



Report to

Meeting Date – 1 March 2024

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Cross Cutting

Directorate – Assistant Chief Executive

Lead Officer – Joel Rasbash, Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor

Title – Scrutiny Committee Update Report

Summary: To provide Members of People Scrutiny Committee with an overview of matters related to the committee's work.

Recommendations: It is recommended that scrutiny:

1. Note items on the most recent Forward Plan of Key Decision.
2. To note questions on School Attainment that Members followed up with officers following the last Committee.
3. Note potential items on the 2024-25 Forward Plan for the Committee pending further discussions with the Committee, relevant Executive Directors and Executive Lead Members following the confirmation of the Council Diary.

Tracking

Executive:	N/A
Scrutiny:	People 5 January 2024
Council:	N/A

1. Background

- 1.1. The Cumberland Constitution (Part 3, Section 5 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules) sets out that Overview and Scrutiny committees will consider the following items at their meetings:

16 PROCEDURE AT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

16.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall consider the following business:

- 16.1.1 minutes of the last meeting;*
- 16.1.2 declarations of interest (including whipping declarations);*
- 16.1.3 consideration of any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call in of a decision;*
- 16.1.4 responses of the Executive to reports of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;*
- 16.1.5 Councillor's Call for Action; and*
- 16.1.6 the business otherwise set out on the agenda for the meeting.*

- 1.2. The minutes of the last meeting are considered as a separate agenda item and the Chair will seek declarations of interest at the start of each scrutiny meeting. This Committee Update Report will provide detail on references to the committee, responses of the Executive and any Councillors Call for Action

2. References to People Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1. None

3. Councillors Call for Action

- 3.1. None

4. Responses of Executive to People Scrutiny Committee

- 4.1. None.

5. Update since the last Committee in November

- 5.1. The People Scrutiny met on 3 November and received a report on the CQC Inspection Preparations.
- 5.2. Work is underway in response to Member recommendations from these items.

6. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

- 6.1. The most recent Forward Plan of Key Decisions is published on the Cumberland Council website.

<https://cumberland.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=125&RP=312>

7. Work Planning

7.1. Currently the Committee is awaiting confirmation of the Council Diary for 2024-25. Once this is published the Committee will agree alternating children's and adults' themed sessions with at least one joint children's and adults' session. Based on previous meetings the Committee has agreed to the following being on the work programme:

- Family Wellbeing – an evidence based report, to include case studies, status of health checks, family hub development, pressures and support for schools and evidence to show if the Programme had reduced the need for high level services, be received by the Committee in September;
- Education – an update on educational attainment and work specifically to address narrowing the attainment gap for children known to a social worker and disadvantaged children.
- Education – an update on elective home education.
- Children's Workforce – a paper setting out the children's workforce challenges in the Council and partners (including the NHS) and steps to address workforce sufficiency.
- Equity and Equality in Education Strategy update – looking at how the Council has implemented its ambition for a more inclusive system of SEND education.
- Care Quality Commission – An update on progress in addressing a) understanding of the needs of the community, b) assurance to Members on adult safeguarding arrangements, c) assurance to Members on workforce sufficiency and skills.

7.2 Depending on the outcome of the discussions with officers on 1 March, Members may also consider further items on transitions from children's to adults' services and migration support programmes.

7.3 **Educational attainment further clarification:** Following the previous committee a Member asked the officers presenting on the Virtual School and educational attainment several questions, including questions specifically relating to whether there was differential between Academies and Locally Maintained schools. In response to the question the Member was advised that there is limited value in making Cumberland academy to Locally Maintained school comparisons as the majority of schools are Locally Maintained, so there may be year on year fluctuations in academy results. The further attainment data sent in response to the Member's questions has been attached with this report.

8. Proposals

8.1. Consider the proposed work programme and informal sessions and suggest any items that could be considered at the next Tripartite sessions.

9. Alternative options considered

- 9.1. Members consider an alternative approach to work planning.

10. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 10.1. This report provides an overview of current scrutiny work. Members are asked to agree the recommendations in order to ensure that scrutiny activity remains effective and focussed on Cumberland Council's strategic priorities.

Contact details:

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Appendices attached to report:

- Further attainment data in response to subsequent Member questions.

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None