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Date: 29 June 2021
Our Ref:
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Dear Councillor,

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 6TH JULY, 2021

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following report which was unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No.	Item
7.	Cabinet Member Reports (Pages 3 - 10) Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

Yours faithfully,

Democratic Services

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Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	6 July 2021
Subject:	Cabinet Member Reports – June 2021		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children's Social Care Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care and the Cabinet Member - Education reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care and the Cabinet Member - Education reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options have been considered because the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

Any financial implications associated with the Cabinet Member reports which are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

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(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None	
Legal Implications: None	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.	

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. The Cabinet Member updates provides information on activity within Councillor Doyle’s and Councillor Roscoe’s portfolios during the previous three-month period. Any reports relevant to their portfolios considered by the Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Committees during this period would contain information as to how such reports contributed to the Council’s Core Purpose.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above
Place – leadership and influencer: As above
Drivers of change and reform: As above
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As above
Greater income for social investment: As above
Cleaner Greener: As above

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What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Cabinet Member Update Reports are not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the attached Cabinet Member update reports will be included in those reports as appropriate

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix A - Cabinet Member – Children’s Social Care - update report
- Appendix B - Cabinet Member – Education – update report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Attached to this report, for information, are the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the Children’s Social Care and Education portfolios.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Children’s Services and Safeguarding)
6 July 2021**

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Mhairi Doyle	Children’s Social Care	June 2021

In Children’s Social Care, following the Ofsted focused visit a notice of improvement was issued by the Department of Education (DfE). An Improvement Board is being established which will be chaired by Paul Boyce. Details have been provided in the report submitted to Overview and Scrutiny, this will also result in a Children’s Social Care improvement plan.

Councillor Doyle and Roscoe are newly appointed Cabinet members and are currently undergoing an induction process which has involved meeting with staff, senior managers, teams, visiting school and observing staff engagement sessions.

There has been a series of staff engagement events led by Lisa Lyons, newly appointed Interim Director for Children’s Services and Laura Knights, Head of Children’s Social Care. These have enabled staff to share their thoughts and views about the establishment and structure of Children’s Social Care. Staff have been invited to express an interest in becoming part of the Improvement Board; there has been a fantastic response to this and we are considering developing a ‘staff engagement board’ which will feed and disseminate information.

In corporate parenting, we are looking at ways of expanding the participation of our children and young people, especially for those care leavers who may not be as visible.

We are in the process of recruiting to posts across the service and have successfully recruited a number of service managers, team managers and newly qualified social workers. It is, however, acknowledged that we need to recruit more social workers and look at our recruitment and retention strategy.

Staff continue to be based between the office and at home, however, gradually we are considering ways in which there can be a more physical presence in the office, remaining in line with Covid safe guidance.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Children’s Services and Safeguarding)
6 July 2021**

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Diane Roscoe	Education	June 2021

As part of their induction both Cllr Roscoe and Cllr Doyle have accompanied the Interim Head of Education on school visits. Informal discussions have taken place with both regarding different aspects of Education Excellence.

All schools opened for all pupils after the Easter break. Numbers of positive reported cases were low on return, however over the last few weeks the numbers are rising. We are seeing some schools having several year groups impacted on and bubbles closed. This is not as a result of infections spread in school but rather out in the community e.g. one family all tested positive and this impacted on three year groups.

It was agreed across all the schools that as a result of the government delaying the lifting of the restrictions then transition days from year 6 to year 7 would be undertaken in different ways. Primary schools are looking at creative ways for the transition in to reception. Many schools have also decided to cancel sports days, concerts, trips out based on their risk assessment and the rising numbers testing positive in Sefton.

Testing for pupils in secondary schools is now undertaken at home as is the testing for staff in both primary and secondary schools. We have just been informed that a further supply of PPE is available for schools.

The Teacher Assessed Grades for GCSE and A levels were submitted by the secondary schools on 18th June. No formal testing has taken place in primary schools. Schools have worked in their School Improvement Groups (SIGs) to determine what information will be transferred to the secondary school. Secondary schools will be undertaking some testing in the autumn term.

The Virtual School is working closely with Social Care to ensure there are high expectations and aspirations for post 16 LAC. We continue to undertake a first day response for vulnerable children where the school expresses concern. The number of electively home educated pupils (EHE) has fallen from 197 in January 2021 to 188 in June 2021.

The recent SEND review meeting was positive and we are awaiting the letter from the DfE, which hopefully will remove the statement of action. High Needs Funding (HNF) continues to be a concern. A meeting with DfE was held and they had no concerns and commented that we were doing the right things. The banding for main stream schools has been consulted on and will be in place for September. The Resource Base/Special

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APPENDIX B

School funding is taking longer as it is more complicated, work is ongoing with finance, SEND and the schools.

The Education Excellence Strategy and Structure are both in draft form and when in place will enable the department to further develop the statutory roles and address the next steps with the staff required to do so.