

FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, 18 April 2024 at 1.30 pm in the Bridges Room

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies for absence
2	Minutes of last meeting (Pages 3 - 6) The Committee is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2024.
3	Declarations of Interest Committee members to declare an interest in any particular agenda item where applicable.
4	Health Service Support in Schools (Pages 7 - 18) <i>For children with chronic health conditions and/or childhood allergies</i> Presentation of Dawn Robson
5	Early Years in Schools Readiness (Pages 19 - 26) Report of Judith Reay, Early Years Service Manager
6	Work Programme 2024/25 (Pages 27 - 30) Report of Emma Fagan, Scrutiny Officer, Democratic Services
7	Any Other Business

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 7 March 2024

PRESENT: Councillor M Hall (Chair)

Councillor(s): D Burnett, L Caffrey, B Clelland, K Henderson, H Kelly, K McCartney, E McMaster, J Mohammed, L Moir, R Mullen, A Ord, M Ord, D Robson, D Weatherley and Rachel Walton

APOLOGIES: Councillor(s): D Bradford

F123 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held 18 January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

F124 PREVENTING YOUTH CRIME AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE

The Committee were presented with a report concerning the development of the Gateshead Local Action Plan for Serious Violence. The Committee were also given sight of the Gateshead Local Area Profile (Serious Violence) and the Northumbria Serious Violence Response Strategy 2024 – 2029. The report was adapted from a previous version submitted to the Community Safety Board.

The Committee felt that meaningful input could only have been given at earlier stages of this process. It was believed that the strategy was quite lengthy and didn't have clear goals or definitions of who is targeted by the report. The Committee also found that there was no definitive consultation with the voluntary sector or Locality Workers.

RESOLVED

- i. The report was noted.
- ii. Families OSC will be made aware of when Community Safety Board updates are going to Housing, Environment, and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- iii. For data to be brought to a future meeting regarding domestic violence figures and the rates related to violence of women against men.

F125 ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Committee received a presentation and report giving an overview and progress update in relation to areas identified for improvement from Ofsted Inspection activity and quality assurance work and to highlight our key areas of

focus for improvement following an internal annual Self-Assessment.

Previous inspections in 2019 and 2021 have judged services as “good”, with improvements in 2021.

Information was given to the Committee on work that has been done based in previous inspection findings and what the outcome of these actions have been. Outcomes have included:

- Audit agreeing that the quality of supervision has improved.
- Robust plans for children and continually ensuring that contingencies are in place to avoid drift and delay.
- Significant changes supporting a more intensive offer to children. Data says that **96%** of children in out of borough placements have a Personal Education Plan.

The presentation also outlined how Childrens Services are preparing for Ofsted’s inspection and reviewed priorities for 2023/24.

The Committee discussed children being home educated, the development of new children’s homes, and the Regional Fostering Hub.

RESOLVED

- i. The Committee noted the report.

F126

OVERVIEW OF VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report providing a progress update on the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of attainment outcomes, attendance, and suspensions for children in their care for the academic year 2022 – 2023.

The following strengths and key actions were also brought to the Committee’s attention:

Strengths

- KS1 Gateshead children are performing above the national average in RWM combined.
- Gateshead’s CIOC have performed better than National CIOC across all KS2 indicators in 2022.
- NCER data for 2023 Key Stage 4 indicates an Attainment 8 score of 19.4 compared with the National figure of 18.6
- There have been no permanent Exclusions for the last three years.
- Gateshead’s attendance is better than National CIOC in all the

indicators.

Key actions

- Fixed Term suspensions require a further reduction. Through analysis look at schools with high numbers, CIOC with more than 1 FTE, and reasons for suspension. Work with schools to reduce number of fixed term suspensions further.
- Virtual school will continue to monitor attendance of all cared for children to ensure all achieve 95%
- Virtual school new structure with additional capacity. Implemented in December 2023 in part internal recruitment and external by April 2024
- Virtual School Governing Board established with clear Terms of Reference and a range of internal and external stakeholders
- Further develop interventions in conjunction with Designated Teachers to support all key areas to maintain in line with national performance and close the gap with all children.
- Fixed Term suspensions require a further reduction. Through analysis look at schools with high numbers, CIOC with more than 1 FTE, and reasons for suspension. Work with schools to reduce number of fixed term suspensions further.
- Continue to monitor attendance of all cared for children to ensure all achieve 95%
- New EPEP implemented and used by the virtual school casework team to ensure appropriate targets are set and reviewed.

The Committee discussed attitudes towards children in virtual schooling from Head Teachers, methods of identifying whether children have any SEND needs, and trauma informed care in the classroom.

