

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role / Notes
Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report	20/10/2025	Louise Addison, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley		Annual Monitoring
Performance Monitoring Q1	20/10/2025	Chris Bell		To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
Children's Services Self-Assessment	20/10/2025	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
Learning and Skills Service Annual Report	20/10/2025	Paul Richardson		Annual Monitoring
Children and young Peoples Plan	05/01/2026	Christine Shields		To update Members on the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan
Local Designated Officer Annual Report (LADO)	05/01/2026	Martin Graham		To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children are reported and how they are actioned
Idependent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2024/25	05/01/2026	Martin Graham		To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit.
Exclusion and Suspension Update	05/01/2026	Tony Murphy		
School Avoidance Update	05/01/2026	Tony Murphy		Long term school absence

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Transitional Services	05/01/2026	Joss Harbron / Chris Bell		
Medium Term Financial Plan	05/01/2026	Brett Nielsen		
Transport Policy	02/03/2026	Tony Murphy		To update members on the Council's transport policy
Annual Fostering Report	02/03/2026			Annual Monitoring
Performance Monitoring Q2	02/03/2026	Chris Bell		To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	02/03/2026	TBD / Amanda Hugill		Annual Monitoring
Childcare Sufficiency Review	02/03/2026	Tony Murphy		Annual Monitoring
Update on Social Care Options for families affected by youth offending	02/03/2026	Chris Bell		Member request for an update on care available for families who are affected by youth offending (victims / perpetrators)
Children and Young People Public Health Overview	20/04/2026	Joanne Hennessey		Annual Monitoring
SEND Strategy Update	20/04/2026	Tony Murphy		To update members on the Council's SEND strategy
Performance Monitoring Q3	20/04/2026	Chris Bell		To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
Support for Darlington Youth Partnership	20/04/2026	Heather Insull (Youth Focus NE)		
Update on availability and condition of children's play areas in Darlington	TBD			Member request to provide the Committee with an update on the condition, locations and numbers of play areas in the town
Child Poverty	TBD	Lynne Davies		To update the committee on the results of the ongoing deep-dive on Child Poverty