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Town Hall
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To:

The Chair and Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

Date: 1 July 2022

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

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Dear Councillor

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 5TH JULY, 2022

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following items that were unavailable when the agenda was published:

Agenda No.	Item
6.	Cabinet Member Reports (Pages 3 - 6) Appendix B - Cabinet Member - Education - Update Report.
7.	Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan (Pages 7 - 18) Revised Appendices attached.

Yours faithfully,

Democratic Services

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding)
15th March 2022

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Diane Roscoe	Education	June 2022

Education Excellence

Recruitment to vacant posts within Education Excellence continues. Skilled external consultants have been deployed to work with school improvement on targeted support across our schools and settings and to develop and use the expertise within Sefton schools.

Schools

This half term we have had the final reports for two primary schools and one secondary academy. Woodlands Primary continues to be a good school and Our Lady of Walsingham has moved from Good to Requiring Improvement. Education Excellence will work with the Archdiocese and the DFE on a programme of support and challenge. Range High School is now judged 'Good' from the previous 'Requiring Improvement' judgement.

The DfE pieces of work across South Sefton and Liverpool Schools is in final stages. On completion, the work on attendance and speech, language and communication and the secondary focus on literacy will be evaluated for impact. It is expected that good models used in the programmes will be continued and built upon.

All primary schools rated good or outstanding due for an inspection continue to be offered health checks in a range of areas including early years; school improvement and curriculum; SEND and leadership and management. This is funded by the School Improvement budget. Schools have found this extremely beneficial and enabled them to target areas for development in preparation for inspection. In addition to this the 175/157 Audit self-evaluation safeguarding has been updated aligned with Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The Secondary School Research Project (2 year programme) works on developing a self - sustaining school improvement model across all secondaries including academies and continues to have full engagement across the sector. Discussions are taking place with School Improvement, Research School Meols Cop and School Improvement Groups to develop a model for primary schools. School Improvement will invest in the right model tailored to meet the needs of schools following these discussions.

St Teresa's

Sefton cabinet agreed on the 26th May 2022 to the closure of the school with effect from 31st August 2022.

Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart Catholic College has been approved by the Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire to join Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust. The school should have converted to academy on the 1st June 2022.

Savio

We still do not know what is happening with Savio. The buildings are still causing an issue and we are still awaiting further information from the DfE with regards the next steps. We continue to support and challenge the school through the Secondary programme.

Exams, assessments and tests

Phonics Screening test have been completed for Year 1 pupils following the Autumn Term Year 2 phonics screening. Test administration is monitored by school improvement. Evidence noted during the 10 % school visits is that pupils are responding well to the tests and rapid intervention in teaching has had a positive impact.

Year 6 pupils completed SATS in May for Reading, Mathematics and Spelling/Punctuation/Grammar. Teacher assessment for writing is moderated in 25% of schools including academies and is being carried out in June. Evidence from assessment submitted shows that COVID 19 has had a detrimental effect, particularly on reaching the higher standard of writing.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be incredibly challenging for all school leaders who have been dealing on a regular basis with positive cases of COVID 19. There is still some parental anxiety about sending children to school due to COVID 19 especially since the relaxation of all legal requirements.

The levels of persistent absence have increased across all schools but have stabilised.

Schools continue to report that one of the most significant challenges they face is supporting young people with mental health difficulties to engage in the full education offer. Local Authority Officers continue to support schools and families.

The attendance team has continued to provide additional support for children who have a social worker by continuing with the first day response scheme.

On the 6th May 2022, the Department for Education published new guidance for schools, trusts, governing bodies and local authorities on the importance of working together to improve attendance.

The Secretary of State intends to legislate to make the new guidance statutory as soon as possible but the guidance will not become statutory any sooner than the beginning of academic year 2023-24.

The new guidance also covers:

- The importance of working together to improve attendance
- Expectations of schools
- Expectations of academy trusts and governing bodies of maintained schools
- Support for persistently and severely absent pupils
- Attendance legal intervention
- Recording in the attendance and admission registers

ILACs

The inspection focused on the Virtual School; safeguarding; elective home educated; children missing education and alternative provision were the key focus for Education excellence teams. Officers were interviewed; random cases were considered; schools contacted, and documentation examined.

Virtual School

The main areas of focus for improvement are raising aspirations and improving outcomes, improving Personal Education Plans (PEPs), attendance, and further reduction of NEET figures. From September 2022, PEPs will be electronic, and training will be delivered in September to designated teachers and social workers.

A Deputy Virtual Head Teacher has been appointed and will take up post in September. This will enable the Virtual Head Teacher to focus more keenly on the strategy to raise aspirations and promote education for all children with a social worker.

Government funding will be used to appoint an additional Attendance Officer (initially fixed term for one year) to focus on children with a social worker. An additional Deputy Virtual Head Teacher post will also be created, initially for one year, to work with the schools and Children's Social Care to improve policy, practice and training to promote the education of our most vulnerable children.

A post-16 Education Coordinator was appointed in January 2022 and is focusing mainly on Cared for Children who live outside Sefton (Career Connect support young people living inside Sefton). This is having a positive impact, as tracking has improved, and intervention is timely and person-centred.

