



Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Time and Date

10.00 am on Thursday, 16th July, 2026

Place

Diamond Rooms 1 and 2 - Council House

Public Business

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**
2. **Declarations of Interests**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)
 - a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2026
 - b) Matters Arising
4. **OFSTED Inspection of Coventry Local Authority Children's Services**
(Pages 9 - 16)

Report of the Director of Children's and Education Services
5. **Work Programme** (Pages 17 - 24)

Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator
6. **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, 8 July 2026

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Salmon Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors A Bullock, A Cole, J Fearn, Mrs S Hanson (Co-Opted

Member), G Hayre, J Innes, D Jackson (Co-opted Member), S Jobbar (Chair), and Mr G Vohra (Co-opted Member)

By invitation: Councillors AS Khan and M Mutton

Public Access

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Michelle Salmon

Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk

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

Present:

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

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

Employees (by Service Area):

Education and Children C Heeley, A King, J Moffat

Law and Governance G Holmes, M Salmon

Apologies: Councillor B Christopher - Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (by invitation)

Public Business

39. Declarations of Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

40. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

41. Early Years Strategy and Best Start in Life

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 the implementation of the Best Start in Life (BSiL) Strategy

and Local Area Plan (2026–2029), set out Coventry’s statutory Good Level of Development (GLD) targets and the approach to delivery through Best Start Family Hubs and partners, and confirmed the proposed approach to governance, workforce, and monitoring.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People attended the meeting for this item of business.

The briefing note and presentation highlighted:

- Coventry’s early years position, statutory GLD targets, and delivery through Best Start Family Hubs
- The national requirement: a Best Start in Life Strategy and Local Area Action Plan in operation by April 2026 and Coventry’s response
- Coventry: Good Level of Development (GLD) - current position and trend (Reception 2024/25), and the position by the end of academic year 2027/28
- Current Coventry delivery system working in collaboration to support children in early years and have the best start in life, and to achieve a good level of development
- Best Start in Life: National Strategy - HM Government Best Start in Life Strategy 2026–2029
- Bold Start, Bright Futures (2026–2029) - Plan to Improve Child Development and Health Outcomes from pre-Birth to 5
- Best Start Family Hub and Healthy Babies Investment, Workforce and Branding
- Next Steps - completion of the Best Start in Life Strategy and Local area Action plan by mid-late April and publication; establishment of the multiagency governance for this ambitious programme of work and performance dashboard; refocus of the interventions and service offer to children in most need (boys, children learning EAL, FSM, SEND) and geographical wards to narrow the gap; close monitoring of the impact of the local area action plan to ensure outcomes are being delivered and targets are likely to be met

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 Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on matters including:

- The Government required the production of the Strategy, which aligned with our Marmot City priorities, by July 2026
- The Authority worked with a range of partners, Education and Children’s Services, Family Hubs, SEND services, schools, and early years providers, and there was already a work stream that was multi-agency supported and an operational stakeholder group in operation
- A new governance process would be established for the Strategy – Best Start in Life Partnership Programme Board and also a Multi-Agency Operational Stakeholder Group, who would establish its own Service Level Action Plans
- The Outcomes Framework would be shared across the partnership

- The targets were challenging but achievable through partnership working and commitment
- The drivers for the Strategy needed to remain the same
- Changing culture could be challenging and there were known and unknown challenges
- There was a need to access information about the groups of children not yet seen and targeting these children may require slightly changing course dependant on their needs
- It was anticipated that there would be a timeframe of 10 years for the results of the work to be realised
- A further 6 years of investment, in addition to the first 3 years funding, would be required to realise a difference
- Data analysis through the HDRD had identified disadvantage and poverty as the key factor for families – need to look into the reasons behind the issues experienced by these families and work flexibly to target work.
- There was a recognised developmental delay in some children from a very early age – improvement in the early years stage would benefit children and families, particularly for when children started school
- There had been a particular focus on 3–4-year-olds, however it was recognised that the dip in development in 2024 was possibly as a result of Covid born children not being able to access services and suggested that more investment for 0-2yrs was required
- There was a good pathway with parental engagement which helped to shape the offer/services - families were committed and wanted the best for their children, they were telling the Local Authority what they needed and engaging with the offer
- The Council was highly regarded by the DFE for the work it had undertaken
- Milestones in children's achievements/good levels of development had been modelled, and data analysis had improved
- From 1st April 2026 Local and National Branding that would be used for the Best Start Family Hubs (these will retain their own colours), and the Healthy Babies Programme. The changes would be gradually introduced but would follow a plan for completion as soon as was practicable
- The Family Hub offer was available to children of all ages and their families
- Community and digital offers were big objectives
- The Council had provided its support for the continuation of the development and provision of the services for the future

