



Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Time and Date

10.00 am on Thursday, 26th March, 2026

Place

Diamond Room 2 - Council House, Coventry

Public Business

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interests**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)
 - a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2026.
 - b) Matters Arising
4. **Early Years Strategy and Best Start in Life** (Pages 9 - 22)

Briefing Note of the Director of Childrens Services and Education.
5. **Family First Partnership (Social Care Reform)** (Pages 23 - 28)

Briefing Note of the Director of Childrens Services and Education.
6. **Work Programme 2025/26** (Pages 29 - 34)

Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator.
7. **Any Other Business**

Any other items of business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Julie Newman, Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, Council House,
Coventry
Wednesday, 18 March 2026

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Asher Veness, Governance Services, Email: asher.veness@coventry.gov.uk

Membership of Board:

Councillors J Birdi, J Gardiner, S Jobbar, L Kelly (Chair), M Mutton, S Nazir, E M Reeves, R Thay and A Tucker

Co-opted Members:

Mrs S Hanson (Nominated by the Church of England)

Mr D Jackson

Mr G Vohra (Nominated from other faith groups in the city)

By invitation:

Councillor K Sandhu – Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Councillor P Seaman – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Councillor B Christopher – Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Public Access

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Asher Veness

Governance Services

Email: asher.veness@coventry.gov.uk

Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)
held at 10.00 am on Thursday, 26 February 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor L Kelly (Chair)
Councillor J Birdi
Councillor S Gray (Substitute for Councillor E Reeves)
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor S Nazir
Councillor R Thay

Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Hanson (Nominated by the Church of England)
Mr D Jackson
Mr G Vohra (Nominated from other faith groups in the city)

Other Members (by invitation): Councillor K Sandhu – Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Councillor P Seaman – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Councillor B Christopher – Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Others in attendance: Helen Nelson - Chair of Primary Partnership
Ana Neofitou - Vice Chair of Secondary Partnership

Employees (by Service Area):

Education and Children S Sen (Director of Education and Children's Services),
J Gillum, M Legard, R Sugars

Law and Governance G Holmes, M Salmon

Apologies: Councillor J Gardiner
Councillor S Jobbar
Councillor E Reeves

Public Business

33. Declarations of Interests

There were no disclosable interests.

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 22nd January 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

The Board noted that further to Recommendation 2) in Minute 30/25 headed 'Holiday Activity and Food Programme', the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People had agreed the recommendation.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People informed the Board that Margaret Conway, the Council's Vanguard Partnership Lead, had recently won two awards. The first award being the National Children and Young People's Award. The second award being in the Equality and Diversity category of the Women Achieving Greatness in Social Care Awards. Margaret received an invitation to St James' Palace earlier this month to meet King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, the Duchess of Edinburgh and the Duke of Gloucester, in recognition of her achievements over the last 38 years working in Children's Services. The Board requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to her for her achievements.

35. **Coventry Education Performance 2025**

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) received a briefing note and presentation of the Director of Children's Services and Education that provided an update on Coventry's education performance for 2025 that included the following:

- Trends in pupil numbers
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Phonics
- Key Stage (KS) 2
- Key Stage (KS) 4 (provisional)
- 16-19 attainment (provisional)
- Post-16 participation in education, employment or training
- Attendance and exclusions
- Difference in performance between males and females
- Performance of vulnerable groups

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Helen Nelson, Chair of Primary Partnership and Headteacher at Joseph Cash Primary School, and Ana Neofitou, Vice Chair of Secondary Partnership, attended the meeting for this item of business.

Data was set out in an Appendix to the Briefing Note and published data available through government sources was also included. The DfE released updated performance tables data each year, which meant there could be slight difference in previous years figures. For operational and planning purposes the Local Authority (LA) also use NCER Nexus and FFT Aspire, which were used as management information by most Local Authorities. This enabled further in-depth analysis but was not quoted as not published and regional and national comparisons might not represent the total cohort. Further Appendices to the report provided: comparative groups and A levels points; Coventry Education Partnership priorities 2024-25; and a glossary of terms.

The vision of the Coventry Education Partnership encompassed high expectations for the achievement of children and young people to achieve their full potential whatever their culture or background. Statutorily it was the responsibility of school

leaders to secure improvement in their school, but as part of the working partnership with all schools and settings, the LA acted as champions of educational excellence, forging strong professional relationships and networks. The LA, in partnership with the primary school networks and secondary collaboratives (including special schools), facilitated and supported schools in the city on their improvement journey.

Overall, Coventry's performance compared favourably with statistical neighbours for some measures – these statistical neighbours were directly comparable to Coventry because of similarities in size and other important characteristics. For many (but not all) of the key performance measures, Coventry was below national average, and this reflected the characteristics of the city in comparison to all local authorities nationally. However, national averages remained the target, and all Coventry schools continued to strive to meet or exceed national benchmarks. In considering the briefing note and the presentation by officers, the Board discussed issues, asked questions and received responses from officers and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on matters including:

- The growing numbers of children in the city that had been accommodated in schools through the implementation of a total of 11 bulge classes, creating 1500 additional places. Some children had also been placed under the Fair Access Protocol
- In-year admissions funding - schools were funded based on the school census and a growth fund was available to support bulge classes
- Exclusions - there was a good working relationship with Head Teachers that all possible options be explored to avoid this course of action. A lot of work had been undertaken around belonging, what support could be given for their individual needs, and what alternative provision could be offered where appropriate
- Recognition that some children had unmet longstanding needs from Primary that carried through to secondary.
- Family First Partnerships Programme provided early intervention to support to parents' engagement in the education process
- Generational change important going forward to support attendance at school
- Building relationships with families helped to identify the support required. A multi-agency approach was applied to the multifaceted situations of some families, this included issues such as deprivation, domestic abuse, and mental health
- Coventry continued to demonstrate strong post 16 participation, with its September guarantee performance remaining consistently above both national and regional figures
- Despite the slight rise in the combined NEET and Not Known rate in 2025, Coventry performed better than England and the West Midlands reflecting sustained success in supporting young people to remain in education, employment or training.
- Coventry mirrored the national trend on suspension figures. Suspensions, which could be for a number of hours, days or weeks, could arise from: unmet needs played out through behaviour; family issues; social media influences; and mental health issues

- The effects of austerity and Covid could not be underestimated - children away from the learning environment with no interaction and socialisation with others, had resulted in a number of challenges. The direct and indirect effects of Covid, which did not affect all children equally, were not yet known as the children were still progressing through school stages
- There had been an improvement in children achieving a good level of development on school readiness, however there were still children not school ready particularly in the Reception year where children were not toilet trained. Children in Reception now had been born during Covid so parents had not had the usual access to support. Work was continuing to engage parents
- There was a strong focus on school attendance, measured against the national average, with work undertaken if figures were not met. Good practice was offered between schools with a collective responsibility for attendance between schools and families
- Work was continuing on transport issues that has affected attendance at Special Schools to ensure a sustained service provision

RESOLVED that the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Board (2):

- 1) Noted the information provided**
- 2) Had no further recommendations to make to the Cabinet Member**
- 3) Had no further areas for further scrutiny to be added to the Work Programme**

36. SEND Strategy Update

The Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Board (2) received a briefing note and presentation of the Director of Education and Children’s Services that provided an update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The presentation was attached as an Appendix to the report. The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People attended the meeting for this item of business.

