

Task and Finish Groups – Scoping and Outcomes

Before any Task and Finish Group is established, a scoping document must be completed by the relevant director, in consultation with O&S officers and the O&S Committee. This must include the scope of the group, specific goals, how success will be measured, resources needed, timeframes, and how the T&F group will benefit Thurrock Council.

Please complete the form below, ensuring it is completed with as much detail as possible and submit to Lucy Tricker and Claire Dixon.

Directorate	Adults & Health
Relevant Director:	Sharon Stoltz
Relevant AD:	Andrea Clement
Officers involved:	Sareena Gill, Senior Public Health Programme Manager
Parent O&S Committee:	People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Governance background	<p><i>Please include when the T&F was suggested, by whom, and any relevant discussion/debate by Members. It may be useful to include a link to the livestream of the discussion.</i></p> <p>Two working groups were established as part of the previous Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with one relating to obesity. Colleagues confirmed the aims of this group were being effectively met through other mechanisms and the group was stood down.</p> <p>A report on childhood obesity was presented in March 2024 to the previous Children’s O&S Committee (presented by Public Health) - Report Template (thurrock.gov.uk)</p> <p>During the informal People Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 11 June 2024, the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing outlined key priorities for the year, including the obesity issues within Thurrock. The People Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore agreed that a focused Task and Finish Group on children’s obesity would therefore be beneficial, although time-limited with tangible outcomes as outlined within the changes to the O&S structure with the work to be completed within 10 weeks.</p>

1. What is the purpose/goal of the Task and Finish Group?

Please include potential outcomes for the T&F group

The proposed purpose of the Task and Finish Group is to gain a better understanding of the issues that impact on children being able to achieve and sustain a healthy weight in Thurrock and the work being undertaken to tackle the problem of childhood obesity.

2. How will the goal(s) be achieved?

This will be achieved through a combination of workshops with council officers and other partners involved in the prevention or management of excess weight in children and through gathering insights from the people running, and those attending, the weight management programmes in place in Thurrock.

3. How will success of the Task and Finish Group be measured?

For example, will policy be changed? Will the T&F group help the Council on its recovery and improvement journey?

The findings of the Task and Finish Group will be used to help inform the refresh of the whole systems obesity strategy. Members of the Task and Finish Group may also collect valuable insights from the people running the existing weight management programmes in Thurrock and the children and their families participating that can be used to improve the delivery of these services.

4. How will the Task and Finish Group benefit Thurrock Council?

For example, will the T&F group assist with the Council's recovery goals? Is the issue particularly important to residents? Will it minimise risk for the Council?

Tackling obesity and focusing on children's healthy weight management is a priority for the Council, as reflected in the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy goal to 'Work with communities to reduce obesity in Thurrock' - this is the organisation's statutory Strategy. Children's healthy weight management helps to reduce the likelihood of continued obesity into adulthood and the potential use of health services for weight related illnesses.

5. What work/activities will be undertaken to achieve the goal?

For example, comparative data research with other Councils, site visits, evidence sessions with officers, engagement with external partners/companies?

Key activities can be found within the draft Terms of Reference. This will include site visits to children's weight management services operating within Thurrock, evidence sessions with officers and engagement with partners working with children and young people. It may also include desktop comparative research on how other local authorities with similar obesity rates are addressing these issues.

6. What resources will be needed from officers/Members?

For example, approximately how much time will officers spend on the T&F group, or how much (if any) money will need to be spent? If there is a budgetary requirement, please include the relevant departments cost code.

The main resource for the Task and Finish Group will be officer time due to attending Task and Finish Group and undertaking research. There is no budgetary requirement attached to this group.

7. What is the deadline for completion of the work?

Please note, all T&F groups are limited to 10 weeks maximum. What will be the start and end date for the T&F group?

The Task and Finish Group will be agreed at the meeting of People Overview and Scrutiny on 25 July 2024 and will have 10 weeks to complete their work. Because of the holiday period, it is proposed the Task and Finish Group will begin in September and have finished their work by 11 November 2024. A final report will be presented to People O&S in late 2024 / early 2025.

8. Please outline below a draft schedule of works to be completed.

The following work could be completed as below:

- **September** – Members of the T&F Group to meet with council officers to discuss how the 'Health in All Policies approach to place-shaping' document is being used to help address the wider determinants impacts on childhood obesity
- **September** – Members of the T&F Group to meet with and hear the views of stakeholders in childhood obesity such as early years providers, schools, community and the voluntary sector. Arrangements will also be made for members to hear the views of children and young people themselves, to be facilitated by children's services.
- **October** – Members of the T&F Group to visit current weight management programmes available for children in Thurrock including opportunities to speak with people running the sessions and the children and families taking part.
- **October** – T&F Group members to be provided with an opportunity to question representatives from maternity and health visiting services in Thurrock on their work with pregnant women to manage the problem of excess weight during pregnancy and ensure the best possible outcomes for women and their babies.
- **November** – T&F Group members to meet and approve the final report prior to presentation to People O&S in late 2024 / early 2025.

Any other information.

Further information is included within the draft Terms of Reference.