

# Public Document Pack

**Sefton Council** 

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

DATE: Tuesday, 26th January 2021

TIME: 6.30 p.m.

VENUE: Remote Meeting

## Member

Councillor  
Cllr. Paula Murphy (Chair)  
Cllr. Clare Carragher (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. Maria Bennett  
Cllr. Linda Cluskey  
Cllr. Leo Evans  
Cllr. Pat Keith  
Cllr. Michael Pitt  
Cllr. Yvonne Sayers  
Cllr. Carla Thomas  
Cllr. Veronica Webster  
Maurice Byrne, Healthwatch  
Karen Christie, Healthwatch  
Mrs Sandra Cain, Independent  
Advisory Member  
Stuart Harrison, Diocese  
Father Des Seddon, Archdiocese  
Machalla McDermott, PGR  
Claire McDonough, PGR

## Substitute

Councillor  
Cllr. Janis Blackburne  
Cllr. Robert Brennan  
Cllr. David Irving  
Cllr. Christine Howard  
Cllr. Iain Brodie - Browne  
Cllr. Daniel Lewis  
Cllr. Denise Dutton  
Cllr. Liz Dowd  
Cllr. John Kelly  
Cllr. Greg Myers

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Debbie Campbell, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
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**If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.**

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# AGENDA

## 1. Apologies for Absence

## 2. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested at a meeting where a disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest arises, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests, to declare any interests that relate to an item on the agenda.

Where a Member discloses a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, he/she must withdraw from the meeting room by switching their camera and microphone off during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest, except where he/she is permitted to remain as a result of a grant of a dispensation.

Where a Member discloses a personal interest he/she must seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or staff member representing the Monitoring Officer, by 12 Noon the day before the meeting, to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest or whether the Member can remain in the meeting or remain in the meeting and vote on the relevant decision.

## 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 12)

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2020

## 4. Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group Final Report (Pages 13 - 38)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

## 5. Covid Management in Schools (Pages 39 - 44)

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education

## 6. Children and Young Peoples Plan Data Dashboard In-depth Narrative (Pages 45 - 68)

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education

## 7. SEND Continuous Improvement Plan Update (Pages 69 - 96)

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education

## 8. Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board Report on (Pages 97 -

	<b>Serious Case Review Activity</b>	104)
	Report of the Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board Independent Chair	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Fostering Service Annual Report</b>	(Pages 105 - 130)
	Report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Report</b>	(Pages 131 - 136)
	Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Executive/Scrutiny Protocol</b>	(Pages 137 - 152)
	Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan</b>	(Pages 153 - 170)
	Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	

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**THIS SET OF MINUTES IS NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN".**

Overview  
& Scrutiny



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

REMOTE MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 2020

**PRESENT:** Councillor Murphy (in the Chair)  
Councillor Carragher (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Cluskey, Evans, Keith, Pitt, Yvonne  
Sayers, Thomas and Webster

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. M. Byrne, Healthwatch Representative  
Ms. K. Christie, Healthwatch Representative  
Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative  
Ms. C. McDonough, Parent Governor  
Representative  
Councillor J. J. Kelly, Cabinet Member – Children,  
Schools and Safeguarding

### **8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Father D. Seddon,  
Archdiocese Representative.

### **9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Council's Code of Conduct, the  
following declaration of personal interest was made, and the Member  
concerned remained in the meeting during the consideration of the item:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Ms. M. McDermott	Minute No. 17 – Parent Governor Representative	She is affected by the outcome of the decision.

### **10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020, be confirmed  
as a correct record.

### **11. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) ACROSS SEFTON - UPDATE REPORT**

Further to Minute No. 27 of 12 November 2019, the Committee considered  
the report of the Children and Young People Commissioning Manager,

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 2020

NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG. The report provided an update on CCG commissioned provision of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), focussing on the response and performance of Sefton's mental health services, specifically in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges this presented. The report also highlighted new services and initiatives which were contributing to improvements in the mental health offer for the children and young people of Sefton, together with developments.

