

Children, Young People, Families & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Commission**1:30 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. Monday 19th January 2026****Room 77, The Guildhall, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull, HU12AA and MS Teams (Officers Only)****Present:**

Councillors: Payne (Chair); M. Collinson; Grozav; Henry; Kassim; and A. Thompson.

In attendance:

Councillor Tock, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Hull City Council
P. Turner, Executive Director Children/Family Services/Deputy Chief Executive, Hull City Council
R. Roberts, Strategic Lead For Early Help And Prevention, Hull City Council
C. Farrow, Integrated Services Manager, Hull City Council

P. Todd, Scrutiny Officer, Hull City Council

Apologies:

Councillor Kennett.

Minute Number		
57	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (2)	
Councillor Collinson declared a personal interest in minute 59 insofar as he has a child with Special Educational Needs.		
Recommendations:		Reasons for Recommendations:
a) N/A.		a) N/A.

58	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2025 (3)	
P. Todd (Scrutiny Officer) submitted the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 th December 2025 for approval.		
It was requested that minute 54 be edits to improve clarity, in that there isn't a consistent data set due to the limited categories prescribed by the Department for Education when categorising the reason for being Electively Home Educated (EHE), and that in many cases there could be more than one reason for opting EHE yet only one reason can be given.		
Recommendations:		Reasons for Recommendations:
a) That the minutes of the meeting of this Commission held on Monday 8 th December 2025, with the requested edit, be taken as read and correctly recorded.		a) N/A.

59

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE &
FAMILY SERVICES UPDATE**

P. Turner (Executive Director Children/Family Services/Deputy Chief Executive) attended the meeting to update the Commission on current/key issues and for members to identify matters to be considered and raise questions and issues that may lead to further work being undertaken. The Executive Director's highlights included:

- i. Positive peer review of the leaving care service, with formal feedback to follow.
- ii. Ofsted Annual Conversation, confirmation that the next inspection will be a full ILACS.
- iii. New Corporate Parenting Strategy approved, setting priorities for the next three years.
- iv. Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, including reforms across childcare, social care and education.
- v. Family First Partnership guidance, with local workshops underway and implementation expected in 2026/27.
- vi. Awaited national SEND reforms, with no publication date yet confirmed.

The Commission discussed:

- i. How schools were feeling about the forthcoming legislative changes. The Commission was advised that a working group with Designated Safeguarding Leads was in place and that while schools understood the direction of travel and consultations were ongoing, there was concern about expectations for children in need. It was explained that around half of assessments would remain with social workers while earlier intervention could be delivered through strengthened collaboration between schools, early help and health colleagues. A three-way conversation between schools, social care and early help would help to improve consistency and reducing unnecessary referrals. Schools remained vital in supporting families.
- ii. The level of preparation required for Ofsted and the extent to which the inspection created distraction, resource pressure and cost. The Commission was advised that Ofsted preparation was indeed a distraction but remained necessary. Officers had to provide the "Annex A" dataset and ensure information was accurate at all times despite not knowing when inspectors would call. While most data was available, time was needed to collate and quality check it. Significant effort went into maintaining accurate information for census

<p>submissions and anticipating key lines of enquiry. Preparation also extended to staff, as frontline workers would be interviewed and needed to be ready to present evidence of good practice.</p> <p>iii. The importance of presenting the most accurate data to Ofsted. The Commission was advised that accuracy was essential, as children’s services were highly regulated with a large number of performance indicators. Ofsted analysts would scrutinise datasets closely and incomplete or misleading information would reflect poorly.</p> <p>iv. Concerns about national reforms relating to SEND funding and administration, including the possibility of central government taking over responsibility and the impact this could have on local democratic oversight. The Commission was advised that little concrete information had been provided so far, with only high-level policy briefs indicating government intentions. A policy proposal was expected to be published followed by consultation and amendments, likely to result in legislative change. It was noted that the “statutory override,” which allowed councils to separate the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit from their core accounts, had recently been extended to 2029, alleviating immediate financial risk. Without this override councils would be required to pay back deficits many could not afford, so the extension had been welcomed, though uncertainty remained around long term arrangements.</p>	
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p>
<p>a. That the Commission be provided with the date of the Ofsted inspection, once communicated to the Council.</p> <p>b. That an item be added to the work programme for the Commission to receive an update from the Corporate Parenting Panel.</p> <p>c. That a workshop be arranged to cover the Family First Partnership in the new municipal year.</p>	<p>a-c. To inform members.</p>

60	DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION – HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF) 2026-29	
<p>R. Roberts (Strategic Lead for Early Help and Prevention) and C. Farrow (Integrated Services Manager)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A further three-year HAF investment had been secured, with a stronger focus on children eligible for free school meals. ii. Officers challenged the Department for Education’s (DFE) framing of HAF as “childcare,” noting it conflicted with formal childcare regulations. iii. The national rule allowing only 15% discretionary places was wholly insufficient for Hull, where high child poverty and fluctuating free school meal eligibility meant far more families needed access. iv. Hull’s universal approach, backed by significant local in-kind investment, was presented to the DfE as justification for flexibility and to highlight contradictions in national expectations. <p>The Commission discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The 15% discretionary cap leaves many low-income families just above the eligibility threshold without support, creating inequity, community tension and increased risk of youth antisocial behaviour in high-deprivation areas. ii. Hull’s unique deprivation profile, with over 52% of areas among the most deprived nationally and a sharp rise in children living in income-deprived households since 2019. iii. The commitment to universal free access at the point of delivery, arguing that the national cap does not reflect local need and contradicts government expectations around wraparound childcare. iv. That the programme would now cover all school holidays, recognising the importance of local, walkable provision for families with limited travel options. 		
Recommendations:		Reasons for Recommendations:
a. That the Commission supports the recommendations as set out at Section 2 of the report.		a. To enable the continuation of the HAF programme.

61	YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY ENGAGEMENT GROUP FEEDBACK	
<p>P. Todd (Scrutiny Officer) submitted the report to update the Commission on the most recent outcomes and feedback from the Young People Scrutiny Engagement Group.</p> <p>The Commission discussed the 16-17 voting age future agenda item and the importance on engaging with the young people from the start. Commission welcomed the additional agenda item to be discussed with the young people.</p>		
Recommendations:		Reasons for Recommendations:
a. That the update be noted.		a. N/A

59	CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES & LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION – OUTSTANDING ACTIONS (4)	
<p>P. Todd (Scrutiny Officer) submitted the outstanding action list.</p> <p>The Commission discussed the action list and agreed that the completed items be removed and the Scrutiny Officer follow up those actions that were still awaiting a response.</p>		

Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:
a. That the completed items be removed and the Scrutiny Officer follow up those actions that were still awaiting a response.	a. To ensure any outstanding actions are being addressed in a timely manner.

60	CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES & LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26 (5)	
P. Todd (Scrutiny Officer) submitted the draft work programme.		
Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	
a. That the work programme be noted.	a) N/A	