The Board thanked offices for their presentation and their continued commitment to the work and requested that Annual Reports on Progress be submitted to the Board.

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

- 1) Notes the progress to date on the Best Start in Life Strategy and Local Area Plan.**
- 2) Endorses the delivery approach and the proposed governance and monitoring arrangements.**

- 3) **Supports the 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.**
- 4) **Annual Reports on Progress be submitted to the Board, including take up from different groups of children.**

42. **Family First Partnership (Social Care Reform)**

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 progress in design and implementation for the Families First Partnership Programme.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People attended the meeting for this item of business.

The briefing note and presentation highlighted:

- Publication of the Department for Education new guidance on the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP) to transform the whole system of help, support and protection for children and families
- The Council's work supported the implementation of the Programme which aligned with delivering the One Coventry approach and strengthening the system around families
- 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
- Work was built on Coventry's well-established strengths, including its Family Hub offer and mature, targeted Early Help system, which already provided coordinated accessible support to children, young people and families in the city
- The establishment of a multi-agency transformation team bringing together officers from education, health, policing, and the Local Authority
- A focus on shaping the Family Help Service Model, ensuring that future developments aligned with national reform requirements and enhanced Coventry's existing integrated approach
- Establishing a robust foundation for the next stage of development, including further design, testing, and phased implementation through 2026.
- Preparation for a wider set of developments required through Families First
- 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
- The design of the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team model to sit alongside Family Help as a core component of the future integrated system of support, safeguarding, and protection
- The Multi-Agency Child Protection Team model which built on and evolved the current Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub arrangements supporting more consistent thresholds, improved information-sharing, and stronger collective ownership of risk

- The integration of the Child Protection Conference Chair function into the Lead Child Protection Practitioner role
- Next steps: continue with local planning and development of enhanced partner-involved multi-agency arrangements; development of a test-and-learn pilot focused on end-to-end pathway from Family Help through to Multi-Agency Child Protection; ensuring that the Family Help element of the model was fully embedded, robust and delivering impact; and the continuation of testing and refining key components of the Multi-Agency Child Protection model
- Coventry's funding position – the Department for Education's commitment to four years of funding to support Coventry in delivering the full scope of the Families First Programme from 2025/26 to 2028/29
- Governance Arrangements – the Families First Partnership Board, the Coventry Children's Safeguarding Partnership; and the Children and Education Steering Group, would provide a coherent structure that supported both strategic leadership and operational delivery in line with national expectations and local priorities

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 Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on matters including:

- The Outcomes Framework provided an indication of the Council's successes which included: how many families were reached; reducing the number of children from early help going forward; children thriving, doing well and being safe; and families retaining one lead practitioner
- The dedicated multi-agency Transformation Team brought together education, health, and policing, alongside the local authority ensuring that the programme was co-owned across the partnership, with expertise, influence, and leadership to drive system-wide change
- A dedicated post in Coventry, who ran a Health Oversight Group, would look at what health services needed to do to change and adapt
- Regular meetings with Public Health looked at what services they commissioned
- Work was built on strong relationships to ensure that SILO working was not undertaken
- Digital technology (AI) was being utilised to assist where possible and appropriate
- CoventryFamilies.co.uk – learning from access to the site, the system could send relevant information to users. This targeted individuals with trusted information without the need for them to search

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People thanked officers for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to the children and families in the city.

The Board requested that the relevant Director be requested to address digitally secure network provision for the Police to enable them to be situated with the MASH Team in an appropriate location.

RESOLVED that the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board (2) notes progress to date on the design and implementation planning of the Families First Partnership Programme and endorses the delivery approach and the governance and monitoring arrangements.