RESOLVED

- i. The Committee noted the information provided in the report.

F127

HUB INVESTMENT CHANGES AND SERVICE DELIVERY

A presentation was given to the Committee on the Gateshead Music Service and the Music Hub Investment Programme.

An update was given on the work of the service. Gateshead Music Service works regularly with 95% of schools and is in contact with all schools. It delivers over 200 hours of teaching a week, engaging with over 10,000 children and young people.

In 2022, Gateshead Music Service applied for a grant with Local Authority partners to secure funding for the new North East Music Hub. Announcement of this outcome will be given on 24 April 2024.

Where schools have limited funding for music access, Gateshead Music Service supports schools to apply for grants, including the Tesco Music Grant. The Glasshouse International Centre for Music has also begun a SEND inclusion group as part of their weekend school.

RESOLVED

- i. The Committee noted the presentation.

F128 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received an update on the 2023/24 Work Programme.

RESOLVED

- i. The Work Programme was agreed.

F129 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

Chair.....

Families OSC Meeting

Dawn Robson, Designated Clinical Officer
April 2024



Why Are We Here Today?

- Look at how we in Health are supporting schools for children with Chronic Health Conditions
 - Look at the data around children in our schools with the most common health difficulties
- Give an update on our health promotion work around Asthma, Allergies, Diabetes and Epilepsy
- Medications management in Schools – what's next?
- Other ways we are supporting Schools



- Support the ICB meet legal requirements/embed SEND Reforms for our children and young people 0-25 with SEND
- Support with improving communication and links with partners
 - Work with families to support with any concerns/issues including health difficulties
- Point of contact for LA, Schools, Colleges, Health Professionals
 - Support schools on regular basis with health issues/links with health professionals/support with transition at all points and especially with our pupils with complex health needs to care of their GP from Paediatrician care



So what is the Data showing

Asthma: Approximately 2,275 children and young people in Gateshead (0-24 years)

Epilepsy: (years) Approximately 225 children and young people in Gateshead (0-24 years)

Diabetes: 126 Children and Young People in Gateshead with Diabetes (0-19 years)
122 with Type 1 and 4 with Type 2 Diabetes



Funding has been allocated to support roll out of Asthma reviews in Schools

- Pilot is underway and getting some really good feedback from both parents and children receiving review
- Masterclasses – more to come

Emergency Health Care Plans for children with Asthma, Epilepsy and Allergies

- Do you have a copy in school – any issues please get in touch
- Support available from:
 - www.BeatAsthma.co.uk
 - www.epilepsy.org.uk
 - www.beatanaphylaxis.co.uk

All children who have an asthma diagnosis and also have any allergies to foods should also be prescribed with an adrenaline auto-injector device



Gateshead School Catering have created an allergens and special diets guide for schools and parents to follow. The updated information can be found at <https://www.gatesheadschoolcatering.co.uk/article/7435/Allergies-and-special-diets>.

If you have any queries, please contact Catering & Cleaning on 0191 433 5522 or alternatively SchoolCatering@Gateshead.Gov.Uk.

Included in the link there are Special Diets Introduction

Special Diet Menu Templates

Step by step Guide for Parents and Schools

Special Diet Form

Nut Peanut Safety Statement



Carbohydrate counting

Carbohydrates count for diabetic pupils

Example school
carb counted
menu

Page 13

Menu Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st choice	Cumberland sausages 8g , gravy, champ mashed potatoes 15g , carrots and peas 1 sausage = 4g 2 sausages = 8g	Beef burger sourced from local butcher 5.5g in a wholemeal bun 27.2g , hand cut potato wedges 25g , tomato and iceberg salad or vegetable medley	Roast Pork, Yorkshire pudding 10g , mashed potatoes 16g , steamed vegetables and gravy	Chicken and sweetcorn pizza 21g with tomato and basil pasta salad 26.4g	Battered cod 23g and chips 25g with peas
2nd Choice (Vegetarian)	Three bean chilli 18g with steamed rice 38g/35g , vegetables and sprinkle of cheddar cheese	Veggie Bolognese 4g , pasta 26.4g , garlic bread 11.3g and salad	Falafel 20g flatbread 40g with cabbage slaw and couscous salad 22g	Swedish style meatballs 6.3g in onion gravy 2g , mashed potatoes 16g , served with vegetable medley	Cheese and onion stuffed potato shells 9g with BBQ beans 16g
Dessert	Strawberry jelly 18g with fruit salsa 5g	Fruity tray bake 23g	Peach pastry tarts 29g	Chocolate & orange marble 25g cake with custard 9g	Fruit salad 12g

- Support for Schools with Over-the-Counter Medications
 - Policy has been adopted with support from Suzanne Dunn, Service Director Education, Schools & Inclusion and Melanie Maitland, Strategic Lead for Schools & Early Years alongside the ICB Medicines Optimisation Team

This will support Schools when parent requesting medications be given that has not been prescribed by their GP, following a short illness.

