

BCP Council Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Plan. **Updated post work planning**

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 **Nurturing Children, Young People and Families**.
- 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/ updates
14 September 2026				
1	SEND Reform Plan – Pre-Cabinet Decision Scrutiny	Committee Report		
2	SEND and AP Strategy	Committee Report		
3	Shorts breaks	Committee report – early discussion item format.		This report outlines proposed changes to the commissioning and delivery of services to improve consistency across the BCP area. Scrutiny views are being sought at an early stage to help shape the proposals, which aim to address service performance concerns, financial pressures and improve understanding of service demand. Scrutiny required early but depends on commissioning diagnostics progress.
<u>27 October 2026 Informal Briefing – Children's Mental Health Transformation (Item 22)</u>				
24 November 2026				

Key:  Pre-Decision Scrutiny  Pro-active Scrutiny

	Subject and background	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report information/ updates
4	Inclusive Place Sufficiency Strategy - SEND Reform Plan implementation 1 'NEW'	Committee Report		To support the implementation of SEND reform plans by undertaking deep dive scrutiny into a selected topic area. Slot 1 of 3 (Item 15)
5	School Exclusions	Committee Report		Overview of the relationship between SEND and school exclusions, particularly for children with EHCPs. The report will consider how BCP supports schools to reduce exclusions and improve inclusion, with the scope and direction of future scrutiny activity to be informed by progress on SEND and Alternative Provision improvement work.
6	CS Budget – HOLD	Committee Report		Strategic overview of the service, including key areas of expenditure and financial pressures. Review of progress against existing Invest to Save initiatives, alongside consideration of new opportunities, forecast growth pressures, workforce recruitment and retention challenges, and proposed mitigation measures.
7	SEND and AP Improvement Plan & monitoring review outcomes	Committee Report		Schedule 6 monthly next one April 2027 onwards. Delayed due to monitoring visit being pushed back. Possible info only item if required
	School Attainment	Information only report		Receive when report is available. Either November 2026 or January 2027.
	BCP Safeguarding Annual Report	Information only report		Moved from September

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro-active Scrutiny

	Subject and background	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report information/ updates
<u>1 December 2026 Informal Briefing – Topic TBC</u>				
26 January 2027				
8	SEND and SEND Reform Plan Finance update 'NEW'	Committee Report		Implementation topic 2 To support the implementation of SEND reform plans by undertaking deep dive scrutiny into a selected topic area. Slot 2 of 3 (Item 15) SEND Reform Plan Finance report
9	Best Start – Early Years Update	Committee Report		Was agreed to come as Committee report in January 2026 meeting. Officer later advised June info only report and potential for a November committee report.
10	Children in Care Strategy Development	Committee Report		Follow-up to the March KLOE report, providing an overview of pressures within Children's Social Care, including increasing numbers of children in care, rising placement costs and associated budget pressures. The report will also outline planned next steps and emerging proposals. Moved from November due to delay.
11	Recommendation tracking – Hold			
	Housing for Care Experienced Young People	Information only report		
<u>2 February 2027 Informal Briefing – Topic TBC</u>				
9 March 2027				

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	Subject and background	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report information/ updates
12	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny consult Cabinet Forward Plan			
13	SEND Reforms Plan Implementation topic 3	Committee Report		To support the implementation of SEND reform plans by undertaking deep dive scrutiny into a selected topic area. Slot 3 of 3 (Item 15) (Schedule Topic 3 for June 2027) possible experts at hand
14	Neurodiversity – Future Model of Care	Committee Report		Overview of the future Neurodiversity Model of Care, including its development and implementation across health partners and the ICB. The report will consider the model's impact on children and young people and provide scrutiny of changes within the wider health system.
15 June 2027				
	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny consult Cabinet Forward Plan			
	Item to be selected from Pro-Active Scrutiny topic list			
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Priority Items for scrutiny agreed at workshop				

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15	SEND Reforms Plan	Committee Report (3 x sessions likely required, plus a pre-decision slot. Briefing date in June also planned, date tbc) All dates scheduled, pending confirmation		Identified as top priority for the committee. To enable the Committee to maintain oversight of this issue and target scrutiny as required. Timing depends on maturity matrix outcomes, DfE timelines, and officer readiness. Likely required resource: • June briefing • Sep or Nov cttee slot for pre-decision scrutiny following DfE feedback and prior to a Cabinet decision. • 3x slots to focus on implementation deep dives Above dates and focus to be scoped further in June briefing to identify how O&S can add value.
16	SEND improvement and monitoring review outcomes	Every 6 months Date scheduled.	TBC	Monitoring feedback – for scrutiny to monitor outcomes from inspections. Rachel advised monitoring scheduled for July, so committee slot in Sep.
17	CAMHS & Children's Mental Health Transformation	Briefing. Date scheduled, pending confirmation.	Health Partners	Workshop agreements: A priority, but date not set. Awaiting timings from Health partners. Aim to hear this early and prior to progression of the Wellbeing working group. Format/focus – committee report from health partners. The focus of this scrutiny would be assurance/ update on implementation. Create a brief KLOE with possible q's - are waiting times going down following transformation? What is the