The report set out details of the following:

- CCG Commissioned Services 2020/21
- Mental health system-wide response to Covid-19
- CAMHS performance – including an overview of performance pre and post Covid-19
- Impact of Covid-19 on demand for mental health services
- Eating Disorder Service
- 24/7 Crisis Care Service
- Service activity
- Mental Health Support Teams
- Access targets
- Future developments

Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; Peter Wong, Children and Young People Commissioning Lead, South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; Lisa Cooper, Director of Community and Mental Health Services, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust; and Vicky Killen, CAMHS Clinical Lead, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, were in attendance to present the report to the Committee; to highlight aspects of it; and to respond to questions put by Members of the Committee.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised issues on the following:

- The impact of Covid-19 on services and waiting times.
- Any additional funding provided for services. Information would be obtained and shared with Members of the Committee.
- Monitoring of the services offered by the Mental Health Support Teams for schools and colleges.
- The age range able to access the online counselling platform.
- The availability of the freephone telephone number for crisis care services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update report on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services be noted; and

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 2020

- (2) the Chief Officer of the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups be requested to provide information on any additional funding available for services to the Senior Democratic Services Officer, for circulation to Members of the Committee.

### **12. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE.**

Further to Minute No. 30 of 12 November 2019, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education presenting the final version of the Children and Young People's Plan, 2020 – 2025.

The final draft of the Plan was received at the meeting in November 2019 and the Plan went on to gain Cabinet approval in January 2020 and was adopted as the Children and Young People's Plan for Sefton with effect from 1 March 2020. The report presented a Delivery Plan to accompany the document and to support the communication of the Plan's key priorities. The report also provided an overview of a recent review of the "Heard" priority of the Plan at the Children's Partnership Board. The report set out information on the Delivery Plan; communication of priorities; and the "Heard" priority in that children and young people would always be central to decisions made about them and their journeys would be shaped by their voice.

Copies of the final published version of the Children and Young People's Plan; the Delivery Plan; and an example of a Children's Service Dashboard were attached to the report.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised issues on the following:

- Concerns held regarding the data contained within the Dashboard attached to the report. Investigations would be held to determine whether Covid-19 has affected the data and the results would be circulated to Members of the Committee. In the event that the data is accurate, consideration could be given to holding an informal workshop session to explain the detail to Members of the Committee.
- Improvements made regarding the backlog for Education, Health and Care Plans.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the Integrated Social Care and Health Manager be requested to investigate whether Covid-19 has affected the data contained within the Dashboard attached to the report and provide the results to the Senior Democratic Services Officer for circulation to Members of the Committee. In the event that the data is accurate, consideration

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 2020

be given to holding an informal workshop session to explain the detail to Members of the Committee.

### **13. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020**

Further to Minute No. 18 of 24 September 2019, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education setting out a summary of the progress in relation to the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan and activity for the year end 2019/2020.

The Improvement Plan had identified three key objectives, as follows:

1. Ensure frontline practice is consistently good, effective and focussed on timely, measurable outcomes for children.
2. To improve management oversight at all levels to ensure effective services for children and young people receive good quality supervision.
3. Ensure that frontline services are sufficiently resourced and the workforce appropriately skilled to enable high quality work to be undertaken with children and young people.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised issues on the following:

- In the past the Improvement Plan had been presented as a table and this was useful in demonstrating key issues, targets, etc.
- The impact of Covid-19 in identifying suitable placements for children and young people.
- The importance of recognising the voice of the child.
- The commissioning of a time limited service to manage children in need cases.
- Progress made since the last full Ofsted inspection and the likelihood of an inspection in 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and bi-annual reports in relation to the progress of the Children's Social Care Continuous Improvement Plan be continued to be received by the Committee.

### **14. CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY - 10 QUESTIONS TO ASK IF YOU ARE SCRUTINISING CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer providing information contained within a document produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) entitled "10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change". The report set out the contents of the document, together with the 10 questions posed, indicating that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had requested the CfPS document to be circulated to all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members for information.



RESOLVED:

That the Centre for Public Scrutiny document entitled "10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change", be noted.

