

## **REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE - 27 MAY 2021**

### **ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT – 2020-21**

#### **1 Reason for Report / Summary**

- 1.1 In adopting the Scheme of Governance in 2017, it was agreed that each Committee be provided with an annual report, outlining its scrutiny activity. This report contains the activity for 2020-21 for the Education and Children's Services Committee.

#### **2 Recommendations**

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 2.1 **Consider and comment on the activities detailed in the report; and**
- 2.2 **Identify any future scrutiny requirements as part of an annual programme of activity.**

#### **3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route**

- 3.1 The Scheme of Governance provides that each Policy Committee should receive and review an annual report of the Committee's scrutiny activity. This report provides an opportunity for Members of the Education and Children's Services Committee to consider their scrutiny activity in the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

#### **4 Discussion**

- 4.1 The annual scrutiny report is part of the monitoring process allowing committees to keep track of progress and ensure any agreed actions have been implemented. The report also provides an opportunity to reflect on scrutiny undertaken and identify any future scrutiny requirements as part of an annual programme of activity.
- 4.2 The Committee's scrutiny activity over the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 is summarised below and a full list is provided in **Appendix 1**.

##### **Formal Scrutiny**

- 4.3 Over the course of the reporting period, the Committee has reviewed performance and monitored service delivery when considering:
- 42 management reports,
  - 3 performance reports,

- 2 reports approving/reviewing policies,
- 5 reports on strategies,
- 2 budget monitoring reports,
- 1 consultation response.

In considering reports submitted, there have been instances where additional actions were requested by the Committee, including issues such as:

- Requests for clarification on information in the report;
- Requests for additional information, to be provided outwith the formal Committee reporting, such as a bulletin report;
- Informal Workshop session to be held on the topic; and
- Requests for a further report on the topic at a set timescale.

All of these are instances where the Committee were looking for, or found, assurance on the items contained in the reports.

### **Informal Scrutiny**

In addition, the Committee has undertaken informal scrutiny on 8 occasions including 3 sessions relating to impacts of COVID-19.

## **5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

5.1 The various issues and topics considered as scrutiny relate to all the Council's Priorities and Key Principles

<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; climate and sustainability; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.

5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities		X	
Fairer Scotland Duty		X	
Town Centre First		X	
Sustainability		X	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		X	

- 5.3 An equality impact assessment is not required because this report is to inform committee on scrutiny activity and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 5.4 Similarly, there are no specific implications for staffing, finances, wellbeing, or children and young people's rights.
- 5.5 Various Risks have been identified as relevant to the areas of business covered in the content reports for this annual report and were identified when the individual matters were considered. There are no risks, either at a Corporate or Directorate level, relevant to this annual report on scrutiny.

## 6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section E.6.6 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it refers to scrutiny activity undertaken by this Committee.

**Laurence Findlay**  
**Director of Education and Children's Services**

Report prepared by Gillian Milne, Business Support and Performance Manager  
Date 11 May 2021

### List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Activity, 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

Appendix 1

**Scrutiny Activity**  
**1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021**

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Item description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Additional Action</b>
28/05/20	COVID-19 update	Management Report	Noted
	Attendance and Absence in Aberdeenshire Schools 2018/19	Performance report	Noted
	Education and Children's Services Supplementary Procurement Plan 2020/2021	Management Report	Agreed recommendations
	Update on 1140 Early Learning and Childcare Expansion	Management Report	Noted
02/07/20	Education and Children's Services Committee Workshop – COVID-19	Informal Session	n/a
31/07/20	Education and Children's Services Committee Workshop Follow Up COVID-19	Informal Session	n/a
18/08/20	Education and Children's Services Committee Workshop with MSYPs and Youth Councillors	Informal Session	n/a
27/08/20	COVID-19 19 update	Management Report	Noted
	Education and Children's Services Year-End Performance Monitoring Report – October 2019 to March 2020	Performance Report	Agreed recommendations
	School Catering Update	Management Report	Noted
	Quarter 1 Financial Performance – Education and Children's Services	Capital and Revenue Monitoring	Noted and approved
	Update on Young Carer Strategy	Strategy	Acknowledged
	Adoption Service Annual Report	Management Report	Noted
	Fostering Service Annual Report	Management Report	Noted
	Corporate Parenting Annual Report	Management Report	Noted

