



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in
David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40
1BN on **WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 24 October 2023

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to provide independent “critical friend” challenge and to work with the Council’s Executive and other public service providers for the benefit of the public. The Committee considers submissions from a range of sources and reaches conclusions based on the weight of evidence – not on party political grounds.

Note: Non-Committee Members and members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in line with the Council’s Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be viewed live using the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/AZ-wPqoLWDA?feature=share>

Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council’s control.

Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background. • Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow. • Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment. • Help with your housing needs and support people, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and minimise delays and disruptions. • Enable safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure. • Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough. • Drive innovative, digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

Appendix Acronyms

CPD	Continuous Professional Development
EYFS	Early Years Foundations Stage
FGB	Full Governing Body
KS1	Key Stage 1
KS2	Key Stage 2
MAT	Multi Academy Trust
NLE	National Leader of Education
NLG	National Leader of Governance
RI	Requires Improvement
RSC	Regional Schools Commissioner
SDP	School Development Plan
SEF	Self Evaluation Form
SIB	School Improvement Board
SIO	School Improvement Officer
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
TSA	Teaching School Alliance
WLP	Wokingham Learning Partnership

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Andrew Mickleburgh (Chair)	Jane Ainslie	Ian Pittock
Anne Chadwick	Graham Howe	Phil Cunnington
Andrew Gray		

Substitutes

Pauline Helliar-Symons	Morag Malvern	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey
Chris Johnson	Alison Swaddle	Tony Skuse
Michael Firmager		

Parent Governor Representatives

Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative
 Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative

Diocesan Representatives

Richard Lamey, Church of England Representative
 Vacancy, Roman Catholic Representative

Community Representatives

Sarah Clarke, SEND Voices Wokingham

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
42.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
43.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2023.	9 - 18
44.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
45.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this committee. Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for	

submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions

45.1 None Specific

Alexandra Smith asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question:

What is happening for the resource bases, send unit plans and 2 new free schools (approved by the DFE) that were discussed at the SVW AGM in March?

45.2 None Specific

Helen Corbett asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question:

What are the SEND team doing to resolve the significant issue with COMMUNICATION?

I spoke with Prue and Jamie at the Local Offer Live event about this and other issues due to significant concerns regarding the rise in very unhappy Wokingham parents within the 'SEND Carers United' community. These families have still seen no improvement in communication and this is not only totally unacceptable, but it contradicts the message being sent to families during Wokingham Borough Council's Progress Update at SVW AGM in March.

Families have lost trust as so many promises never materialise and the same issues keep happening i.e despite it being mentioned several times in the past, parents are still receiving automatic response emails that informs them that their case officer has left, leaving them with no idea who to contact or if there has been any handover. We were also told at SVW AGM in March that meetings with parents to ask questions would be a 'regular feature across the calendar' yet there hasn't been one in the 8 months following that statement being made.

45.3 None Specific

Maggie Carroll asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question:

Since WBC started on Safety Valve; please can you provide the numbers by month of EHCP request to assess, number of 'nos' to assess number of 'nos' to issue, also the number of way forward meetings and mediation meetings that then resulted in assessment happening and plans being issued. How many appeals were registered which resulted in a tribunal hearing

and the number of EHCP assessment have taken place and EHCP's issued as a result of appeal and tribunals.

45.4 None Specific

Anwen Page asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question:

What are the aims and objectives of each of the safety valve workstreams and projects (as listed in the summary update on 6th September 2023)? I am particularly concerned that stakeholder organisations that work with parents such as SEND Voices are not aware of the detail regarding the workstreams and projects, and feel that a greater degree of openness and transparency is needed.

46.

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

To answer any member questions

47. None Specific

COMPLAINTS REVIEW

To receive and consider the Complaints Review report.

19 - 34

48. None Specific

DRAFT SEND STRATEGY

To receive and consider the Draft SEND Strategy.

35 - 66

49. None Specific

SCHOOLS UPDATE

To receive and consider the Schools Update report.

67 - 76

50. None Specific

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE

To receive an update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.

Verbal Report

51. None Specific

FORWARD PROGRAMME

To receive and consider the CSO&S Forward Programme of work.

77 - 78

52. None Specific

ACTION TRACKER

To consider the regular Action Tracker report.

79 - 82

53.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.

54. None Specific

SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN – PART 2

A report containing details of schools causing concern will be considered in a Part 2 session.

83 - 90

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading

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