## **15. CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRESS REPORT**

Further to Minute No. 52 of 17 March 2020, the Committee received a presentation from Stephanie Jukes, the Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources; and Julia Thorpe, Project Officer – Climate and Environment, reporting on Climate Emergency progress by the Council. The presentation outlined the following:

- Purpose of the presentation
- Background – Climate Emergency
- Carbon footprint for Sefton
- Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Implementation Plan - Phase 1
- Covid-19
- Green Recovery
- How will progress be monitored?
- Communications Plan
- Climate Assembly UK
- Summary and next steps
- Contact details

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:

- The projected timescale to achieve carbon-neutral status.
- The cost of alternative transport.
- Progress with the Sefton Clean Air Zone and heavy goods vehicles accessing the docks. An update could be obtained and forwarded to Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be noted;
- (2) Stephanie Jukes and Julia Thorpe be thanked for their informative presentation; and
- (3) the Section Manager, Energy and Environmental Management, be requested to provide an update on progress with the Sefton Clean Air Zone and heavy goods vehicles accessing the docks to the Senior Democratic Services Officer, for circulation to Members of the Committee.

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## **16. DRAFT EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY PROTOCOL**

Further to Minute No. 27 (3) of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 July 2020, the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer presenting a draft Executive/Scrutiny Protocol to the Committee for consideration and comment. The development of an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol aimed to improve the quality of relationships between Cabinet and Scrutiny Members; clarify respective roles; and contribute towards more effective scrutiny in Sefton. The draft Protocol was attached to the report.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Executive/Scrutiny Protocol, as attached to the report, be endorsed and submitted to the Cabinet for approval, in due course.

## **17. PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer indicating that the term of office for one of the current Parent Governor Representatives on the Committee was due to expire in November 2020. The report sought to formally agree extending the term of office of the Parent Governor Representative concerned.

RESOLVED:

That the term of office for the Parent Governor Representative concerned be extended for a period of no more than two years, up to November 2022.

## **18. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer seeking the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/21; reporting on progress of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group; consideration of the potential selection of a new topic for a further Working Group review, following the completion of the current Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group; identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan; and receipt of an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Work Programme for 2020/21 was set out at Appendix A to the report, to be considered along with any additional items to be included and agreed, and the Terms of Reference for the Committee were set out at Appendix B to the report.

The report set out progress to date made by the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group. Further to Minute No. 7 (3) of 22 September 2020, the Committee was requested to consider a new topic for a review, to commence following the completion of the Working Group. A criteria

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checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics for review was attached to the report at Appendix C.

There were two Key Decisions within the latest Key Decision Forward Plan, attached to the report at Appendix D, that fell under the Committee's remit, and the Committee was invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny.

The report set out an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Further to Minute No. 16 (2) of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board of 10 November 2020, the Chair reported that Members of the Committee would be invited to serve on the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group, established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), and a copy of the draft Scoping Document would be circulated to Members to aid them in their deliberations on this matter.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed;
- (2) the progress of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group be noted;
- (3) in the event that Members of the Committee agree to serve on the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group, established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), updates on the progress of the Working Group be included in future Work Programme reports for this Committee;
- (4) the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2020 – 31 March 2021, be noted; and
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

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# Agenda Item 4

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)  Cabinet  Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 January 2021  4 February 2021  4 March 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group Final Report		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To present formally the final report of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group.

## Recommendation(s):

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), Cabinet and Council are requested to support the contents of the Working Group Final Report and approve the recommendations, as follows:

1. That the good practice regarding school attendance currently undertaken by the Council and schools, as outlined in the findings of the Final Report, be acknowledged and noted.
2. That the Interim Head of Education be requested to explore the possibility of:
  - (a) a campaign to tackle school attendance across all key stages with a specific emphasis on the early years and foundation stage, the campaign to focus on conveying clear messages about how absence affects attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes.
  - (b) delivering of clear messages about expectations, routines and consequences to new pupils and families through prospectus and admission/transition events.
  - (c) ensuring that the attendance of vulnerable children is monitored across the early years stage.
  - (d) an aspiration for a post of a dedicated worker for children who are

# Agenda Item 4

supported by Education, Health and Care Plans, in order to address any barriers for children and young people attending school; this aspiration could be considered in the future as part of the on-going work on school attendance.