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Item description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Additional Action</b>
27/08/20 (cont.)	Aberdeenshire Child Protection Committee Progress Report (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2020)	Management Report	Agreed recommendations
	National Improvement Framework Report and Plan	Management Report	Agreed recommendations
	Literacies Strategy Update	Strategy	Agreed recommendations
31/08/20	Education and Children's Services Facilities Management Workshop	Informal Session	n/a
08/10/20	COVID-19 update	Management Report	Noted
	Community Access to Educational Premises	Policy	Approved recommendations
	Carbon Budget Six-Monthly Update and COVID-19 Sustainability and Climate Change Lessons Learned	Management Report	Acknowledged
	Kinship Service Annual Report	Management Report	Noted
	Virtual Head Teacher Annual Report 2019/20	Management Report	Acknowledged
	Update on Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Proposal for the 2020/21 Academic Year	Management Report	Acknowledged
25/11/20	Education and Children's Services Committee Workshop with MSYPs and Youth Councillors	Informal Session	n/a
03/12/20	COVID-19 update	Management Report	Noted
	Aberdeenshire Children's Services Plan 2020-2023 Including Annual Report for 2019/20	Management Report	Noted
	Aberdeenshire Young Carer Strategy 2021-23	Strategy	Noted
	Annual Reports for Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes – 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020	Management Report	Noted

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Item description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Additional Action</b>
03/12/20 (cont.)	Home Education Policy – Flexi Schooling Guidance	Policy	Approved recommendations
	Education and Children’s Services Mid-Year Performance Monitoring Report – April to September 2020 (Council Priorities)	Performance Report	Acknowledged
	Aberdeenshire’s Digital Strategy	Strategy	Noted
	Chief Social Work Officer, Annual Report 2019/2020	Management Report	Noted
	Climate Change Declaration Consultation	Consultation	Noted
	Quarter 2 Financial Performance: Education and Children’s Services	Capital and Revenue Monitoring	Noted
	Education and Children’s Services Directorate Supplementary Procurement Plan.	Management Report	Approved recommendations
	Hard Facilities Management (Hard FM) Update	Management Report	Noted
21/01/21	Education and Children’s Services Committee Workshop - ASN Impact of COVID-19	Informal Session	n/a
28/01/21	COVID-19 update	Management Report	Noted
	Equalities Presentation	Management Report	Noted
	Northern Alliance Regional Improvement Collaborative – Progress Update Report	Management Report	Noted
	Education and Children’s Services Directorate Service Plan	Management Report	Approved recommendations
	Education and Children’s Services Charing Policy	Policy	Approved recommendations
	School Transport	Management Report	Approved recommendations

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Item description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Additional Action</b>
28/01/21 (cont.)	Annual Procurement Performance Report 2019-2020	Management Report	Noted
	Education and Children's Services Directorate Supplementary Work Plan	Management Report	Approved recommendations
03/03/21	Education and Children's Services Committee Workshop with MSYPs, Youth Councillors and Pupil Participation Reps	Informal Session	n/a
18/03/21	COVID-19 update	Management Report	Noted
	Learning Estates Strategy	Strategy	Approved recommendations
	Learning Estates Update	Management Report	Noted
	Secondary School S1 Admission Limits and Reserved Places	Management Report	Noted
	Attendance and Absence in Aberdeenshire Schools 2019/20	Management Report	Noted
	Summary and Analysis of Initial School Leaver Destinations 2019/20 and Overview of Sustained Destinations Data	Management Report	Noted
	Teacher Staffing	Management Report	Noted
	Carbon Budget Six-Monthly Update	Management Report	Noted
	Community Learning and Development Third Sector Funding	Management Report	Approved recommendations
	Analysis of Attainment and Achievement of Young People from Aberdeenshire Secondary Schools in Accredited Awards (2019-20)	Management Report	Noted
	Update on the Development of Foundation Apprenticeships in Aberdeenshire Schools	Management Report	Noted
	Corporate Improvement Plan	Management Report	Noted

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Item description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Additional Action</b>
18/03/21 (cont)	Policy Register Annual Reporting	Management Report	Noted
	Tackling Poverty and Inequalities – Progress Report	Management Report	Noted
	Education and Children’s Services Directorate Procurement Work Plan	Management Report	Noted
23/03/21	Education and Children’s Services Committee Workshop - Barriers to Learning that Poverty Creates in the Northern Alliance	Informal Session	n/a