



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am, Monday, 24 June 2024

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/ Attendance at Meeting
2. Appointment of Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/2025
3. Appointment of Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/2025
4. To consider the times of meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/2025 on the dates agreed in the Calendar of Meetings by Cabinet at Minute C106/Feb/24
5. Declarations of Interest
6. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 15 April 2024 (Pages 3 - 6)
7. Work Programme 2024-2025 – Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Pages 7 - 16)
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

Thursday, 13 June 2024

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Ali, Allen, Crudass, Dulston, Garner, Johnson, Layton, Renton, Storr and Toms.

Statutory Co-optees

Carly Stonier.

Non Statutory Co-optees

Maura Regan, 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, Democratic and 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 or telephone 01325 405805

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 15 April 2024

PRESENT – Councillors Allen (Chair), Crudass, Durham, Kane, Layton and Toms.

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTÉES – John Armitage.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Ali, Johnson, Renton and Storr, and Sally Hudson.

ABSENT – Carly Stonier, Maura Regan 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), Ken Ross (Public Health Principal), Lynne Davies (Strategy and Policy Manager) and Paul Dalton (Democratic and Elections Officer).

CYP44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

CYP45 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2024

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 February 2024.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 February 2024, be approved as a correct record.

CYP46 COUNCIL PLAN 2024-27 - DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

The Chief Officers Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to introduce the draft Council Plan to Members of this Scrutiny Committee and sought comments from Members.

The submitted report stated that the Council Plan outlined the long-term ambitions for Darlington and the priorities the Council sought to deliver over the forthcoming three years (2024-2027). It was highlighted that the Plan gave strategic direction to the Council, defined priorities and shaped delivery, whilst providing clarity to residents, businesses and stakeholders on the Council's values, what the Council identified as important and what the Council would do.

It was reported that the public consultation on the draft Plan was open and ran from 6 March 2024 to 25 April 2024, and that the Council was seeking views from residents, businesses, charities and key stakeholders. The submitted report stated that it was intended that the finalised Plan would be submitted to Cabinet and Council in May for approval and adoption. In introducing the report, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People outlined the key aims for the 'Children and Young People' priority within the Plan.

Discussion ensued on the scope of the consultation and the stakeholders whom the Council had engaged with; the proposed expansion of in-house placements; the performance measures by which the success of the Plan would be assessed; and the sense that the eight key aims focused on the correct areas.

RESOLVED – That the draft Council Plan 2024-27 be noted.

CYP47 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 3 2023/24

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an update on performance against key performance indicators.

The submitted report provided Quarter 3 (October 2023 to December 2023) performance information in line with an indicator set agreed by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group and subsequently by Scrutiny Committee Chairs.

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 entered into discussion on the reasons for the increase in Children in Care placements within the previous twelve months; the relationship between foster parents and children, and the need for more foster parents; the increase in workload for the Building Stronger Families Team, and the support provided by the Early Help Team; the staffing challenges in terms of the completion of Children's and Families Assessments, and the agency offer available to support this challenge; the increase in the need for early support and the specific areas where need was greatest; and the continual monitoring of assessments, casework and supervisions.

RESOLVED – That the performance information provided within the submitted report be noted.

CYP48 RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion, submitted a report (previously circulated) which summarised the current and future guidance from the Department for Education on relationships and sex education.

The submitted report provided an overview of the statutory guidance which related to relationships and sex education that schools were obliged to implement, and also covered the recently issued draft non-statutory guidance that related to gender questioning children.

Members entered into discussion on the work being done to establish what is being delivered in schools, however it was highlighted that subject delivery was a matter for schools themselves, who were required to follow the National Curriculum and national guidance which is inspected by OFSTED and not a matter for the local authority. It was clarified that, should anyone have questions relating to the delivery of the National Curriculum, these should be addressed to the academy or school in the first instance.

Discussion ensued on the national consultation on the recently issued draft non-statutory guidance that related to gender questioning children published by the Government, and the response submitted by the Association of Directors of Children's Services. Questions were raised in relation to the content of the Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) training offer provided to schools by the Council, however it was outlined that this was an offer, and not mandatory.

Particular focus was made to transgender policies within schools, and whether the Council had a role in developing such policies, and it was clarified that it was a matter for schools to develop their own policies, with a recognition that many policies may appear very similar in content. Concerns were expressed with regard to the NHS signposting children and young people to Kooth in relation to gender identity. Members were informed that this would be a matter for the NHS, however Officers were not aware of any concerns.

RESOLVED – That the arrangements currently in place, and the proposed changes to non-statutory guidance, be noted.

CYP49 WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

The Assistant Director, Law and Governance, 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.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 JUNE 2024

WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

- 1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 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 2024/25 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 Ext. 4805

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.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

6. Once the Work Programme has been agreed at this meeting, any Member seeking to add a new item to the Work Programme will need to complete a Quad of Aims (**Appendix 2**).
7. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

