the main quality principles threading through the quality standards and currently captured through regulatory monitoring and inspection feedback.

18. There is an opportunity to reflect on how participation is achieved and the impact on developing services evidenced although the complexities of making significant progress in this area are acknowledged and thought will need to be given to progressing this without losing the principle through a monitoring process.
19. Contract management of in-house services has been light touch historically, tracking regulatory visits and inspections, including the recommendations and completion of associated actions although primarily as a recording function.
20. There is scope to use commissioning and contract management expertise to support in house services better whilst acknowledging there is a difference in this relationship to that of managing external providers.
21. As a paid for service, it seems there is scope for proactively contract managing the Independent Monitoring Service on some occasions, for example where reports are not clear and / or key contacts are not established over several visits.

### **Quality Assurance**

22. Currently the best indicator of service quality is previous performance via a look back to the findings and judgement of the most recent Ofsted Inspection for an individual home.
23. With improved quality management processes in place there is an opportunity to capture confidence in service performance on a continuous basis and report this through a high-level dashboard report.

### **Quality Improvement**

24. Improvement actions are agreed and taken forward from specific recommendations in monitoring / inspection reports.
25. With better quality and performance information we will be able to drive a systematic approach to learning and improvement, continuously developing practice and improving outcomes.

### **Recommendations**

26. Review and agree the most appropriate governance for quality performance of in-house service provision.
27. Support homes to develop a simple plan to build quality requirements into service delivery, including participation and involvement of young people and identify how outcomes will be met and measured.
28. Support homes to develop a good quality monitoring process (including how regulatory monitoring contributes to this) and tools for meaningful analysis / reporting.
29. Support homes to develop a Quality Assurance Dashboard demonstrating how services are

performing.

30. Support homes to adapt and use quality management processes to help inform, plan and develop services.
31. Support homes as required to take forward wider actions identified in the future focus session. (Appendix D)

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
21 AUGUST 2023**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Members with an update of the Children and Young People Public Health interventions and programs.

**Summary**

2. This report will brief members on the Healthy Lifestyles Survey 2023, Childhood Healthy Weight Plan, and the 0-19 Service.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that members note the contents of the report.

**James Stroyan  
Group Director of People**

**Background papers**

Childhood Healthy Weight Plan 2019-2024

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Councils Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Well Being	This report supports to health and wellbeing of children, young people and families in the borough.
Sustainability	This report supports the Council's sustainability responsibilities
Diversity	This report supports the promotion of diversity
Wards Affected	This report supports performance improvement across all Wards
Groups Affected	This report supports performance improvement which benefits all groups
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes

Efficiency	There are no implications arising from this report.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report impacts on all children across the borough.

## MAIN REPORT

### Healthy Lifestyles Survey

4. The Healthy Lifestyles Survey (HLS) has been delivered for 14 years with a total of up to 8500 pupils across 33 schools completing the survey annually.
5. The survey has evolved greatly, moved into Public Health and now covers:
  - (a) EHWB
  - (b) PSHE
  - (c) Internet Safety and Modern Technology
  - (d) Food and Exercise
  - (e) Puberty, Relationships and Sexual Health
  - (f) Smoking and Vaping
  - (g) Alcohol
  - (h) ASB and Safety
  - (i) Transition and Aspirations
6. Work has been underway with partners to plan and undertake a pilot of the of the Healthy Lifestyle Survey in our FE settings and 6<sup>th</sup> Forms. This is the first time that this survey will have been undertaken by young people in these settings.
7. The combined findings for all primary and secondary schools are collated and produced in a report that the school again share with stakeholders. This report also supports our evidence base and work programme in Public Health
8. There are regular in-depth consultation events undertaken with all stakeholders over the time that the Healthy Lifestyle Survey has been delivered in the borough, to get their views on the Healthy Lifestyle Survey and how it is delivered. There is consultation planned to commence in November 2023.

### Childhood Healthy Weight Plan

9. The scope and vision of the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan is to ensure that more children leave primary school aged 10-11 years with a healthy weight. It sets out a whole system approach recognising the complex relationship between the social, economic and physical environment coupled with individual factors that underpin the development of obesity.
10. In Darlington although childhood obesity in Darlington is statistically similar to the national average at both reception and year 6 age groups, the percentage of children at

year 6 who are categorised as obese in Darlington is 25.1%. with 38.7% of children in year 6 overweight and obese.

