

## BCP Council Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Plan. Updated 9.1.26

### 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: 27 January 2026				
1.	<b>Housing for Care Experienced Young People Update</b>	Committee Report	Head of Strategic Housing & Partnerships	Was agreed to come as Committee report in June 2025 meeting
2.	<b>Budget Scrutiny - High Needs Block, Invest to Save</b>	Committee Report	Director for Education and Skills	
3.	<b>Family Hubs Working Group – Update Report</b>		Overview and Scrutiny Specialist	
	<b>School Admissions Arrangements 2027/28</b>	Information only		Annual Report
	<b>Children's Services Capital Strategy Report 2026-2028</b>			
Meeting Date: 9 March 2026				
1.	<b>Families First Programme 'NEW'</b>	Presentation		
2.	<b>Children in Care – Budget Report 'NEW'</b>	Committee Report		

Key:  Pre-Decision Scrutiny  Pro-active Scrutiny

3.	<b>Local Area Partnership SEND inspection report 'NEW'</b>	Committee Report		
4.	<b>Verbal update from John Coughlan on SEND improvement Journey</b>	Verbal Report		
5.	<b>Youth Service Motion Report</b>	Committee Report		Moved from January 2026 meeting
6.	<b>Deficient Recovery report – HOLD 'NEW'</b>	Committee Report		

Items with Dates to be allocated

	<b>Annual report from Corporate Parenting Board to include information on Children in Care</b>  To include details of any protected characteristics detailed within the Equalities Act	Committee Report	TBC – DS look into this	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

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	<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
<b>Working Groups</b>				
	<b>Family Hubs across BCP</b>	Proposed outline of working group included in scrutiny request	TBC	Requires full scoping <a href="#"><u>Appendix E - Request for consideration of an issue by OS Family Hubs - Cllr Brown 003.pdf</u></a> (bcp council.gov.uk)
	<b>Transition of mental health services from children to adults</b>			<a href="#"><u>CS O&amp;S CAMHS.docx</u></a> 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="#"><u>Scrutiny request form TAs.docx</u></a> Was chosen as second priority
	<b>Child Exploitation inc knife crime –</b> 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. Was chosen as third priority
	<b>Parent / Carer Forums and wider family engagement channels used</b>			<a href="#"><u>Scrutiny request form</u></a>

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	<b>by BCP Children's Services and health colleagues</b>			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> Was chosen as fifth priority

#### Item Suggestions for Briefing Sessions

	<b>POTENTIAL BRIEFING SESSIONS</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC
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#### Update Items

The following items of information have been requested as updates to the Committee.

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.

	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b> To receive KPIs to include updates on CMOEs and NEETs	Committee Report	Head of Performance for Children and Young People Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People	Consideration being given to include in data tool kit
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#### Annual Report

•	<b>Virtual School Head Annual Report</b>	Committee Report	Headteacher of Virtual School and College 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