43. Work Programme 2025/26

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) received a briefing note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator that detailed issues that were on the Board's Work Programme for meetings of the Board for 2025/26. As this was the last meeting of the year, the Board noted the items they had considered over the course of the year, the list of matters to be considered on a date to be confirmed, and the list of matters to be considered in the next Municipal Year.

Further to Resolution 4) in Minute 41/25 above, an item headed 'Early Years Strategy and Best Start in Life Annual Report on Progress' be added to the Work Programme.

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

- 1) Notes the matters considered during the Municipal Year 2025/26, the list of matters to be considered on a date to be confirmed, and the list of matters to be considered in the Municipal Year 2026/27.**
- 2) Agrees that 'Early Years Strategy and Best Start in Life Annual Report on Progress' be added to the Work Programme for future consideration.**

44. Any Other Business

There were no other items of public business.

Ofsted Inspection

The Board noted that the outcome of the recent Ofsted Inspection would be published in a report on 18th May 2026.

The Chair thanked all officers in Children's Social Care and Education Services for their continued dedicated hard work supporting families and children in the city and for their work on the inspection and asked that this be placed on record.

Thanks

The Board thanked Councillor Kelly for her work Chairing the Board for 2025/26 and asked that this be placed on record.

(Meeting closed at 11.40 am)

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) 16th July 2026

Subject: Inspection of Coventry local authority children's services

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) of the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers.

2 Recommendations

The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:

- 1) Consider the recommendations highlighted in the inspection report
- 2) Identify any items to look at in more detail on the work programme 2026-2027
- 3) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member.

3 Introduction Ofsted inspection of Children's Services

- 3.1 All Local Authority Children's Services are inspected by Ofsted, every three-four years. The focus of inspections includes:
- The effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, and enable families to stay together and get the help they need
 - The experience and progress of children in care wherever they live, including children who return home
 - The effectiveness of the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, in stable, loving homes, including adoption
 - The experience and progress of care leavers

Inspectors also evaluate:

- The effectiveness of leaders and managers
- The impact of leaders and managers have on the lives of children and young people

- The quality of professional practice delivered by multi-disciplinary local authority teams that are equipped and effective
- 3.2 Children's Services were last inspected in June 2022. A change to the inspection framework in January 2023, introduced a separate judgement and evaluation criteria added for 'the experience and progress of care leavers'. The outcome of Coventry's inspection in 2026, therefore includes a separate judgement for care leavers for the first time.
- 3.3 Local Authority Children's Services Inspections are based on a strength-based approach focusing on social workers and social work practice.
- 3.4 The inspection framework requires local authorities each year to share a self-evaluation of practice and meet with the regional Ofsted representatives to discuss progress impact and practice. Children's Services shared their updated March 2026 self-assessment at the annual engagement meeting held on 19 May 2026.
- 3.5 The self-evaluation provides an overview of quality and impact of social work practice; and an overview of how the quality assurance framework assesses quality and impact and sets out the service plans and priorities for the next 12 months.
- 3.6 Since January 2025, Coventry Children's Services has continued to strengthen its delivery of relational, child-centred and family-led practice, under the Coventry Family Valued practice approach. This has been underpinned by improved management oversight, strong multi-agency collaboration and a clear focus on impact.
- 3.7 The service had made measurable progress in reducing the number of children subject to child protection plans and children in care, although there has been some recent increase. With regards to workforce, there is evidence of increased stability and also of sustained reduction in agency staffing, while maintaining stable caseloads. Quality assurance activity consistently evidences purposeful and meaningful capture of children's voices and positive progress across the service. However, supervision is an area that requires further attention and will be the focus for improvement in 2026. In relation to homes for children, investment in local sufficiency, including the expansion of children's homes and the use of needs-led decision-making tools, is improving placement stability and value for money.
- 3.8 Progress is being made in implementing the Family First Partnership Programme reforms and the partnership is working at pace to meet the timeline of March 2027 for Family Help and Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams to become operational.
- 3.9 Over the past year, there has been a strong commitment to learning, inclusion and anti-racist practice which is supported by a developing workforce offer and effective partnerships. While increasing demand, SEND pressures and sufficiency challenges remain, there is a clear and credible trajectory of improvement, with well-defined priorities in place to further strengthen outcomes for children and families over the next year. With children and families

firmly at the centre of practice, the Child Friendly Cov approach demonstrates the ambition the city holds for its children and young people.