At the meeting on 13 March 2025 (minute 72/24 referred), the Board requested an update on any reforms proposed at a national level and also on preparation for an inspection. A seminar for all Members was held on 12 January 2026.

Following significant and major SEND reforms announced by the Government, a White Paper had been issued on 23rd February 2026. The main headlines of the Paper were: staff development – workforce reform; family hubs; inclusion bases; experts at hand – having an expert team available to schools around support to SEND needs; and Individual Support Plans to run alongside EHCPs. Many of the proposals aligned with what Coventry was already doing and the LA’s direction of travel. Work would now be undertaken to understand the mechanisms in the White Paper, including access to funding.

The presentation provided information on the following:

- Local Area Inspection
- SEND Self Evaluation

- SEND Local Reform Plan (new requirement)
- Focus Areas: SEND & Alternative Provision (AP) Self Evaluation – Outcomes & Experiences and System Leadership
- Outcomes & Experiences of Young People with SEND and their Families - Identification & Participation and Access, Transition & Inclusion
- System Leadership across the Local Area Partnership - Ambition & Engagement, Joint Information & Commissioning, and Evaluation & Multi-Agency Working
- Delivering Change – Governance, SEND Transformation Priorities, Workforce Development, Adaptive Provision, Alternative Provision, Enhanced Resource Provision, Specialist Provision, Further Priorities, and National Direction of Travel

In considering the briefing note and the presentation by officers, the Board discussed issues, asked questions and received responses from officers and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on matters including:

- The Authority was working hard on SEND recognising the growth in this area
- A SEND Local Area Inspection was due in Coventry, last completed in 2019. The date of inspection was not yet confirmed. Coventry would hope to gain placement in one of the top two rating bands as it had done previously
- Some work had already been undertaken for the proposal to replace EHCPs by the year 2030, with work ongoing. Funding to support the proposals could be through use of reserves, which had been done previously to support operational change
- Speech and language therapy – definite recognition for the service which has seen an increase in need. Commissioning arrangements were in place for this provision and the ‘experts at hand’ identified in the SEND White Paper, could also provide further support in this area
- A review of children at the transition from Primary to Secondary stage was important to recognise any changing needs
- Coventry had been visited by the Minister for Education to look at what was working well and what needed change or further improvement.
- Recognition that the best outcomes for children, provided through Education Services and Children’s Services, was achieved by offering relevant support for all their needs and the operation of valuable partnership working to enable them to gain an education.

The Board requested that a Briefing Note on how successfully the Council’s SEND Strategy aligned with the proposals in the Government’s SEND White Paper, be circulated to them.

RESOLVED that, the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Board (2):

- 1) Notes the information in the Appendix to the Briefing Note.**
- 2) Has no further recommendations to make to the Cabinet Member.**

37. **Work Programme 2025/26**

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) received a briefing note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator that provided a schedule of items for meetings of the Board for the Municipal Year. The Work Programme for 2025/26 was attached as an Appendix to the report.

RESOLVED that the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) notes the schedule of items for meetings of the Board for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

38. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 11.25 am)



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 26 March 2026

Subject: Best Start in Life Strategy and Area Action Plan, and the Best Start Family Hubs

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Board on Coventry's current Early Years position and the implementation of the Best Start in Life (BSiL) Strategy and Local Area Plan (2026–2029).
- 1.2 To set out Coventry's statutory Good Level of Development (GLD) targets and our approach to delivery through Best Start Family Hubs and partners.
- 1.3 To confirm the proposed approach to governance, workforce, and monitoring.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
 - 1) Note progress to date on the BSiL Strategy and Local Area Plan.
 - 2) Endorse the delivery approach and the proposed governance and monitoring arrangements.
 - 3) Support continued integrated work with a range of partners, Education and Children's services, Family Hubs, SEND services, schools, and early years providers to accelerate improvement in GLD, especially for disadvantaged children.

3 Executive Summary

- 3.1 Nationally, all local authorities must publish a Best Start in Life Local Area Plan by April 2026, focusing on:
 - Best support for families.
 - Accessible early years provision.
 - High-quality early education (0–5), including Reception.
- 3.2 Coventry's local response, '**Bold Start, Bright Futures**' (2026–2029) is being co-produced with partners for publication by April 2026. The vision is that every child is safe, healthy, curious, confident, and ready to thrive by age five.

- 3.3 Coventry’s statutory targets by 2028 are to raise:
 - Overall GLD from 65.3% to 72.3% (≈ 300 more children).
 - Disadvantaged GLD from 50.5% to 58.3% (≈ 57 more children).
- 3.4 Coventry has a strong early years system (Family Hubs; parenting support; Birth-5 SEND; Quality Improvement & Safeguarding; Business, Sufficiency and Funding support or nearly 300 providers, 174 of whom are funded).
- 3.5 Continuing challenges exist in improving outcomes including communication, language, and literacy, the GLD gap for disadvantaged children, and ward-level variation.
- 3.6 The national BSiL programme will invest £6.1m (2026–2029), prioritising workforce and delivery capacity across Family Hubs and partners.

4 National Context and Local Strategy

- 4.1 The Best Start for Life Strategy 2025 (BSiL) expects accessible, high-quality, and joined-up support from pregnancy to age five. BSiL positions early years as a whole-system responsibility, emphasising equity for all and earlier help for all, as well as targeting additional help to those most in need.
- 4.2 Coventry’s **Bold Start, Bright Futures Strategy** and **Local Area Plan**, replaces the previous Early Years Strategy (2025–2028) and builds on the Start for Life programme (2023–2026) which included ‘The first 1,001 days’, Family Hubs delivery, Home Learning Environment (HLE), Parenting, SEND, and Speech, Language and Communication support.
- 4.3 The new plan is data-led, equity-focused and evidence-based, with a strong focus on parental engagement as children’s first and enduring educators. It will be updated regularly in response to need and progress.