Parental Agreement included with Guidance to support Schools



How else do we support Schools with Health issues?

Learning Disability Annual Health Checks – discuss with Young Person and Parent at EHCP reviews from Year 9 onwards

- LD Postcard/LD Questionnaire for Parent/Carer

GP Kitemark work

- Currently a roll out of the GP Friendly Kitemark Accreditation
 - Support young people to attend GP practice from age of 14 years independently

Teenage Resource

- Little Book of Useful Stuff – just been published
- Links to the Healthier Together Website for support

Signposting to additional Services who can support and offer Training ...





Emotional health and resilience

Self esteem

Healthy lifestyle choices

Bowel and bladder issues

National Childhood measurement programme

Health assessments to support Children in Care

Safeguarding

And much much more..... Give us a call 03000031918



Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
Don't forget Our 0-19 App has a 'live chat' function to enable young people and parents to speak directly to a member of the school nursing team.



Gateshead 0-19 Service
Health Visitor / School Nurse 03000 031 918
spoc.hdfgateshead@nhs.net

Safeguarding- Dr Karen Hutchinson-
karen.hutchinson9@nhs.net
Dr David Jones- david.jones3@nhs.net

Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) Tel:
07342081199 - dawn.robson4@nhs.net
SEND Health Team
nencicb-ng.sendhealthteam@nhs.net

Clinical Genetics, Centre for Life
0191 2418758/2418741

Travel Care Development Manager
0191 433 7484
GemmaCurran@Gateshead.gov.uk

Education:
SEN Team 0191 433 3626-
senteam@gateshead.gov.uk
SEN Inclusion Team (HINT, LINT & Portage)
0-4 referrals & Portage Tel 0191 433 8734-
portageenquiries@gateshead.gov.uk
HINT & LINT Tel 0191 433 8530-
hintenquiries@gateshead.gov.uk
lintenquiries@gateshead.gov.uk

School Safeguarding Lead:

Gateshead's Local Offer

Children's Social Care (For safeguarding advice and referral)
0191 433 2653, Out of Hours: 0191 477 0844
Designated Social Care Officer, Tara O'Donnell
[taraodonnell@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto: taraodonnell@gateshead.gov.uk) 07714640428



Children & Young People Service (CYPS)
Single Point of referral (SPA): Tel 0303 123 1147
NGSPAadmin@cntw.nhs.uk

SENCO:



Occupational Therapy (OT)
0191 433 5058
ghnt.communitychildrensoccupationaltherapy@nhs.net

Physiotherapy 0191 445 3124
ghnt.paeds.physio@nhs.net

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) 0191
445 6667
ghnt.bensham.salt@nhs.net

Children's Community Nursing Service 0191
283 4660
Gan-tr.gatesheadccnt@nhs.net

Children's Bladder and Bowel Service 0191
445 8417
Ghnt.qegatesheadbb@nhs.net

Paediatric Nutrition and Dietetic Service QE
ghnt.paediatricdietitians@nhs.net
Tel: 0191 445 2074

Children's Diabetic Service QE 0191 445 6456

Single Point of Contact - **ONLY** for Children with
EHCP – to identify current services involved.
Ghnt.communitychildrensservicesenquiries@nhs.net
available from 02.04.24

Queen Elizabeth Hospital 0191 482 0000
Newcastle Hospitals 0191 2336161

School Nurse:

<https://gateshead-localoffer.org/>

Title of Report: School Readiness

Purpose of the report

1. To provide Members with information regarding current procedures of support in the Early Years Sector.
2. To inform Members about the improvement plan.

Background

3. Schools have expressed concerns that some children arrive to full time education unequipped to access learning.
4. The issues have appeared to increase since the Covid pandemic.
5. Eligibility for a 15 hour 2-year-old place is a family claiming benefits with an income below £15,400. Also, children who are looked after by the local Authority, who have an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order. Children with an Education Health Care Plan or who get Disability Living Allowance are also eligible. The percentage of children accessing the 2-year-old places has increased this term from 77% to 83%. This will support with the early identification of SEND and ensure our most vulnerable children are well supported at this earliest stage.
6. The take up of 3- and 4-year-old places (15 hours universal and 15 hours extended offer for working parents) is 101% due to children out of borough accessing a place in Gateshead. Newly arrived families are supported to access Early years places. Very few children therefore arrive in full time school not having accessed any Early Years Education.
7. All Private, voluntary, and independent settings receive a termly support visit from one of our Early Years Inclusion Consultants. They will support the setting with strategies and how to make reasonable adjustment to meet children's needs as well as advising when and who to refer on to other services. The Consultants are also available to Nursery and Reception classes in schools and childminders.
8. The Early Years Inclusion Consultants have increased the Special Education Needs Coordinators Network meetings to termly and invite in specialist services to preset to upskill the sector. 85% of coordinators have now completed the SENCO Level 3 Award. Training is offered out of core hours to enable all to access. A new SEND transfer document was used between all settings and