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				progress against implementation? Success/ challenges of the transformation? Following workshop, Rachel suggested as this is info giving it would be better as a briefing, October slot held for this, pending confirmation.
18	Neurodiversity – Future Model of Care	Committee Report Date scheduled, pending confirmation.	Health Partners	
19	Short Breaks	Committee Report Date scheduled.	TBC	Early Discussion Item format.
20	SEND Sufficiency Strategy – Progress Update	Pre- Decision Report Date to be confirmed	TBC	Previously agreed as an info only item at workshop, officers since advised this is a pre-decision item.
Reserve Items for scrutiny (Meeting dates and/or methods to be determined)				
21	Youth Strategy – follow on work	No date scheduled. Move other items if capacity is needed for this.	TBC	Included as reserve item in case committee want follow on work after the June 2026 report.
22	Post 16 Provision	Briefing session No date scheduled	TBC	Briefing is needed first before so the Committee can review if further scrutiny could add value.

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				Assess against other briefing topics to decide if this is a priority.
23	Increased use of TAs in schools to support SEND/inclusion	No date scheduled.		Likely to be covered by other SEND/AP work. Retain on list to revisit as standalone topic if needed.
Working Groups/ Rapporteurs/ Briefings/ Info only reports				
24	Children's Wellbeing	Working Group. No date scheduled		Agreed priority for working group. Agreed scope needs to be refined and timetabled by Chairs/Vice-Chairs Group. Links to CAMHS, exclusions, transitions, multi-agency working. Links to CAMHS item requested from Health partners – aim to schedule this report first prior to progressing working group.
25	Corporate Parenting Board link	Updates via Portfolio Holder reports to committee	TBC	As Chair of Corporate Parenting Board, committee could ask for regular updates on key themes explored by the Board to maintain a link. No formal reporting required – can be incorporated into PH updates.
26	Family Hubs	Rapporteur (to be confirmed)		Previous family hubs work recommended a rapporteur be established to maintain links. For info, Jan 2026 resolution: 'The Committee agreed to establish regular, informal dialogue between the Committee and Family Hub teams to maintain transparency and shared understanding. This to be undertaken annually by named rapporteurs and

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				included on the Committee's work programme. Agreed rapporteurs to maintain links to Family Hubs through independent visits and highlight any significant progress or red flags to the Committee as they arise, to assist Members in identifying where further scrutiny may be valuable.'
27	Care Leavers' Outcomes & Support Services	Briefing / Information-only No date scheduled		To assure scrutiny that Ofsted improvement recommendations have been addressed. Short briefing could be combined with another topic.
28	Response to Child Exploitation, including knife crime following previous O&S working group.	Briefing No date scheduled		Officers advised low impact topic for scrutiny but possibility of an inspection on this so purpose would be to make cttee aware. Briefing on knife crime element will fulfil committee's recommendation tracking role related to the previous working group on this topic.
Notes: Briefings – more than the slots available, plus a need to keep open for arising issues. Ask committee to agree plotting topics ad hoc. Reactive scrutiny / recommendation tracking slots - no capacity for these. If items arise through the year reconsider and move items already plotted.				

Items Removed from the Work Plan

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The Committee agreed that the following topics should not progress to scrutiny, as scrutiny would add limited value or the issue is already addressed by other topics or in other committees:

- **Transition of Mental Health Services from Children to Adults (covered by working group on Children's Wellbeing)**
- **Parent / Carer Forums and wider family engagement channels (parent carer rep now included in committee membership)**
- **Review of the quality of food served in schools (limited ability to add value)**
- **Speech and Language Therapy update (Ofsted inspection outcome indicates no scrutiny required at current time)**
- **Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report (Corporate Parenting Board duplication)**
- **Aspire Adoption Annual Report (Corporate Parenting Board duplication)**
- **Virtual School Head Annual Report (Corporate Parenting Board duplication)**
- **Early Years and Mainstream Funding Formula (Schools Forum/ Cabinet duplication)**