



Leicester  
City Council

## **MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

**DATE: TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 2024**

**TIME: 5:30 pm**

**PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles  
Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

### **Members of the Commission**

Councillor Batool (Chair)

Councillor Cole (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Barnes, Haq, Joshi, Dr Moore, Pantling and Pickering

Co-opted Members (Voting)

### **Standing Invitees (Non-Voting)**

Youth Representatives

Jennifer Day

Janet McKenna

Teaching Unions representative

UNISON Branch Secretary

Members of the Commission are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

For the Monitoring Officer

### **Officer contacts:**

**Ed Brown (Senior Governance Officer)**

**Katie Jordan (Governance Support Officer),**

Tel: 0116 454 6350, e-mail: [committees@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:committees@leicester.gov.uk)

Leicester City Council, City Hall, 3rd Floor Granby Wing, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

## Information for members of the public

### Attending meetings and access to information

You have the right to attend formal meetings such as Full Council, committee meetings, and Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes.

However, on occasion, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

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If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc..

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

### Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact:

**Katie Jordan, Democratic Support Officer on 0116 454 6350.**

Alternatively, email [committees@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:committees@leicester.gov.uk), or call in at City Hall.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151.**



## USEFUL ACRONYMS IN RELATION TO OFSTED AND EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(updated November 2015)

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
APS	Average Point Score: the average attainment of a group of pupils; points are assigned to levels or grades attained on tests.
ASYE	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
C&YP	Children and Young People
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CFST	Children and Families Support Team
CICC	Children in Care Council
CIN	Children in Need
CLA	Children Looked After
CLASS	City of Leicester Association of Special Schools
COLGA	City of Leicester Governors Association
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CYPF	Children Young People and Families Division (Leicester City Council)
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CYPS Scrutiny	Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission
DAS	Duty and Advice Service
DCS	Director of Children's Services
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EET	Education, Employment and Training
EHA	Early Help Assessment
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
EHP	Early Help Partnership
EHSS	Early Help Stay Safe
EIP	Education Improvement Partnership

ELG	Early Learning Goals: aspects measured at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
EY	Early Years
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage: (0-5); assessed at age 5.
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
ESFA	Education Skills and Funding Agency
FS	Foundation Stage: nursery and school Reception, ages 3-5; at start of Reception a child is assessed against the new national standard of 'expected' stage of development, then teacher assessment of Foundation Stage Profile areas of learning
FSM	Free School Meals
GCSE	General Certificate of Education
GLD	Good Level of Development
HMCI	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KS1	Key Stage 1: National Curriculum Years (NCYs) 1 and 2, ages 5-7; assessed at age 7.
KS2	Key Stage 2: NCYs 3, 4, 5, and 6, ages 7-11; assessed at age 11.
KS3	Key Stage 3: NCYs 7, 8 and 9, ages 11-14; no statutory assessment.
KS4	Key Stage 4: NCYs 10 and 11, ages 14-16; assessed at age 16.
KTC	Knowledge Transfer Centre
LA	Local Authority
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LARP	Leicester Access to Resources Panel
LCCIB	Leicester City Council Improvement Board
LCT	Leicester Children's Trust
LDD	Learning Difficulty or Disability
LESP	Leicester Education Strategic Partnership
LLEs	Local Leaders of Education

LP	Leicester Partnership
LPP	Leicester Primary Partnership
LPS	Leicester Partnership School
LSCB	Leicester Safeguarding Children Board
LSOAs	Lower Super Output Areas
MACFA	Multi Agency Case File Audit
NCY	National Curriculum Year
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NLEs	National Leaders of Education
NLGs	National Leaders of Governance
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PEPs	Personal Education Plans
PI	Performance Indicator
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent
QA	Quality Assurance
RAP	Resource Allocation Panel
RI	Requires Improvement
SA	Single Assessment
SALT	Speech and Language Therapy
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SIMS	Schools Information Management Systems
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SLEs	Specialist Leaders of Education
SMT	Senior Management Team
SRE	Sex and Relationship Education
TBC	To be Confirmed
TFL	Tertiary Federation Leicester
TP	Teenage Pregnancy
UHL	University Hospitals Leicester
WIT	Whatever it Takes

YOS	Youth Offending Service
YPC	Young People's Council

# **PUBLIC SESSION**

## **AGENDA**

### **FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

If the emergency alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit and proceed to the area outside the Ramada Encore Hotel on Charles Street as directed by Democratic Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Appendix A  
(Pages 1 - 10)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Children, Young People, and Education Scrutiny Commission held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

#### **4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **5. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any petitions received in accordance with Council procedures.

