

Scrutiny Board (Children & Families)

Year End Summary: 2022/23



Scrutiny at Leeds City Council



Purpose

Scrutiny is nationally recognised as an integral part of the improvement landscape for local government and forms part of governance arrangements for councils and some other local statutory bodies.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference that are applied to all Scrutiny Boards are set out in Leeds City Council's Constitution. The variations in the Scrutiny Boards' remits, together with any special responsibilities, are captured within Article 6 of the Constitution.

Article 6 also sets out the Council's agreed 'Vision for Scrutiny'.

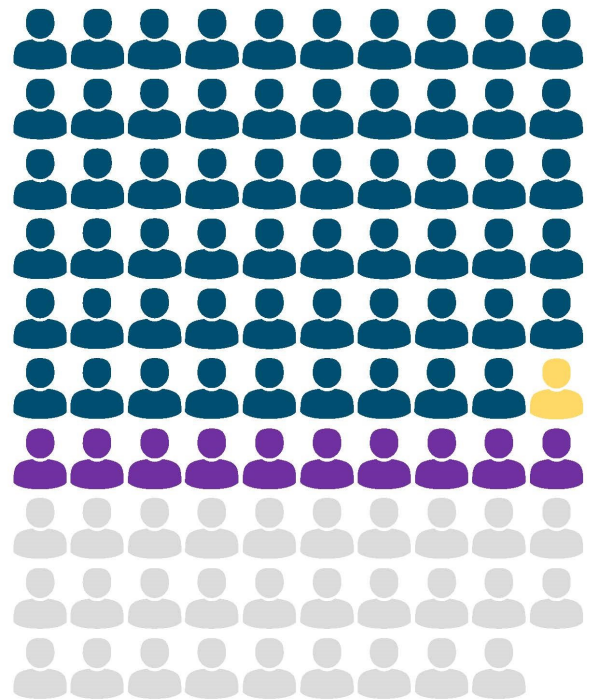
Transparency & Accountability

Scrutiny Boards usually meet in public, holding key decision makers to account, as well as providing 'critical friend' challenge and support for public service improvement and policy development.

Membership

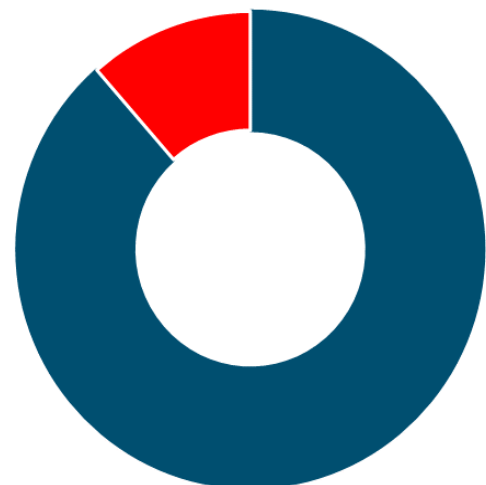
Membership of all Scrutiny Boards broadly reflects the political balance of the Council and cannot include members of the Council's Executive.

There is provision for Scrutiny Boards to appoint additional Co-opted Members.



Councillors who are members of a Scrutiny Board

Scrutiny Board Membership



■ LCC Councillor ■ Co-Opted

Children and Families Scrutiny Board

2022/23



Cllr Hannah Bithell



Cllr Jordan Bowden



Cllr Emmie Bromley



Cllr Ann Forsaith



Cllr Julie Heselwood



Cllr Chris Howley



Cllr Zara Hussain



Cllr Alan Lamb



Cllr Lisa Martin



Cllr Denise Ragan



Cllr Karen Renshaw



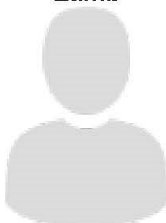
Cllr Linda Richards



Cllr Jane Senior



Cllr Ryan Stephenson



Mr E Britten
(co-opted member)



Mr A Graham
(co-opted member)



Ms J Ward
(co-opted member)



Mr N Tones
(co-opted member)



Ms H Bellamy
(co-opted member)



Ms L Whitaker
(co-opted member)



Mrs K Blacker
(co-opted member)

Children & Families Scrutiny Board

Focusing on services affecting the lives of children and families across the city to monitor progress towards becoming a child friendly city and putting children first.

Completed Work Schedule for the 2022/23 Municipal Year

Each Scrutiny Board schedules eight formal meetings throughout the course of a municipal year. The Local Government Act 1972 requires formal meetings to be held in person to enable members of the public to be admitted as observers wherever the meeting is being held. To further promote access and engagement, formal meetings are also webcast.

