

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Tuesday, 9 November 2021
:

Committee:
People Overview Committee

Date: Wednesday, 17 November 2021
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting. The Agenda is attached.

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited for health and safety reasons. If you wish to attend the meeting please email democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check that a seat will be available for you.

Members of the public will be able to access the live stream of the meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/peopleoverviewcommittee17november2021/>

Tim Collard
Interim Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services

Members of the Committee

Peggy Mullock (Chairman)	Nat Green
Claire Wild (Vice Chairman)	Ruth Houghton
Roy Aldcroft	Hilary Luff
Peter Broomhall	Kevin Pardy
David Evans	Kevin Turley

Co-opted Members (Voting):

Carol Morgan	Diocese of Shrewsbury (RC)
Sian Lines	Diocese of Hereford (CE)

Substitute Members:

Caroline Bagnall
Roger Evans

Dan Thomas
David Vasmer

Your Committee Officer is:

Ashley Kendrick Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 250893

Email: Ashley.kendrick@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies and Substitutions

To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded they must not participate in the discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 September 2021 are attached for confirmation.

4 Public Question Time

To receive any public questions or petitions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 10.00am on Monday 15th November 2021.

5 Members' Question Time

To receive any questions of which Members of the Council have given notice.

Deadline for notification: 10.00am on Monday 15th November 2021.

6 Schools Rebuilding Programme

To provide an early update on the Government's Schools Rebuilding Programme's projects in Shropshire.

Contact – Phil Wilson – 01743 254344

7 School Exclusions

To inform the committee of levels of permanent exclusions in Shropshire and how this compares to the national rates of exclusions. To advise the committee about the challenges faced by educators and the local authority and the cost and impact of permanent exclusion on children and the system.

Contacts - Nathan Jones, SEND Service Manager – 01743 253124
Jane Parsons, Education Access and Safeguarding Officer
– 01743 254676

8 Corporate Parenting Panel

To understand the role and work of the corporate parenting panel and to scrutinise the panel's work in achieving good outcome for looked-after children.

Sonya Miller to provide a presentation at the meeting

Contact Sonya Miller, Tel: 01743 254264

9 Work Programme (Pages 5 - 10)

Report of the Scrutiny Officer is attached

Contact: Danial Webb (Tel: 01743 258509)

10 Date of Next Meeting

Members are reminded that the next meeting of the People Overview Committee will be held on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 2.00pm.



PEOPLE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021

2.00 pm in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Shropshire Councillors

Councillor Peggy Mullock (Chairman)

Councillors Claire Wild (Vice Chairman), Peter Broomhall, David Evans, Nat Green, Ruth Houghton, Hilary Luff and Kevin Pardy

12 Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were been received from Councillor Ed Bird (Substitute Roy Aldcroft).

13 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest

14 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 11 August 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

15 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public

16 Members' Question Time

Questions had been received from Councillor Kevin Pardy regarding early years service, from Councillor Roger Evans regarding advice being provided on Covid in primary schools, and Councillor Richard Broomhall regarding the Stepping Stones project.

By way of supplementary question, Councillor Pardy queried whether there would be a reduction in early help workers due to the transfer of three staff members to the youth team, or whether those staff members would still work with younger children as well. The Executive Director of Children's Services advised that Shropshire Council has recruited three workers from the early help team, who are trained youth workers, into the detached youth service provision and clarified these were not early years workers. Those members of staff have been transferred to use their experience. The service has been restructured including resources, which has led to staff staying

within a profession they are trained in, whilst allowing whilst allowing the early help offer as per the proposed structure.

The Executive Director of Children's Services provided an update as to current guidance as of week commencing 27th September 2021, including the need to take a PCR test should a household contact test positive, the need to self isolate whilst awaiting results and the recording of Covid related absences in schools.

By way of supplementary question, Councillor Evans asked that the current advice which has been provided to schools is also circulated to all elected Members to enable them to lead from the forefront, following advice that has been given.

The Executive Director of Children's Services responded and advised that Shropshire Council were making dynamic changes according to the circumstances both locally and nationally. It has been agreed at a national level that a two-day circuit break to disrupt transmission can be considered if 30% of the class are confirmed positive through PCR tests or 15% of the school are confirmed positive through PCR tests. If either criteria is met, schools should start discussions with Shropshire Council's Director of Public Health and her team before decisions are made.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Education congratulated officers for the excellent communication and wished to pass on her thanks to Steve Compton, Principal School Improvement Adviser, for providing current advice on a regular basis.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Education provided an update on the Stepping Stones project in relation to the question raised by Councillor Broomhall.

Members were advised that a briefing on the Stepping Stones project had been scheduled for all elected Members in January next year.

Copies of the questions and responses may be found on the agenda page on the Council website.

17 School Place Planning

Members received a report from the Service Delivery Manager for Business Support, Learning and Skills, Phil Wilson.

The Service Delivery Manager, Business Support Learning and Skills provided an update on the provision of school places across the county during the current plan period through to 2026 and the proposals to review provision following the adoption of the Local Plan in July 2022.

The Service Delivery Manager, Business Support Learning and Skills advised that the report covered school place planning in a range of aspects including local and national contexts, forecasting and data information sources, the catchment areas in relation to the admissions process, the impact of housing and how the place planning process was funded.