schools this year to ensure schools had all the relevant information regarding which additional services were involved with children.

9. The Safeguarding and Compliance Childcare officers visit all settings to support, and this is targeted dependent on Ofsted ratings and need. They offer training which is also out of core hours to meet demand.
10. The Early Years Teaching and Learning Consultants offer a Service level Agreement of support visits, bespoke training and network meetings which include presentations from other services (this month was Early Help and Family Hubs). They lead on the DfE Experts and Mentors programme which has been funded by Covid Recovery; this has offered extensive support to targeted settings.
11. We have a termly review of settings with the Early Years Inclusion Consultants, the Safeguarding and Compliance Childcare Officers, the Teaching and Learning Consultants, Portage service and the SEND Early Years Teachers to enable us to target support and training in a timely manner.
12. We have two childminder weekly groups operating from our Family Hubs. We are trialling a Childminder service level agreement of training and network meetings.
13. We have led on the home learning Environment programme for the Family Hubs. This has included the National Literacy Trust Early Words Together programme and Incredible Years Autism Programme.
14. We have worked with the DfE to run the Early years Professional Development Program, child development training and the National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership.

Proposal and/or Issues for consideration

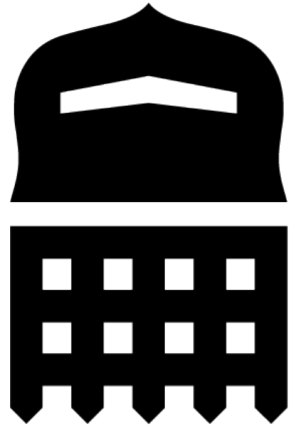
15. Monitor the availability of places as the childcare expansion comes into effect from April 24. This will be specifically focussed on the most vulnerable children as the private sector have indicated that their business model will favour children from working families who may be in a financial position to pay for additional hours. We have mitigated for this in our funding formula.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report.

Contact: Judith Reay

Ext: 8695



Gateshead Council

Page 21

educationGateshead

raising achievement for all

Report for OSC

EARLY YEARS- SCHOOL READINESS

JUDITH REAY

Our strengths

- The majority of children starting school have accessed Early Years funded provision. (Maintained nursery school, nursery class in a school, private nursery, playgroup or childminder.)
- 98% of all provision is good, outstanding or MET by Ofsted.
- High take up of three- and four-year-old places. 101% (131 out of borough children).
- Take up of two-year-old places has risen from 77% to 83% and is above national average. (Disadvantaged/ Low Income/ SEND).
- The new entitlement for working parents of two-year-olds (from 1st April 2024) has 75% of codes validated compared to 57% nationally. This is an additional 614 children in Gateshead.

Our strengths cont.

- Termly support visit from our Early Years Inclusion Consultants to all private and voluntary settings. This is available to schools with early years children and also childminders. Termly network meetings with specialist speakers to upskill the sector. 85% of Special Needs Coordinators have received a level 3 SENCO award.
- Safeguarding and Compliance Childcare officers offer targeted support. They deliver bespoke safeguarding training, network meetings and termly newsletters to keep the sector up to date.
- Early years Teaching and Learning Consultants offer a Service Level Agreement of targeted support and training. Through delivery of the DfE Experts and Mentors covid recovery programme they have supported settings in gaining higher Ofsted ratings.
- We hold termly meetings of all the above professionals alongside Portage and the SEND Early Years teachers to reflect and target our support efficiently.
- We lead on the Home Learning Environment element of the Family Hubs offer.

Challenges and Concerns

- The number of disadvantaged two-year-olds who are eligible for funding has decreased because the government has not increased the thresholds in line with inflation or increases in minimum wage. (24% over the last 5 years in Gateshead).
- Recruitment and retention of staff continues to cause difficulties with expansion to meet the demand of the childcare expansion.
- Financial funding incentives of £1000 are available in neighbouring LA's but Gateshead is not in the pilot. (Newcastle and Northumberland)

Next Steps

➤ Implement the Childcare Expansion.