5 Coventry’s Current Position (GLD)

5.1 Headline position (SN – Statistical Neighbour)

Indicator	Coventry 2025	National 2025	SN 2025	Change (2024–2025)	Gap to National	Gap to SN
GLD	65.3%	68.3%	65.3%	+1.9 pp	-3.0 pp	0.0 pp
C&L	75.6%	79.6%	75.8%	+0.5 pp	-4.0 pp	-0.2 pp

- 5.2 In 2024–2025, **4,154** children were in Reception classes across Coventry. Of these, **2,701 achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD)**, giving the city an overall rate of **65.2%**. This represents a continued improvement from the previous year and shows Coventry beginning to recover from the dip seen in 2024.
- 5.3 Nationally, **68.3%** of children reached GLD, meaning Coventry is **3.3 percentage points below the England average**. While the gap remains, Coventry is now **closer to national outcomes and broadly in line with statistical neighbours**.
- 5.4 Communication and Language (C&L) outcomes have also improved, helping to narrow the gap slightly. However, this area remains a key challenge, particularly for **disadvantaged children and white disadvantaged boys**, where early language difficulties continue to affect later literacy.

5.5 Overall, while Coventry is moving in the right direction, **disadvantaged children, especially white disadvantaged boys will remain priority groups** for continued improvement.

5.6 **Strengths to build on.**

5.7 Coventry outcomes in 2024/25 show relative strengths in mathematics, expressive arts, and understanding the world compared with statistical neighbours. This indicates effective early years practice in these areas, including mathematical talk and practical problem-solving.

5.8 SEND Support pupils made notable gains in 2025, suggesting that targeted intervention and inclusive practice in the early years are having a positive effect, even within small cohorts.

5.9 The progress and achievement of white disadvantaged boys should also be noted.

5.10 **Trends in GLD over time**

Group	GLD2022/ 2023	GLD 2023/ 2024	GLD2024/ 2025	1-Year Change
All Pupils	64.2%	63.3%	65.3%	+2.0 pp

5.11 The data shows that Coventry’s GLD rate for All Pupils dipped from 64.2% (2022/23) to 63.3% (2023/24) before rising again to 65.3% in 2024/25. This represents a +2.0-percentage point improvement over the last year, bringing outcomes back above pre dip levels. The one-year increase suggests the beginning of a positive recovery trend, likely reflecting improvements in early language, wellbeing and early education engagement following the pandemic related dip seen in 2023/24.

6 Coventry’s Current delivery system

6.1 **Family Hubs and Start for Life:** This programme provides joined-up support from conception to age five (health visiting, midwifery, Baby & Me, stay-and-play, parenting, HLE, finance/housing/wellbeing, digital portal).

6.2 **SEND support (Birth–5):** This service helps families navigate early identification, inclusion, and statutory SEND processes. SEND sessions are delivered within Family Hubs, with a new requirement for each hub to have a designated SEND practitioner.

6.3 Families and practitioners can access:

- The SEND Birth to Five Team
- Early assessments including EHCNAs/EHCPs
- SENDIASS, impartial advice to families of children with SEND aged 0–25.
- Early Support (Children’s Disability Team), available to families where a child has disability, complex health needs, or significant additional needs.

6.4 **Early Years Quality Improvement & Safeguarding:** This team provides workforce development, support guidance, and challenge for schools and early years providers. EYFS quality and safeguarding monitoring; LADO partnership; Home Learning Environment and speech and language programmes.

- 6.5 **Business, Sufficiency and Funding:** This service area manages sufficiency and place planning, market stability, extended free entitlement, recruitment, and Early Education Entitlements funding.
- 6.6 **Early Help:** This team provides personalised support relating to wellbeing, parenting, finance, housing, and relationships. Signposting and multi-agency intervention where additional needs are identified. Early Help teams work closely with early years, health, and community partners to intervene early and improve long-term outcomes.
- 6.7 **Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector:** Voluntary, Faith and Community Groups offering local activities, connection, and support (including 0–19 support).

7 **Headline achievements**

- 7.1 The Start for Life (S4L) programme focused on the first 1,001 days and was delivered from January 2023 to March 2026, securing notable achievements. The programme updates for July 2025 highlighted strong progress, growing engagement, and clear improvements in the support offered for families from pregnancy to age five.
- 7.2 **Reaching More Families:** Since January 2024, over 27,000 families have engaged with the Family Hub offer, either in hubs, online, or through community outreach. Registrations have risen rapidly, from 8,500 in mid-2024 to 31,000 by June 2025, showing growing trust and awareness across communities.
- 7.3 **High-Performing Programme:** All major workstreams have met or exceeded their targets, demonstrating strong delivery and improving outcomes for children and parents. Parenting support, perinatal mental health, early communication, and infant feeding initiatives are all showing sustained progress.
- 7.4 **Digital Support for Families:** The Coventry Families Portal is now a one-stop hub for information, SEND support, session bookings, and local advice. The portal has attracted 14,600 users, 26,600 sessions and 151,000 page views, with over 1,200 app installs since launch. Available 24/7, it gives families easier access to help when they need it.
- 7.5 **Improving Early Learning and Communication:**
 - 5,193 families have engaged with ‘50 Things to do before you’re five’ (apps, downloads, events, paper resources). 30.9% of users sharing postcodes live in the 20% most deprived LSOAs
 - Easypeasy: 2,750 registered families (18.6% of Coventry’s 0–5 population). 89% of families use the app weekly. 56% of active users are from the most disadvantaged areas (target: 55%)
 - Little Coventry Communicators: A three-tier speech and language training pathway to strengthen practitioner confidence and system-wide consistency. To date:
 - 308 practitioners trained in Tier 1 (57% of settings represented)
 - 98 trained in Tier 2 (27.6% of settings)
 - 84 trained across all tiers, now Communication Champions (23.1% of settings)

- 70 Health Visiting staff received WellComm refresher training
- Communication & Language GLD measure increased from 74.4% (2022) to 75.6% (2025)

- 7.6 **Better Support for Babies, Parents and Carers:** More parents are accessing perinatal mental health support, with strong increases in participation from Black, Asian, and disadvantaged communities. Online “Togetherness” parenting registrations surpassed the 1,000 target, showing strong digital engagement. Support for fathers and partners has expanded significantly, including new community-based sessions and targeted outreach through Fatherhood Solutions. Birth registration and antenatal programmes have been successfully brought into more Family Hubs, making services easier to access locally.
- 7.7 **A strong, connected local network:** The impact of the S4L programme was stronger links with health, early years, community partners, and schools to create a more joined-up and family-friendly system. Work aligns with Coventry’s Marmot City priorities, ensuring support is targeted where it can make the biggest difference.
- 7.8 **In Summary:** Coventry’s Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is delivering:
- More access to services
 - Better support for parents and carers
 - Stronger early development for babies and young children
 - Improved digital access and clearer routes to help.
 - Targeted support for communities who need it most.
- 7.9 This progress places Coventry in a strong position to continue improving school readiness, family wellbeing, and long-term outcomes for children across the city.

