



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director – Resources**

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Date:	29 February 2024
Subject:	Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes: - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee• Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Summary:

As set out in the Council's constitution, a key role for this Board is monitoring the work programmes of the other scrutiny committees. The role of the Board is to satisfy itself that it is content with each committee's work programme, rather than to discuss the detail of particular items listed in the work programme, as these discussions are appropriately held at the relevant meeting of the scrutiny committee.

This report focuses on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee and includes information on activity since 30 November 2023, when reports on these two committees were last considered by the Board.

Actions Required:

- (1) The Board is requested to determine whether it is satisfied with the activity undertaken since 30 November 2023 by:
 - (a) the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; and
 - (b) the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

- (2) The Board is requested to determine whether it is satisfied with the planned work programme of:
 - (a) the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; and
 - (b) the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

1. Background

The Council's constitution includes in this Board's terms of reference the following two clauses: -

- To agree and monitor the ongoing overview and scrutiny work programme, in particular holding the chairmen and/or vice chairmen to account for their committee's work programme on a quarterly basis.
- To monitor and guide the activities of the other overview and scrutiny committees.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Since 30 November 2023, when a report was last submitted, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has met on 8 December 2023 and 12 January 2024. The Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee has met on 12 December 2023 and 30 January 2024.

The key activities since November 2023 and the planned work programme of each committee and are set out in Appendices A and B respectively. If members of the Board require further details on any item of previous activity, the full reports can be found on the County Council's website.

Committee Reporting Timetable

The table below sets out the planned reporting timetable until October 2024: -

Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring Date	Monitoring Date	Monitoring Date
Adults and Community Wellbeing	25 Jan 24	25 Apr 24	29 Aug 24
Health			
Children and Young People	29 Feb 24	30 May 24	26 Sept 24
Public Protection and Communities			
Environment and Economy	12 Mar 24	27 June 24	31 Oct 24
Highways and Transport			
Flood and Water Management			

2. Conclusion

The Board is asked to consider whether it is satisfied with the previous activity and the planned work programmes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, and the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

3. Appendices

These are listed below: -

Appendix A	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Activity and Planned Work
Appendix B	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee – Activity and Planned Work

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07552 253814, or via tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ACTIVITY REPORT

Since its last report to the Board, the Committee has met on 8 December 2023 and 12 January 2024. Full details on all the items considered at these meetings are available on the County Council's website:

<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=124>

Set out below is a summary of the outcomes at these two meetings:

8 December 2023	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
1	<p>Insourcing of the catering service at Lincolnshire Secure Unit</p> <p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration on 13 December 2023.</p>
2	<p>Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 - Quarter 2</p> <p>The Committee was satisfied with the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2023-24 Quarter 2. Members raised concerns about whether the Council held sufficient capacity to respond to risks that commonly contributed to children being subjected to a Child Protection Plan. Assurance was provided that there was a system of quality assurance processes around this work and the Council heavily invested in preventative measures to address risks.</p>
3	<p>Childcare Sufficiency in Lincolnshire</p> <p>The Committee supported the actions as set out in the report and the publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Report for 2023.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Childcare Sufficiency Survey had determined that Lincolnshire had a good level of sufficiency of early years places. However, South Holland had insufficient provision, but Members were assured that the two nurseries in the locality would offer over 50 places for 0-5 year olds and the Wrap Around Programme, which was due to be considered by the Committee in January 2024, would further support this work.</p>

8 December 2023

<i>Item</i>		<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
4	Myle Cross & Cherry Willingham Childrens Centre Refurbishment – Alternative Provision (EXEMPT)	The Committee supported the recommendations in the exempt report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Leader of the Council on 15 December 2023.

