



**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS  
SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD  
17<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

# ITEM 05

Report sponsor: Councillor Emily Lonsdale,  
Chair of the Children and Young People  
Scrutiny Review Board  
Report author: Democratic Services Officer

## Work Programme and Topic Review

### Purpose

- 1.1 The Children, Young People Scrutiny Review Board will agree a work programme for the 2024/25 municipal year at its meeting 17 June 2024.
- 1.2 The Board agreed that the work programme would be reviewed throughout the municipal year, to be added to and amended as appropriate. The latest version of the draft work programme is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The remit and terms of reference for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board are included at 4.1 and 4.2 for information.
- 1.4 To discuss and agree to undertake a Topic Review for 2024/25. At the meeting of the Board on 23 March 2024 the Topic Review from 2023/24 “to examine if the way of managing schools is conducive to childrens’ mental health and wellbeing” was deferred to this municipal year for the Board to discuss and agree if it should be undertaken in this municipal year. The Board are also asked to consider the draft scoping document attached at Appendix 2 make any updates suggestions particularly for organisations and people who could be asked to participate in the review.

### Recommendations

- 2.1 To ensure that the Board has an opportunity to consider, update and agree the work programme for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- 2.2 To make the Board aware of its terms of reference and the Overview and Scrutiny Rules as set out in the Council’s Constitution.2.3
- 2.3 To agree to undertake the Topic Review “To examine if the way of managing schools is conducive to childrens’ mental health and wellbeing” in municipal year 2024/25 and to discuss and agree the proposed scoping document (Appendix 2).

### Reasons

- 3.1 To provide the Board with an opportunity to consider and discuss the work programme for 2024/25 municipal year, to ensure robust performance monitoring and challenge, whilst identifying areas for further investigation

### Supporting information

- 4.1 **Remit and Terms of Reference for Overview and Scrutiny Boards**

As detailed under Article 6 of the council's constitution, overview and scrutiny boards will:

- review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions.
- make reports or recommendations to Council or the Council Cabinet or any joint or Neighbourhood Board/Forum in connection with the discharge of any functions.
- consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants.
- consider decisions that have been called-in for reconsideration and decide whether to ask the decision maker to reconsider the decision or to refer it to full Council.
- carry out policy development and review functions as shown in Article 6 of the constitution that they consider to be necessary.
- provide an annual report to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes.
- carry out any other statutory duties and responsibilities allocated to local authority scrutiny committees.

4.2 The Terms of Reference for this board covers the following service areas, and fully encompasses the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:

**Children's Quality Assurance**

- Specialist Services
- Early Help
- Social Care Fieldwork
- Children's Residential Care

**Learning, Inclusion and Skills**

- Inclusion and Intervention
- Employment, Skills, and Adult Education

**Commissioning and Delivery**

- Children's Commissioning, Brokerage and Market Management
- School Organisation and Provision

4.3 This item gives members an opportunity to consider and comment upon the work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year.

4.4 The work programme is not restrictive and board members can identify and introduce items for scrutiny throughout the year. Items for scrutiny will be discussed at pre-meetings with the Chair and Vice Chair and will be added to the Scrutiny Board agenda at the Chair's discretion.

**Public/stakeholder engagement**

5.1 The Childrens, Young People & Skills Scrutiny Review Board work programme is developed in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair together with colleagues in People Services and Democratic Services at the start of the municipal year. The Board has an opportunity to review and amend the work programme at each meeting.

**Other options**

6.1 None.

## Financial and value for money issues

7.1 None arising directly from this report.

## Legal implications

8.1 Section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000 requires that the power of an overview and scrutiny committee to review or scrutinise a decision made but not implemented includes power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it.

## Climate implications

9.1 None arising directly from this report

## Other significant implications

10.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people, and the very nature of the Board looks in depth at equality in all its investigations.

10.2 Our aim is to work together so that Derby and its people will enjoy a thriving sustainable economy, good health and well-being and an active cultural life. The work of this board contributes to the council's ambitions to give people in Derby 'an inspiring start in life', particularly by improving educational attainment. The work of the Board also aims to support children and young people across the city in getting the most out of their time at school and focus on what actions we can take from birth right through to when they leave education at 18 and beyond, to contribute to the council's ambition for giving people in Derby 'an inspiring work life'.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	N/A	
Finance	N/A	
Service Director(s)	N/A	
Report sponsor	N/A	
Other(s)	Councillor Emily Lonsdale – Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Review Board Alex Hough, Head of Democracy	07/06/2024
Background papers:	None	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Work Programme	

## Draft Work Programme 2024/25

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
Monday 17 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Programme &amp; Topic Review 24/25</li> </ul>
Monday 16 September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND EHCP Timeliness and Handling of adverse treatment of Neuro Diverse students by Neuro Typical students (<i>misunderstanding by others can affect an ND person's mental health</i>).</li> <li>• Work Programme 24/25</li> </ul>
Monday 14 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home to School Travel Service Update</li> <li>• Work Programme 24/25</li> </ul>
Monday 9 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• Work Programme 24/25</li> </ul>
Monday 17 February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• Work Programme 24/25</li> </ul>
Monday 24 March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• Work Programme 24/25</li> </ul>

Future Items

School Champions Role and Remit  
 Signposting of Mental Health Charities & Organisations for Teachers  
 Derby & Derbyshire Childrens Safeguarding Partnership

Topic Review

Examine if way of managing schools is conducive to childrens mental health and wellbeing. There is a pressure on schools and pupils for example pressure on exams. How can the Council support schools.

### **Draft Scoping Report Topic Review:**

**To examine if the way of managing schools is conducive to childrens' mental health and wellbeing.**

#### **Background**

At the meeting on 17 June 2024 the Children, Young People & Skills Scrutiny Review Board discussed their topic review choice for the municipal year 2024/25. After discussion, the Board chose to examine if the way of managing schools is conducive to childrens' mental health and wellbeing.

#### **The Review**

Members wished to examine if the way of managing schools is conducive to childrens' mental health and wellbeing.

- There is a pressure on schools and pupils eg pressure on exams.
- How can the Council support schools.

#### **Aims and Objectives of the Review**

1. To look at the structures of Derby's school systems and educational establishments and analyse what efforts are being made to improve the existing systems with the objective of improving mental health outcomes for pupils and students. This should include an assessment of the layout of the school term.
2. To assess what is occurring in schools and educational establishments under other local authorities which are comparable to Derby City and how their best practice might be incorporated in Derby.
3. To assess what role, both proactive and reactive Derby City Council can take to assist educational establishments in improving the mental health outcomes of pupils and students.
4. To make recommendations to Cabinet, to the relevant Cabinet Member and to schools and educational establishments.

#### **Proposed methodology.**

The Board will consider written and oral information in gathering evidence for the review.

Reports and discussion with various organisations including but not exclusive to schools, CAHMs, Youth Services, local charities.

Visits to educational establishments (where appropriate and applicable).

Examination of both statistical and explanatory data.

#### **Witnesses**

It is suggested that the Board considers evidence from the following witnesses.

Headteachers, Counsellors and others in appropriate positions.

## What evidence do we need to gather?

- Policies and Strategies
- Written Statements from Schools and Educational Establishments
- Other information - Any relevant legislation

## Timing and Timescales for the Review

The timescales for the review below are approximate.

June 2024	To consider and agree the scoping report.
June - Oct 2024	To gather the evidence and write the report.
9 Dec 2024	Consider draft report.
17 Feb 2025	Approve draft report discuss recommendations
25 March 2025	Agree recommendations and report to go to Council Cabinet. Agree to delegate sign off recommendations to chair/vice chair of the Board.
Date TBC	Recommendations and final report to go to Council Cabinet.