8 **Best Start in Life (2026–2029): How We Will Deliver**

- 8.1 The national Best Start for Life Strategy 2025 sets the expectation that all local areas strengthen early years services through accessible, high-quality and joined-up support for families from pregnancy to age five.
- 8.2 Government documents make clear that BSIL brings together health, early education, maternity, and community services to create a joined up early years system. This means health visiting, maternity pathways, infant feeding, immunisation access, early development advice, and baby/toddler health information are all part of the national BSIL offer. [Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK](#)
- 8.3 The plan for Coventry is built around three pillars:
- Best Support for Families – stronger early help, integrated health pathways, and improved parenting confidence.
 - Accessible Early Years Provision – reducing barriers, improving take-up and strengthening community connection.
 - High-Quality Early Education (0–5) – improving communication and language, inclusive practice and early years pedagogy across settings and schools, including in Reception classes in schools.

8.4 The Bold Start, Bright Futures Strategy includes our Local Area Plan. It is built around five commitments and strategic goals and linked the 3 Best Start in Life Pillars, and in alignment with the national strategy.

Bold Start, Bright Futures Overview		
Commitment	Strategic Goal	Best Start in Life Pillar
<p>1. Safe and Nurtured Children experience safe, stable, and nurturing relationships in homes, early years settings and communities. Safeguarding concerns are identified early and acted on through joined-up Families First relational approaches.</p>	Strengthen systems for early multi- agency support for families experiencing adversity, and barriers to support. Ensure all professionals create safe, nurturing environments where children are protected and able to thrive through timely checks and intervention.	Pillar 1: Best Support for Families
<p>2. Healthy and Thriving Children have positive physical and emotional health, supported by secure early relationships, responsive caregiving and timely access to maternity, health, and Families First pathways.</p>	Promote healthy early development through strengthening infant–caregiver relationships, improve access to integrated maternity, health visiting, and Families First pathways, and prevent concerns from escalating.	Pillar 1: Best Support for Families
<p>3. Included, Valued & Connected Children and families feel included and connected to early education, Family Hubs and community services, experiencing belonging regardless of culture, background or need.</p>	Improve equitable access and community connection by reducing barriers to early education, strengthening outreach through Family Hubs, and building belonging across all communities.	Pillar 2: Accessible Early Years Provision
<p>4. Supported Families, Strong Foundations Families receive timely support that strengthens resilience and wellbeing and reduces inequalities. Parents are equipped with the skills, confidence, and tools to support learning at home, helping children build strong early foundations and be ready for school.</p>	Provide an increased range of integrated family support that builds parental confidence, strengthens home learning, and ensures families receive the right help at the right time to create strong early foundations.	<p>Pillar 1: Best Support for Families</p> <p>Pillar 3: High- Quality Early Education (0–5)</p>
<p>5. Learning, Communicating & Developing Children develop strong early communication, language, social- emotional and cognitive skills through high- quality, inclusive early years practice that nurtures curiosity, builds confidence, and enables all children to thrive by age 5.</p>	Improve achievement by developing and embedding high- quality, evidence- based practice and inclusive first approaches across all Early Years settings, Family Hubs, Health Visiting, and Community services to narrow the persistent achievement gaps to national outcomes.	Pillar 3: High- Quality Early Education (0–5)

8.5 **Programmes and offers:** A range of evidence-based programmes will support improved outcomes. Some are already in place and others will be developed over the next three years.

- Home Learning Environment (HLE) – evidence-based activity across hubs, libraries, and settings; coordinated by HLE Co-ordinator and Teaching Adviser; overseen by Senior Adviser (Birth–5); new BSiL Delivery Lead from 2026.
- Parenting support: A hybrid delivery approach including, Antenatal Nurture, SEND Nurture, Five to Thrive Baby, Parenting Puzzle, Living with Confidence, Talking Teens, Togetherness Online/Solihull.

- Learning and Development offers: Utilising a universal and targeted approach. The offer will include: 50 things to do before five, Chat, Play, Read, Stay Together, Play Together, PEEP and REAL. These are evidence-based programmes selected by the DfE with a focus on reinforcing family's confidence and skills in supporting playing and learning at home.
- Workforce Development: Universal and targeted support based on ward level GLD, deprivation and health data for schools and early years providers.
- Strengthened SEND offers to support earlier identification and provide additional support to families. This includes a new offer of a specialist SEND practitioner in every Family Hub
- Expansion of the Family Hub approaches developed across the voluntary, community and Faith based sector
- Health Services will continue to develop work previously initiated in relation to

<p>Healthy Child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health visiting • Maternity pathways • Infant feeding support • Vaccination access • Early development checks • Integrated NHS advice 	<p>Perinatal mental health support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional and mental health support from conception to age 2 • Support for mothers, birthing people, fathers and partners • Parent infant relationship interventions • Better access for Black, Asian, deprived and higher risk groups
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8.6 Targets and measures: Statutory GLD targets for 2028: The Department for Education has set new national expectations for the Good Level of Development (GLD) that every local authority must achieve by the end of the 2027/28 academic year.

8.6.1 Overall GLD Target

Coventry must **increase GLD by 9 percentage points** from its 2023/24 level. This means Coventry must rise from **63.3% to 72.3%** by 2028. This target is designed to ensure every area contributes to a national ambition of around **75% of children achieving GLD**.

8.6.2 Minimum Standard for All Local Areas

Every area must achieve **at least 70% GLD** by 2028, even if their 9-point increase would take them below this level. Coventry's target (72.3%) already exceeds this minimum threshold.

8.6.3 Target for Children Eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)

Nationally, FSM children have much lower GLD outcomes (51.5% in 2023/24 compared with 72% for non-FSM). To close this gap, Coventry must ensure that GLD for FSM pupils increases by **at least the same amount** as the overall GLD improvement. Therefore, Coventry's FSM target must rise from **50.5% to at least 58.3%** by 2027/2028.

8.7 **Addressing Wider Inequalities:** Some groups, such as children with SEND, EAL learners, White disadvantaged boys, and those living in deprivation are statistically less likely to achieve GLD. The DfE expects local areas to show how their Best Start in Life Local Area Plan will:

- Narrow these gaps.
- Target interventions where they are needed most.
- Improve outcomes for all groups by 2028.

8.8 **Summary of What Coventry Must Achieve:** By the end of the 2027/28 academic year, Coventry must demonstrate:

Area	Coventry's Required Improvement by 2028
Overall GLD	Increase from 63.3% → 72.3%
FSM GLD	Increase from 50.5% → 58.3%
All Other Groups	Evidence that gaps are narrowing and targeted work is in place

8.9 To reach our overall GLD target of 72.3% by 2028, based on the 2024/25 reception population, an additional 300 children would need to reach GLD.