12 January 2024

<i>Item</i>		<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
1	Council Budget 2024/25	<p>The Committee supported the Children’s Services budget proposals for 2024/25 as set out in the report and agreed to pass on comments to the Executive for consideration at its meeting on 6 February 2024.</p> <p>The Committee recognised that Children’s Services had very little control over the rising cost pressures due to the unprecedented market conditions, increasing demand, and rising prices, which were causing the 10% increase in the overall budget for Children’s Services. Assurance was provided that Children’s Services was working hard to mitigate the impact through early intervention and by making sure it remained competitive within a market.</p>
2	Mainstream Schools Funding 2024/25	The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Councillor for Children’s Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration on the basis and principles as set out in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Councillor for Children’s Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration on 7 February 2024.
3	Childcare Reforms & Early Years Funding Formula	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Councillor for Children’s Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration on 30 January 2024.
4	Attendance in Schools, Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education Annual Report 2022/23	<p>The Committee endorsed the Attendance in Schools, Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education Annual Report for the 2022/23 academic year.</p> <p>Apprehension was raised by Members regarding parents potentially receiving fixed penalty notices, which were issued at the Headteacher’s discretion, in instances where a</p>

12 January 2024	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
	child was being bullied and where attending school would be harmful. The Committee was informed that the Government was developing a national framework to establish more consistency with the issuing of fixed penalty notices.
5	<p>Welton William Farr (Church of England) Comprehensive School - New Sixth Form Block (EXEMPT)</p> <p>The Committee supported the recommendations in the exempt report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Leader of the Council on 26 January 2024.</p>

PLANNED WORK

Set out below are the items planned for future meetings of the Committee:

08 March 2024		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1.	<p>Lincolnshire School Performance 2022 - 23</p> <p>Martin Smith, Assistant Director – Education</p> <p>Matt Spoons, Head of Service - School Standards</p> <p>Nicky Myers, Interim Head of Service Early Years and Childcare Support</p>	This is the annual update report on school performance and Ofsted outcomes.
2.	<p>Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Success Framework 2023-24 Quarter 3</p> <p>Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help</p>	This is the quarterly performance report.
3.	<p>Children's Services Annual Statutory Complaints Report 2022-23</p> <p>Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director - Early Help</p>	This is an annual report which sets out the complaints received in relation to Children's Social Care.

19 April 2024		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1.	Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service from April 2025 Bridie Fletcher, Senior Commissioning Officer – Children's Strategic Commissioning Amy Allcock, Commissioning Manager - Commercial	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to an Executive Councillor decision between 3 and 7 June 2024.
2.	Children and Young People Mental Health Transformation Programme Charlotte Gray, Head of Service – Children's Strategic Commissioning	This item will provide an update on progress with the children and young people mental health transformation programme.
3.	Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme Andy Cook, Head of Service - Families First for Children Pathfinder	This item will inform the Committee of the Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme which Children's Services has been invited to participate in.
4.	New Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home build – Main Works Contract (EXEMPT) Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Dave Clarke, Service Lead - Secure Estate Rachel Freeman, Head of Service Children in Care and Residential Estates	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to an Executive decision on 8 May 2024.
5.	Primary School Mobile Replacement Scheme (EXEMPT) Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a Leader decision between 29 April and 3 May 2024.
6.	Gosberton House Academy - New Block Extension and External Works as part of the SEND Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy (EXEMPT) Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a Leader decision between 29 April and 3 May 2024.

19 April 2024			
<i>Item</i>		<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
7.	Minerva House project – remodelling to provide accommodation for Children’s Services (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a Leader decision between 29 April and 1 May 2024.

14 June 2024			
<i>Item</i>		<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1.	Ofsted Inspection of Children’s Services - Improvement Plan	Andrew Morris, Head of Service - Leaving Care, Semi-Independent Living and Unaccompanied Children	This item will provide a progress update on the implementation of the two recommendations from the Ofsted inspection.
2.	Children in Care Transformation Programme Update	Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency Tracey Robinson, Programme Manager – Sector Led Improvement & Children in Care Transformation Tara Jones, Assistant Director – Children’s Safeguarding	This item will provide an update on the progress made with the children in care transformation project.

PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ACTIVITY

Since its last report to the Board, the Committee has met on 12 December 2023 and 30 January 2024. Full detail on these items is available on the County Council's website:

<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=551>

Set out below is a summary of the outcomes at these meetings:

12 December 2023	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
1 LCC Coronial Toxicology Services	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners on 15 December 2023.
2 Multiply - Numeracy Programme Update	<p>The Committee acknowledged the work taking place to deliver the Year 2 Multiply Programme and agreed that the comments and suggestions made by the Committee were taken into consideration by relevant officers and portfolio holders.</p> <p>Members questioned whether Multiply was only delivered during work hours as this could prevent many adults from accessing the programme, and were assured a wide range of delivery options were available, including community based provision delivered during weekdays, evenings, and weekends, and free online independent provision was also available and could be accessed at any time. It was acknowledged that smaller employers may face more constraints in delivering the Multiply programme in-house as it would be more difficult for them to release staff. Consequently, Members welcomed additional provision outside of work hours to increase engagement.</p>

12 December 2023

<i>Item</i>		<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
3	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue 2023	<p>The Committee considered the findings from the inspection report and requested an update on progress against the areas for improvement and the action plan in six months' time.</p> <p>Members expressed concern regarding HMI's findings that staff did not <i>'have confidence in the service's approach to dealing with bullying, harassment and discrimination'</i>. The Chief Fire Officer echoed Members' sentiments and asserted these findings were unacceptable and assured that these views were not widespread. The briefings from the national thematic inspection on misconduct noted occasions where staff used inappropriate language which was not initially or sufficiently addressed; however, staff now better understood expected behaviours.</p>
4	Community Risk Management Plan 2024-2028 – Consultation	<p>The Committee supported the information contained within the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2024-28 public consultation.</p> <p>Members were assured that the contents of the draft CRMP acknowledged the outcomes of the HMI Inspection on the Fire Service.</p>
5	Service Level Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 - Quarter 2	<p>The Committee was satisfied with the Public Protection and Communities Service Level Performance for Quarter 2 of 2023/24. Some of the topics explored by Members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 17 orders issued to seize tobacco products, including three premises that were ordered to close for the third time. Members were informed that it was the responsibility of the Landlord to ensure their business tenants were legally compliant. Officers agreed to assess the legal tactics available to the Council to punish Landlords who repeatedly offend and to inform the Committee of available powers once realised. • Whether measures had been implemented to improve Home Fire Safety visits as it had been suggested by the Committee and HMI to use on-call staff. Officers agreed that on-call staff could conduct the visits, although there was an increased cost in doing so, and informed Members that Community Safety Advocates often conducted these visits.

30 January 2024

<i>Item</i>		<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
1	Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2024-2025	The Committee supported the budget proposals in the report for the Public Protection and Communities services and agreed to pass on comments for consideration by the Executive on 6 February 2024.
2	Community Risk Management Plan 2024-2028	The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and agreed to pass on comments. The recommendations were approved by the Executive on 6 February 2024.
3	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) Attendance at Flooding Incidents – Annual Report on Performance up to March 2023	<p>The Committee was satisfied with the Fire Service’s performance and its approach to supporting the local communities during flooding incidents.</p> <p>Confirmation was given that flooding was not a statutory duty for Fire and Rescue, and as such, it was not part of the service’s core responsibilities. There was, however, recognition that LFR had the capabilities and the skills to support communities. The Committee was advised that the service did not get direct funding to deliver such services and was only able to support communities because of the support it received from the Council through its budget setting process.</p>
4	Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Business Plan 2023-2026	<p>The Committee agreed to receive annual updates of progress against the LRF Business Plan 2023-26, which will provide greater transparency of LRF workstreams and enhance the accountability for the LRF.</p> <p>Members were advised that the purpose of the LRF was being able to respond when one single agency had an event or situation they were unable to respond to from their own resources or capabilities. All councillors were encouraged to attend member training events regarding emergency planning, as these provided information to assist councillors to help their communities in an emergency situation.</p>
5	Trading Standards Food Safety Activity 2022-2023	<p>The Committee was satisfied with the delivery of food safety and standards work undertaken by the Trading Standards Service.</p> <p>A request was made for future reports to identify how many interventions the service should be making, and how many interventions were actually taking place, broken down into headings such as inspections, monitoring, surveillance, and</p>

