
AGENDA FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee are summoned to a meeting, which will be held in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on, **12 June 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

Enquiries to : Theo McLean
Tel : 0207 527 6568
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 2 June 2023

Membership

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Councillor Sheila Chapman (Chair)
Councillor Valerie Bossman-Quarshie
(Vice-Chair)
Councillor Fin Craig
Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-
Armstrong
Councillor Toby North
Councillor Rosaline Ogunro
Councillor Saiqa Pandor
Councillor Claire Zammit

Substitutes:

Councillor Jilani Chowdhury
Councillor Ilkay Cinko-Oner
Councillor Paul Convery
Councillor Benali Hamdache
Councillor Heather Staff

Co-opted Member:

Mary Clement, Roman Catholic Diocese
Zaleera Wallace, Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Jon Stansfield, Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Vacancy Church of England Diocese

Quorum is 3 Councillors

A. Formal Matters

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1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declaration of Substitute Members
3. Declarations of Interest

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest*** in an item of business:

- if it is not yet on the council's register, you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;
- you may **choose** to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency.

In both the above cases, you **must** leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If you have a **personal** interest in an item of business **and** you intend to speak or vote on the item you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you **may** participate in the discussion and vote on the item.

***(a) Employment, etc** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

(b) Sponsorship - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.

(c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.

(d) Land - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.

(e) Licences - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.

(f) Corporate tenancies - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.

(g) Securities - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to all members present at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
5. Chair's Report
6. External Attendees (if any)

7. Items for Call In (if any)

8. Public Questions

For members of the public to ask questions relating to any subject on the meeting agenda under Procedure Rule 70.5. Alternatively, the Chair may opt to accept questions from the public during the discussion on each agenda item.

B. Items for Decision/Discussion	Page
1. Membership, Terms of Reference and Dates of Meetings	1 - 8
2. Scrutiny Response Tracker	9 - 10
3. Scrutiny Topic and Draft Work Programme	11 - 12
4. Scrutiny Report	

C. Urgent non-exempt items (if any)

Any non-exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

D. Exclusion of press and public

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the remaining items on the agenda, it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Constitution and, if so, whether to exclude the press and public during discussion thereof.

E. Exempt items for Call In (if any) **Page**

F. Confidential/exempt items **Page**

G. Urgent exempt items (if any)

Any exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

The next meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

will be on 6 July 2023

Please note that committee agendas, reports and minutes are available from the council's website: www.democracy.islington.gov.uk

Resources Department
Town Hall, Upper Street
London, N1 2UD

Report of: Director of Law and Governance

Meeting of: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 12 June 2023

Ward(s): N/A

Subject: Membership, Terms of Reference, and Dates of Meetings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. To inform members of the terms of reference of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the membership appointed by Annual Council on 11 May 2023, terms of reference and dates of meetings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

3. Background

- 3.1. The terms of reference of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (as at Part 5 of the Council's Constitution) are set out at Appendix A.
- 3.2. The dates of meetings are also set out at Appendix A for information.

4. Implications

- 4.1. **Financial Implications**

None.

4.2. Legal Implications

None.

4.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

Papers are only circulated electronically.

4.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report as the contents of the report relate to a purely administrative function and will not impact on residents.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1. This report is submitted to ensure members are fully informed of the remit of the Committee.

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Meeting Dates and Terms of Reference.

Background papers:

- None

Final report clearance:

Signed by: **Marina Lipscomb, Interim Assistant Director of Law and Deputy Monitoring Officer**

Date: 31st May 2023

Report Author: Theo McLean, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 020 7527 6568

Email: theo.mclean@islington.gov.uk

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2023/24

1. MEETING DATES

12 June 2023

6 July 2023

14 September 2023

31 October 2023

28 November 2023

15 January 2023

26 February 2023

29 April 2023

The dates, times and locations of meetings are publicised on the council's website – democracy.islington.gov.uk

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

EXTRACT FROM PART 5 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Scrutiny Committees