11. The overall objectives of the Healthy Weight Plan are to:
  - (a) Transform the environment so that it supports healthy lifestyles by increasing and maintaining use of green space for play and recreation;
  - (b) Transform the environment so that healthier choices are available in the provision of food consumed out of the home;
  - (c) Transform the environment by supporting the public sector to lead by example with healthier options;
  - (d) Make healthier choices easier by providing information and support on active travel
  - (e) Deliver consistent messages to increase awareness around healthy lifestyles and maximise the use of Making Every Contact Count (MECC)
  - (f) Support services needed to tackle excess weight by increasing breastfeeding rates
  
12. Since the launch of the Childhood Healthy Weight Plan there has been progress made against these objectives despite the impact of the COVID pandemic. Some examples of actions and initiatives delivered to support these objectives include:-
  - (a) Refresh of the looked after young people and families nutritional toolkit, the children's home food policy and the nutrition education staff training programme.
  - (b) Environmental Health Officers continue to promote and recruit local food outlets and restaurants to sign up to the Healthy Families Catering Award.
  - (c) There continues to be interest in the Healthy Early Years award with several local nurseries and childminders now signed up.
  - (d) Work has continued in exploiting the town centre, including the events programme to promote public health messages and promote healthy nutrition and physical activity. This has included the sponsoring of Darlington 10K with a focus on Infant Feeding supported by our Health Visiting team.
  - (e) Darlington has achieved the Gold Award from the UNICED Baby Friendly accreditation. This work has included a 'Year of Infant Feeding' programme across the borough.
  - (f) The Summer Outdoor Activity Programme has been recommissioned again this year with 15 green space sites across the borough being used to provide young people with a structured programme of physical activity and demonstrating how our green spaces in the borough can be used for play and recreation.
  
13. The Childhood Healthy Weight Plan is now in its final year and work has commenced to evaluate the learning from this plan and the approach and apply this to developing a

whole systems approach to population all age healthy weight plan for the borough, which aims to develop the conditions for people at every stage of life to aspire to and achieve a healthy weight.

### **0-19 Service**

14. The 0-19 Service provided by Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust continues to perform well, achieve well against the statutory and contract performance targets. The Service continues to receive positive feedback from parents/carers and other users of the service across the full age range, with high levels of satisfaction recorded with their staff being recognised as regularly making a difference to families in Darlington.
15. The Service have continued their innovative work in relation to infant feeding with the popular groups at the Dolphin Centre going from strength to strength. New work includes a parent led WhatsApp peer support group as well as an antenatal walking group for new mothers in South Park.
16. The Service has also introduced new interventions including new ante natal virtual sessions, training for staff and peer supporters and more collaborative working with Family Centres.
17. The Service has successfully achieved accreditation for the UNICEF Gold Baby Friendly award this year. There has been a programme of work and engagement to improve and promote breastfeeding in local communities including celebration events in the town centre, Dolphin Centre and South Park; and engagement with local business and public venues in the town to make them breastfeeding friendly. The Health Visiting team is currently delivering a sustained yearlong campaign to promote and improve infant feeding throughout 2023 and into 2024.
18. Work with schools continues including a new 'drop in' offer to school's post pandemic as well as more close working and liaison with specialist mental health teams in Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Mental Health Trust to ensure young people have faster access to the right services when required.
19. The Service continues to enhance and improve the digital offer which proved to be very successful during the pandemic and lockdown. This now includes a 'Growing Healthy' app, a text service for information and appointment reminders and the continued development of virtual visits where appropriate.

### **Child Health Profile for Darlington**

20. The Child Health Profile are produced annually by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities OHID for every local authority area in England.
21. This profile provides a snapshot of child health in this area. It is designed to help the Authority; health services and other stakeholders improve the health and wellbeing of children and target Public Health interventions that can improve child health at a local level.



22. The same indicators are measured each year and are the same for every local authority. This enables changes or trends in outcomes to be shown as well as allowing Darlington to benchmark our progress and results against other local authorities in England.
23. The profile for Darlington this year when compared to the England averages shows that the health and wellbeing of children in Darlington is mixed with some key indicators such as breastfeeding, smoking in pregnancy and obesity being worse compared to England while others such as vaccination uptake, admission to hospital for common health conditions being better or similar when compared to England.

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
21 AUGUST 2023**

**WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2023/24 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

**Summary**

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the 2023/24 Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee in the last Municipal Year.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure. (**Appendix 2**)

**Recommendations**

4. Members are requested to note the work programme and consider any additional items which they may wish to include.

**Luke Swinhoe  
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author: Paul Dalton

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address

Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
6. The Council Plan sets the vision and strategic direction for the Council, with its overarching focus being 'Delivering success for Darlington'.
7. In approving the Council Plan, Members have agreed to a vision for Darlington which is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.