In addition, the Scrutiny Board may choose to carry out additional work using alternative methods including site visits, working groups and remote consultative meetings (consultative sessions do not constitute formal meetings but do enable public access via a webcast).

The completed work schedule of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) for the 2022/23 municipal year has been provided as part of this summary. This presents an overview of all meetings held throughout the year and the work items considered at each meeting. The work schedule also includes links to the agenda papers, minutes and webcast recordings of the Scrutiny Board's publicly accessible meetings.



Children and Families Scrutiny Board Statement from the Chair



"I am once again very proud to Chair this Scrutiny Board given the important role we have in providing 'critical friend' challenge and support to key services affecting the lives of children and families across the city.

This year we gave particular attention to the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which will cover the period 2023 to 2028. This Plan is part of the strategic framework helping to deliver the mission at the heart of our Best City Ambition to tackle poverty and inequality and to improve the quality of life for the children and young people who call Leeds home. Early engagement with Scrutiny enabled us to inform the development of the CYPP and consider proposed changes that later formed the basis of a wider formal public consultation exercise. With the new CYPP expected to be approved in July 2023, the Board will maintain regular oversight through its performance monitoring role.

We also maintained a focus on the ongoing development and implementation of the new Leeds strategy 'Everyone's included: the Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2027'. As well as remaining responsive to the national agenda around SEND system reform, we are really pleased that the shared views and experiences of local children and young people and their families has also informed the content of this new strategy. We particularly welcome the name of the strategy, which had been suggested by young people who wanted to share the important message that 'everyone's included' in making our city a child-friendly and inclusive place.

Over the last twelve months we also monitored progress against other key strategic documents including the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy and the Leeds 3As Plan, as well as reviewing the impact of the new Youth Service delivery model following its introduction in April 2022.

In recognition of the current challenges and pressures facing the Children and Families workforce in Leeds, the Board also gave particular attention to the broader strategy work being undertaken by the Children and Families directorate around the recruitment and retention of the workforce and has committed to continue monitoring such work in the new municipal year.

In March 2023, the Board held a dedicated meeting on safeguarding as we welcomed back the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Executive. This enabled us to really focus on the progress made by the LSCP following its earlier review of the notification arrangements linked to serious child safeguarding incidents, as well as explore the cross cutting themes and learning identified through the LSCP review processes more generally.

I am very grateful to my fellow Board Members for their ongoing dedication and commitment to make Leeds the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in. On behalf of the Board, I would also like to thank the Executive Members, officers and partners for their support and valuable contributions to the Board's work this year.

Councillor Alan Lamb
Scrutiny Chair



Children and Families Scrutiny Board Work Schedule 2022/23

June	July	September
<u>Meeting Agenda for 8th June 2022 at 10 am</u>	<u>Meeting Agenda for 6th July 2022 at 10 am</u>	<u>Meeting Agenda for 7th September 2022 at 10 am</u>
Co-opted Members Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference Scrutiny Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling – Statement of Progress Potential Sources of Work Performance Update	Improvement Plan stemming from the 2022 Ofsted Inspection Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – initial consultation	The Schools Bill 2022-23 - Update Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – update
Additional Sessions		
		Working Group: Children’s Services Workforce Planning 28 th September 2022

October	November	December
<u>Meeting Agenda for 12th October 2022 at 10 am</u>	<u>Meeting Agenda for 30th November 2022 at 10 am</u>	
Meeting Cancelled Notification of Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents – update – <i>deferred to a future meeting</i> Children and Families Workforce Recruitment and Retention in Leeds – <i>deferred to November meeting</i>	Children and Families Workforce Recruitment and Retention in Leeds Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2022 to 2027 – update	
Additional Sessions		
		Working Group: 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals 13 th December 2022



Children and Families Scrutiny Board Work Schedule 2022/23

January	March	March
<u>Meeting Agenda for 25th January 2023 at 10 am</u>	<u>Meeting Agenda for 8th March 2023 at 10 am</u>	<u>Meeting Agenda for 29th March 2023 at 10 am</u>
Performance report Financial Health Monitoring 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals Best City Ambition – Update Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – summary of consultation	Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Update	Leeds 3As Plan 2021-2023 – review of progress Leeds Child Poverty Strategy – Update Youth Services – impact of new model End of Year Summary Statement
Additional Sessions		

More information about Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Service, along with the activity and membership of individual Scrutiny Boards, can be found on the Council's committee webpages.

You can also follow @ScrutinyLeeds on twitter.