1. Overview and scrutiny functions are:
 - Reviewing or scrutinising decision or actions taken in connection with the discharge of executive functions
 - Making recommendations about executive functions
 - Reviewing or scrutinising decision or actions taken by the council in connection with the discharge of non-executive functions
 - Making recommendations about these functions
 - Making recommendations about matters which affect the authority's area or its inhabitants.
 - Carrying out the specific roles of health scrutiny and crime and disorder scrutiny.
 - To consider matters relating to the performance of the council.
2. Overview and scrutiny functions in respect of the Council's education functions are allocated to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee the membership of which includes education representatives as set out in its terms of reference below.

- 3 Where one of the other Scrutiny Committees is carrying out a review or dealing with other business which will involve a consideration of the Council's education functions, the education representatives on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee shall be entitled to join the Scrutiny Committee as voting members for the meeting concerned to participate in that review.
- 4 All Scrutiny Committee are responsible for considering equalities issues arising in respect of matters falling within their terms of reference.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Composition

Members of the Executive may not be members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

No member may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which he/she has been directly involved.

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee shall be entitled to appoint a number of people as non-voting co-optees and shall include in its membership the following voting co-optees:

- (a) At least one Church of England diocese representative;
- (b) At least one Roman Catholic diocese representative;
- (c) Between two and five parent governor representatives; and
- (d) A representative from other faiths or denominations as appropriate.

These representatives will be entitled to vote on education functions related to the Council's education functions, in respect of which the Council has responsibility under the Education Acts.

Quorum

The quorum for the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee shall be three members, not including co-opted members.

Terms of Reference

1. To carry out the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee in respect of matters relating to the Children's Services Directorate
2. To consider matters relating to the performance of the Council's partners in respect of the functions of the Children's Services department as appropriate.

3. To receive requests from the Executive or the Leader of the Executive for scrutiny involvement in education related matters.
4. To consider educational issues referred to it in accordance with the provisions contained in the call-in procedure contained within Policy and Scrutiny Procedure Rules or the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution and to decide whether such matters should be referred to Council or to the Executive for reconsideration.
5. To undertake a scrutiny review of its own choosing relating to a Children's Services Directorate function and any further reviews as directed by the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee and to make recommendations to the Executive thereon.
6. To consider all matters that have been referred to it in accordance with the provisions contained in the councillor call for action procedure contained within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

3. MEMBERSHIP (as agreed at Annual Council on 11th May 2023)

Members:

Councillor Sheila Chapman (Chair)
Councillor Valerie Bossman-Quarshie (Vice Chair)
Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong
Councillor Fin Craig
Councillor Rosaline Ogunro
Councillor Toby North
Councillor Saiqa Pandor
Councillor Claire Zammit

Co-opted Members for Education related issues:

Roman Catholic Diocese – Mary Clement
Parent Governor Representative (Primary) – Jon Stansfield
Parent Governor Representative (Secondary) – Zaleera Wallace
Church of England Diocese - Vacancy

Substitutes:

Councillor Jilani Chowdhury
Councillor Ilkay Cinko-Oner
Councillor Paul Convery
Councillor Benali Hamdache
Councillor Dave Poyser
Councillor Heather Staff

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Scrutiny Committee Response Tracker

