

People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date/timing	Issue/Topic	Focus, approach and other comments
9 September 2021	Broader community role for libraries including contributing to levelling up agenda	<p>Policy development input before libraries strategy goes out to formal consultation. This PAF item is cross portfolio and incorporates other possible functions for libraries including levelling up and wider community role and helping with school readiness, literacy, interviews and employability etc.</p> <p>The buildings themselves, the core library service itself and its future model are matters for the Place Scrutiny Committee.</p>
9 September 2021	Covid impact on Children & Families and education services and demand.	High level introduction and overview to key challenges faced and response and actions. In some cases it may then lead to further scrutiny follow-up beyond September.
14 October 2021	Domestic Abuse	Detailed discussion on new responsibilities, trends, challenges and response. There may be brief high-level reference at 9 September meeting as part of Covid impact update (see above).
14 October 2021	Early Years' Strategy	Consider draft of new strategy.
14 October 2021	Home Education/Children missing education	High level overview of remit and work of the Home Education Review Group set up by the County Council. The Review Group will look at elective home education first so the PAF's first update will probably focus on that.
11 November 2021	SEND strategy	Draft strategy ahead of wider consultation
11 November/ 9 December	Safeguarding	<p>Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards present their annual reports to the Board each Autumn. In the past the Children's and Adults Boards' updates have been at separate meetings.</p> <p>In addition to the report of the activities and focus of the Boards, there is usually an in depth review of one or two operational issues - to be identified so that appropriate supporting officers can be identified to attend.</p>

Further issues under consideration

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Further planning and timing TBC	Working Families Programme	Strategy to go to Full Council in October - opportunity for review during September. In discussions it is proposed that this may be undertaken by email correspondence with either the full committee or a small group. TBC
Further planning and timing TBC	Academisation and local system working	Academisation impact and role of Regional Schools Commissioner and the role ECC has in supporting general standards.
Further planning and timing TBC	Drug Gangs, knife crime and County Lines	Further follow-up on recommendations from the PAF Task and Finish Group. Some subject matter may lend itself to being combined with other scheduled agenda items (e.g. Home Education/Children missing education, Safeguarding)
Further planning and timing TBC	Adult social care	As a result of the introductory discussion PAF meeting in July on domiciliary care and residential care trends and pandemic pressures – further follow up issues to be agreed.

Task and Finish Group reviews (to produce a final report for consideration by the Full Committee)

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TBC	Impact of the pandemic on Essex County Council	Format TBC - after initial PAF session on 9 September. Discussion at Scrutiny Board on any cross-committee approach.
TBC	Broader community, children and families' role for libraries	Possible follow-up to initial discussion on 9 September (above) if deemed appropriate.
TBC	Suicide	There may be a brief high-level reference at 9 September meeting as part of emotional wellbeing and mental health update as part of pandemic impact update.
TBC	100 Day Plan	Potentially cross-cutting. Possible approach is to establish a cross-committee joint scrutiny review. Scrutiny Board to determine approach.