4 Inspection Outcome

- 4.1 Children's Services were inspected on **9-13 March 2026**. The Ofsted report was published on 18th May 2026, judging Coventry Children's Services as 'Outstanding' in four of the five judgement areas – as follows:

4.2

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
The experiences and progress of children in care	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of care leavers	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness	Outstanding

- 4.3 The link to the full inspection report <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50301676>
- 4.4 The significant achievement demonstrates the work of teams in every area of the service who have worked with 'our' children, young people and families and partners showing their enthusiasm, dedication and determination to give the best service to the children, young people and families in the city.
- 4.5 Just over 12 years ago in 2014, following the death of Daniel Pelka, Children's Services received an '**inadequate judgement**' from Ofsted, which resulted in government intervention and a regime of monitoring visits by Ofsted, and improvement progress overseen by a board. Our journey of improvement began in earnest to transform the service.
- 4.5 In March 2017 the service demonstrated improvement and were judged '**requires improvement to be good**'. The relentless journey of improvement and commitment from staff, partners and leaders judged Children's Services to be '**Good**' in June 2022.
- 4.6 Since the last inspection the service have continued to strengthen the quality and impact of services. Despite considerable external challenges of the number of children living in poverty and significant rise in demand for services we were judged '**Outstanding**' in May 2026. Ofsted inspectors stated '*Impressive, outward looking leaders have demonstrated an unwavering ambition and commitment to children in Coventry.*'

- 4.7 The service has brought to life our Child Friendly Cov aspirations, to make Coventry the best place for children to grow up by putting children and families right in the heart of all we do. Young people have been given a voice and know they are listened to.
- 4.8 Political and corporate leaders, partners and local business leaders have been relentless in their determination for children in Coventry to succeed.
- 4.9 Ofsted judgements for all LAs in England, highlight that **Coventry is 28th of 153 local authorities representing the top 18% nationally.** Coventry compares well, as **one of four local authorities in the West Midlands region rated ‘Outstanding’** overall. This achievement is significant and one that we should all be proud of.

5 Inspections findings

5.1 A summary of the inspection report findings is highlighted below:

5.2 The experience and progress of children in help and protection

- Children in Coventry who need help and protection receive prompt and effective support from practitioners who know them well
- Children benefit from a range of early help services delivered through local family hubs
- Concerns about children are appropriately referred to the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) by partners
- The Emergency Duty Service (EDS) is effective in ensuring that children are appropriately safeguarded out of office hours.
- Trusting relationships with parents lead to a greater understanding of the issues impacting on the care for the child.
- Feedback from the judiciary and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) describes highly effective practice with parents during proceedings
- Children who live in private fostering arrangements are well supported
- Children who are at risk of exploitation and of going missing are supported by skilled workers from an effective, well-coordinated service
- Earlier identification and effective interventions ensure that 16- and 17-year-old children at risk of homelessness are provided with effective support
- Disabled children are supported by practitioners who develop meaningful relationships with them and understand their complex needs
- Effective edge-of-care services support families to bring about positive change when children are at risk of coming into care
- There are clear systems in place to identify and monitor children receiving elective home education

5.3 The experience and progress of children in care

- When children can no longer stay at home safely, timely decisions are made for them to come into care
- Children in care benefit from positive relationships with their workers, who know them well and want the best for them
- Children in care are involved in key decisions that will impact on their lives. Their views are sought through regular conversations with their social worker, IRO and in their reviews
- There is strong ambition in Coventry to return children home from care whenever this is safe and possible
- Family network meetings consider extended family members caring for children if they cannot remain living with their parents. Kinship carers receive a high level of training and support from their social workers.
- Children's physical and emotional health needs are met well through a comprehensive, wide-ranging offer of face-to-face and online support.
- The virtual school provides effective and increasingly impactful support for children in care. Impressive leadership over the last year has led to strengthened oversight, inclusion and SEND provision, contributing to rising attendance, no permanent exclusions and a significant reduction in the use of part-time timetables
- Children in care benefit from a wide range of social, educational and recreational opportunities, including football, dancing and music groups
- There is strong oversight and support for children who go missing from care.
- Disabled children in the care of the local authority live in stable placements that meet their complex needs
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children receive effective help and support to meet their needs and are highly valued.
- The right adoptive homes are found for children who need them