A range of engagement events had been held with key stakeholders in Shifnal, Oswestry, Market Drayton, Whitchurch and Shrewsbury.

Training and development sessions would be arranged for members around the admissions process with a subset of the presentation being connected to school place planning. It was hoped the training could be delivered to schools to give parents a better understanding of the process.

Members questioned the provision of recreational space, the admissions criteria and school transport provision for out of catchment children. Members were advised that recreational space was considered where possible where school expansions are taking place; depending on the footprint of the school. Members were further advised that the development session would provide further information on the admissions process and criteria, and that if children are unable to get a place at their catchment school, funding will be provided for transport to an out of catchment school.

Members noted the report.

18 School Exclusions

The relevant officer was unable to attend.

RESOLVED:

To defer the item until the next meeting of the committee.

19 Work Programme

Members received the report of the Scrutiny Officer which set out the proposed work programme for the People Overview Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.

Amongst topics suggested for addition to the programme were:

- Tuition Medical Behaviour Support Service
- Post 16 School Transport

20 Date of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the People Overview Committee would be held on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 10.00am

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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<p>People Overview Committee</p> <p>17 November 2021</p>	<p><u>Item</u></p> <p><u>Public</u></p>
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People Overview Committee Work Programme

Responsible officer

Danial Webb, scrutiny officer
danial.webb@shropshire.gov.uk
 01743 258509

1.0 Summary

1.1 This paper presents the People Overview Committee’s proposed work programme for the 2021-2022 municipal year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee members to:

- agree the proposed committee work programme attached as **appendix 1**
- suggest changes to the committee work programme and
- recommend other topics to consider.

3.0 Next steps

3.1 Officers will present a refreshed work programme at each committee meeting. In addition the committee will meet informally between committee meetings to discuss which topics they wish to scrutinise at future meetings.

<p>List of background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</p>
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<p>None</p>

<p>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</p>

<p>All</p>

<p>Local Member</p>

<p>All</p>

<p>Appendices</p>

<p>Overview and scrutiny work programme</p>

Appendix 1

Overview and Scrutiny work programme for municipal year 2021-2022

People Overview Committee

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic	Understand how Shropshire Council is responding to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• early help• safeguarding• education	Executive Director, Children's Services Portfolio Holder		11 Aug 2021
Briefing School Place Planning	Understand how the council forecasts the demand for school places, the funding available to build school capacity, and how it works with schools to increase capacity when required.	Service Manager, Business Support		21 Sep 2021
School Place Planning	Scrutinise <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the methodology for planning school places and• the historical, current and planned capacity of primary, secondary and special school places.	Service Manager, Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current and planned capacity in primary, secondary and special schools in Shropshire• Comparison with neighbouring local authorities	29 Sep 2021

People Overview Committee

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
School exclusions	Scrutinise exclusion rates by local authority.	Executive Director, Children's Services Portfolio Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School exclusion policy • School exclusion rates by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ year of exclusion ○ primary/secondary ○ mainstream/SEND • Benchmarking with other local authorities • Commissioning of places in pupil referral units 	17 Nov 2021
Corporate Parenting Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the role and work of the corporate parenting panel. • Scrutinise the panel's work in achieving good outcome for looked-after children. 	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Portfolio Holder		17 Nov 2021
School Rebuilding Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the Government's Schools Rebuilding Programme, in relation to funding for schools in Shropshire. 	Service Manager, Business Support		17 Nov 2021
BRIEFING Stepping Stones	Overview of the Stepping Stones project, which seeks to move looked after children from residential into foster care.	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding		11 Jan 2022

People Overview Committee

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
SEND written statement of action	Scrutinise progress in delivering the outcomes of the SEND written statement of action.	Executive Director, Children's Services Portfolio Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written statement of action Ofsted inspection findings 	19 Jan 2022
Virtual School Head	Overview of the work of the virtual school head for looked after children	Virtual School Head Jo Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic information on current virtual school cohort. 	19 Jan 2022
Stepping Stones	Scrutiny of the Stepping Stones project. Objectives to be determined.	Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Portfolio Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information required to be determined. 	19 Jan 2022
West Mercia Youth Justice Service			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information required to be determined. 	TBA

People Overview Committee

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
Youth services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise implementation of recent review of youth services. • Examine the effectiveness of the changes resulting from the implementation of the review findings. 	Executive Director, Children's Services Portfolio Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current youth work capacity and services • Other data to be determined by the committee 	19 Jan 2022
Closing the gap - Pupil attainment	Scrutinise performance in Shropshire in closing the attainment gap of children from deprived backgrounds	Executive Director, Children's Services Portfolio Holder	Pupil attainment, divided by pupil premium, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stage 2 • Key stage 4 • GCSE 	March 2021
Briefing School admissions	Understand how Shropshire Council determines and administers school admissions, and how it manages appeals to decisions about admissions.			March 2022

People Overview Committee

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
Post-16 destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the outcomes of school leavers. Identify services to support school leavers not continuing into education, employment or training. 	Executive Director, Children's Services Portfolio Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational outcomes for children aged 16 and over Comparison with previous years Benchmarking with other local authorities 	March 2022

LONG LIST

- TMBSS – Briefing session
- Home to school transport (part of a cross-committee work)
- Home Schooling
- Head teacher briefing