

**Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission (CYPE)  
Work Programme 2023 – 2024**

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
<b>11 July 2023</b>	1) Ashfield Centre 2) Introduction to CYPE services	1) Lead Officers to revisit this issue with the view to explore further options and solutions with Ash Field Academy. The Council considers a city-wide review of provision related to the high needs block funding.  2) The key issues discussed be added to the work programme. The Family Hubs item to be added for the next commission meeting.	1) Formal decision called-in and brought back to the commission on 2 November 2) Family Hubs item taken to the meeting on 19 September.
<b>19 September 2023</b>	1) Family Hubs report 2) Children & Social Care – intro to new director and the services. 3) Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) 4) RAAC and Leicester City schools – update 5) Work Programme	1) Recommended to keep on work programme for a report back in 6 months.  2a) Members liked the initiative of a charter for Cllrs to be community champions for fostering within their communities, look forward to this being developed.  2b) A future meeting item suggested on children’s homes, a presentation would benefit scrutiny.  5) The following be added to the work programme and allocated to upcoming commission meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children residential homes</li> <li>- deficit recovery plan</li> <li>- Looked after children placements</li> <li>- Recruitment and social services</li> <li>- SEND and Taxi provision</li> </ul>	1) Added as a suggested item for 27 February 2024. 2a) Added to the work programme – date TBC 2b) Added to work programme – date TBC 5) To be confirmed in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair/officers

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
2 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ashfield Call-in</li> <li>2) High Needs Block – Verbal Update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Discussion to be had regarding ‘tapering’ of funding.</li> <li>2a) Data to be provided on the level of overspend at different Councils in next report</li> <li>2b) Informal Scrutiny to take place following the submission of the full report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Meeting to take place week-commencing 18 December 2023.</li> </ul>

<p><b>19 December 2023</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Safeguarding Annual report</li> <li>2) SEND transport provision</li> <li>3) School attendance and exclusions report</li> <li>4) Update on new in-house children's residential provision</li> </ol>	<p>1a) It would be useful to have a section of statistics showing incidences of safeguarding cases year on year so that it could be seen if cases were going up or down.</p> <p>1b) The impact of potential cuts to Childrens' Centres and any potential knock-on effect could be looked into.</p> <p>1c) Statistics showing early help assessments going down but children in need going up and any correlation between early help assessments and escalation needs to be looked into.</p> <p>1d) Information on the methodology of the audit on home-schooled children to be provided.</p> <p>1e) Ways that young people can be involved to be considered.</p> <p>2a) Application for Government funding for electric school busses to be considered.</p> <p>2b) Figures on how much bursary funding available for post-16 students to be obtained.</p> <p>2c) A similar transport system to the city centre 'Hop' busses to be considered for schools and colleges.</p> <p>2d) Figures on how many SEND children were going outside the city to independent special schools to be obtained.</p> <p>2e) Procedures where a child lives at two addresses to be looked into – particularly</p>	<p>1a) This information will be presented in the 2023/24 yearly report.</p> <p>1b) The partnership has not received information to date re the impact of cuts to Childrens' Centres but this will be considered within this business year.</p> <p>1d) Outline of methodology circulated to members of the Commission.</p> <p>1e) Information circulated to members of the Commission.</p> <p>2a) This is monitored regularly by fleet services and our passenger transport team. Unfortunately there are no grants available at present to support this but we will continue to monitor this to capitalise on any opportunities.</p> <p>2b) Post 16 schools / colleges draw down from a centrally managed fund which is administered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Guidance surrounding this funding for schools is available here <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2023-to-2024-academic-year">16 to 19 Bursary Fund guide 2023 to 2024 academic year - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>. As it is not a</p>
--	--	--	--

		<p>with regard to which parent/guardian has responsibility for travel arrangements.</p> <p>2f) Consider raising personal transport budgets to reduce taxi use.</p> <p>3a) Absence statistics by Ward to be produced.</p>	<p>council managed fund we do not hold the information surrounding how much total funding is available. Funding ranges between £500 and £1200 per year, per student for those eligible.</p> <p>2c) This is monitored regularly by Transport services, Fleet services and the Passenger Transport teams. Unfortunately there are no grants available at present to support this but officers continue to monitor this to capitalise on any opportunities. The 'Hop' buses are a good example of the focus and effort in this area.</p> <p>2d) There are 217 learners travelling outside of Leicester City to Independent Non Maintained Special Schools in the 2023 / 2024 Academic Year across all ages (as at November 2023). The vast majority are travelling to Leicestershire providers. There is a Commissioning Review underway to improve this situation which is part of a national issue. The SEND Placement Sufficiency Strategy and SEND Post 16 Education Strategies are in development and contribute significantly to this focus area.</p> <p>2e) Local and national policy states that one address is permitted. However, embedded practice in Leicester is to be flexible where there is dual parental</p>
--	--	--	--

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
			<p>responsibility. Travel arrangements are currently split between families / different addresses during the week and the council facilitates that where parents / carers plan ahead with officers. Unfortunately arrangements cannot be changed sporadically as each time a change is made there is a correlating cost.</p> <p>2f) This is currently under review with a specific focus on the most expensive journeys. It will form part of the 2024 – 2027 SEND Home to School and College Travel Policy due later this year.</p>
<p><b>16 January 2024</b></p>	<p>1) Update on Ashfield 2) Revenue Budget 3) Capital Programme 4) Youth Justice Plan</p>	<p>1) Cllr Haq be involved in any discussion with the NHS regarding alternative funding. 2) Update from Impower to be brought to the Commission. 3a) Presentation of work done in Schools using capital to be brought to the Commission. 3b) Written response to be provided regarding recent views from MPs and the Local Government Association (LGA) on SEND Provision and Funding.</p>	

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
26 March 2024	1) Education Performance Report 2) Fostering Annual report 3) Adoption Annual report		

**Forward Plan Items (suggested)**

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Fostering Community Champions update	Deferred from 26 March 2024	
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children – Update	Deferred from 26 March 2024	
DSG high-needs block recovery plan	Task Group to happen after DSG Report.	
Corporate Parenting Update	Annual report.	
Looked After Children Placements	To come to first meeting of 2024/25 municipal year.	

Update from Impower	Requested following discussion about costs/appropriateness of placements during scrutiny of the Revenue Budget.  To come to first meeting of 2024/25 municipal year.	
Family Hubs Update	Requested in September 2023	
Use of Capital Programme in Schools	Presentation requested during scrutiny of Capital Programme.	
SEN support and funding		
Corporate Parenting Report		
Pupil Place Planning (Primary and Secondary)		
Multi-Academy Trusts - Overview		
Children not in state-maintained schools e.g.: Academies, Independent, Faith schools.		
Early Years Childcare Sufficiency Report		
Youth Services - overview		
Children in Care Council/Care Leavers		
School Holiday Activity and Food Provision		
Education Govt reports e.g.: white paper / green paper		
Ofsted Inspection reports		
Children's Social Care – Recruitment Issues		
Mental Health impacts on children	Likely to be examined jointly with other commissions	
Informal Scrutiny on DSG High Needs Block	To commence following the full report to the Commission.	

Leicester Children's Services – Self Evaluation		
Covid impact and response to early childhood development		