### Forward Plan and Additional Items

8. Any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims. **Appendix 2**
9. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
<b>Performance Management and Regulation</b>	Q3 19 June 2023 Q4 23 Oct <i>(Deferred to 23 Oct from 21 Aug)</i> Q1 23 Oct Q3 8 Jan 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
<b>Children's Residential Services</b>	21 August 2023	Christine Shields		To update Members on the review of Residential Assurance due to be completed in March 2023  <i>(Item deferred to 21 August 2023 per Officer Request pending further information from OfSted).</i>
<b>Children and Young People Public Health Overview and Childhood Healthy Weight Plan</b>	21 August 2023	Ken Ross	PBH 009 PBH 013c PBH 016 PBH 018 PBH 020 PBH 021 PBH 054	Annual Monitoring
<b>Local Designated Officer Annual Report</b>	23 October 2023	James Stroyan/ Marian Garland		To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
				are reported and how they are actioned.  <i>(Item deferred to 23 October 2023 per Officer Request, with agreement from the Chair).</i>
<b>Review of Performance Indicators used in Performance Management and Regulation</b>	23 October 2023	Chris Bell		To review the Performance Indicators previously agreed for this Scrutiny Committee.
<b>Children's Services Self-Assessment - Overview</b>	23 October 2023	Chris Bell		To provide Scrutiny with the Annual Self-Assessment for Children's Services so that constructive 'critical friend' challenge takes place to drive improvement in public services
<b>Learning and Skills Service Annual Report</b>	23 October 2023	Paul Richardson		Annual Report to demonstrate challenge
<b>Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report 2021/22</b>	23 October 2023	Vicky Davidson-Boyd, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley		Annual monitoring
<b>Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2022/23</b>	23 October 2023	Martin Graham	CSC201	To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit.
<b>Dedicated School Grant and the Safety Valve</b>	23 October 2023	Tony Murphy		To provide Scrutiny with an overview of the Dedicated School Grant and the Safety