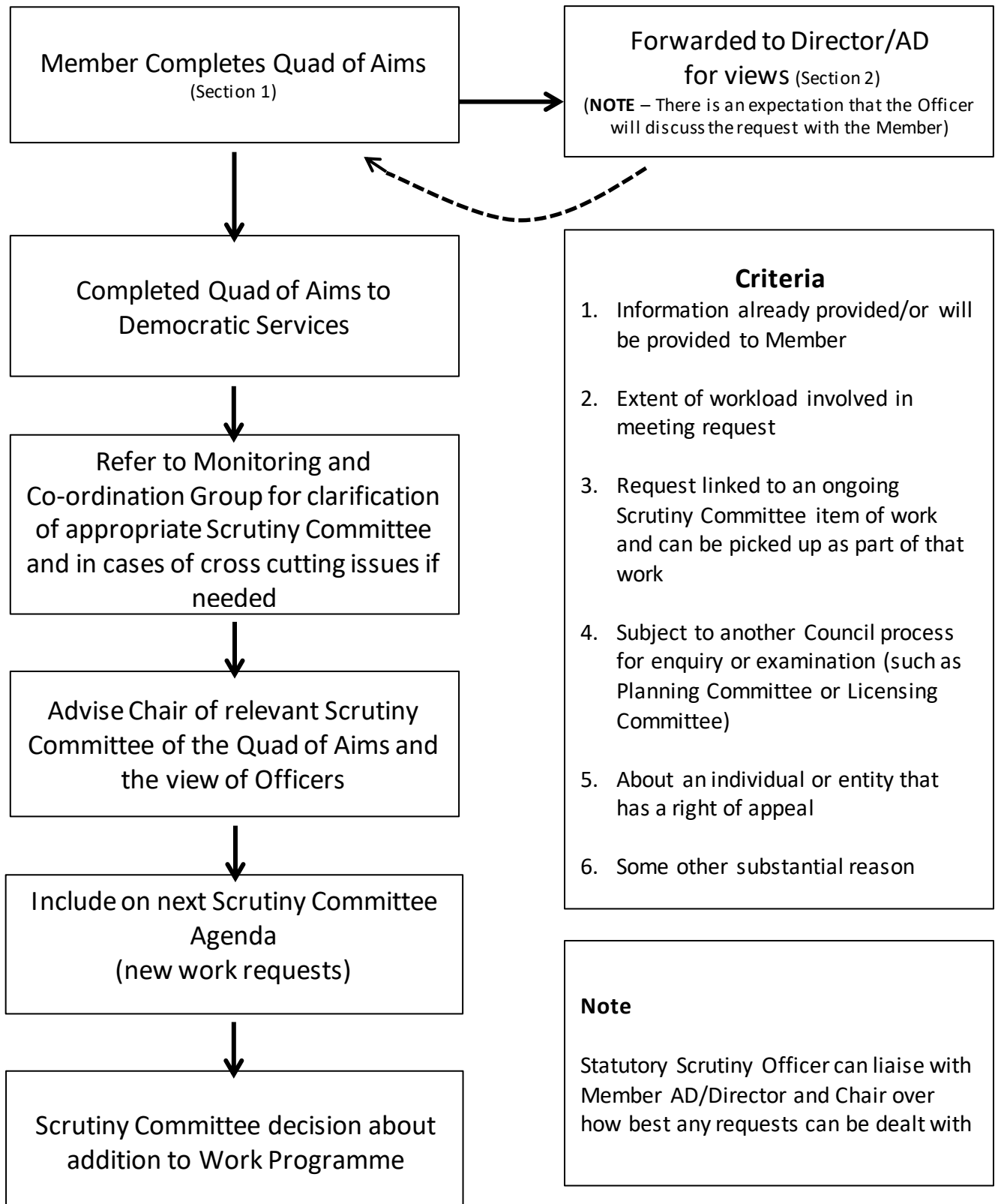
APPENDIX 1

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Indicators Year End 2023/24	2 nd September 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive an Annual monitoring report and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Performance Indicators Quarter 1 2024/25	2 nd September 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Local Designated Officer Annual Report	2 nd September 2024	James Stroyan/ Marian Garland		To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children are reported and how they are actioned
Children and Young People Public Health Overview and Childhood Healthy Weight Plan	2 nd September 2024	Ken Ross	PBH 009 PBH 013c PBH 016 PBH 018 PBH 020 PBH 021 PBH 054	Annual Monitoring
Refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan	28 th October 2024	Christine Shields		To update Members on the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan
Children's Services Self-Assessment - Overview	28 th October 2024	Chris Bell		To provide Scrutiny with the Annual Self-Assessment for Children's Services so that constructive 'critical friend' challenge takes

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
				place to drive improvement in public services
Learning and Skills Service Annual Report	28 th October 2024	Paul Richardson		Annual Report to demonstrate challenge
Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report 2023/24	28 th October 2024	Vicky Davidson-Boyd, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley		Annual monitoring
Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2023/24	28 th October 2024	Martin Graham	CSC201	To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit.
Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2024/25	28 th October 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	3 rd March 2025	Ann Baxter, Independent Chair		Annual monitoring
Performance Indicators Quarter 3 2024/25	3 rd March 2025	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary

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)

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		Criteria
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) (b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so?	1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member 2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request 3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
2.	If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff?	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
3.	Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that?	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
4.	Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway?	6. Some other substantial reason
5.	Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal?	
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: 5 JUNE 2024 - 30 OCTOBER 2024**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Darlington Long Term Plan for Town Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Release of Education Capital Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Representation on Other Bodies 2024/25	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Schedule of Transactions - June 2024	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Wilkinsons Building Acquisition and Procurement of Development Partner	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2023-24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan	Council 25 Jul 2024
	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan Performance Report - Quarter Four	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Disabled Facilities Grant 2024/25	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Domestic Abuse Policy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Gas and Electrical Safety Policies 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Land at Faverdale / Burtree Garden Village 'Cell CH' Feasibility Work	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Public Consultation on Draft Appraisal for the Northgate Conservation Area including Proposed Boundary Extensions	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Climate Change	Council 26 Sep 2024
	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2023/24	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Proposed Middleton St George Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2023/2024	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Waste Collection Arrangements	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Air Quality Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet