

Date:

Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 5.00 pm

Venue:

Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BJ

Cllr Carol Clark (Chair)

Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Emily Tate, Cllr Sally Ann Watson and Cllr Katie Zagoria

Agenda**1. Livestreaming**

This meeting will be filmed for live and / or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for 12 months. A copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

If you attend and make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. When admitted to the Council Chamber you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for livestreaming and / or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured, please contact Democratic Services prior to attending the meeting.

If there are any technical difficulties with the livestreaming, the meeting will still proceed.

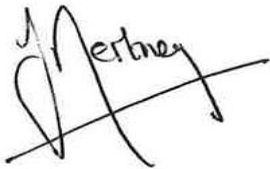
2. Evacuation Procedure (Pages 7 - 10)**3. Apologies for Absence****4. Declarations of Interest****5. Minutes** (Pages 11 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 September 2026.

6. Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships
(Pages 15 - 24)

- 7. Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment**
(Pages 25 - 34)
- 8. Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun**
(Pages 35 - 46)
- 9. Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision**

To receive a presentation around the key lines of enquiry.
- 10. Select Committee Work Programme**
(Pages 47 - 48)



Jonathan Nertney
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday 6 October 2026

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

Contact: Judy Trainer, Democratic Services Manager on email judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Key – Declarable interests are :-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

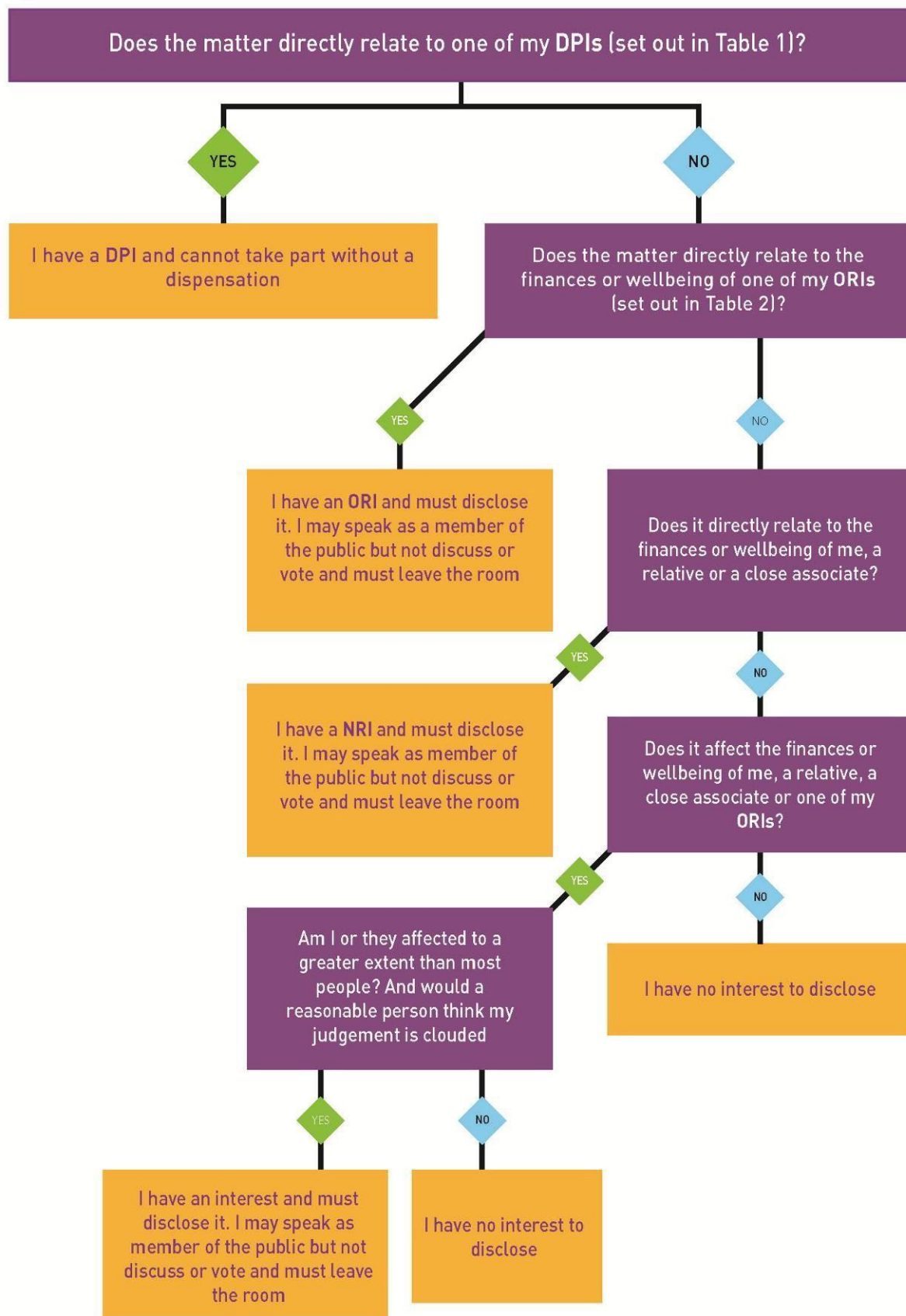


Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registrable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

c) any body

(i) exercising functions of a public nature

(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the Council Chamber entrance indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The emergency exits are located via the doors to the left of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber and the rear of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately.** Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you MUST follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.
2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.
 - do not stop to collect your belongings
 - close all doors as you leave
3. **steer clear of hazards.** If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.
4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point immediately - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.
 - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.

5. await further instructions.

- **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear”** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
- do not leave the area without permission.
- ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

Toilets

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

Water Cooler

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when invited to speak by the Chair, to ensure you can be heard by the Committee and those in attendance at the meeting.

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Children and Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday 16th September 2026.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chair), Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair), Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr John Coulson (sub for Cllr Sally Ann Watson), Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Emily Tate and Cllr Katie Zagoria

Officers: Majella McCarthy, Louise Hollick, Edwin Squire, Vanessa Housley, Sharon Stevens, Amit Law, Paul Wilson, Kate Jackson-Sedgewick and Judy Trainer

Also in attendance: Cllr Clare Besford

Apologies: Cllr Ray Godwin and Cllr Sally Ann Watson

CYP/22/26 Livestreaming

The Chair announced to those present that the meeting would be live streamed.

CYP/23/26 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CYP/24/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

CYP/25/26 Minutes

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CYP/26/26 Children's Social Care Overview Report

The Select Committee received an overview report from the Director of Children's Services, the Assistant Director of Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in Our Care and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in relation to Children's Social Care.

Key Achievements included:

- The Family Help point now embedded into the service and demonstrating improved outcomes for children and families
- Workforce stability and reduced use of agency staff
- Launch of a place-based Family Help Pilot in Billingham Family Hub, bringing together Social Workers and Senior Family Workers within a single locality team

Challenges included:

- Complexity of the national reform policies
- Sufficiency of local, appropriate and cost-effective care arrangements
- Serious youth violence and criminal exploitation

Emerging Issues included:

- The Department for Education's reforms to establish Regional Care Cooperatives (RCCs) and strengthen regional fostering hubs representing a significant shift toward coordinated, end-to-end regional delivery models

The report also set out Tier 2 performance measures in relation to Children's Social Care highlighting where performance was strong and known areas of challenge.

Key issues highlighted and discussed by Members included:

- Members praised the reduction in the use of agency workers
- Preventative measures to address anti-social behaviour, exploitation and serious youth violence were delivered through strong multi agency working. A dedicated Early Help Youth Support Team provided early intervention, carried out return home interviews for missing children to identify exploitation risks, supported families affected by anti-social behaviour, and directed children and families to the most appropriate services
- Work on the programme of reforms was carefully project managed with corporate cross cutting support
- The Youth Justice Plan included a strategy focused on reducing re-offending, particularly amongst a small group of persistent offenders, through a multi-agency partnership approach
- Attendance had improved for Children in Need and Children in Care and ongoing challenges were being addressed through a wider attendance strategy
- Reducing re-referrals was a priority, with a focus on earlier intervention, ensuring families received support from the most appropriate service, and delivering an action plan to reduce repeat referrals.

AGREED that the report be noted.

CYP/27/26 Education, Inclusion and Achievement Overview Report

The Select Committee received an overview report from the Director of Children's Services, the Assistant Director for Education, Inclusion and Achievement and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in relation to Education, Inclusion and Achievement.

Key Achievements included:

- Consistent academic results across education and very strong within the Tees Valley
- Clear positive impacts of the "Skills for Success" programme and "Stockton Post 16 Partnership"
- Positive Impact of "Be Kind to Your Mind" programme
- The ASEND report acknowledges many effective areas and areas to be proud of within the service. Although the report states that there are "inconsistent experiences and outcomes" for children with SEND

Challenged included:

- Fully understanding the implications of the Council's financial settlement and continuing academisation within the schools' sector
- Delivering the full Local Authority Reform Plan (LARP) programme
- The number of young people becoming NEET within the Borough
- Inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children with SEND

Emerging Issues included:

- A low proportion of young people achieving higher grades or achievement measures in national testing when compared to National Averages

The report also set out Tier 2 performance measures in relation to Education, Inclusion and Achievement highlighting where performance was strong and known areas of challenge.

Key issues highlighted and discussed by Members included:

- It was difficult to identify specific services most vulnerable to funding pressures because statutory duties existed across all service areas. In addition, whilst statutory duties needed be protected, it was important to balance resources appropriately with other important work such as addressing NEETs and transition support and investing in early help and prevention
- Inconsistencies between academies and mainstream schools were addressed through strong partnership arrangements. SEND reforms, shared challenge and support, and the development of local area and cluster-based working were helping to address inconsistencies and spread effective practice across schools

AGREED that the report be noted.

CYP/28/26 Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School - Action Plan

The Select Committee received an action plan in respect of their previous review recommendations which had been approved by Cabinet.

Officers undertook to explore whether the 15 day absence trigger discussions with schools could be reduced to 10 days in respect of SEND children.

In respect of support for children undertaking their GCSEs, schools will have individual programmes of support and the Council's Health Education and Relationships Manager also highlights all the support available with primary and secondary networks.

AGREED that the Action Plan be approved and a progress update be submitted in due course.

CYP/29/26 Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

The Select Committee received a progress update in relation to recommendation 12 of the Select Committee's appreciative inquiry into Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment:

Strengthen transition arrangements

Ensure that transition arrangements better fits bespoke pupil needs, with specific reference to vulnerable pupils:

- Ensure plans are put in place well in advance of any transition
- Consider transition to post-16 and post-18/19 as well as primary and secondary and school readiness
- Consider transition between year groups as appropriate

Progress outlined included:

- Establishment of a dedicated Transitions Team
- Introduction of earlier transition planning
- Appointment of an Education Transitions Planning Coordinator to improve transitions between education settings
- A combined Young Person's Health and Care Lead role to improve partnership working between education, health and social care
- Improved early intervention through the new SEND Front Door
- A more person-centred and proactive approach to meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND

AGREED that the progress update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed.

CYP/30/26 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

Chair:

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships
Link Officer/s:	Dave Willingham/Nicole Wilson/ Darran Hope
Action Plan Agreed:	July 2023

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 1:	That a strategic partnership approach to Contextualised Safeguarding is agreed and monitored through existing established multi-agency partnerships such as Safer Stockton Partnership, YOT Board, HSSCP and the Children and Young People's Board.
Responsibility:	Nicole Wilson AD
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	Risk Outside the Home presentations to create discussion and ownership. Ambition is to consolidate this as both a child safeguarding and community safety priority
Agreed Measure:	Strategic Partnerships incorporate Risk Outside the Home in their plans and activity
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	Work has been undertaken with Cleveland Police and other partners through YOT board and SSP to develop a strategic partnership approach to Risk Outside the Home and particularly youth violence. Progress and development will be monitored and updates will be provided to both boards.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	2 On Track - Since the development of this plan the awareness of child and young person exploitation has increased. Work has been undertaken across the partnership to understand the scope of the challenges and receive feedback from communities and young people.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	Exploitation is now included on strategic boards, regular reports to boards are expected from August 2024. Examples include the partnership work within Clear Hold Build.
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	The Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) agenda is now embedded within the wider Tees safeguarding partnership arrangements through the implementation of the Tees HOTH Strategy 2024-2027. Strategic partnership activity is supported by a Tees-wide approach, including shared procedures, screening tools, information sharing arrangements and operational guidance. Risk associated with

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	exploitation, serious youth violence, missing and online harms are recognised as partnership priorities across safeguarding and community safety networks.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Harm Outside the Home is now established within strategic safeguarding arrangements and there is clear evidence of multi-agency ownership across the partnership. Activity is monitored through established governance structures and supported by shared regional procedures
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	A consistent partnership response has improved strategic oversight of exploitation, serious youth violence and associated risks. Agencies are working to common procedures and referral pathways, creating greater consistency in safeguarding responses and disruption activity across the Tees area.

Recommendation 2:	That a consistent definition of child criminal exploitation and contextual safeguarding is developed and adopted by all Stockton-on-Tees partners.
Responsibility:	Nicole Wilson AD
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	Rollout of our new Risk Outside the Home Policy and Guidance. The document provides a working definition to be used across Children's Services
Agreed Success Measure:	The definition of Risk Outside the Home is shared and understood within the children's partnership
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	The Risk Outside the Home Policy and Guidance has been developed and is currently under review. Since scrutiny the terminology has reverted back to exploitation as this was more consistently used amongst partners.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	3. Slipped - progress has been made on the awareness of exploitation of children and young people across the partnership.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	This is evidenced by the additional investment and contribution from partners to the MACE Hub and the creation of additional teams, including a dedicated SW Team and Adolescence Team.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	Partners are now working to a shared definition of Harm Outside the Home that encompasses child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation, online exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking, serious youth violence, radicalisation and missing episodes. This definition is supported by a practitioner language guide which promotes consistent understanding and application across agencies.

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Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - A common language and shared understanding of Harm Outside the Home has been established through Tees-wide procedures, guidance and training resources
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	The adoption of a shared definition has improved multi-agency communication, referral quality and professional understanding of the range of harm experienced by children and young people outside the home.

Recommendation 3:	That clear outcome measures are defined to measure success of interventions and approaches.
Responsibility:	Miriam Sigsworth Service Lead
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	Amendments have been made to the children's social care assessment document to better capture those children and young people who are at risk Multi-agency working group to be established to explore performance indicators across the children's and community safety system
Agreed Success Measure:	Identification of children and young people at risk of harm outside the home is routinely quality assured
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	We now have the ability to capture High risk CE CSE through the Screening Tool, Initial ETAC's and ETAC Reviews. Once the Screening tool is incorporated fully, Low to Medium cases will also be able to be captured through Targeted Youth. In addition, there is also a report generated regarding Missing from Home. Exploitation is now also considered within Early Help and Family Work Teams
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	2- On Track - In addition to this there are now specific reports that can be ran on exploitation through the work of the dedicated SW Team, MACE and Adolescence Team. These teams are also support others to improve awareness and practice.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	Reports are now generated through the teams created, this has also improved oversight in case management and planning and support packages have improved significantly since the development of this action plan.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	The introduction of the Tees Harm Outside the Home Screening Tool has strengthened the identification, assessment and recording of extra-familial harm. The screening tool provides a consistent mechanism for recognising risk and informing decision making across agencies. Within Stockton there is a mechanism to record and monitor HOTH via children's services system. Hoth

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	data is monitored weekly via the senior management team key performance indicator report.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Systems are now in place to identify and track children affected by Harm Outside the Home. Work continues to develop performance measures and evaluate outcomes across the partnership.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Improved identification of vulnerability has supported more timely intervention and strengthened oversight of children affected by exploitation, serious violence and other contextual safeguarding concerns.

Recommendation 4:	That support is provided for schools, in partnership with Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP), to promote understanding of contextualised safeguarding and relationships through the development and delivery of a programme of awareness raising and training supplemented with advice and guidance and clear routes into support.
Responsibility:	HSSCP
Date:	Ongoing rolling training
Agreed Action:	Contextual Safeguarding / Risk Outside the Home training is freely available and promoted by HSSCP.
Agreed Success Measure:	School staff are knowledgeable, skilled and are confident in how to identify and support children and young people at risk from outside the home. Increased knowledge and understanding is visible in referrals from schools to children's services and in how schools support children as a single agency or as part of multi-agency plans
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	This work has not developed significantly through SSP. However work has continued to develop through SBC Education, Inclusion and Achievement. Working with Police and other partners presentations have taken place relating to exploitation and youth violence and how this relates to exclusions and absence.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	Closer working relationships and support has been developed between EIA and the teams directly working with exploitation and youth violence. This has enable EIA to deliver presentations and support within schools In addition to the presentation, training to be rolled out regarding the Screening Tool in order for referrals to be strengthened by the specific concerns regarding CCE and CSE, this would provide clarity regarding CCE and CSE concerns and develop a targeted response to risk. Around Midnight interactive tool will be rolled out to schools in September.

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	A school risk indicator has been developed to identify those schools most at risk of exploitation and youth violence. This has been a partnership between SBC and CURV (Cleveland Unit for Reduction Of Violence) School navigators have been piloted in some schools to support early identification of vulnerable young people and help facilitate support. A bid is currently considered to add a specialist youth violence navigator who will cover exploitation. The vulnerable children data base has been further developed and is now used in all schools and colleges to support a multi agency response.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	2. On Track - Schools have recognised the need for training and support and engaged fully with the EIA team. A reporting framework has been agreed for school navigators.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	Schools continue to have access to multi-agency safeguarding guidance and resources through the Tees HOTH framework. The availability of common screening tools, language guidance and procedural documentation has supported awareness raising and strengthened referral pathways into specialist support. HOTH have been part of the Safeguarding in Education & the Community Meeting which are run throughout the year and attended by all schools in the Borough. Training and resources have been highlighted through this meeting. Schools also have access to Pol-Ed a police education resource aimed at the DfE curriculum framework, with specific resources around contextual safeguarding and Harm Outside of the Home.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Partnership arrangements continue to strengthen the understanding of Harm Outside the Home within education settings and support a more consistent safeguarding response, development and close links with schools will continue.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Schools report greater clarity regarding indicators of exploitation and extra-familial harm, enabling earlier identification and more informed referrals to children's services and safeguarding partners.

Recommendation 5:	That a training and support programme is delivered to Children's Services staff to enhance understanding of contextualised safeguarding and to help recognise and support young people who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation.
Responsibility:	Tanya Evans, Contextual Safeguarding Team Manager
Date:	September 2023

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Agreed Action:	Additional bespoke training has been developed for the Council's children's workforce. Content and approach has recently been tested through a pilot to a children's social work team Learning gained had been incorporated into the rollout of training to staff across social work teams, Help & Support and SEND planned from July 2023
Agreed Success Measure:	Children's service staff are knowledgeable, skilled and confident to support children and young people and families. This is visible in children's assessments, plans and how we support children, young people and families.
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	We now have the Initial ETAC's and reviews, this requires further development as to content that is easily understood by families and young people. The document also requires some revision regarding the plans being SMART. There is still a gap in the workforce regarding understanding of contextual safeguarding, NRM's, partnerships working, signs and indicators of CE/CSE.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	3. Slipped - The dedicated teams developed are now educating and supporting staff in awareness of exploitation and progress will be monitored through the quality assurance framework . Exploitation will be now be included in the new workforce development offer.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	At a strategic level the acknowledgment and support required to embed a partnership approach to exploitation. This does need to be developed further.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	Children's Services staff now have access to a wider range of Harm Outside the Home resources including a practitioner language guide, standard operating procedures and screening tools. The workforce development offer has increasingly aligned with the Tees HOTH approach. The Stockton HOTH team are working with the learning and development team to roll out regular briefings around HOTH and also explore mandatory training in relation to contextual safeguarding. The HOTH team have worked closely with the Iveson Trust who provide wider training opportunities via their community guardian's programme. Specialist training regarding contextual safeguarding has been provided to front facing workers, from children's social care, housing and adults.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Practitioner understanding of exploitation and contextual safeguarding has improved, although continued workforce development remains necessary to embed practice consistently across all teams.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Improved practitioner confidence is evident through stronger assessments, enhanced multi-agency planning and increased consideration of extra-familial risks within intervention plans.

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Recommendation 6:	That a programme of awareness raising is developed for key partners and elected Members.
Responsibility:	Tanya Evans, Contextual Safeguarding Team Manager
Date:	November 2023
Agreed Action:	This will be achieved through presentations to key strategic partnership groups and HSSCP training programme
Agreed Success Measure:	Risk Outside the Home is recognised as a safeguarding and community safety priority
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	The priority over the past 12 months has been to develop our approach to the exploitation of children and young people. Although there have been elected members involved in the discussions and strategic boards. A plan for further awareness and involvement has not been developed.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	3. Slipped
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	The publication and implementation of the Tees HOTH Strategy 2024-2027 has raised awareness of Harm Outside the Home across safeguarding partnerships and strategic boards. Elected Members will receive updates through existing governance and scrutiny arrangements.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Awareness has increased considerably through the development of the HOTH strategic framework, and a dedicated programme for elected members will further strengthen this area.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	There is increased recognition of exploitation and extra-familial harm as both a safeguarding and community safety issue, supporting greater partnership ownership and accountability.

Recommendation 7:	That a community guardian programme is introduced within schools and communities across Stockton-on-Tees to provide wider community support.
Responsibility:	HSSCP
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	To identify, liaise and take learning from those LAs where community guardian programmes have been introduced

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	Identification of services that are best placed to lead on this work
Agreed Success Measure:	This will be scoped and developed
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	2 On Track - meetings have taken place so far, one was the presentation and the other was in regards to the development of clusters within the community which is being developed by Westlands School and the plan is to role their model out to other schools. In this meeting Community Safety feel they were best to lead on this as they have allocated Community Officers for set areas. I believe that Children's Services should be the custodian of this for the purpose of full oversight and being able to record progress, direct responses. The Harmony (Clear Hold Build) project is being used in some areas and again the plan is to use the learning to be mirrored within other localities as it mainly focusses upon one area at present. Visits to be arranged to other LA's where they have Guardians in place to see if this can be replicated or developed within the LA.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	This are is still at the initial stage of development.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	As above.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	Since the previous update, development of the Community Guardians programme has progressed through partnership discussions with Community Safety, schools and safeguarding partners. The Cleveland-wide Community Guardians model delivered by Ivison Trust has provided a clear framework for implementation, recruiting and training community members, business owners, volunteers and frontline workers to recognise indicators of exploitation and share safeguarding concerns. The development of locality-based safeguarding approaches, including community clusters and Clear Hold Build activity, has created opportunities to embed the Community Guardian approach within communities most affected by harm outside the home. The HOTH team are currently exploring how this can be used as mandatory training for specific sectors in particularly via licensing
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved – Significant progress has been made in identifying a recognised Community Guardian model and establishing partnership arrangements to support implementation. There is now a defined framework, training offer and partnership commitment to strengthening community-based safeguarding responses to exploitation and youth violence.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	The Community Guardians approach has strengthened awareness of child exploitation beyond traditional safeguarding agencies by engaging trusted adults who are active within local communities. This supports earlier

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	identification of concerns, improves the flow of community intelligence and contributes to a wider safeguarding network around children and young people. The approach complements Stockton's Harm Outside the Home strategy by supporting the identification of locations, peer groups and community contexts associated with exploitation and serious youth violence.
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Recommendation 8:	That multi-agency capacity to support our MACE approach is strengthened to meet need.
Responsibility:	Miriam Sigworth and Nicole Wilson AD
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	Analysis of the current / emerging gaps in MACE capacity with our partners
Agreed Success Measure:	MACE has the capacity to perform its core functions to identify children at risk and the sources of harm to them; and to coordinate targeted activity to disrupt harm and achieve safe spaces for children
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	This area has now developed in a wider approach to the exploitation of children and young people. The development of a dedicated area and a Head of Service was implemented through the recent review within Childrens Services. This area includes, YOT, MACE, Dedicate SW Team and the Adolescence team
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	2. On Track - There has been an improvement in the way approach and deliver since the development of the new teams. This has improved practice and oversight, aligned the missing from home work and ensured all identified children and young people have worker.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	Evidence of impact is currently being collated and reviewed.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	The implementation of a Tees-wide HOTH framework, supported by screening processes, information sharing arrangements and standard operating procedures, has strengthened the operational capacity of partnership arrangements that support MACE activity.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Significant developments in structure, governance and dedicated exploitation services have strengthened the partnership response and enhanced HOTH oversight.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Improved coordination between agencies has enhanced identification of children at risk, disruption of harm and the ability to develop targeted safeguarding responses to emerging threats.

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships

Recommendation 9:	That an options appraisal is undertaken on how Children's Services can achieve the best outcomes for young people through improved practice and additional capacity and focus, including through the use of voices of experience. This will include options for structure and effective multi-agency working.
Responsibility:	Nicole Wilson AD
Date:	November 2023
Agreed Action:	Appraisal Paper to CSLT about how we support children at risk of significant harm from risk outside the home
Agreed Success Measure:	Practitioners and managers know what is expected of them. They are supported to practice with confidence and are able to build strong trusted relationships with children and families.
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	There has been improvement in this areas with the implementation. This area is included in workforce development. The creation of new teams and a dedicated area should improve outcomes.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	3. Slipped
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	The development of specialist exploitation services, the introduction of dedicated operational procedures, and the publication of the Tees HOTH Strategy have provided greater clarity regarding roles, responsibilities and pathways for supporting children experiencing harm outside the home. Audits and quality assurance of the service is undertaken at a 6-month period to ensure the impact and effectiveness of the service is understood.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Full Achieved - Structural changes have enhanced capacity and strengthened practice. Further evaluation of outcomes and the continued incorporation of lived experience will support future development.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Practitioners are better supported through clear procedures and partnership arrangements, contributing to more coordinated interventions and improved safeguarding responses for vulnerable children and young people.

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

14 OCTOBER 2026

Monitoring of Recommendations – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

Summary

Members are asked to consider progress updates in relation to the Appreciative Inquiry into Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

Detail

1. The Committee's final report of the Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment was considered by Cabinet in October 2024 who accepted all the recommendations.
2. The benefit of the AI approach has been in the awareness raising of the issues. It has also brought all stakeholders together at events and secured support for agreed objectives and future action.
3. The review culminated in a report setting out 17 recommendations, as follows:

That Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council works collaboratively with partners and key stakeholders to deliver the following shared objectives:

1. Improve attendance

Support schools to improve attendance:

- Encourage school leaders' use of the Attendance Self Evaluation Toolkit to identify what is working well, and areas which could be developed
- Promote an inclusive and relevant curriculum - where a young person wants to attend
- Work with the Team Around the School Service.
- Ensure that schools are equipped to deal with health issues.
- Identify individual barriers to attendance to better target support and intervention with specific reference to young carers

2. Forge positive relationships

Ensure that school culture proactively forges positive relationships between pupils, staff and parent/ carers:

- Promote respectful behaviours from all partners including teachers.
- Involve parents in school life.
- Extend opportunities for enhanced transition.

3. Improve communication

Design, deliver and support parent/carer communication strategies:

- Use new technologies and apps.
- Implement communication strategies early ensuring that good communication is embedded across the school community.
- Consider single points of contact and how best to communicate (not relying on technology alone).
- Offer parent/ carer engagement training for all staff.

4. Identify and support young carers

- Raise awareness of young carer identification and support for pupils.
- Extend the range of opportunities for young carers to link with others socially.

5. Managing emotions

Strengthen environment and opportunities for pupils to manage emotions:

- Engage with the Healthy Schools Programme and Healthy Settings Programme
- Design and delivery of courses to meet pupil need and support parents, with specific reference to:
 - managing behaviour effectively.
 - supporting mental health and wellbeing – especially to de-escalate heightened behaviour or to reduce stress levels.
 - positive parenting skills.
- Strengthen the use of pupil voice to support development of school environments which better support them to manage their emotions.

6. Refine teaching strategies

Further refine teaching strategies to improve lesson enjoyment, encourage speaking and listening and strengthen understanding also ensuring that teaching is tailored to the needs of the individual child.

7. Developing speaking and listening skills

- Ensure the curriculum and school clubs provide opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills, for example through debating clubs.
- Raise awareness of regional and national opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills

8. Extend enrichment offer

Strengthen and extend curriculum enrichment offer which better matches pupils needs and interests:

- Extend enrichment to include kick-boxing; boxing; coding; cooking clubs; sports clubs and story.
- Extend and promote the Tees Active Offer to include First Aid, paddle boards (team building) and extend offer within school holidays.
- Engage with the Healthy Schools Programme and Healthy Settings Programme

9. Celebrate achievement

Extend the range of opportunities to celebrate achievement including recognition for out of school activities and engagement with local, regional and national awards and competitions.

10. Enhance curriculum development

Work with partners and labour markets, making more explicit links to future employment.

- Innovate a local curriculum.

11. Strengthen understanding of career pathways

Clarify pathways to careers early in school life:

- Design and delivery of courses to clarify current career pathways for pupils and parents, including vocational careers and options other than traditional routes.
- Employment & Training Hub to link with schools to notify parents of apprenticeships events.
- Promote aspirational/motivational approaches.
- Strengthen links between schools/parents/careers advisor.
- Share best practice regarding "careers" evenings/ events in primary and secondary schools.
- Invite parents into school who have unusual careers.
- Educate parents on opportunities post 16.

12. Strengthen transition arrangements

Ensure that transition arrangements better fits bespoke pupil needs, with specific reference to vulnerable pupils:

- Ensure plans are put in place well in advance of any transition.
- Consider transition to post-16 and post-18/19 as well as primary and secondary and school readiness.
- Consider transition between year groups as appropriate.

13. Enhance skills to respond to special needs

Increase range of opportunities to enhance skills in mainstream schools to respond to Special Educational Needs (SEN), Child Protection Plans (CPP) and Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA):

- Share best practice of integrating SEN pupils into mainstream schools.
- Promote vocational opportunities.

14. Review behaviour policies

Review behaviour policies to ensure that they are appropriate and proportionate and that inclusion policies align with behaviour policies:

- What happens when a young person is removed from the classroom. Where do they go? What teaching takes place?

15. Embed and extend pastoral support

Embed and extend pastoral support in schools targeted to need.

- Engage with the Healthy Schools Programme and Healthy Settings Programme.

16. Strengthen support for parent/carers to develop language and reading skills

Design and deliver courses and activities to develop reading and language skills.

- Promote Functional English Courses.
- Invite parents/ carers to support reading groups at primary school.
- Promote reading through free Enrichment/after school clubs.
- Ensure parents understand the importance of reading.
- Use school social media to help parents/carers learn
- Ensure materials are easy read/jargon free to involve parent/carers.
- Key messages being shared from antenatal contact.
- Work with Read Easy Charity - helping people learn to read.

17. Review cost of living responses to diminish impact

Review Cost of Living responses to diminish its impact, with specific reference to period poverty, food poverty and school uniform:

- Work with Child Poverty Network.
- Work with schools to better promote/communicate Cost of Living interventions.
- Encourage all schools to 'Poverty Proof the School Day'.

4. Given the breadth of the work, a recommendation lead has been identified for each objective. Now that action plans have been submitted in respect of each recommendation, progress updates will be presented focusing on progress and impact.
5. At the October 2026 meeting, a progress update will be presented in respect of recommendations 11 and 15.

Background Papers

None

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APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment
Recommendation Lead:	Mandie Rowlands

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 11:	Strengthen our approach to career pathways for children, young people and their parents
Responsibility	Mandie Rowlands
Date:	July 2026
Agreed Action:	Research: • Understand the current picture: - Develop partnerships to better share the current post-16 provision with schools, enabling and informing information and guidance on career pathways for schools and their students - Determine whether this meets the needs of the school and the young people to ensure they have the right knowledge, information and how to access this - Review the current model of school-based careers fayre's/events to make recommendations to enhance this, that will support good IAG for young people around progression opportunities (employment including apprenticeships, training and further/higher education) • Develop an inclusive and broad offer from SBC that supports the robust provision of careers education in all schools • Develop a strategy for schools to work with SBC departments to identify opportunities for school-based curriculum to be enhanced with workplace experience and knowledge • Develop a Summer School strategy to enhance the skills, knowledge and experience of our young people through a range of activities such as enterprise weeks, business weeks Communication 1. Stockton Born and Bred initiative, highlighting pathways to success that can be achieved locally 2. Stockton's post-16 providers to form a partnership and share good practice, communications and marketing 3. Stockton's career leads to strengthen the network meetings, taking the learning back to schools and colleagues within other secondary schools Events: 1. Establish and strengthen the Stockton Careers Network

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

	2. Development and delivery of either one Careers event or a Careers Roadshow which has capacity to be delivered across all schools and colleges
Agreed Success Measure:	Research: - Established Stockton Careers Network: sessions held with school and college Careers Lead staff exploring NEET performance and the employment / industrial development locally - Sessions to be held with Careers Leads from schools and colleges to establish priorities for careers education in their establishments and how SBC can help (led jointly by Careers and Economic Development) - To further develop (through this Careers Network) feedback loops with schools and colleges about the careers and progression experience of young people, using young person voice captured through Y11 and Y12 surveys of students - Through the Careers Network we will develop a shared resource “bank” of activities, experiences (including how to meet the “two weeks work experience” duty), lesson plans / ideas / group work resources, repository of good practice and shared contacts / networks which will bring together the excellent work already being done, while giving individual schools, colleges and staff help and support in meeting the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks - To compile a list of services and teams who can accommodate and want to host work placements for KS4 and KS5 students - To communicate this with external partners – schools and colleges but also AP providers, special schools, PRU, EHE - To develop a resource which assists teams in providing a high impact work placement – project based activity, inspiration, skill identification and development, mentoring; in addition to traditional work shadowing - Accrue and share valuable activities which already exist and are accessible for Stockton young people - Build a local offer which can be accessed in-person, with brings inspiration and information to strengthen the local offer of work, training and education post-16 and post-18 Communication: 10 interviews / interactions filmed and shared through appropriate media, with people who are from Stockton and gone on to achieve success in their chosen field - Students enrolling at Stockton colleges increases from 2024 baseline, evidencing they have been inspired by the local offer - Careers Lead Network meetings are attended by all secondary schools and working towards a single action plan Events: - At least 6 meetings attended by 80% of our secondary schools and colleges - Large event to be attended by at least 500 young people and parents/carers - Roadshow delivered in at least three secondary schools

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

Evidence of Progress: (October 2026)	Post 16 Partnership established December 2024 Careers Network established Spring 2025 but now revised to a Work Experience Offer New Work Experience Offer Network Group is in development – mapping exercise underway NEET Performance Clinic established within Careers Service (multi-agency) Year 12 surveys undertaken in September 2025 (SSFC) 4 working groups set up: ➤ Communication and Marketing ➤ Transitions into Post 16 ➤ Excellence for All ➤ Pathways and EET (formally Careers Network) Early development of a Careers portal Transport Task & Finish Group established Skills for Success Holidays Are Fun – taster sessions with SRC
Assessment of Progress: (include explanation if required) (October 2026)	2 – On-track
Evidence of Impact: (October 2026)	Strengthened relationships across all post-16 providers New web page on SBC website Post-16 education in Stockton-on-Tees Collaborative brochure Guide to post-16 education Improved enrolments across all post-16 provision in Stockton-on Tees (2026-27) Improved conversion rates across all post-16 provision in Stockton-on-Tees (2026-27) A level results – provisional data reports show we are above national and second highest in TV NEET was 7.1% currently 5% 10 digital ambassadors recruited to co-create social media content

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

Recommendation 15:	Embed and extend pastoral support in schools targeted to need
Responsibility	Mandie Rowlands
Date:	April 2026
Agreed Action:	Research: - Collect a range of school pastoral support structures that schools have in place that shows the tiered approach of who can help - Meet with a range of Senior Leaders to discuss: a. the range of needs within their schools b. how their pastoral structures support the needs c. their view of any gaps in both school and LA - Gather the views of HT of LA support services that meet the needs of young people and can be infused to support pastoral structures - Develop an appraisal document of different models of pastoral structures that have been designed to support specific needs within the school - Circulate the Supporting Services booklet, produced by the Local Authority for feedback. - Refresh and recirculate the Supporting Services booklet - Develop a toolkit that identifies pupils at Risk of Disengagement Indicator (RODI) Communication - Email to schools request latest structure - Meeting request sent out inviting school leads to attend - Appraisal paper shared with school leads and Head Teachers Events: - Meeting held to gather information as set out in Research point 2 - Meeting held to share information gathered in appraisal paper
Agreed Success Measure:	Research: - Will receive 20 primary and 10 secondary school structures - Meeting will be attended by at least 60% senior leaders from schools - Meeting will be attended by at least 60% senior leaders from schools - This will evidence the diverse range of pastoral support available in Stockton schools' - Schools will have a directory of services to direct staff to the right service for the right support - Schools would identify and RAG pupils that need some additional support to improve attainment Communication: 75% response to email request Events: - At least 60% of invitees attend meeting.

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

Evidence of Progress: (October 2026)	Meetings held with Head Teachers ABC Framework created Risk Indicator matrix developed All schools RAG rated Levels of support identified and resource allocated School Support Booklet developed and distributed Community resources introduced to schools e.g. Family HUBS
Assessment of Progress: (include explanation if required) (October 2026)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact: (October 2026)	Schools are using the ABC Framework Two red rated schools have moved to amber One amber rated school has moved to green School Support Advisers attend Inclusion meetings to discuss vulnerable pupils Increased uptake in group work Feedback from schools is positive Interventions are identified and implemented earlier

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Holidays are Fun
Link Officer/s:	Mandie Rowlands
Action Plan Agreed:	June 2025

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 1:	That the Council continues to develop and promote the HAF programme to the residents of the Borough to ensure that the programme is meeting the needs of children in most need.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team SEND Assessment and Review Team Communications Team
Date:	March 2026
Agreed Action:	Take baseline figures to determine take up for last 3 years Attend school assemblies, parents evening and community activities to promote and sign up Undertake a pupil and parent/carers survey to determine baseline knowledge of the programme Youth Forum consultation Develop appropriate materials to meet with individual needs; • Culture • Language • Age Appropriate • SEND
Agreed Success Measure:	20% Increased uptake in the overall programme year on year 50% Increased uptake by young people aged 13years plus 10% Increased uptake by children with SEND year on year Parents/carers and Children are aware of the programme Schools identify targeted families who will benefit from the programme
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Increased uptake of unique number of children Increased uptake of spaces for secondary aged children – Easter 36%, Summer 21% Increased attended for SEND children (9%) Attending school-based events eg open evening for Y6-Y7, parents' evenings

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Decreased numbers of 'did not attend' Awareness of programme has increased when talking to parents Increased knowledge in workforce

Recommendation 2:	That the offer for SEND and secondary school children is further developed and promotional materials refreshed to target these children.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands SEND Assessment and Review Team HAF Team Communications Team
Date:	July 2026
Agreed Action:	Complete a needs analysis of gaps in provision Identification of SEND specific providers Work with SEND colleagues who have links with SENCO's Create a young person focus group to gather the views of young people Link with the SEND young person focus group Refresh the TEEN offer – using a festival style approach Provider CPD Training to be identified
Agreed Success Measure:	Mainstream providers are inclusive and flexible Increase in SEND providers by 4 Production of materials that will inform children and young people with SEND about the offer 50% Increased uptake by young people aged 13years plus
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	SEND provision has increased in both universal offer and SEN specialist providers Feedback from Stockton Parent Carer Forum informed the programme Children feedback evidenced inclusivity Quality Assurance visits evidenced inclusive provisions across the borough
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Increase number of new children to the programme – Summer 2026 we had 600 new children Provider feedback includes increased staff confidence in working with a broad range of children DfE feedback (Lynn Brumpton) who spent a day with Tees Active "I wanted to extend my gratitude for allowing me to visit the HAF Go Climb provision for children with SEND at Billingham Forum last Friday. It was truly a delightful experience, and I could see firsthand how welcomed and safe the children felt, this sense of security undoubtedly contributed to a positive and enjoyable experience for them"

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

Recommendation 3:	That communications with town and parish councils are reviewed and strengthened.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Communications Team HAF Team Mandie Rowlands HAF Team
Date:	February 2026
Agreed Action:	Meet with internal comms and marketing team to discuss options All HAF promotional materials are shared with councillors and cabinet members All HAF promotional materials are shared with link person in town and parish council office All social media posts to be shared by councillors
Agreed Success Measure:	HAF programme PowerPoint is delivered at members briefing Comms plan is produced and implemented HAF Team meet with link person in all wards who can lead in the promotion of the programme
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	HAF materials have been revised, taking into consideration the corporate guidelines Promotional materials are emailed to all councillors through the council-maintained distribution list Town and Parish council email distribution list has been created and used at every holiday programme launch date
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1- Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Raising the profile of the programme Children and Young People Cabinet member participated in quality assurance visits Other lead members have participating in quality assurance visits

Recommendation 4:	That the Council works with providers to increase up take in all wards and decrease non-attendance.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team
Date:	March 2026
Agreed Action:	Procure new booking system that has built in reminders Work with schools, HAF and youth providers to promote the HAF programme Monitor non-attenders and work with families to understand the barriers
Agreed Success Measure:	20% Increased uptake in the programme

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

	50% Increased uptake by young people aged 13years plus 10% Increased uptake by children with SEND
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Provider numbers are increasing with new providers, including schools, now participating in the programme Established providers have expanded there offer to be fully inclusive Workforce training has been offered to offer providers
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Increased confidence in the workforce delivering HAF Increased confidence in parents/carers booking children on to the programme Feedback from children has evidence that the programme has improved their friendship groups and reduced social isolation

Recommendation 5:	That consideration be given to how paid for places could be introduced to help make the programme sustainable.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands A Fairer Stockton Team HAF Team
Date:	March 2026
Agreed Action:	Undertake a needs analysis across the borough to identify the need and gaps in provision Understand which children would benefit from paid or subsidised places – discretionary spaces Gather community knowledge and what provision is offered on a paid place basis
Agreed Success Measure:	Identification of wards that have high need and low provision – sufficiency Creating affordable spaces for families who do not qualify under the current criteria The local authority has an overall picture of all holiday activity
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	School aged childcare programme identified HAF as a potential area for expansion for working parents Eight providers offering paid places in line with the agenda around school aged childcare Providers are working with Ofsted to become registered New webpage to promote paid places Mapping exercise undertaken to identify gaps in provision across the borough
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved This piece of work is ongoing and further 2 years DfE funding has been announced to support this work.
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	More providers have Ofsted registration More children have access to the programme of activities

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

	More working parents can access funding to support childcare
Recommendation 6:	That the Council works with schools to remove the barriers to them being primary delivery partners (for example, through the employment of a key holder to take responsibility for the premises, and staff choosing to take extra hours to support the programme on their premises).
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands School Support Team HAF Team Healthy Schools Team
Date:	October 2025
Agreed Action:	Undertake a mapping exercise to identify the schools with the highest level of FSM – Primary and Secondary Undertake a mapping exercise to identify the wards with the highest level of FSM Heat map the two sets of data to identify targeted schools Work within the cluster model to identify schools that could be lead delivery partner Work with schools that are offering HAF onsite and understand the logistics of running your own HAF Engage the schools with an ARP/SEND unit
Agreed Success Measure:	Increase schools partaking as delivery partners by 2 year on year Increased provision in wards with the most need Increased uptake by children who attend local school and live locally
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Heat map exercise undertaken (Summer 2025) Increased number of school sites with HAF provision Collaboration between maintained and trust school personnel and community providers Ongoing discussions with trusts and PVI – this is now core business
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Children have access to good quality provision within their community Quality Assurance visits have highlighted the quality when on a school site Better understanding of the challenges for school sites to offer HAF
Recommendation 7:	That the in-house booking system is replaced with a bespoke fit for purpose booking system with functionality to capture appropriate demographic information, including which school the child attends and that this information is used to identify gaps in provision, analyse take up and inform future targeting of promotional activities.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Digital Solutions Team

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

	Children Services Systems Team HAF Team
Date:	October 2025
Agreed Action:	Undertake an options appraisal of the available booking systems that conform with G-Cloud Framework Partake in 3 demos and appraise each system Procure new system Work with suppliers to maximise the outputs from the system
Agreed Success Measure:	Providers are providing positive feedback Parents/carers are providing positive feedback Increase in bookings each holiday period 25% reduction in children not brought to activity year on year Identification of children eligible for programme and not accessing
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	New booking system procured in April 2025 Live launch in May 2025 All bookings are now managed through the system Paid places can also be managed through the system
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Feedback gained from parents – all positive Children not brought have reduced Providers feedback how easy and user friendly the system is The system provider continues to take on LA feedback and improve the system The system provider can provide metrics and rankings across all LA's that are using the system Neighbouring LA's use the same system, making it easier for parents/carers

Recommendation 8:	That one grant application form be introduced for providers for all holiday periods.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Digital Solutions Team HAF Team
Date:	January 2026
Agreed Action:	Work with digital solutions team to provide a fit for purpose form Explore other options that may provide an alternative solution
Agreed Success Measure:	Providers will have access to a portal that will improve the customer experience Feedback from providers will confirm improvements
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council are now fully responsible for the grant process One form/one portal has been implemented

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

	Providers have worked with SBC to improve the process – testing and learn process
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Streamlined procedure has improved the timeliness of the application process More providers have been recruited Multiple holiday periods can be launched within the one grant application

Recommendation 9:	That opportunities to link the programme to the curriculum and promote lifelong learning for all the family are enhanced.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands School Support Team Careers Team Adult Learning and Skills Service
Date:	January 2026
Agreed Action:	Undertake exercise to identify current activities provided and categorise them into key headings: ➤ STEM ➤ Physical ➤ Work related ➤ Learning ➤ Recreational Identify gaps and over subscription in categories
Agreed Success Measure:	Varied offer across the borough Improved offer for whole family activities Increased uptake in family learning courses
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Stockton has one of the best offers in the country – this was discussed at a recent award ceremony Our family activities offer is well attended, and we are working with Family HUBS to improve the offer The range of providers we have available is now approx. 60 and we are able to align with the needs of the area
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	SBC and Stockton Riverside College trialled two taster courses in Summer 2026 Ongoing conversations within the Post 16 partnership about HAF and colleges One provider is delivering HAF in Stockton Sixth Form College Two providers have recruited young people to volunteer on HAF programme as part of their studies

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

Recommendation 10:	That a summer school programme is developed with the Careers Team, to create opportunities for young people aged 13 plus to participate in paid employment (within the law).
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Careers Team Employment and Training HUB Team
Date:	July 2026
Agreed Action:	Arrange a workshop with key stakeholders to look at a model of delivery for school aged children Identify providers who can offer a volunteer placement that could lead into paid work placement funded through the HAF programme Develop the offer through work experience/taster placements
Agreed Success Measure:	Young people develop life skills that will enable them to evidence experience within the workplace Young People are in paid employment during the holiday periods
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Post 16 partnership discussion – linking curriculum and work experience with opportunities within HAF Stockton Riverside College taster courses Providers identifying young people to take a lead role in activities
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved This piece of work is ongoing, and we have seen two providers using this model over Summer 2026, we are building on this model
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Quality Assurance visits evidenced providers are working with young people to take a lead role Young people are shaping the programme and how it can help them develop life skills One Provider had a recruitment campaign to offer paid employment for young leader roles to support the HAF Programme

Recommendation 11:	That opportunities are created for post 16 young people to take an active leadership role in the programme, linking in with local colleges who are delivering T levels thereby making the programme more sustainable.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Careers Team Employment and Training HUB Team
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Arrange a workshop with key stakeholders to look at a model of delivery for post 16–19-year-old young people Work with providers to develop a sport leader award scheme Identify providers who can offer a work placement under the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

	Develop the offer through work experience/taster placements
Agreed Success Measure:	Young People are in paid employment during the holiday periods Providers have increased capacity to secure more places within the programme
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Post 16 partnership discussion – linking curriculum and work experience with opportunities within HAF Stockton Riverside College taster courses Providers identifying young people to take a lead role in activities Training needs gap analysis undertaken across all providers
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	One provider works with Bede College and takes students as sports leaders which enables the pupil to provide evidence for their qualification Training courses offered to all providers to upskill workforce including volunteers and work placement staff Two young people were nominated in the HAF Awards and got through to the final

Recommendation 12:	That the Council works with providers to extend whole family support outside of the school holidays.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team A Fairer Stockton Team YUSA Citizen Advice Bureau
Date:	October 2025
Agreed Action:	Gather information on what family activities are available in each community Map the offer against the provision and identify any gaps Design a development and training programme for providers to upskill staff in what is available in the local community Identify how HAF Programme provides Family Help through the Social Care Reforms
Agreed Success Measure:	Staff will feel confident in providing Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Families will have access to good quality support services Families will engage with support services at the earliest opportunity
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Collaborative work with A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Team to signpost Attend 'Here to Help' events All providers have information to signpost to key agencies Provider forums link with community organisations e.g CAB Family days/events are held in community venues that have access to help and support services
Assessment of Progress (October 2026):	1 - Fully Achieved

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

(include explanation if required)	
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	HAF Providers are confident in giving advice and/or signposting Leaflets and information were evidenced at QA visits Links with Best Start In Life Family HUB launch strengthened links with the community

Recommendation 13:	That the Council considers how best to collect information around SEND children attending activities to ensure that providers are properly prepared, and children's needs are met when attending sessions
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands SEND Assessment and Review Team HAF Team
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Create a guide for providers to reference for information and support Procure new booking system to gather the relevant information on children's needs Design a development and training programme for providers to upskill staff in child development and safeguarding
Agreed Success Measure:	Staff will be prepared for the cohort of children attending the programme each day Staff will feel confident in providing care for all children regardless of need Children will feel supported when attending HAF
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Training needs gap analysis undertaken across all providers Specialist SEND providers recruited Representation at SEND Operation Group Work with Stockton Parent Carer Forum to implement approaches to children with diverse or complex needs
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	The programme is flexible and inclusive, and the range of providers evidences the capacity and confidence within the programme The booking system allows parents to share the child's needs and complexities so providers are fully prepared when children arrive

Recommendation 14:	That a mapping exercise is undertaken to ensure that provision is represented across all wards across the whole borough, especially those rural areas.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team Healthy Schools Team Public Health Team

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

Date:	February 2026
Agreed Action:	Pull together a list of provider/activities/locations Create a survey to be completed by eligible children and young people to gather their views on what activities could be provided Provide taster sessions in areas with no or limited provision Identify providers that can deliver in areas with no or limited provision
Agreed Success Measure:	20% Increased uptake in the overall programme year on year Survey completed by at least 50% of registered children Survey completed by at least 20% of eligible children
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Mapping exercise is complete Verbal surveys are undertaken with children at QA visits Individual provider surveys are completed with children and families HAF booking system allows a waiting list for popular activities
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved Surveys approach is ongoing, we are working with SBC colleagues to create surveys on new platform
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	The HAF programme is always evolving to meet the needs of the children and young people Additional activities are approved when we have significant numbers on waiting lists Children are consistently feeding back through providers, schools and parents

Recommendation 15:	That the potential to explore utilising in house community transport during the school holidays be explored.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team A Fairer Stockton Team
Date:	October 2025
Agreed Action:	Meet with colleagues in community transport to explore options Meet with partners to explore opportunities within the voluntary driver scheme Obtain map of local bus routes to identify areas with no regular transport links
Agreed Success Measure:	20% Increased uptake in the overall programme year on year Children will report feeling safe when travelling to HAF
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Working with colleagues to look at independent travel training for Year 9 onwards Met with Catalyst to discuss the voluntary driver scheme Bus passes purchased and distributed to families who needed support with transport costs

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Mapping exercise identified areas for new provision within walking distance Ongoing analysis of area hot spots Mode of transport continues to be monitored

Recommendation 16:	That the possibility of creating a 'free holiday meals' element of the programme in line with the DfE guidance, utilising our own facilities that are in place during term time be explored along with the opportunity of creating our own 'student' kitchen to provide the meals.
Responsibility:	HAF Team Post-16 Strategic Group SEND Assessment and Review Team
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Link in with colleges and universities to identify courses that are linked with cookery and catering Link in with the supported internship scheme to identify potential young adults who could have paid employment Map local community groups that provide community kitchens across the borough Link in with local business that provide food products eg Warburtons to utilise surplus products within the student kitchen Identify funding opportunities for local enterprise and sponsorship
Agreed Success Measure:	Young People undertaking a hospitality course will participate in paid work experience Stockton will have a sustainable model in accordance with the DfE guidelines for the food element
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Met with Stockton Sixth Form College Met with Stockton Riverside College Met with providers to discuss current approach
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved This piece of work has commenced; we need to consider the impact on local food suppliers who have had a long-term relationship with HAF providers
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	We understand the landscape We acknowledge the potential of having this approach We are progressing a test and learn pilot

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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**Children and Young People Select Committee
Work Programme – 2026-2027**

Date	Item	Attending
15 April 2026 Formal Session	Overview and Performance Meeting	Cllr Clare Besford Louise Hollick Lynn Stoneley Jane Smith
Informal Session	Review of Children Not in School – Evidence – Summary of Evidence	Elisha Dyball Vanessa Housley
13 May 2026	Review of Children Not in School – Evidence – Final Report	Elisha Dyball Vanessa Housley
	Presentation SEND White Paper	Elisha Dyball
17 June 2026	CANCELLED	
15 July 2026	Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment	Vanessa Housley Craig Taylor (Rec 16) Kellie Wigley/ Ellen Guest (Rec 4)
	The Annual Children’s Services Complaints Report 2025/26	Majella McCarthy/ Gemma Jackson/ Lisa Williams
	Scrutiny Review of Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Final Report	Elisha Dyball
	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Scope and Project Plan	Claire Tiffany
16 September 2026	Review of Children Not in School – Action Plan	Elisha Dyball Sharon Stevens Vanessa Housley
	Overview and Performance Report	Cllr Clare Besford Majella McCarthy
	Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment	Vanessa Housley Amit Law (Rec 12)
14 October 2026	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Evidence	Claire Tiffany
	Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Contextual Safeguarding	Darran Hope
	Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing	Vanessa Housley

	the Gap in Educational Attainment Monitoring – Holidays are Fun	Mandie Rowlands (Recs 11 and 15) Mandie Rowlands
11 November 2026	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Evidence	Claire Tiffany
16 December 2026 Informal Session	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Summary of Evidence and Draft Recommendations	Claire Tiffany
13 January 2027	Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision for Children and Young People – Final Report Monitoring – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Summary and Impact Report	Claire Tiffany Vanessa Housley Judy Trainer
10 February 2027	TBC	

Items to be scheduled each year

Children and Young People Overview and Performance Reports

Progress Updates

Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships October 2026

Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Ongoing

HAF – October 2026

Children Not in School - TBC