

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Date: Tuesday, 24 June 2025 Time: 4.30 p.m. Venue: Mandela Room, Town Hall

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedure

In the event the fire alarm sounds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Overview of Service Areas

3 - 18

The Director of Children's Care and the Interim Director for Education and Partnerships will be in attendance to provide the Children's Scrutiny Panel with an overview of the services provided across their Directorates, and to highlight the strategic and departmental priorities for the coming year.

Recommendation: that the Children's Scrutiny Panel notes the information provided and considers the information when formulating its Work Programme at the next meeting.

4. Proposed Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2025/2026

19 - 20

Recommendation: the Children's Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2025/2026 and to agree a finalised schedule.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Tuesday, 15 July 2025 at 4.30 p.m.

6. Any other urgent items which, in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Monday, 16 June 2025

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors E Clynch (Chair), D Jackson, J McTigue, M Nugent, A Romaine, S Tranter, Z Uddin and G Wilson.

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Joanne Dixon / Chris Lunn, 01642 729713 / 01642 729742, joanne_dixon@middlesbrough.gov.uk / chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Children's Scrutiny Panel

24 June 2025

Dawn Alaszewski



Children's Care

List of Service Areas within the Directorate	Brief description of the work of each service area
Early help	Supporting children at the earliest opportunity to prevent further need/risk
MACH	Multi agency front door to identify need/risk aligned with the Tees Threshold criteria
Assessment Service	Assessments undertaken to consider what support/intervention is required
Safeguarding and Care planning	Support for children who are subject to CIN, CP and care proceedings
Children with Disabilities Service	Supporting children who have a disability
Children in our care/Pathways	Supporting children who are in our care or those who have previously been in our care
Aspire/HOTH	Working with children/young people at risk of exploitation
Residential Services	6 x Homes for children/2 x supported accommodation

Priorities

- Practice/performance improvement
- Implementation of a practice model (SOS)
- Increase of permanent workforce
- Reduction of children in external residential placements
- Early intervention with families to prevent need/Risk
- Prevention of children entering care/returning children home where safe to do so

Current Projects

- Residential
- Edge of Care
- Reunification
- Implementation of a practice model Sign's of Safety (SOS)
- SHiFT (overseen by Education & Partnerships)
- Workforce strategy

Challenges

- Consistency of practice/performance
- External residential costs
- Implementation of the reform
- Demand
- Recruitment/retention
- Numbers of children subject to child protection plans/in our care

Corporate Performance Measures (May 2025)

- Children currently in our care 482
- CLA ceasing in May 2025: 21
- Health assessments completed in timescale: 92%
- Visits in timescales: CP: 93%, CIN: 80%, CLA 86%
- Health assessments completed in timescales: 92%
- Dental checks completed in timescales: 76%

Questions?



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Education and Partnerships

Children's Scrutiny Panel 24 June 2025

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Caroline Cannon

Interim Director for Education and Partnerships



Education and Partnerships

<i>Service Areas within the Directorate</i>	<i>Brief description</i>
Access to Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual School • School Planning • Attendance • Admissions • Elective Home Education • Children Missing in Education 	<p>Provides a range of services to schools and families to enable the education system in the town to operate smoothly and effectively.</p>
Inclusion and Specialist Support Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion and Outreach • SEND Assessment and Review • Education Psychologists • Sensory Teaching and Advisory Service • High Needs Funding 	<p>The service provides statutory and specialist early intervention, prevention and support services for children with special educational needs or those at risk of exclusion.</p>
Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years and Family Hubs • Ethnic Minority • Literacy Advisor 	<p>Working together to ensure that every child and young person in Middlesbrough has equal access to high quality education that increases and improves life chances, through achievement of the best possible outcomes at every stage of their learning journey and beyond.</p>
Youth Justice Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Justice Team • SHiFT 	<p>South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) delivers Youth Justice Services within the local authority areas of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland.</p>

Priorities

- Reduce the number of permanent exclusions and suspensions across the town
- Ensure sufficiency of school places for all children and young people
- Improve attendance for all children and young people
- Monitor the number of children choosing Elective Home Education
- Increase inclusion within mainstream settings for children with an EHCP
- Ensure EHCA are completed within the 20 weeks statutory process
- Support schools and settings to have a skilled workforce
- Reduce the number of children and young people accessing out of area specialist provision
- Reduce the deficit on the High Needs Budget
- Improve outcomes for all children and young people

Current Projects

- SHiFT
- Adopting a digital support system that embraces, Education, Early Help and Social Care
- Improving Attendance
- Introduction of a new Resource Allocation System to support children with an EHCP
- Review of specialist provision
- Family Hubs

Challenges

- Exclusions and suspensions
- Funding
- Sufficiency of Alternative Provision placements
- Sufficiency of Specialist Placements
- Attendance
- Increasing number of children who are Electively Home Educated



Corporate Performance Measures

- Permanent exclusions : Currently 88, slightly lower than previous year
- Suspensions: Reduction in the days lost per pupil, suspensions rates are slowing
- Attendance: 92.5%
- Elective Home Education currently: 321
- Completion of an EHCP within 20 weeks: 97%
- Inclusion within mainstream settings for children with an EHCP: 39.2%
- Children currently accessing Alternative Provision: 377

Questions?



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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

24 JUNE 2025

**PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE –
2025/2026 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To agree the proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Children's Scrutiny Panel for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year, as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 15 July 2025	4.30 p.m.	Mandela Room, Town Hall
Monday, 15 September 2025	4.30 p.m.	Mandela Room, Town Hall
Monday, 27 October 2025	4.30 p.m.	Mandela Room, Town Hall
Monday, 8 December 2025	4.30 p.m.	Mandela Room, Town Hall
Monday, 19 January 2026	4.30 p.m.	Mandela Room, Town Hall
Monday, 9 March 2026	4.30 p.m.	Mandela Room, Town Hall
Monday, 20 April 2026	4.30 p.m.	Mandela Room, Town Hall

COUNCILLOR EDWARD CLYNCH
CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Contact Officer:

Joanne Dixon / Chris Lunn

Democratic Services

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