8.10 To reach our free school meals GLD target of 58% by 2028, an additional 57 children eligible for free school meals would need to reach GLD.

8.11 This represents a significant uplift in early years outcomes and is central to our wider strategy of ensuring that every child in Coventry has the best possible start in life.

9 Investment, Workforce Development and Branding

9.1 Coventry will receive investment of £6.1m (2026 – 2029) from the DfE and DHSC for the next three years to mature and further develop its Best Start Family hubs and ensure delivery of the Healthy Babies Programme.

9.2 This funding will be instrumental in ensuring all children have the Best Start in Life and support improved achievement of the GLD targets for all children, including those who are most disadvantaged.

9.3 Planned spend: staffing profile and programme delivery. Much of the budget will be spent on staffing, both current staffing (16.42 wte posts) and new fixed term posts (18 wte) to meet the requirements of the programme and embed the work that has been developed in the first 4 years of the programme into the offer.

Table 1: Distribution of your funding allocation across the relevant programme strands for financial years 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.

Strand	% ¹	2026-27 Allocation ²	2027-28 Allocation	2028-29 Allocation
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - programme	22%	£516,000	£421,900	£433,300
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - capital	5%	£103,200	£105,200	£107,300
Parenting support	19%	£370,100	£374,800	£391,200
Home learning environment support	14%	£279,400	£282,800	£295,300
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships	26%	£526,800	£526,800	£526,800
Infant feeding support	13%	£258,700	£258,700	£258,700
Healthy babies offers and parent and carer panels	1%	£26,600	£26,600	£26,600
Total		£2,080,800	£1,996,900	£2,039,200

9.4 Workforce investment is prioritised for BSiL Strategic Delivery Lead, additional Early Years, and parenting practitioners. Additional funding will be allocated by the DfE for implementation of early years SEND specialists in each Family Hub.

9.5 Branding: All eight hubs to be renamed Coventry Best Start in Life Family Hubs with national branding, and the expectation is that all services operating within the Family hub offer will use the new national branding alongside their local comms. (Appendix 2 – Branding requirements)

10 Governance, Risks and Next Steps

10.1 **Governance:** BSiL delivery will be governed through existing Children & Education and Health partnership structures, with clear lines to Family Hubs, SEND, schools, and Public Health. A request will be made to establish a clear governance accountability to the Health and Well Being Board.

10.2 Risks and mitigations:

Risk	Potential Impact	Required Action
Workforce capacity & retention	Limits quality & scale of delivery	Offer a range of training options. Planned support for the sector related to recruitment
High SEND demand	Pressure on inclusion pathways	Earlier ID and scaling of universal support offering new posts and future integration of SEND services in early years including Early Support Team (CDT, Children services) and Early years SEND (Education)
Variable take-up of funded childcare	Gaps in GLD & equity	Targeted outreach and comms strategy
Data fragmentation	Limits visibility of need	Shared LA-wide data integration as a shared priority
Mis-aligned priorities	Limits delivery of priorities	Ensure commissioning meets the requirements of the BSiL strategy document

11 Equality & Health Inequalities

11.1 Equality Impact Assessment and Inequalities Impact Assessment is underway; this paper references poverty, SEND, and gender gaps.

12 Next steps

12.1 Finalise and publish Bold Start, Bright Futures (March 2026); mobilise workforce; deliver Local Area Plan; report progress to Scrutiny and Cabinet.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – 2024/25 EYFSP GLD Trends over time: groups

Appendix 2 – Branding requirements for the new Best Start Family hub offer.

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Appendix 1. 2024 to 2025 EYFSP: Trends over time

Trends Over Time (2023–2025)

Group	GLD 2023	GLD 2024	GLD 2025	2-Year Change	Comment
All Pupils	64.2%	63.4%	65.3%	+1.1 pp	Upward rebound after 2024 dip
Disadvantaged	49.8%	49.6%	50.1%	+0.3 pp	Upward rebound after 2024 dip
EAL	58.9%	59.5%	59.7%	+0.8 pp	Small year on year growth in GLD
SEN Support	23.4%	21.5%	27.0%	+3.6 pp	Robust growth in 2025
Girls	71.9%	71.4%	72.5%	+0.6 pp	Holding steady at prominent levels
Boys	56.5%	55.8%	58.3%	+1.8 pp	Faster progress, but still behind girls

Appendix 2 Branding Requirements in the Best Start Family Hubs & Healthy Babies Guidance

The 2026 guidance sets out **specific, mandatory expectations** for how local authorities must brand and present their Best Start Family Hubs.

1. national branding and naming conventions

The guidance states that local authorities must use the **required branding and naming conventions** provided by the Department for Education (DfE) and Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC). This is listed as a formal part of the guidance offer. **This means:**

- Hubs must use the **national name**: *Best Start Family Hub*.
- Local authorities cannot create alternative hub names or unique visual identities that replace national identity.
- Local variations are allowed only *within* the national standard (e.g., location tags, sub-branding services).

2. All physical hubs must be clearly identifiable as Best Start Family Hubs

Because the guidance requires hubs to be **physical spaces** offering a recognisable “one-stop shop” model, every hub must:

- Display the approved **Best Start Family Hub signage**.
- Use the national branding across:
 - buildings
 - printed materials
 - digital channels
 - outreach communications

The guidance states hubs must be *physical spaces* delivering core services and accessible to families, supporting consistent identification.

3. Branding must support a consistent national identity

The 2026 guidance emphasises the need for consistency across all local authorities so that families recognise Family Hubs wherever they are in the country. Branding and naming conventions are part of the national framework for ensuring consistent delivery across all LAs. **We must ensure:**

- Use of the correct **logo, colour schemes, templates, and wording** (provided by DfE/DHSC).
- No divergence into local logos could cause confusion.

4. Branding must reflect the programme’s principles: universal, accessible, inclusive

The guidance describes hubs as “*welcoming, inclusive environments where every family feels valued,*” which influences branding requirements. Branding must align with the expectations for the hubs to be:

- Welcoming
- universal
- inclusive of all families
- easy for families to identify and navigate.

