

2023/24 Scrutiny Board Summary

Date: 18 April 2024

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children & Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Article 6 of Leeds City Council's Constitution states that the Head of Democratic Services, as designated Scrutiny Officer, will provide an annual report to Council setting out how the authority has carried out its overview and scrutiny functions during the preceding twelve-month period. As such this year's Annual Report will collate highlights of the work of all five Scrutiny Boards over 2023/24.

To complement the Annual Report, each Scrutiny Board also produces an end of year statement. This provides details of the full work programme for each Scrutiny Board for the last municipal year, with links to the associated agenda packs, minutes and webcast recordings. The document also includes a statement from the relevant Scrutiny Chair reflecting on the key priorities for the Scrutiny Board over the last year.

The 2023/24 summary for the Scrutiny Board (Children & Families) is appended to this report. Once it has been approved by members it will be published on the Council's website.

Recommendations

- a) Members are asked to note the appended 2023/24 end of year statement for the Scrutiny Board (Children & Families) and, subject to any agreed amendments, approve its publication.

What is this report about?

- 1 The appended report summarises the 2023/24 work programme for the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families), providing links to the associated agenda packs, minutes and webcasts. It also includes a statement from the Scrutiny Chair, which highlights the issues that have been priorities for the Scrutiny Board over the last municipal year.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 It is intended that the detail in the appended summary will complement the Annual Report to Council, which will bring together highlights from all five Scrutiny Boards during 2023/24.
- 3 The appended statement illustrates how the Scrutiny Board (Children & Families) has operated within its Terms of Reference and in the context of the [Vision for Scrutiny](#) to add value to the organisation.
- 4 Items reflected in the work programme illustrate how the Scrutiny Board has assisted with the development of the Budget and Policy Framework, monitored progress against key performance indicators, analysed proposed Council policy, and provided 'critical friend' challenge to decision makers. The work programme further reflects engagement with Executive Members, senior Leeds City Council officers and representatives from partner organisations.
- 5 Where the Scrutiny Board has made recommendations to the Executive Board, Council and/or other committees these can be accessed via the links included in the schedule. In line with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework, this has included a contribution to the composite Scrutiny Statement on the Budget, as provided to Executive Board in February 2024.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 All Scrutiny Boards aim to ensure that they add value through engagement in programmes of activity that reflect the three pillars of the Best City Ambition. Within this context the appended report sets out the items of business conducted by the Board in 2023/24.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 7 During 2023/24 the Board has aimed to add value through a member led process of examination and review, involving engagement with a range of stakeholders. The nature of such engagement has varied depending upon the issue under consideration – full details are available via the links in the appended statement.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 There are no resource implications associated with this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 9 The appended report provides a summary of work already undertaken and therefore presents no risks that require management.

What are the legal implications?

10 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

11 It has previously been agreed with Scrutiny Chairs that an end of year statement will be produced for individual Scrutiny Boards to complement the publication of the Annual Report to Council.

How will success be measured?

12 The appended report summarises the activity of the Scrutiny Board during 2023/24.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

13 All five Scrutiny Boards will be asked to approve their respective end of year statements at the final public meetings of the 2023/24 municipal year.

14 Once the five statements have been approved, they will be published on the [Leeds City Council website](#).

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - End of Year Statement – Scrutiny Board (Children & Families)

Background papers

- None