Date of meeting	Query raised	Response/ Update
<p>25th April 2023</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 9</p>	<p>Members are to be provided with additional data concerning the number of children who are identified as Asian and are at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation</p>	<p>Concerns relating to CSE, including issues discovered through return home interviews or social care assessments have found that fewer Asian young people are identified as being at risk of CSE than we could expect, given the overall % of the Islington resident population from an Asian ethnic group. The numbers can vary, year on year, but are consistently in single digits for any one year. From all children identified at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation since the start of 2021/22, 2.2% are from an Asian ethnic group, and this is significantly different from the population overall. In 2022-23 3.4% of children identified as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation were from an Asian group, whereas an estimated 8% of the Islington resident population aged under 18 is from an Asian ethnic group. This again is statistically significant. The Home Officer Policy Paper on the 'Characteristics of group-based child sexual exploitation in the community' found particular barriers to the disclosure of child sexual exploitation amongst Asian victims.</p> <p>Since this was identified in the 2021/22 annual report the Exploitation and Missing team have been extending their training offer to professionals who work across the borough with the aim of equipping them with the knowledge to identify any young person who is at risk of CSE, highlighting hard to identify children. All Islington schools, primary and secondary, were invited to an exploitation briefing in the Autumn term. This briefing highlighted different types of exploitation young people may be experiencing, the indicators and how to respond to a concern. This training will continue every year to make sure any new members of staff are upskilled, and existing members of staff have their knowledge refreshed.</p> <p>The Exploitation and Group Offending training has now been opened up beyond social care staff. Professionals from across the partnership are invited to attend and it has also been extended to 2 full days with a large focus on ethnicity, diversity and exploring the different experiences of young people from various communities.</p> <p>An action from the Multi Agency Child Exploitation panel was to also develop a system to disseminate information about exploitation out to professionals when it is being identified. The Manager of the Exploitation and Missing team now runs a 6 weekly Exploitation briefing to over 245 members of the partnership alerting them to current exploitation trends, indicators and how these may present in different children. These sessions remind professionals of the importance of contacting Islington Children's Service Contact Team if there are any concerns about young people at the most appropriate time. Thought has been given to what services families of different cultures and ethnicities may have contact with and may feel more comfortable talking to. With this in mind the Exploitation and Missing team has delivered specialist training to the early years teams, as well as GP's and A&E staff being invited to the 6 weekly Exploitation briefings.</p> <p>A child going missing is often one of the first clear indicators there is a risk of exploitation. For this reason, Islington Children's Social Care moved the Return Home Team under the management of the Exploitation and Missing Manager. The Return Home team have been exposed to the data showing there is an underrepresentation of Asian young people identified as at risk of exploitation and are encouraged to keep this in mind when completing Return Home Interviews,</p>

		<p>especially for young people who may not be open to statutory services at the time they have gone missing. The community safety team have continued to work tirelessly to upskill local businesses under the safe spaces initiative. Projects such as this are the cornerstone of the contextual safeguarding approach which outlines that creating safe spaces assists in safeguarding young people from exploitation who may not come to the attention of Children's Social Care.</p>
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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCRUTINY TOPICS AND WORK PROGRAMME

(A) SELECTION OF SCRUTINY TOPIC FOR 2023/2024

The Council's Constitution allows the Committee to undertake one review of its own choosing. In recent years the Committee has carried out the following reviews:

Fixed Period and Permanent Exclusion from School (2018/19)
Equalities in Educational Outcomes (2019/20)
Transition from COVID-19 (2020/21)
SEND Transitions (2021/22)
Making Children Visible (2022/23)

The Committee is invited to select its scrutiny topic for 2023/24.

(B) WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

12 June 2023

1. Membership, Terms of Reference
2. Scrutiny Response Tracker
3. Scrutiny Topic and Draft Work Programme
4. Scrutiny Report

6 July 2023

1. Scrutiny Initiation Document (SID) & Introductory presentation.
2. Q4 Performance Report
3. School Reorganisation

14 September 2023

1. Q1 Performance Report
2. Child Protection Annual Report
3. Headline/Provisional School Results

31 October 2023

1. Executive Member Report

28 November 2023

1. Q2 Performance Report

15 January 2024

1. –

26 February 2024

1. Scrutiny Review – Draft Recommendations
2. Q3 Performance Report
3. School Results 2023
4. ISCB Report Annual

29 April 2024

1. Scrutiny Review – Report
2. SACRE Annual Report
3. Update on Baseline Report for Supported Internships

* **Unscheduled – Scrutiny Review of SEN & Disabilities Transitions – 12-month update.**