

## BCP Council Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Plan. Updated 01.10.25

### Guidance notes:

- 2/3 items per committee meeting is the recommended maximum for effective scrutiny.
- The Children's Services O&S Committee will approach work through a lens of **TBC**
- Items requiring further scoping are identified and should be scoped using the Key Lines of Enquiry tool.

|                                | Subject and background                                       | How will the scrutiny be done? | Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder | Report Information                                           |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting Date: 25 November 2025 |                                                              |                                |                               |                                                              |
| 1.                             | Verbal update from John Coughlan on SEND improvement Journey | Verbal Report                  |                               |                                                              |
| 2.                             | BUDGET SCRUTINY – Inclusion/ SEND Benchmarking               | Committee Report               | Lisa Linscott<br>Nicola Webb  | Was agreed to come as Committee report in March 2025 meeting |
| 3.                             | Permanent Exclusions & Suspensions                           | Committee Report               | Tanya Smith                   |                                                              |
| 4.                             | Home to School Transport                                     | Committee Report               |                               | Going to 26 November Cabinet                                 |
|                                | SEND Sufficiency Strategy                                    | Information only               |                               | Going to 26 November Cabinet                                 |
|                                | Q1 Corporate KPI's                                           | Information only               |                               | Circulated via email to Committee members                    |

Key:  Pre-Decision Scrutiny  Pro-active Scrutiny

|                                  |                                                                                                                              |                  |                          |                                                             |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                  |                                                                                                                              |                  |                          | ahead of 1 October 2025 Cabinet                             |
|                                  | <b>O&amp;S Annual Report</b>                                                                                                 | Information only | Lindsay Marshall         |                                                             |
|                                  | <b>CS O&amp;S Data Toolkit</b>                                                                                               | Information only |                          |                                                             |
| Meeting Date: 27 January 2026    |                                                                                                                              |                  |                          |                                                             |
| <b>1.</b>                        | <b>Youth Service Motion</b>                                                                                                  | Committee Report |                          |                                                             |
| <b>2.</b>                        | <b>Housing for Care Experienced Young People Update</b>                                                                      | Committee Report | Kelly Dean<br>Ben Tomlin | Was agreed to come as Committee report in June 2025 meeting |
| <b>3.</b>                        | <b>BUDGET SCRUTINY HOLD</b>                                                                                                  | Committee Report | TBC                      |                                                             |
|                                  | <b>Family Hubs Working Group – Potential update</b>                                                                          |                  | TBC                      |                                                             |
| Meeting Date: 9 March 2026       |                                                                                                                              |                  |                          |                                                             |
| <b>1.</b>                        | Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny<br><a href="#">consult Cabinet Forward Plan</a> |                  |                          |                                                             |
| <b>2.</b>                        | <b>BUDGET SCRUTINY HOLD</b>                                                                                                  | Committee Report |                          |                                                             |
| <b>3.</b>                        | Item to be selected from Pro-Active Scrutiny topic list                                                                      |                  |                          |                                                             |
| Items with Dates to be allocated |                                                                                                                              |                  |                          |                                                             |

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|                | <b>Annual report from Corporate Parenting Board to include information on Children in Care</b><br>To include details of any protected characteristics detailed within the Equalities Act | Committee Report                                               |                                      | Enable the Committee to maintain oversight of this issue and target scrutiny as required.                                                              |
|                | <b>Children's Services Data Toolkit</b>                                                                                                                                                  | TBC                                                            | November                             | To enable the Committee to have a toolkit to consider data relating to CS                                                                              |
|                | <b>Strengthening Families, Supporting Communities Update (New Service Delivery Model)</b>                                                                                                | TBC                                                            | TBC                                  | Was suggested by Officers but was not chosen as a priority by the Committee                                                                            |
|                | <b>Post 16 Provision</b>                                                                                                                                                                 | TBC                                                            | TBC                                  | Was suggested by Officers but was not chosen as a priority by the Committee                                                                            |
|                | <b>CS Budget Updates</b>                                                                                                                                                                 | TBC                                                            | Potential focus for budget work 2026 | Was suggested by Officers but was not chosen as a priority by the Committee                                                                            |
| Working Groups |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                |                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |
|                | <b>Family Hubs across BCP</b>                                                                                                                                                            | Proposed outline of working group included in scrutiny request | TBC                                  | Requires full scoping<br><a href="#">Appendix E - Request for consideration of an issue by OS Family Hubs - Cllr Brown 003.pdf (bcpcouncil.gov.uk)</a> |

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|                                        | <b>Transition of mental health services from children to adults</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |     |     | <a href="#">CS O&amp;S CAMHS.docx</a><br>Was chosen by the Committee as their top priority after conclusion of Family Hubs working group |
|                                        | <b>The increased use of and funding for TAs in schools to support SEND and increase inclusion</b>                                                                                                                                         |     |     | <a href="#">Scrutiny request form TAs.docx</a><br>Was chosen as second priority                                                          |
|                                        | <b>Child Exploitation inc knife crime –</b><br>To consider and track Cabinet's response to the recommendations and how they could potentially be furthered by the Committee and whether this topic should be revisited by a working group |     |     | Discussed at the meeting of 24 July 2024.<br>Was chosen as third priority                                                                |
|                                        | <b>Parent / Carer Forums and wider family engagement channels used by BCP Children's Services and health colleagues</b>                                                                                                                   |     |     | <a href="#">Scrutiny request form</a><br>Was chosen as fourth priority                                                                   |
|                                        | <b>Review of the quality of food served to children at our schools</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |     |     | <a href="#">Scrutiny request form School meals.docx</a><br>Was chosen as fifth priority                                                  |
| Item Suggestions for Briefing Sessions |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |     |     |                                                                                                                                          |
|                                        | <b>POTENTIAL BRIEFING SESSIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                        | TBC | TBC | TBC                                                                                                                                      |

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| <b>Update Items</b><br><p>The following items of information have been requested as updates to the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee may wish to receive these in an alternative to format to Committee updates (e.g. by emailed briefing note outside of the Committee) to reserve capacity in Committee meetings for items of value-added scrutiny.</p> |                                                                                                       |                  |                                                                                                         |                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b><br><br>To receive KPIs to include updates on CMOEs and NEETs | Committee Report | Head of Performance for Children and Young People<br><br>Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People | Consideration being given to include in data tool kit              |
| <b>Annual Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                       |                  |                                                                                                         |                                                                    |
| •                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Virtual School Head Annual Report</b>                                                              | Committee Report | Headteacher of Virtual School and College<br><br>Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People         | To be received annually in January as an annual update.            |
| •                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>School Admissions Arrangements for community and maintained schools</b>                            | Committee Report | Director of Education                                                                                   | To be received annually in September/November as an annual update. |
| •                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Youth Offending Service Annual Youth Justice Plan</b>                                              | Committee Report | Service Manager, Dorset YJS                                                                             | To be received annually in June as an annual update.               |
| •                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Annual Report from CPB to include info on CIC</b>                                                  | Committee Report | TBC                                                                                                     | TBC                                                                |
| •                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Annual Report – Complaints and Compliments</b>                                                     | Committee Report |                                                                                                         | To note the information only report – in March                     |

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