5.4 The experience and progress of care leavers

- When children transition to adult services, timely referrals ensure that plans are effective and well thought through
- Care leavers have positive, trusting and stable relationships with Personal Advisers.
- Aspirational pathway plans are co-developed with care leavers in sufficient time to support a successful transition to support children as they approach adulthood
- There is comprehensive support for care leavers over the age of 21 years if they choose to access this
- Care leavers are supported to maintain relationships with people who are important to them through the well-established Lifelong Links service
- Care leavers' physical, emotional and mental health needs are well met

- Care leavers benefit from a comprehensive, wide-ranging local offer that has been developed in partnership with them, regardless of where in the country they live
- Care leavers are supported to develop independent living skills, including managing their own tenancies, finding work and support to manage their finances.
- 'Staying put' and 'staying close' arrangements are maturely developed in Coventry.
- Coventry has a strong, joined-up system to help care leavers move into education, training and employment

5.5 The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families

- Children and care leavers in Coventry benefit from consistently good practice from practitioners who know them well. As a result, most children and young people make impressive progress
- Partners, local businesses, colleagues, families and children all benefit from the Family Valued relational practice model, which continues to embed across the city
- More children and families now access help and support at a time and place that is right for them.
- Leaders have worked with children and local businesses to make Coventry a child-friendly city.
- Building on existing strong foundations, leaders are making steady progress in the implementation of the children's social care reforms through the Families First Partnership Programme.
- Leaders understand the quality and impact of practice with children and families.
- As a result of targeted work to increase sufficiency, there is now a wider range of placements available when children cannot remain living at home.
- Progress for children in care is reviewed and monitored through a highly effective corporate parenting board
- Importantly, leaders have significantly strengthened their approach to equality, identity and diversity, and practice and attitudes are tangibly changing as a result
- Through a comprehensive workforce strategy and offer to workers, there is a reducing reliance on temporary workers
- Management oversight of frontline practice is mostly effective in providing case direction.
- The comprehensive training offer and opportunities to progress and develop are contributing to staff stability and motivation to work in Coventry

5.6 The inspection report identified two recommendations to strengthen and improve further:

- ***The consistency of the quality and impact of planning for***

children in need of help and protection.

- ***The consistency of the quality and impact of supervision.***

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 The national children's social care reforms provide an important opportunity to strengthen and accelerate our local ambitions for children and families. The direction of travel, including a stronger focus on Family Help, multi-agency working, kinship and family networks, and evidence-informed practice, aligns closely with our commitment to strengthen practice further and ensure children receive the right help at the right time, aligned to the One Coventry ambition. We want to shift the balance of support towards earlier help, prevention and whole-family approaches, so that families are supported before needs escalate and children are helped to remain safely within their families and communities wherever possible.
- 6.2 The test and learn pilot of the end-to end pathway from Family Help to multi-agency child protection commenced at the beginning of June 2026 in the East locality team and will be an opportunity to evaluate at the end of the six months and provide a basis for the phased roll out implementation planned March 2027.
- 6.3 While we recognise the progress already made, we will not stand still. We will continue to learn, challenge ourselves and work with partners to deliver consistently outstanding practice, improve outcomes and strive for the very best for all our children, young people and families.
- 6.4 A Children's Services Action Plan has been developed to focus on strengthening and developing what is already very strong and will include quality and impact of plans and supervision in line with our Quality Assurance Framework.
- 6.5 Progress against the areas for development will be monitored by the senior leadership team and presented to a future Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2).

