



Leicester  
City Council

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

**DATE: TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2025**

**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 Bonham (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Clarke, Gregg, Karavadra, Mahesh, March and Dr Moore

**Co-opted Members (Voting)**

Dr Joycelin Eze-Okubuiro

Parent Governor Representative

**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)**

**Julie Bryant (Governance Officer),**

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, City Mayor & Executive Public Briefing and Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. On occasion however, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at [www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk), from the Council's Customer Service Centre or by contacting us using the details below.

### Making meetings accessible to all

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If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Governance Services 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: **Julie Bryant, Sharif Chowdhury, ([julie.bryant@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:julie.bryant@leicester.gov.uk)) or Ed Brown, ([edmund.brown@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:edmund.brown@leicester.gov.uk))**. 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 Governance Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

#### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To issue a welcome to those present, and to confirm if there are any 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 Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 have been circulated, and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

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

The Chair is invited to make any announcements as they see fit.

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

Any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures will be reported.

Mr Nizamuddin Patel asks:

Who overlooks children's social services to ensure they are following process/procedures. What internal processes are there to ensure quality is maintained and there are no service failures?

The reports do not include the level of complaints raised by

parents/professionals for children social services. This will be useful to help compared to previous quarters to ensure levels of services are maintained and if any intervention or further scrutiny is required.

How does the children's social services manage to ensure quality and accountability when it comes to agency social workers? If a family who are receiving help from the CIN/ CPP team are having constant change in social workers which leads to no continuity and thus a service failure at what point will the council appoint a full time, non-agency employee to ensure no further service failures.

Are there equality reportings conducted for those professionals who are present at Child Protection Conference to ensure there are representatives of different backgrounds, gender, race, culture etc? If not, what plans do they have to start recording this to ensure conferences understand parents and children's background and culture.

Also:

There is a huge disproportion of male social workers in Leicester Children's social services.

1. What plans/incentives do children's social care have to recruit more male social workers?

2. Child Protection conferences memberships should include both male and female participants to ensure an understanding and reflection of cultural and diversity needs. In my own personal experience of 2 Child protection conferences and multiple core group meetings, I have not come across one male in any of those meetings. Does Children's social care have systems in place to ensure at least 1 male is present in child protection conferences? If not, what plans do they have to ensure fair equality and diversity in child protection conferences?

3. I understand there are 5 independent chairs for Child Protection Conferences. how many are males/females? What plans do you have to have more male independent chairs?

4. In the last 3 years how many warnings of the vexatious policy have been given by Children's Social Care to parents who's children are under a child protection plan? Who makes this decision and how is this managed to ensure the vexatious policy is not misused by the council and the parents' views are able to be shared.

5. According to FOI submitted in Nov 24, Agency social workers are paid on average £5440/month, whereas directly employed staff in the same department are paid £3495/month. This is almost £2000/month/worker extra for agency workers and does not include agency fees etc. Just under 20% of staff in CIN, CASP and LAC are agency workers. What plans do the council have to recruit social workers to ensure public money is not overspent in agency staff?

## **6. PETITIONS**

Any petitions received in accordance with Council procedures will be reported.

## **7. UPDATE ON YOUTH SUMMIT **Appendix B (Pages 11 - 20)****

The Youth Representatives, together with the Participation and Engagement Manager for Childrens Social Work and Early Help, will give a presentation to provide an overview of the LLR Youth Summit 2024.

## **8. UPDATE ON CHILDREN FROM ABROAD SEEKING SAFETY **Appendix C (Pages 21 - 44)****

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education submits a report to provide an overview of children and young people who come to Leicester having arrived from abroad seeking safety, often referred to technically as “Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children”. The report relates specifically to children and young people who are looked after by the council or are eligible for support as care leavers and does not reference all new arrival families entering the city who do not receive support from social care.

## **9. PLACEMENT COSTS AND IMPOWER UPDATE **Appendix D (Pages 45 - 58)****

The Director of Children’s Social Work and Early Help will give a presentation on costing and appropriateness of placements together with an update on IMPOWER.

## **10. CHILDREN’S SERVICES: COST MITIGATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW **Appendix E (Pages 59 - 64)****

The Strategic Director Social Care and Education submits a report to provide an overview of the development and progress of the Children’s Services Cost Mitigation Programme.

## **11. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26 **Appendix F (Pages 65 - 106)****

The Director of Finance submits a draft report proposing the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2025/26.

Members of the Commission will be asked to consider and provide any feedback which will be submitted to the Council Budget meeting.



**12. DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26**

**Appendix G  
(Pages 107 - 136)**

The Director of Finance submits a draft report proposing the Capital Programme for 2025/26.

Members of the Commission will be asked to consider and provide any feedback which will be submitted to the Council Budget meeting.

**13. WORK PROGRAMME**

**Appendix H  
(Pages 137 - 142)**

Members of the Commission will be asked to consider the work programme and make suggestions for additional items as it considers necessary.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**