- (e) attendance being part of the enhanced transition and not just for children and young people on the Special Educational Needs and disability (SEND) register, as this will address the early identification of any school attendance issues.
  - (f) sanctions for non-attendance being applied consistently across primary and secondary schools.
  - (g) schools providing an adult mentor to those children who have contact with the school Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) but who are not on the SEND register, with whom the children can have regular access and build up a relationship.
  - (h) encouraging schools to provide training in SEND and Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) conditions to all teaching staff, to include office staff.
  - (i) Extending buddy schemes with older peers to all schools, pupils to be “matched up” to ensure they have something in common.
  - (j) Improving communication between primary and secondary schools at transition stage, to ensure children are “understood” by teaching staff in secondary schools and that any good practice is shared.
3. That the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with relevant officers in order to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) receives a six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations outlined above.

## **Reasons for the Recommendations:**

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that require approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding), the Cabinet and the Council.

## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) established the Working Group to review persistent pupil absence and the Working Group has performed this task.

## **What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

### **(A) Revenue Costs**

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report. In the event that future consideration is given to progressing recommendation 2 (d), any

necessary financial investment will be the subject of a separate report at the appropriate time.

## **(B) Capital Costs**

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report.

### **Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None directly.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None.
<b>Equality Implications:</b>  There are no equality implications.

### **Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: The recommendations support on-going school attendance for the most vulnerable children.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The recommendations support on-going school attendance for all pupils.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The recommendations support the statutory requirement for pupils to attend school.
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly associated with this report.
Drivers of change and reform: The recommendations support the statutory requirement for pupils to attend school.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly associated with this report.
Greater income for social investment: None directly associated with this report.
Cleaner Greener None directly associated with this report.

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

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## **(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6263/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4464/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

The Interim Head of Education has been involved in Working Group meetings.

## **(B) External Consultations**

Not applicable

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2254
Email Address:	debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- The Final Report of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.



## 1. Introduction/Background

1.1 At its meeting on 9 July 2019, the Committee established a Working Group to review the topic of persistent pupil absence in schools. Councillors Bennett, Carragher (Lead Member), Keith and Mrs. Sandra Cain, Independent Advisory Member, were appointed to the Working Group.

1.2 The Working Group agreed to the following definition in considering persistent pupil absence:

“Any pupil whose attendance falls below 90% will be classed as a Persistently Absent student. Therefore, if a student misses 19 or more days over an academic year they will be classed as Persistently Absent.”

1.3 The Working Group agreed the following terms of reference and objectives for the review:

“To review persistent pupil absence in primary schools within the Borough.

Focus will also be given to those pupils with SEN Support; with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans; and those pupils supported by Child Protection, Child in Need and Early Help Plans.”

1.4 Prior to lockdown in March 2020, the Working Group undertook site visits as follows:

- A visit to the Council’s Complimentary Education Service, Pinefield Centre, Formby, to meet with members of staff and hear about the services provided. Completed on 27/11/19.
- A visit to Jigsaw Primary Pupil Referral Unit, Thornton. Completed on 25/02/20.
- A visit to Newfield School, Thornton. Completed on 28/02/20.

1.5 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Working Group has not been able to meet since February 2020 for some time. It was October 2020 before Members were able to meet remotely to conclude their work.

1.6 The Working Group acknowledged and recognised much of the good work already taking place by both the Local authority and many of the Borough’s schools. It was considered that focus should be on continuous improvement.

1.7 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding), Cabinet and Council are requested to support the contents of the Working Group Final Report and approve the recommendations contained therein.

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



**PERSISTENT PUPIL ABSENCE  
WORKING GROUP**

**FINAL REPORT  
JANUARY 2021**

Overview  
& Scrutiny



# Overview & Scrutiny

**'Valuing  
Improvement'**

[www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)  
[scrutiny@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@sefton.gov.uk)

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## LEAD MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION

It gives me great pleasure to submit the findings in relation to the review on persistent pupil absence in schools.

We began this piece of work before Covid-19 had been heard of, at a time when there were some concerns regarding school attendance, particularly in our primary schools. The outbreak of the pandemic curtailed our work and prevented us from visiting mainstream schools to experience first-hand the excellent work already being undertaken in some of our schools. At the time of producing this final report the country is in another lockdown situation and once again most of our children are unable to attend school, much of the work being undertaken on-line. Hopefully, the vaccine will enable children to return to school in due course and it will never be so important to ensure that our children attend school, to try to make up the ground they have lost and to enable them to have greater life chances, particularly for those children who already face disadvantages in their lives.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed towards this review and thank other Working Group Members for their commitment and dedication in looking at this matter. Finally, I would like to thank our support officers for their assistance and support during the course of the review and in producing this final report.