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

Date: 16th July 2026

Subject: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2026-27

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide committee members an opportunity to discuss potential items for the work programme 2026-27

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) is recommended to:
- 1) Consider the draft work programme attached at Appendix 1
 - 2) Identify and agree any additional items for the work programme 2026-27

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 The work programme provides a schedule of items for meetings over the coming municipal year. The draft work programme for the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) for 2026-27 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Scrutiny work programmes are working documents and will adapt and change over the year to react to Members' requirements. Any item agreed at this meeting does not preclude any future amendments to the work programme.
- 3.3 The remit of the Board covers the portfolios of the following Cabinet Members:

Children and Young People:

- Children and Families (Early Help)
- Children and Young People's Social Care
- Child Exploitation
- Young People
- Youth Offending Service
- Safeguarding
- *S19 Children Act 2004 Lead Member
- Fostering, Adoption, Special Guardianship Orders and Kinship Care
- Corporate Parenting

and the **Cabinet Member Education, Skills and Equalities:**

- Post 16 Education and Training
- Schools
- Early Years
- Special Educational Needs and Disability
- Libraries
- Adult Education
- Higher and Further Education (incl. Universities)
- Skills and Employability

3.4 Please note the Equalities aspect of the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Equalities is considered at Scrucro, due to it's cross cutting element.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

4.1 There is no impact on health inequalities for these recommendations, but Members may want to consider how identified work programme items may impact on health inequalities.

Appendix 1: SB2 Work Programme 2026-27

Gennie Holmes
Scrutiny Co-ordinator
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Last updated 7 July 2026

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

16th July 2026
Children's Services Ofsted Report Work Programme
10th September 2026 – move to 17th September
Cabinet Member Priorities Kinship Strategy and Local Kinship Offer (25/26) Placement Sufficiency
15th October 2026
Campaign on smart phones in school - tbc
19 November 2026
Child Exploitation
17 December 2026
Families First Partnership Programme
21 January 2027
Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Local Transformation Plan April 2025 – March 2027
25 February 2027
School Performance - tbc School Attendance Elective Home Education
15 April 2027
Best Start in Life
2026-27
Regional Placements School Places Sufficiency SEND reforms progress 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 – SB5 joint Family Valued and Reunification Project Breakfast Clubs Uptake of FSM and impact on school budgets Child-friendly Cov Exclusions