Sept 24 – 15 hours for working families with under two's

Sept 25 – 30 hours for working families with under two's and two-year-olds

➤ To address the recruitment issue in the childcare sector we are working with the Family Learning Service, Post -16 and Learning and Skills to develop training pathways and to support networking. The government has introduced childminder grants to encourage new starters.

➤ Monitor the supply and demand by ward, specifically the availability of places for the most vulnerable children.

TITLE OF REPORT:	Development of Work Programme for 2024-25
REPORT OF:	Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services & Governance

Summary

This report details the Overview and Scrutiny work programme setting process for 2024-25 and a list of suggested topics for inclusion in the work programme, relevant to the remit of the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).

1. A key component to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function is work programme planning that seeks input from a wide variety of sources and identifies priority areas where scrutiny can seek to add the most value.
2. Ideas for topics for scrutiny to consider can be gathered from a wide range of sources including:
 - Elected Members
 - Senior Officers
 - Partner Organisations
 - Corporate Plans and Strategies
 - Complaints system and Ombudsman
 - Evidence from Councillors on issues affecting neighbourhoods
3. Elected Members and relevant officers were invited to submit suggestions for inclusion in the work programme between 20th February 2024 and 5th March 2024.
4. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Families OSC performs the overview and scrutiny role in relation to the following functions:
 - as an education authority
 - in respect of the provision of social services, and other services to children and young people, including specific health services for children and young people (including the function of reviewing and scrutinising matters relating to the health service as set out on the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and associated regulations).
 - to receive and consider monitoring reports on children in the Council's care.
 - to keep under review the Council's arrangements for ensuring that the Council fulfils its role as corporate parent.
5. A list of suggestions received relevant to the remit of Families OSC is appended to the report.

Role of Overview and Scrutiny

1. As per the Council's Constitution, the following principles govern the Overview and Scrutiny Function:
 - It will be an integral part of the Council's framework, working within it not outside or against it
 - It will be a constructive process which is open and accountable
 - It will work alongside the other parts of the Council's structure in making a contribution to policy
 - It will enhance rather than duplicate activity
 - It will look outwards to broader issues affecting local people rather than just internal Council issues

2. This is underpinned by the four fundamental principles of good scrutiny set out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny:
 - provide constructive "critical friend" challenge;
 - amplify the voice and concerns of the public
 - be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
 - drive improvement in public services.

3. Members of the Committee are invited to highlight any additional topics they wish to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the work programme. Work will then be undertaken, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to allocate topics to the Committee's meeting schedule in a timely manner and scope the content of reports. A further work programme report will then be submitted for approval at the first meeting of the 2024/25 municipal year.

4. It is acknowledged that, whilst the majority of the work of overview and scrutiny will be planned in a structured way, there will be flexibility within work programmes for committees to respond to any issues that arise throughout the year.

Recommendations

1. The Committee is asked to:-
 - a) Comment on the emerging issues for this OSC's 2024-25 work programme and highlight any additional issues for consideration.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme development 2024/25 - Families OSC

Remit

To perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to the Council's functions as:

1. as an education authority
2. in respect of the provision of social services, and other services to children and young people, including specific health services for children and young people (including the function of reviewing and scrutinising matters relating to the health service as set out on the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and associated regulations).
3. to receive and consider monitoring reports on children in the Council's care.
4. to keep under review the Council's arrangements for ensuring that the Council fulfils its role as corporate parent.

Suggestions:

- Corporate Performance Management and Improvement Framework – 6 month and end of year reports
- LADO Annual Report
- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Update
- Independent Reviewing Officer's Annual Report

- Social Services Annual Report on Complaints and Representations – Children
- Gateshead's Children and Young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing local transformation plan
- Delivery of Therapy Services for children - impact and outcomes
- Progress Update on delivery of SEND Strategy
- Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report – Plans and Emerging Priorities

- Update on support to vulnerable adolescents
- Trauma Informed Team Outcomes and Update
- Preventing Homelessness for Young People
- Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report

- Participation and Engagement of Children and Young People
- Progress on delivering Early Help and Prevention Strategy
- Progress update on delivery of youth justice services and inspection outcomes

- Schools Performance Overview Report (*including attendance, attainment and exclusion data; ofsted school outcomes*)
- Early Years Outcomes and Sufficiency

- Annual Progress Update on Children's Social Care Improvement Plan
- Preventing Youth Crime and Serious Violence (*invite HEHC OSC to jointly look at this*)

- Response to Child Poverty in Gateshead

- Health Service support in schools for children with chronic health conditions / childhood allergies
- Birtley Project
- Oral health for children and young people