#### **6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, AND STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer to report on any questions, representations, or statements of case received.

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations or statements of case received in accordance with Council procedures.

Simon Thorpe to ask:

“How have 'exceptional circumstances' been decided, with regards to whether

a 16+ young person with SEND is entitled to their EHCP specified transport, where is the visibility of this policy and the criteria that are 'exceptional circumstances'?

How have those young peoples' EHCPs where transport was or is now subsequently recorded as an 'exceptional circumstance' become as such? How is their 'exceptional circumstance' evidenced within the EHCP, under what section and via what instructions and by whom?

What is required in a young person's EHCP to evidence their transport need as an 'exceptional circumstance' and how is this need evidenced within the EHCP plan?

Under what criteria have some young people with physical, mental or social health need been offered either transport with a taxi or a personal transport budget, as opposed to others with similar or different physical, mental or social health need who have been refused transport with a taxi or a personal transport budget?

What are the criteria that some of the 'very few exceptional circumstances' will be offered either transport with a taxi or a personal transport budget, whereas some will be refused?

Finally, how is the 'capacity' of the young person to make an independent bus journey taken into account?"

Ruth Northey to ask:

Appeals against post-16 SEND transport decisions for the academic year 2024/5 are currently being decided upon prior to the publication of the new policy and appeals process. How can you guarantee a transparent and fair appeals process, especially given that I and other parents have been denied a second stage appeal with an independent panel which is recommended in statutory guidance?

Local authorities have to adhere to Post-16 transport and travel support guidance. This guidance states that they should support the commissioning arrangements to make sure they maintain the requirements outlined in an EHCP. Distance to school must be considered. The council's website currently states that a school being "out of area" is not considered an exceptional circumstance. In light of this, what arrangements are being made to follow statutory guidance and facilitate a child's placement when this is some distance from the local area?

Esther Cameron to ask:

We as a group we also represent parents whose young people use the council provided yellow buses which are available to all age groups. We understand that the cuts are a cost-saving exercise, but those buses will still be running now without our children on board. By changing the policy on SEND Post-16 travel to school or college, please can you clarify how the savings are



calculated?

When setting out your Post-16 transport policy, you are supposed to take into account the local transport infrastructure. In the case of my son, the destination for his Post-16 course is an alternative education provider named in his EHCP and approved by Leicester City Council, but which is not served at all by public transport. Can you give details of your transport arrangement for children where their school is not accessible by public transport and parents are unable to provide transport themselves?

Lisa Crabbe to ask:

Local authorities have to adhere to Post-16 transport and travel support guidance. The guidance states that “the local authority must exercise its power to provide transport or financial support reasonably, taking into account all relevant matters”. The council’s website has a long list of individual circumstances which it states it will not consider when making transport decisions. There is no information on circumstances it will consider. How can the council demonstrate that in fact it is making reasonable decisions which take into account ALL relevant matters?

Recommendations have been made by the local authority to parents that their disabled post-16 children should travel independently to school. In some cases, the suggested public transport journeys involve 3-4 changes of transportation and take over the recommended maximum journey time. How is the local authority making decisions about the suitability of independent travel for individual young people, and can they demonstrate that they are taking into account the statutory guidance which states that journeys should not involve multiple changes or be over 75 minutes?

Stephen Score to ask:

The council says it has consulted on changes to Post-16 transport and travel support. Did that include parents/carers whose children are currently 16+ or will be 16-19 from the beginning of next term? How did you inform them of the consultation? How many responses did you get from parents/carers and how were the responses from parents considered as part of the decision-making process?

**7. EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Appendix B  
(Pages 11 - 62)**

The Director of Education, SEND and Early Help submits the Education Performance Report for 2023 for the Commission to consider areas of strength and concern.

**8. FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

**Appendix C  
(Pages 63 - 82)**

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education submits a report to provide

an overview of the activity and performance of the Fostering Service during 2022/23.

**9. FAMILY ADOPTION LINKS REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE** **Appendix D (Pages 83 - 126)**

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education submits a report providing an overview of the activity and performance of the Family Adoption Links Regional Adoption Agency incorporating Leicester City Adoption Service from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

**10. WORK PROGRAMME** **Appendix E (Pages 127 - 134)**

The Commission's Work Programme is attached for information and comment.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**