

Initial Information Base and Suggested Work Plan topics for 2023/24 – For Family Friendly Sub-Committee’s Consideration

As set out in **Appendix B**, link Cabinet Members and lead Senior Leadership Team (SLT) officers have been identified to support the work of each Scrutiny Committee.

The link Cabinet Members for the Family Friendly Sub-Committee will be the Cabinet Member responsible for Supporting and Protecting Children and the Cabinet Member responsible for Inclusion, Employment and Skills. The Director of Children’s Services will be the lead Senior Leadership Team officer to provide ongoing and regular officer support. The Cabinet Members and lead Director have been invited to meet with the Chair of the sub-committee to outline potential policy areas which the Committee may wish to consider including in its programme of work for 2023/24.

In addition the Committee chair has asked all committee members to put forward their suggestions for potential policy topics that might form the basis of items in the work programme.

Suggestions received from Committee members, and via the lead Cabinet members and link Director, which the Sub-Committee might wish to consider as an evidence and information base when deciding its programme of work for 2023/24 are set out below.

It is suggested that the work programme should be considered by the Sub-Committee as a standing agenda item at each meeting in order that this is up to date and able to respond to emerging themes during the year.

Family Friendly Sub-Committee – Potential Menu of Work Plan Items for 2023/24

Work programme Suggestions from sub-committee members	In depth look Suggestions from sub-committee members
Early Years.	Childcare and the possibility of a workplace childcare provision in the council
School meals and catering, support for schools, healthy meals.	School meals and catering, support for schools, healthy meals. Use of local authority catering services.
County Lines and the support for families whose children are being criminally exploited.	
Youth homelessness and provision. Young person’s pathway.	Sofa surfing. (Youth)

Young homeless sofa surfing young males under 25	
Our assistance to schools in difficulties	What help do we offer schools having issues? How successful are we in improving schools that have had problems?
Our offer to foster carers. Foster Care and Looked after young people.	Do we make a competitive offer to foster carers?
Safeguarding	
SEND, particularly in main stream schools at the level of appropriate support given. Attainment of Looked after children. Post 16 Provision and Looked After Children Educational achievement particularly in core subjects such as literacy Post 16 education including apprenticeship. Some degree of focus upon attainment Post 16 Post 16 Provision and Looked After Children	Performance at GCSE, A Level, University Entrance, Technical Apprenticeships Educational achievement at all levels SEND
Early diagnosis and support for children and young people who may be neurodivergent including Dyslexia, dyspraxia etc. (Earlier diagnosis in females)	
ASB and the increase in young people since not engaging with services since the Pandemic began in 2019.	ASB and criminal exploitation of children and young people in North Tyneside
Youth Apprentices within the local authority.	

Family friendly coping strategy – life skills – do we need to reflect this in policy?	
Post Pandemic – Social Skills and Social development post lockdown, 14-19 Skills, Wellbeing and Resilience. How many children aren't going to school post pandemic? Is support being provided? What are the post lockdown barriers to attendance?	
Kinship	
Dashboard of underlying indicators (are these highlighting any trends which would indicate areas to look at?)	

Additional potential Policy Areas highlighted from meeting with Cabinet Member and lead Director:

- Children and Young People Plan
- Attendance Strategy
- Sufficiency Strategy
- Employment and Skills Strategy
- Ambition for Education strategy
- Youth Justice Plan
- Regional Pathfinder for Fostering Hubs
- Mental Health – Children and Young People