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2026-27

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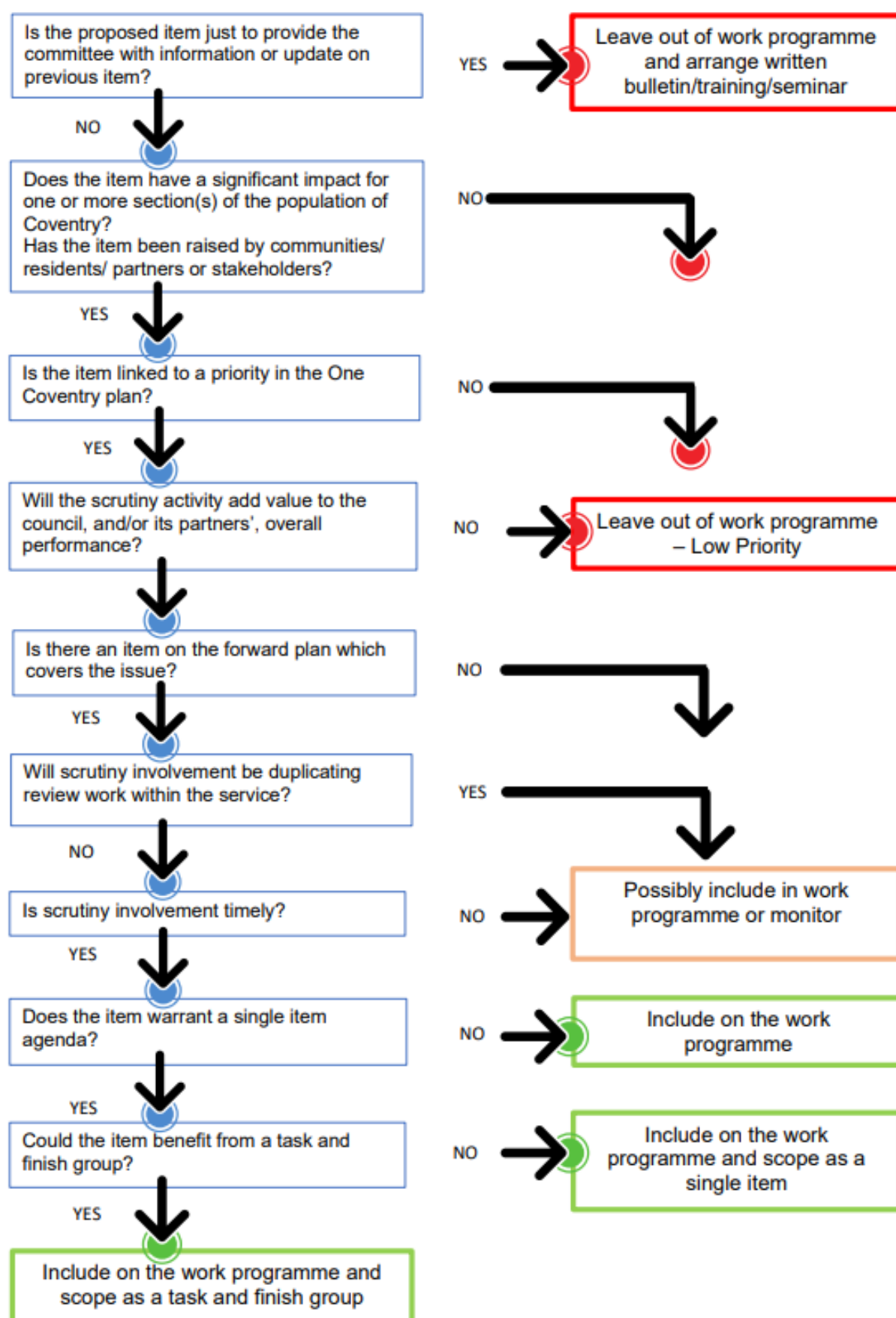
Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
16th July 2026	Children's Services Ofsted Report	To consider the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of Children's Services	S Sen
	Work Programme	To consider the draft work programme for 26-27	G Holmes
10th September 2026 – move to 17th September	Cabinet Member Priorities	Written Briefing Note of priorities to be circulated to the Board ahead of the meeting	
	Kinship Strategy and Local Kinship Offer (25/26)		S Sen
	Placement Sufficiency	Refreshed Placement Sufficiency Strategy	Angela Whitrick
15th October 2026	Campaign on smart phones in school - tbc	Looking at the impact on behaviour, mental health and attention span	CM Education Skills & Equalities
19 November 2026	Child Exploitation	To cover criminal and sexual exploitation. The work of the Horizon Team – links with the police and health.	Chris Heeley CM Children & YP
17 December 2026	Families First Partnership Programme		CM Children & YP
21 January 2027	Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Local Transformation Plan April 2025 – March 2027	Potentially joint meeting with SB5	
25 February 2027	School Performance - tbc		CM Education, Skills & Equalities
	School Attendance	Progress on recommendations agreed by Scrucro on 9/4/26 including progress on data.	Rachael Sugars CM Education, Skills & Equalities

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2026-27

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Elective Home Education	Progress on T&F recommendations agreed by Scrucro 9/4/26, including 14-16 and post16 provision	Rachael Sugars CM Education, Skills & Equalities
15 April 2027	Best Start in Life		CM Children & YP
2026-27	Regional Placements	Also to include progress on West Midlands Safer Centre	S Sen
	School Places Sufficiency	Primary, Secondary and Special – to look in more detail at the delivery on the One Strategic Plan – refer to Scrucro for Cabinet Report.	
	SEND reforms progress		R Sugars
	Children's Front Door	An aspect of the LGA Peer Review.	S Sen
	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.	Sukriti Sen
	Youth Provision in Coventry	How and where we work with outside partners (and specifically the third sector) to deliver it	Sukriti Sen
	Health and Wellbeing in Schools	To look at what is being done to promote health and well-being in schools and universities – including the school nursing service	
	Family Health and Lifestyles Service – SB5 joint	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 – Allison Duggal

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	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		
	Uptake of FSM and impact on school budgets	Following a query at Scruto on 20 November 25, an item on the impact of universal FSM in KS1 and having to claim beyond that age.	Rachael Sugars
	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 Rachael Sugars
	Exclusions	Following an item on Children Absent from Education a further item on Exclusions was requested by the Board	Rachael Sugars

Work Programme Decision Flow Chart



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