

Notice of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024 at 6.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr S Carr-Brown

Vice Chairman:

Cllr S Bull

Cllr P Broadhead
Cllr O Brown
Cllr P Cooper

Cllr B Dove
Cllr E Harman
Cllr B Hitchcock

Cllr S Mackrow
Cllr D Martin
Cllr O Walters

Parent Governor Co-opted Representatives

P Martin and S Welch

Diocesan Co-Opted Representatives

M Saxby

Youth Parliament Representatives

R Cornish and E Prentice

All Members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Mid=6238>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Democratic Services on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office by email at press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk or tel: 01202 118686

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

11 September 2024

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. **Substitute Members**

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. **Declarations of Interests**

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. **Minutes**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 24 July 2024.

7 - 16

a) **Action Sheet**

To consider any outstanding actions.

5. **Public Issues**

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/s2305/Public%20Items%20-%20Meeting%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

6. **Members of Youth Parliament Update**

To receive a verbal update from Members of the Youth Parliament.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

7. **Children's Social Care Improvement Journey - Update September 2024** 17 - 34

BCP Children's Services was inspected, under the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACs) framework in December 2021. The outcome was an overall inadequate judgement.

As a result, the Secretary of State for Education issued a Statutory Direction and appointed a DfE Improvement Adviser to support the Council in their improvement of Children's Social Care Services.

The Children's Social Care and Early Help Services Improvement Plan is in place to ensure progress is made at pace in Children's Social Care in line with the recommendations of the December 2021 Inspection and in accordance with the statutory direction notice received by the Council in March 2022.

Overview and Scrutiny require regular updates on the improvement progress.

The report details improvement in Children's Social Care and Early Help services over 2023/24 with an additional supporting presentation covering the most current priorities and impact up to August 2024.

8. **Children's Services Budget Update** 35 - 48

Overview and Scrutiny have requested a Children's Services Budget update, it is in the form of a presentation as attached in Appendix 1 and will be presented at the meeting

9. **O&S Budget working group - scoping report** 49 - 58

The O&S Board/ Committee is asked to confirm the establishment of a budget working group, including membership and key lines of enquiry, to undertake detailed scrutiny work to contribute to the developing 2025/26 council budget during September – November 2024.

Items for Information

The following items are for information only with no presentation or discussion planned:

- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report
- Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership 2023-2024 Annual Report

10. **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report** 59 - 148

This is the annual report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer on Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) activity within BCP Council. There is a requirement to report on the work of O&S to Council, to ensure good visibility of the function and Council ownership of activity and any improvements required.

The annual report contains a summary and analysis of O&S activity during 2023-24, reflections on working practices and an action plan identifying

strategic improvements to the O&S function.

All O&S committees will receive the annual report for consideration, providing opportunity for comment prior to the supply of the final report to Council.

11. Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/2024

149 - 268

Statutory guidance Working Together (2023) requires safeguarding partners to jointly report on partnership safeguarding activity they have undertaken in a 12-month period. The report should focus on multi-agency priorities, learning, impact, evidence and improvement and must be published by the end of September of each year.

The Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) is responsible for delivering the Lead Safeguarding Partners multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people.

Lead Safeguarding Partners must ensure there are arrangements for effective independent scrutiny in place for their local area.

PDSCP's quality assurance and scrutiny framework include presentation of its annual report to the BCP/Dorset scrutiny committees and cabinets as part of its independent scrutiny arrangement.

12. Portfolio Holder Update

To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People.

13. Work Plan

269 - 302

The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.