The Virtual School and Career Connect meet regularly to discuss particular cohorts and 'stuck cases', in order to improve planning and avoid drift.

Monitoring attendance continues to pose difficulties, with much of the data still produced manually. The Virtual School is working with our colleagues in Business Intelligence to improve the collection of data in Sefton. Attendance outside Sefton is monitored through Welfare call, a commissioned service.

Termly rewards are in place for pupils who have improved their attendance or maintained a high percentage. The Virtual School is in the process of developing an admin post for a care experienced young person.

The safeguarding processes for those children missing education (CME) and the group of electively home educated (EHE) children were judged in the inspection as being effective.

Update on CME and EHE

The government is proceeding with a registration system for Children Not In School (CNIS). Legislative measures to establish a local authority registration system for children not in school, as well as a duty for local authorities to provide support to home-educating families, are included as part of the Schools Bill introduced to Parliament on 11 May 2022. This will help local authorities undertake their existing duties to ensure all children receive a suitable education and are safe, regardless of where they are educated.

The CNIS measures seek to:

- Place a duty on local authorities in England to establish and maintain CNIS registers, and to provide support to interested educators.

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APPENDIX B

- Ensure local authorities are aware of the children not in school in their area to undertake their existing safeguarding responsibilities more effectively, including trying to identify CME.

Changes will be made to School Attendance Order (SAO) legislation in England to help increase the efficiency of the process.

The local authority registers will only record children of compulsory school age that are: not on a school roll (for example due to being electively home educated), flexi-schooled, or receive some or all of their education in a non-school setting (which will be set out further in regulations). Registers will not include children on a school roll who are simply absent from school, as these children will already be visible through existing school registers.

SEND

The revised action plan and scorecard are being developed in conjunction with key stakeholders. There will be a greater emphasis on what is happening in schools for pupils identified as SEND. It will be signed off and monitored by the SEND Continuous Improvement Board.

We continue to work with special schools, resource bases and mainstream schools to right size budgets and develop the new banding systems. There is work ongoing around the SEND Capital Programme and an updated High Needs position statement. An increase of specialist placements has been actioned for September 2022 and work will be ongoing in line with the Capital Programme once agreed.

EHCP timeliness has reduced this year but steps of progress are being demonstrated. This has been due to a variety of factors including:

- Increase in requests for assessment
- Increase in change of placements
- Increased requests for specialist placements leading to difficulties finalising EHCPs
- Specific performance issues within the team

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)
5 JULY 2022**

**WORK PROGRAMME / KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN – REVISED
RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – REVISED WORK PROGRAMME

1.1 The Committee usually holds 5 scheduled meetings each Municipal Year. It has been proposed that from September 2022, the Committee may wish to meet on a 6-weekly basis, in order to provide additional scrutiny to the Council's Children's Services function.

1.2 Accordingly, a **revised draft Work Programme** has been produced and is attached at **REVISED APPENDIX A**.

1.3 At the meeting of the Committee held on 15 March 2022, the Committee resolved that:

“(2) the following item be added to the Committee's Work Programme for 2022/23:

the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education be requested to submit a full report on the Improvement Board in regard to the Children's Social Care Improvement Journey to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 5 July 2022, and regular reports on the matter be submitted to the Committee thereafter during 2022/23;” (Minute No. 43 (2) refers)

1.4 Members are requested to note that the intention is for the item on the Children's Social Care Improvement Journey to be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

1.5 The Committee is requested to comment on the proposed frequency of meetings and the attached draft Work Programme for 2022/23, as appropriate, and note that additional items may be added to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.

**2. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN –
PUBLICATION OF LATEST FORWARD PLAN**

2.1 Since the agenda for the meeting on 5 July 2022 was published, the latest Key Decision Forward Plan has been published, covering the period 1 August – 1

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November 2022, and items that fall under the remit of the Committee are attached at **REVISED APPENDIX C**.

2.2 At the meeting of the Committee held on 15 March 2022, the Committee resolved that:

“(4) a request be made for the Key Decision on the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025 to be deferred to the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 28 July 2022, to enable this Committee to pre-scrutinise the matter at its meeting scheduled for 5 July 2022, and for the item to be included in the work programme for 2022/23;” (Minute No. 43 (4) refers).

2.3 Members are requested to note that the item on the Education Excellence Strategy has now been deferred for a decision by the Cabinet on 6 October 2022. The intention is for the item to be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee, to allow for pre-scrutiny of the issue.