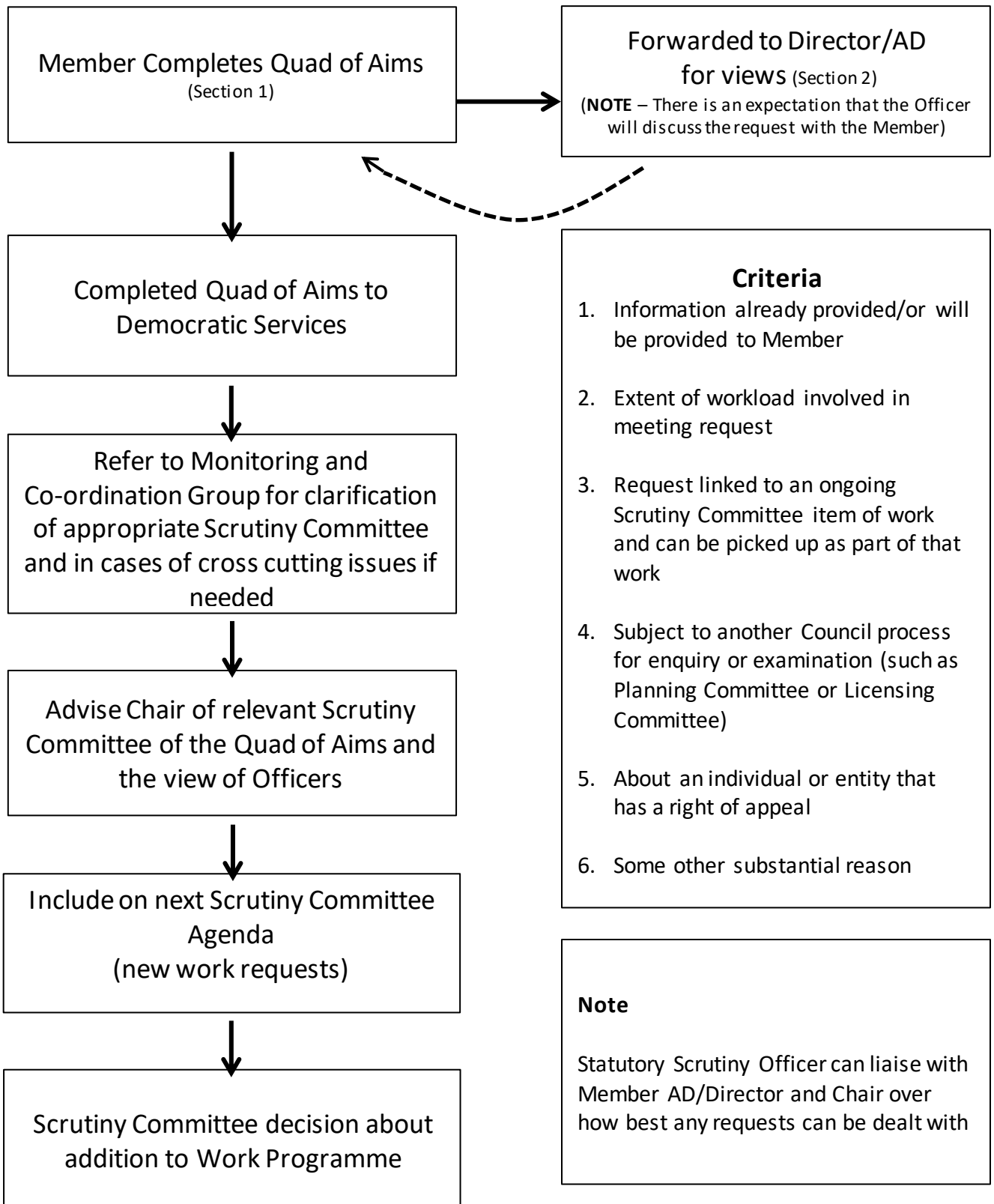
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Link to PMF (metrics)</b>	<b>Scrutiny's Role</b>
				Valve.
<b>Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report</b>	8 January 2024	Ann Baxter, Independent Chair		Annual monitoring
<b>Youth Engagement / Communication Strategy</b>	8 January 2024	Tony Murphy		To undertake a review of the Youth Engagement / Communication Strategy, with an additional focus on SEND.
<b>Transitional Services (SEND) for 16 – 25 year olds</b>	8 January 2024	Tony Murphy		To provide Scrutiny with an opportunity to examine the Transitional Services for 16-25 year olds.
<b>2023/24 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment</b>	19 February 2024	Tony Murphy/Nicola Davies		Annual Report
<b>School Transport and the Associated Services</b>	19 February 2024	Tony Murphy		To provide Scrutiny with the opportunity to examine the School Transport provision, and associated services.
<b>Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education</b>	15 April 2024	Tony Murphy		To provide Scrutiny with the opportunity to examine the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education within schools.
<b>Refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan</b>	June 2024	Christine Shields		To update Members on the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan

**JOINT WORKING**

<b>Cross Party Autism Working Group</b>	Final Report of the Autism Provision Review Group to Health and Housing Scrutiny on 14 April 2021.  Recommendation to establish a Joint Working Group - ongoing	Christine Shields	To progress the key themes of training and awareness, support, diagnosis and employment, as identified by the Joint Autism Review Group.
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### PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



## QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

### SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

**NOTE** – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Signed Councillor .....

Date .....

**SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS**  
**(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)**

	<b>Criteria</b>
1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes ..... No ..... If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services) .....	1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member
(b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so? .....	2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request
2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff? .....	3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that? .....	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway? .....	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal? .....	6. Some other substantial reason
6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme ? .....	

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**Signed** ..... **Position** ..... **Date** .....

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

**APPENDIX 3**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE PERIOD: 2 AUGUST 2023 - 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Dolphin Centre Pool Repairs	Cabinet 11 Aug 2023
Annual Audit Letter 2020/21	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Asset Management Plan	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Climate Change	Council 28 Sep 2023  Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Disabled Facilities Grant 2023/24	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Dolphin Centre Repairs	Council 28 Sep 2023  Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Land at Neasham Road - Cell A	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter One 2023/24	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter One	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Schedule of Transactions	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
School Term Dates 2025/26	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Skerningham Garden Village Design Code Supplementary Planning Document	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2022/23	Council 28 Sep 2023  Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 - Fixed Penalty Notices	Cabinet 10 Oct 2023
Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 10 Oct 2023
Special Free School at West Park, Darlington	Cabinet 10 Oct 2023
Council Tax Changes to Empty Property Premiums from 2024	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023
Council Tax Support - Scheme Approval 2024/25	Council 30 Nov 2023  Cabinet 7 Nov 2023
Housing Services Climate Change Strategy	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter Two 2023/24	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter Two	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023
Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management 2023/24	Council 25 Jan 2024
	Cabinet 5 Dec 2023
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 5 Mar 2024