5. Branding must align with local Best Start Plans and Neighbourhood Health Plans

Because the programme links hub identity to integrated health and early years systems, branding must be coherent across:

- Family Hubs
- Neighbourhood Health Plans
- Local Best Start strategies

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 26 March 20206

Subject: Families First Partnership Programme Update (Social Care Reforms)

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Board on Coventry's progress in design and implementation for the Families First Partnership Programme

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
- 1) Note progress to date on the design and implementation planning.
 - 2) Endorse the delivery approach and the governance and monitoring arrangements

3 Information and Background

- 3.1 In March 2025, the Department for Education published new guidance on the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP), which aims to transform the whole system of help, support and protection for children and families, so that every family can access the right help and support when they need it, with a strong emphasis on early intervention to prevent crisis and strengthened partnership working.
- 3.2 In May 2025, Coventry City Council initiated work to support the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme. This programme aligns closely with the broader ambition of delivering the One Coventry approach and strengthening the system around families.
- 3.3 Between June and August 2025, Coventry brought together partners from across the local system, including council services, health, policing, education, and the voluntary and community sector, to develop an initial response to the national programme. This work built on Coventry's well-established strengths, including its strong Family Hub offer and mature, targeted Early Help system, which already provide coordinated, accessible support to children, young people and families across the city.
- 3.4 To support this work, a dedicated multi-agency transformation team was established, bringing together secondees at a senior level from education, health,

and policing, alongside local authority colleagues. This approach has ensured that the programme is genuinely co-owned across the partnership, with the right level of expertise, influence, and leadership to drive system-wide change. The multi-agency team has played a critical role in maintaining momentum, coordinating design activity, and ensuring that the emerging model reflects the perspectives and priorities of all key partners.

- 3.5 This collaborative infrastructure has strengthened Coventry's ability to take a whole-system approach to transformation, aligning strategic intent with operational delivery and ensuring that reforms are both locally grounded and partnership-led.
- 3.6 The focus of this phase was on shaping the Family Help service model, ensuring that future developments both align with national reform requirements and enhance Coventry's existing integrated approach. Partners worked collaboratively to map the current landscape of provision, recognising the impact of Family Hubs as community-based access points and the effectiveness of targeted Early Help in providing timely, needs-led interventions that prevent escalation.
- 3.7 A co-design approach was central to this process, enabling partners to identify opportunities to further strengthen integration, streamline pathways, and improve outcomes for families. This included building on existing practice around relationship-based support, multi-agency working, and whole-family approaches.
- 3.8 This phase has generated strong momentum across the partnership and established a robust foundation for the next stage of development, including further design, testing, and phased implementation through 2026.
- 3.9 Alongside this, Coventry also began preparing for a wider set of developments required through Families First, including:
 - More detailed design and test-and-learn activity for the Family Help model.
 - Establishing a model for Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT) and the Lead Child Protection Practitioner (LCPP) role.
 - Strengthening the local Family Led Decision Making offer, aligned to both government expectations and Coventry's Family Valued approach.
 - Assessing the core multi-agency safeguarding conditions needed for successful transformation.
 - Planning for effective performance monitoring, data use, communication, and engagement—including with children, young people, and families.
 - Supporting stronger collaboration across departments and partners to deliver place-based prevention.
- 3.10 Coventry entered autumn 2025 with a clear commitment to mobilising the next phase of transformation in line with the expectations of the national programme, including the integration of Family Help and Child Protection, the strengthening of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, and the delivery of more consistent, relationship-based practice for children and families.
- 3.11 A key priority within this phase was the design of the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) model, which will sit alongside Family Help as a core component of the future integrated system of support, safeguarding, and protection. This reflects

the national ambition to create a more seamless continuum between early help and statutory intervention, reducing fragmentation and ensuring children and families experience a more coordinated and effective response.

- 3.12 This phase of Coventry's transformation work focused on the detailed design of both the MACPT model and the Lead Child Protection Practitioner (LCPP) role. The LCPP role is central to the national reforms, providing greater professional oversight, strengthening decision-making, and ensuring a consistent focus on risk, impact, and the lived experience of the child.
- 3.13 A collaborative, multi-agency design approach was adopted, consistent with the methodology used in developing the Family Help model. This brought together partners from across the system to co-produce a model that reflects national reform principles, including clearer accountability, stronger multi-agency working, skilled and confident practitioners, and a relentless focus on the voice and experience of the child.
- 3.14 This work positions Coventry well to move into the next phase of implementation, ensuring that both Family Help and Child Protection reforms are aligned, mutually reinforcing, and capable of delivering improved outcomes for children and families.
- 3.15 Building on the development of the new Family Help model, which strengthens support for children and families requiring targeted and specialist intervention, the partnership has progressed its focus on multi-agency child protection arrangements for those children identified as at risk of harm and in need of statutory intervention.
- 3.16 This work has been underpinned by Coventry's existing strengths, including a well-established multi-agency safeguarding infrastructure, a strong culture of collaboration and shared accountability, and a commitment to relationship-based practice. These foundations have enabled meaningful progress at pace, with partners working collectively to design a more integrated and responsive system. In particular, opportunities have been identified to enhance joint working arrangements, strengthen shared approaches to risk assessment, and enable timelier, more informed multi-agency decision-making, in line with national reform expectations and statutory safeguarding duties.
- 3.17 The proposed Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) model builds on and evolves the current Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangements. It seeks to enhance capacity and capability by increasing multi-agency resource, enabling greater oversight, scrutiny, and strategic coordination of child protection activity. This will support more consistent thresholds, improved information-sharing, and stronger collective ownership of risk.
- 3.18 A key feature of the model is the integration of the Child Protection Conference Chair function into the Lead Child Protection Practitioner (LCPP) role. This development ensures that the role is underpinned by the necessary expertise, independence, and professional authority to provide robust oversight, challenge, and direction within child protection processes. It also aligns with the direction of national reform by strengthening practice leadership, improving the quality and consistency of decision-making, and maintaining a clear and unwavering focus on the voice and lived experience of the child.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 In December 2025, Central Government announced that the implementation of multi-agency child protection teams within the national Families First Partnership Programme would be paused, pending further national evaluation of the emerging evidence base. This decision reflects the learning from pathfinder areas, which has not yet identified a single, consistently effective national model of best practice.
- 4.2 In response, while Coventry will continue with local planning and development of enhanced, partner-involved multi-agency arrangements, this pause provides an important opportunity for further national reflection and refinement. It ensures that any future implementation is evidence-informed, safe, and sustainable and supports local areas to align with a model that is both effective and deliverable within the wider safeguarding system.
- 4.3 Coventry remains committed to the principles underpinning the programme, including strong multi-agency collaboration, improved information-sharing, and a coordinated response to risk, and will continue to build on its existing strengths while remaining responsive to further national guidance and direction.
- 4.4 As part of the next phase of work and early mobilisation, Coventry is developing a test-and-learn pilot focused on the end-to-end pathway from Family Help through to Multi-Agency Child Protection (MACPT). This will initially be implemented within the East locality, providing a defined area in which to safely test, evaluate, and refine the model in practice. Learning from this pilot will directly inform further development and support a phased roll-out across the city, in line with the Department for Education expectation for full implementation by April 2027.
- 4.5 Given the national pause on MACPT implementation, the initial emphasis will be on Family Help, ensuring that this element of the model is fully embedded, robust and delivering impact. However, the overarching intention remains to test the coherence and effectiveness of the whole system, ensuring readiness for full integration once national direction on MACPT is confirmed.
- 4.6 During this period, Coventry will continue to test and refine key components of the MACPT model where these align with and complement Family Help, building on the progress already made. This includes strengthening multi-agency working, shared decision-making, and practice oversight, ensuring that momentum is maintained and that the system is well-prepared for full implementation.