2.4 **The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.**

DRAFT

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Date of Meeting / Item	Tues 05/07/22 Bootle	Tues 27/09/22 Southport	Mon 07/11/22 Bootle	Tues 20/12/22 Southport	Tues 31/01/23 Bootle	Mon 06/03/23 Southport
Regular Reports						
Cabinet Member Update Reports (Amy Riley/Debbie Campbell)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Work Programme Update (Debbie Campbell)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ofsted Inspection Reports (Termly Basis) (Tricia Davies)	X	X				X
Service Operational Reports:						
Final Report of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group (Debbie Campbell)	X					
Update on Ofsted Report and Improvement Plan (Martin Birch)		X	X	X	X	X
Children's Social Care Improvement Journey (Laura Knights)		X				
Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021- 2025 – Presentation of Strategy (Nicola Robson/Tricia Davies)		X				

DRAFT

Date of Meeting / Item	Tues 05/07/22 Bootle	Tues 27/09/22 Southport	Mon 07/11/22 Bootle	Tues 20/12/22 Southport	Tues 31/01/23 Bootle	Mon 06/03/23 Southport
Domestic Abuse (Janette Maxwell/Simon Burnett)		X				
SEND Annual Update (Tricia Davies)			X			
Integrated Care System Update and Start Well Overview (Eleanor Moulton)			X			
Corporate Parenting Board - Annual Update – Invite Cr. Doyle (Laura Knights)			X			
Exam/Test Data (Tricia Davies)					X	
Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board - Annual Update (Joe Banham/Deb Hughes)					X	
Fostering Service - Annual Update (Laura Knights)					X	
Adoption Service - Annual Update (Laura Knights)					X	
NHS Updates						
Sefton Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) - Update (CE of CCGs/Alder Hey Rep)		X				

DRAFT

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 AUGUST 2022 - 30 NOVEMBER 2022

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions which the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or Officers expect to take during the next four month period. The Plan is rolled forward every month and is available to the public at least 28 days before the beginning of each month.

A Key Decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

1. any Executive decision that is not in the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme approved by the Council and which requires a gross budget expenditure, saving or virement of more than £100,000 or more than 2% of a Departmental budget, whichever is the greater;
2. any Executive decision where the outcome will have a significant impact on a significant number of people living or working in two or more Wards

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each Key Decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision may not be taken, unless:

- it is published in the Forward Plan;
- 5 clear days have lapsed since the publication of the Forward Plan; and
- if the decision is to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, 5 clear days notice of the meeting has been given.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan in accordance with Rule 26 (General Exception) and Rule 28 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle L20 7AE or accessed from the Council's website: www.sefton.gov.uk

- Council Constitution
- Forward Plan
- Reports on the Key Decisions to be taken
- Other documents relating to the proposed decision may be submitted to the decision making meeting and these too will be made available by the contact officer named in the Plan
- The minutes for each Key Decision, which will normally be published within 5 working days after having been made

Some reports to be considered by the Cabinet/Council may contain exempt information and will not be made available to the public. The specific reasons (Paragraph No(s)) why such reports are exempt are detailed in the Plan and the Paragraph No(s) and descriptions are set out below:-

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REVISED APPENDIX C

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
8. Information falling within paragraph 3 above is not exempt information by virtue of that paragraph if it is required to be registered under—
 - (a) the Companies Act 1985;
 - (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974;
 - (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992;
 - (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978;
 - (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or
 - (f) the Charities Act 1993.
9. Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992
10. Information which—
 - (a) falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
 - (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Council which are held at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle or the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport. The dates and times of the meetings are published on www.sefton.gov.uk or you may contact the Democratic Services Section on telephone number 0151 934 2068.

NOTE:

For ease of identification, items listed within the document for the first time will appear shaded.

Dwayne Johnson
Chief Executive

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Summerhill Primary School - S106 Contributions and Proposal for Expansion	Marie Stevenson marie.stevenson@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3427
Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025	Nicola Robson nicola.robson@sefton.gov.uk

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p>Summerhill Primary School - S106 Contributions and Proposal for Expansion</p> <p>Cabinet is requested to approve the publication of the statutory proposal to enlarge the premises of the school. Council is requested to approve the expenditure of the S106 contributions on this project.</p>			
Decision Maker	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Council</p>			
Decision Expected	<p>1 Sep 2022</p> <p>Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 28/07/2022 to 01/09/2022. Reason: work is still being undertaken on the finance options of the proposal</p>			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Park; Sudell			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Governors, Staff, Parents of pupils at the school, Head teachers of Sefton schools.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Extensive public consultation was carried out as part of Sefton's Local Plan. More recent consultation has also been carried out by letter.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Summerhill Primary School - S106 contributions and proposal for expansion			
Contact Officer(s) details	Marie Stevenson marie.stevenson@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3427			

**SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Details of Decision to be taken	Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025 The strategy sets out how all children and young people in Sefton will receive an education, which enables them to reach their individual potential, have a clear pathway to further education, employment and engage positively with others in their community. The strategy demonstrates the Council's role in system leadership, facilitating school leaders to lead school improvement and school to school support and sets out the clear priorities which will address the key themes and measure the progress towards the key actions.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Oct 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 28/07/2022 to 06/10/2022. Reason: in order to extend consultation and obtain further information			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Parents and carers; children and young people; school governing bodies; and key stake holder groups.			
Method(s) of Consultation	online survey; face to face small group meetings; easy read surveys; creative consultation activities; meetings; presentations; emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025			
Contact Officer(s) details	Nicola Robson nicola.robson@sefton.gov.uk			

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