**Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee**

**Forward Work Programme 2025/26**

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| Scrutiny Committee: | **Children, Young People & Families Scrutiny Committee** |
| Director: | **Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director Children, Young People and Families** |
| Lead Officers: | **Head of Children’s Services****Service Manager Young People and Partnerships****Service Manager Transformation and Business Change****Interim Head School Improvement** |
| Remit of Committee: | * **Children’s Services (including Children’s safeguarding, children’s complaints and children 18+ within the care system)**
* **Education Services (including Education safeguarding)**
* **Education Achievement Service**
* **Family support**
* **Youth Service**
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| Chair of Committee: | **Councillor Wayne Hodgins** |
| Vice-Chair of Committee: | **Councillor Derrick Bevan** |

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| **Meeting Date**  | **Topic** | **Purpose** |
| **03.06.25** | * Proposed Forward Work Programme 2025/26
 | **Approval:** To agree the Forward Work Programme for 2025/26. |
| * Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker (for the former People Scrutiny Committee)
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To provide the annual progress against the former People Scrutiny Committee recommendations during 2024/25. |
| * Audit Tracker Annual Progress
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To provide the annual progress against implementing external audit recommendations for the former People Scrutiny Committee during 2024/25. |

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| **Meeting Date**  | **Topic** | **Purpose** |
| **01.07.25** | * Annual Safeguarding Performance Monitoring for Education
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To provide the safeguarding performance information and analysis for Education. |
| * Annual Safeguarding Performance Monitoring for Children’s Services
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To provide the safeguarding performance information and analysis for Children’s Services. |
| * Getting to Know Our Schools Sub-Group
 | **Decision:** To consider the remit and role of this sub-group and to review where necessary the Terms of Reference for implementation over the coming year. |
| **23.09.25** | * Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy
 | **Pre-Decision: To** scrutinise the draft Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2025/26, prior to Cabinet approval. |
| * Corporate Parenting Strategy
 | **Pre-Decision:** To consider the strategy and recommend approval. |
| * Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2024/25
 | **Performance Monitoring: T**o receive the Director of Children’s Services Annual report 2024/25.  |
| **11.11.25** | * Review of Inclusion Service Policies
 | **Pre-Decision:** A review of inclusion policies in line with any legislative requirements and changes. |
| * Improving Schools Programme
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To update on any inspection report findings and progress within schools that are causing concern or subject to Council intervention. |
| * Safe Reduction of Children Looked After Strategy
 | **Pre-Decision:** To consider the strategy and recommend approval. |
| **06.01.26** | * Sustainable Communities for learning
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To provide an update on the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme (formerly 21st Century Schools). |
| * Attendance, Exclusions and Elective Home Education
 | **Performance Monitoring:** Members will be presented with the Duties on Local Authorities for Elective Home Education and will also receive attendance and exclusion data for consideration.  |
| * Youth Service and Revised Legislative Requirements
 | **Performance Monitoring:** Members to scrutinise performance against new requirements. |

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| **Meeting Date**  | **Topic** | **Purpose** |
| **Special Meeting****20.01.26** | * Catchment Area Review
 | **Pre-Decision**: to consider the outcome of the consultation and presented options. |
| **10.02.26** | * Key Stage 4 Results
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To consider the KS4 results. |
| * Children, young people and families (Education, Youth Service and Social Care) grant funded posts for Children’s Services
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To outline the current position of short-term grant funded posts for 2026/276 financial year and any anticipated impacts to care and support delivery because of potential reductions / cessation of this funding. |
| **17.03.26** | * Improving Schools Programme
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To provide Members with an update on any inspection report findings and progress within schools that are causing concern or subject to Council intervention. |
| * School Admissions Policy for Nursery and Statutory Education
 | **Pre-Decision:** To consider the draft School Admissions Policy for Nursery and Statutory Education 2026/27 prior to approval by the Cabinet. |
| **28.04.26** | * Education Achievement Service Business Plan
 | **Pre-Decision:** To consider the Education Achievement Service Business Plan. |
| * Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
 | **Performance Monitoring:** To provide an update on the Welsh in Education 10-year Strategic Plan and associated projects. |
| * Youth Engagement and Progression Framework
 | **Performance Monitoring: T**o scrutinise how effectively the Council is meetings its statutory requirements and the impact; and how well the Council is achieving the 5 key areas of the Framework. |