5 Coventry's Funding Position

5.1 Headline position

	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
FFPP grant allocation	£2,312,596	£5,771,232	£5,771,232	£4,654,790	£?	£?

- 5.2 The Department for Education has committed four years of funding to support Coventry in delivering the full scope of the Families First Programme, providing a significant opportunity to embed sustainable system-wide reform. While there is currently no confirmed position regarding funding beyond the 2028/29 financial year, this investment enables Coventry and its partners to take a planned, phased approach to transformation, building capacity, capability, and evidence of impact over time.

- 5.3 This funding creates a strong platform to further strengthen existing service delivery across the partnership, building on Coventry's established foundations in Family Hubs, Early Help, and multi-agency safeguarding. It also provides the opportunity to think innovatively and ambitiously, testing new approaches, scaling what works, and ensuring that services are increasingly integrated, preventative, and responsive to need.
- 5.4 Importantly, this period of investment allows Coventry to focus on delivering meaningful and lasting improvements for children and families, ensuring that resources are used in a way that not only meets national expectations but also reflects local priorities, ultimately striving to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families across the city.

6 Governance arrangements.

- 6.1 Coventry has established clear and robust governance arrangements to oversee the delivery of the Families First Partnership Programme, ensuring strong leadership, accountability, and alignment with existing safeguarding and partnership structures.
- 6.2 A dedicated Families First Partnership Board has been established to provide strategic oversight of the programme. The Board brings together senior leaders from across the partnership, including children's services, education, health, policing, and the voluntary and community sector. Its role is to set the overall direction, monitor progress against key milestones, manage risk, and ensure that the programme delivers on its intended outcomes for children and families. The Board maintains a strong focus on partnership working, system integration, and the effective use of resources to support sustainable transformation.
- 6.3 The Families First Partnership Board reports directly into the Coventry Children's Safeguarding Partnership (CCSP), ensuring clear lines of accountability and alignment with statutory safeguarding responsibilities. This reporting relationship provides assurance that the programme is fully connected to wider safeguarding priorities, with appropriate scrutiny, challenge, and oversight from safeguarding partners.
- 6.4 In addition, a separate Children and Education Steering Group has been established to support the operational delivery of the programme. This group focuses on driving forward key workstreams, including the development and implementation of the Family Help model and wider system reforms. It plays a critical role in translating strategic direction into delivery, coordinating activity across services, and ensuring that education partners are fully engaged in the transformation agenda.
- 6.5 Together, these governance arrangements provide a coherent structure that supports both strategic leadership and operational delivery, ensuring that the Families First Programme is effectively implemented across Coventry in line with national expectations and local priorities

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Agenda Item 6

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2025-26

Last updated 16 March 2026

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

10 July 2025
Cabinet Member Portfolio Priorities Draft Work Programme 25-26
11 September 2025
Outdoor Education The Complexities in Finding Homes for Children in Care
16 October 2025
Adoption Service Annual Reports Fostering Annual Report Progress on LGA Peer Review Action Plan
27 November 2025
Child-Friendly Cov Children in Care Pledge Children Absent from Education
22 January 2026 - Coombe
Safeguarding Annual Report Holiday Activities and Food Programme Site visit to Outdoor Education Service
26 February 2026
School Performance Data Annual Report SEND Strategy Update
26 March 2026
Early Years Strategy and Best Start in Life Family First Partnership (Social Care Reform)
2025-26
Regional Placements School Places Sufficiency Kinship Strategy and Local Kinship Offer (25/26) Children's Front Door MASH – Effective Support for Children and Families in Coventry Youth Provision in Coventry Health and Wellbeing in Schools Family Health and Lifestyles Service Child Sexual Exploitation Campaign on smart phones in school Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Local Transformation Plan April 2025 – March 2027 Family Valued and Reunification Project Breakfast Clubs Families First Partnership Programme Uptake of FSM and impact on school budgets Child-friendly Cov Exclusions

