

Children and Families Committee Work Programme 2025 - 26

Report Reference	Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Consultation	Equality Impact Assessment	Part of Budget and Policy Framework	Exempt Item	Comments
19 January 2026								
CF/06/25-26	Medium Term Financial Strategy Consultation 2026/27 to 2029/30 Provisional Settlement	To provide feedback in relation to their financial responsibilities as identified within the Constitution and linked to the budget alignment approved by the Finance Sub-Committee in March 2025.	Executive Director of Resources, Section 151 Officer	No	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny and Decision
CF/24/25-26	Improvement Plan Progress	To update committee on progress against the improvement plan to address the findings from the Ofsted inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) in February and March 2024, and to ensure committee can scrutinise impact on outcomes for children and young people To update committee on the findings of the third Ofsted monitoring visit	Director of Commissioning, Quality Assurance and Partnerships	No	No	No	No	Scrutiny
CF/35/25-26	Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026 - 2029 - Delivery Plan	Approval of the Crisis and Resilience Fund Delivery proposal for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.	Executive Director Children's Services	No	Yes	Yes	No	Decision
CF/40/25-26	SEND, AP and Sufficiency Strategy	To update committee on the proposal to refresh the SEND, AP and Sufficiency Strategy and to present revised options regarding the expansion of Specialist provision within Cheshire East.	Director for Education, Strong Start and Integration	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	Decision
CF/44/25-26	Formal Consideration of the Local	To present the findings of the Ombudsman's investigation and seek formal consideration and noting of the	Director of Family Help and Children's Social Care	No	No	No	No	Scrutiny

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	Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Report	conclusions, including the Council's response and amended practices.						
16 February 2026								
CF/05/25-26	Third Financial Review 2025/26	To scrutinise and comment on the Third Financial Review and Performance position of 2024/25, and (if necessary) approve Supplementary Estimates and Virements.	Executive Director of Resources, Section 151 Officer	No	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny
CF/33/25-26	Schools Funding Formula and Early Years Funding Formula 2026/27	This report will provide committee with an update on the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) for 2026/27 and request approval for the allocation of each sub block making up the DSG. It will request approval of the schools funding formula and early years funding formula following recommendations from the Schools Forum. It will also request approval to provide delegated authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services to use the funds in accordance with the relevant guidance and proposed funding formula methods.	Executive Director Children's Services	Yes	No	TBC	No	Decision
CF/46/25-26	New Primary school at Basford East, near Weston, Crewe - Update for members on the recent public consultation.	Report to Note - As detailed in the 15th September committee report, an update to be provided for members on the recent public consultation for the new Primary school at Basford East, near Weston, Crewe	Director for Education, Strong Start and Integration	Yes	Yes	No	No	Scrutiny
13 April 2026								
CF/07/25-26	Service Budgets 2026/27	To set out the allocation of approved budgets for 2025/26 for services under the Committee's remit, as determined by Finance Sub Committee	Executive Director of Resources, Section 151 Officer	No	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny
CF/45/25-26	Home to School Transport Task	To update committee on the findings from the Home to School Transport Task & Finish Group	Executive Director of Children's Services	No	No	No	No	Decision

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	& Finish Group Scrutiny Report							
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Task and Finish Groups

Group	Membership	Established	Purpose
Review of Home to School Transport - This is a cross-directorate Task & Finish Group with Highways & Transport Committee	C & F - Cllrs M Beanland, L Crane, E Gilman, B Puddicombe H & T -	April 2025	This project will enable members of both Highways & Transport Committee and Children & Families Committee to jointly scrutinise the Councils' arrangements for provision of Home-to-School Transport, including SEND. The Council provides transport for approximately 4000 students to educational establishments in the borough and beyond. The MTFS provides an increase in budget (FY2025-26) of £1.5 million with further growth expected in future years. Transport services make up 17% of the overall children's revenue budget. There have been recent planned changes to the council's policies, procedures and procurement arrangements for home-to-school transport and members are interested to understand the effectiveness of these and what else can be done to ensure services provide value-for-money.
Families First Programme	Cllrs L Crane, S Bennett-Wake, E Gilman, G Hayes, G Smith, Cllr J Saunders	May 2025	The objectives of this project are: • To understand the rationale and evidence base for place-based locality working and locality proposals for multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working for children and families in Cheshire East. • To understand how this links to the Families First Partnership approach and the requirement to implement the reforms and be up and running by 31st March 2026. • To contribute towards the development of the Families First Partnership plans.
Review of Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's)	TBC	TBC	TBC

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Briefing Reports/Reports for noting

Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Expected Circulation Date via the Members Hub
Information Briefing on the recently submitted 2025 Schools CAPacity Return (SCAP)	To report on the outcome of the 2025 primary and secondary mainstream and specialist placements forecasts which will be submitted to the Department of Education (DfE). The forecasts will ultimately inform the amount of Basic Need grant awarded to the authority for the 2028/2029 academic year. Notification of any award is usually received around April / May of the following year.	Jo Prophet	September 2025.

Note: These reports will be circulated outside of committee meetings - [Library folder - Reports for Noting - Reports for Noting | Cheshire East Council](#)