30 January 2024	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Summary of Outcomes</i>
	also information as to what sort of backlog had built up. Officers agreed to look at how the figures were presented going forward and highlighted that a new food risk assessment was due to be implemented during the summer that might have an impact on the categories.

PLANNED WORK

Set out below are the items planned for future meetings of the Committee:

19 March 2024			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>	
1.	LCC Library Services – Re-procurement	Louise Egan, Library and Heritage Client Lead Emma Golds, Senior Commercial & Procurement Officer William Mason, Head of Culture	This item is for pre-decision scrutiny. A decision will be taken by the Executive Councillor between 25 March - 1 April 2024.
2.	Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Annual Report	Steven Batchelor, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Senior Manager	This is the annual report from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.
3.	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-2024 – Quarter 3	Nicole Hilton, Assistant Director - Communities Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director - Corporate Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer Steven Batchelor, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Senior Manager Mark Keal, Head of Trading Standards Clare Newborn, Head of Community Safety James Chapple, Head of Registration, Celebratory and Coroners Services	This is a quarterly report on performance of services.

19 March 2024		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
4.	Domestic Abuse Strategy – Update Report Jade Thursby, Domestic Abuse Business Manager	This report updates the Committee on the delivery and outcomes of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
5.	Serious Violence in Lincolnshire - A Partnership Response – Position Report Clare Newborn, Head of Community Safety Zoe Walters, Business Manager, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Angela Nauth, Serious Violence Coordinator, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership	This report is an annual position overview of activity undertaken and planned to tackle serious violence.
14 May 2024		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1.	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue New Crewing Arrangements – Post Implementation Review Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer	This report will set out the outcomes of the post implementation review of the new crewing arrangements.
2.	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue – Progress Update against Areas for Improvement and Action Plan Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer	This item will provide an update on the progress made by LFR in relation to the areas for improvement and action plan arising from the 2023 inspection.
SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
3.	Prevent Annual Report Richard Clare, Strategic Prevent Lead, Safer Communities Clare Newborn, Head of Community Safety	This is an annual report on the work in relation to Prevent, which is part of the UK Government's Counter-Terrorism strategy.

25 June 2024		
<i>Item</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1. Coroners Service Annual Report	Paul Smith, HM Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire	This is an annual report on the work of the Coroners Service.
2. Volunteering in Lincolnshire	Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director - Corporate Ben Rollett, CEX, Voluntary Centre Services	This item will provide an update from Voluntary Centre Services and Lincolnshire Community Voluntary Services about the work that they complete to support the voluntary sector.
3. Update on Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue's Waddington Training Facility	Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer	This is an update on the future plans for the Waddington training facility. This item was requested by the Committee in October 2023.
SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
4. Safer Lincolnshire Partnership - Annual Report Update	Zoe Walters, Business Manager, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership	This is an annual position report on the work of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership.
5. Lincolnshire Women and Girl's Strategy (Reducing Reoffending)	Karen Pentin, Community Safety Strategy Coordinator Zoe Walters, Business Manager, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership	This item will set out an update on the Lincolnshire Women and Girl's Strategy.

Potential Items to be Scheduled:

- Community Safety and Public Trust in Police
- Trading Standards – Tackling Repeat Offenders of Illicit Alcohol and Tobacco Products
- Leverton Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Project (Summer 2024)
- Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Business Plan 2023-2026 – Annual Progress Update (January 2025)