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2025-26

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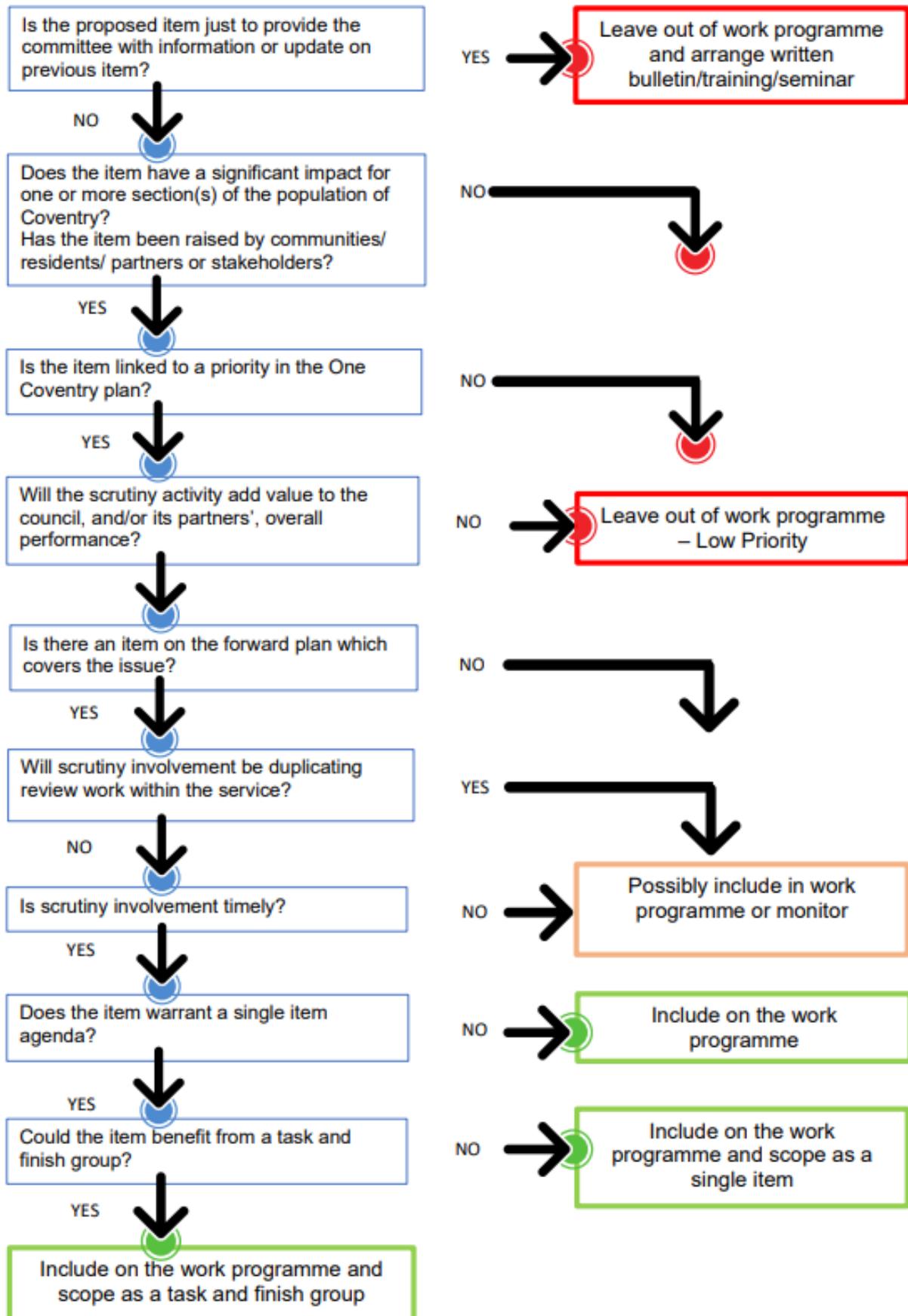
Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
10 July 2025	Cabinet Member Portfolio Priorities	To invite Cllr Sandhu and Cllr Seaman to identify their priorities for the coming year, for Scrucro to be able to identify future items and hold Cabinet Members to account	Cllr Sandhu Cllr Seaman
	Draft Work Programme 25-26	To consider the draft work programme and to identify any additional items or task and finish groups	Cllr Kelly G Holmes
11 September 2025	Outdoor Education	To cover the work being delivered on Outdoor Education, including the extended offer as well as plans for celebrating Dol Y Moch's anniversary.	R Sugars Cllr Sandhu
	The Complexities in Finding Homes for Children in Care	Looking at the complexities of homes for children, including placements, and the associated costs.	Cllr Seaman Sukriti Sen
16 October 2025	Adoption Service Annual Reports	Annual report – including information about the diversity of the adoption panel and adopters as well as support to birth mothers after their children have been adopted	Cllr Seaman Matt Clayton
	Fostering Annual Report	To consider performance of the fostering service including support to foster carers from their perspective	Cllr Seaman A Whitrick
	Progress on LGA Peer Review Action Plan	As a follow up to the item received on 13 Feb 2025, Members requested a more detailed progress report	S Sen Cllr Seaman
27 November 2025	Child-Friendly Cov	Progress update on impact and recommendations made at the meeting on 17 th October 2024 BN CMCYP - Child Friendly Cov.docx	Matt Clayton Cllr Seaman
	Children in Care Pledge	Progress on the pledge for children in care and care leavers	Matt Clayton Cllr Seaman
	Children Absent from Education	To establish a T&F to look at this in more detail. Covering Elective Home Education, Child Missing Education, SEND without an appropriate place	Rachael Sugars, Cllr Sandhu
22 January 2026 - Coombe	Safeguarding Annual Report		Rebekah Eaves Cllr Seaman
	Holiday Activities and Food Programme	Update including progress on recommendation to Cabinet Members BN CM ES HAF Dec 24.docx	Adrian Coles Cllr Seaman

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2025-26

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Site visit to Outdoor Education Service	Following an item on 11 September, Members wanted to see first hand the in-city outdoor education offer	R Sugars Cllr Sandhu
26 February 2026	School Performance Data Annual Report	An annual report on looking at performance and progress against national indicators	Cllr Sandhu Rachael Sugars
	SEND Strategy Update	To consider the refreshed strategy following co-production with children and parents. To specifically look at SEND provision in mainstream schools – possibly to include Behaviour Strategy and alternative provision	Jeannette Essex Cllr Sandhu
26 March 2026	Early Years Strategy and Best Start in Life	To come in 2025 and to include progress on actions requested on 17/7/24 re: oral and dental health – links with Best Start in Life	R Sugars/J Moffat Cllr Sandhu and Cllr Seaman
	Family First Partnership (Social Care Reform)	Update on social reforms and the Council's response.	Cllr Seaman S Sen, C Heeley
2025-26	Regional Placements	Also to include progress on West Midlands Safer Centre	S Sen Cllr Seaman
	School Places Sufficiency	Primary, Secondary and Special – to look in more detail at the delivery on the One Strategic Plan – refer to Scruco for Cabinet Report.	
	Kinship Strategy and Local Kinship Offer (25/26)		
	Children's Front Door	An aspect of the LGA Peer Review.	S Sen Cllr Seaman
	MASH – Effective Support for Children and Families in Coventry	Looking at the impact of the new partnership threshold document in reducing inappropriate referrals into MASH, as well as diversion to Family Hubs.	Cllr Seaman Sukriti Sen
	Youth Provision in Coventry	How and where we work with outside partners (and specifically the third sector) to deliver it	Sukriti Sen Cllr Seaman
	Health and Wellbeing in Schools	To look at what is being done to promote health and wellbeing in schools and universities – including the school nursing service	

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Family Health and Lifestyles Service	To looking in more detail at how the service is tackling health inequalities and targeting services at those in need on a localised basis. School nurse provision. Also how the service is supporting Early Help BN CM CYP & PHSW - Early Help.docx	Bill McCann, Angela Baker Cllr Caan
	Child Sexual Exploitation	Work of the Horizon Team – links with the police and health.	Cllr Seaman Chris Heeley
	Campaign on smart phones in school	Looking at the impact on behaviour, mental health and attention span	Cllr Sandhu
	Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Local Transformation Plan April 2025 – March 2027		
	Family Valued and Reunification Project	Pick up outstanding items from 24-25, cost of care proceedings, ethnicity, cost of different levels of intervention	
	Breakfast Clubs		
	Families First Partnership Programme		
	Uptake of FSM and impact on school budgets	Following a query at Scrucro on 20 November 25, an item on the impact of universal FSM in KS1 and having to claim beyond that age.	Rachael Sugars Cllr Sandhu
	Child-friendly Cov	A follow up from meeting held 27 November 25 to consider widening the inclusion of schools across the city in Child-friendly Cov activities	Angela Whitrick Rachale Sugars Cllr Sandhu Cllr Seaman
	Exclusions	Following an item on Children Absent from Education a further item on Exclusions was requested by the Board	Cllr Sandhu Rachael Sugars

Work Programme Decision Flow Chart



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