**Councillor Claire Carragher, Lead Member of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding).**

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation
Sefton Virtual School	<p>The Virtual School exists as a collaborative endeavour, with different professionals and stakeholders across the Local Authority holding Corporate Parenting as a priority throughout.</p> <p>It promotes the progress and educational attainment of children and young people who are, or who have been, in care so that they achieve educational outcomes comparable to their peers. Ensuring that they receive a high-quality education is the foundation for improving their lives.</p> <p>The school does not exist in real terms, or as a building. Children do not attend it, rather they remain the responsibility of the school at which they are enrolled.</p>
Personalised Learning Plan	Personalised learning focuses on working with each student, in partnership with the student's parents or carers, to develop a plan that maps a pathway for students to achieve learning goals tailored to their developmental and motivational needs.
EHC Plan	Education, Health and Care Plan. The former Statement of SEN, setting out a child's Special Education Needs (educational) and any additional help a child should receive, was replaced by the Education, Health and Care Plan, which sets out educational, health and social needs for a child and also sets out the additional support required to meet those needs.

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SEN Register	<p>Schools have a SEN register which records all SEND pupils, and schools are expected to track the progress of these pupils closely.</p> <p>Children who need extra support when learning may be put on their school's SEN register. This is a record of children who have SEN and the kind of support they may require.</p>
Triangulation	<p>A process by which a teacher collects evidence about student learning and this evidence is collected from three different sources. These sources are conversations, observations, and products.</p>
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)	<p>A teacher who co-ordinates the provision for children with SEND in schools.</p>
ASD	<p>Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disorder that affects communication and behaviour.</p>





## BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

1. At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) held on 9 July 2019, the Committee considered potential topics for a scrutiny review to be undertaken by a Working Group appointed by the Committee.

## MEMBERSHIP OF WORKING GROUP

1. At its meeting on 9 July 2019 the Committee agreed that:  
  
“(5) a working group be established to review the topic of persistent pupil absence and Councillors Carragher, Keith and Mrs. Sandra Cain, Independent Advisory Member, be appointed to serve on the working group;” (Minute No. 11 (5) refers).

## LEAD MEMBER

1. The first meeting of the Working Group took place on 9 October 2019, and Councillor Carragher was appointed as the Lead Member.

## DEFINITION

1. The Working Group agreed to the following definition in considering persistent pupil absence:  
  
“Any pupil whose attendance falls below 90% will be classed as a Persistently Absent student. Therefore, if a student misses 19 or more days over an academic year they will be classed as Persistently Absent.”

## TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE REVIEW

1. The Working Group agreed the following terms of reference and objectives for the review:  
  
“To review persistent pupil absence in primary schools within the Borough.  
  
Focus will also be given to those pupils with SEN Support; with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans; and those pupils supported by Child Protection, Child in Need and Early Help Plans.”

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## METHODS OF ENQUIRY

- Through the gathering and consideration of data, information and evidence, either from existing sources or through specific Working Group interviews.
- Through any necessary site visits:
  - A visit to be undertaken to the Council's Complimentary Education Service, Pinefield Centre, Formby, to meet with members of staff and hear about the services provided. Completed on 27/11/19.
  - A visit to be arranged to Jigsaw Primary Pupil Referral Unit, Thornton. Completed on 25/02/20.
  - A visit to be arranged to Newfield School, Thornton. Completed on 28/02/20.
- Interviewing of parents/carers/relevant officers, if deemed necessary/relevant.

## SUMMARY OF MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP HELD AND SITE VISITS UNDERTAKEN

A summary of Working Group meetings and activity is outlined as follows:

Meeting Date	Activity
9 October 2019	Councillor Carragher appointed Lead Member of Working Group and the Working Group scoped the review.
14 November 2019	Information on the attendance toolkit was considered, together with figures provided on exclusions during 2018/19 and 2019/20 to date.
22 January 2020	The site visit to the Council's Complimentary Education Service was considered, together with information on attendance figures; Sefton Education Cohort; what we know about SEND in Sefton; and information on SEND/referrals.
16 October 2020	Informal meeting to recap on previous findings and determine the way forward. Members requested additional information to be obtained on home schooling. Discussion on draft recommendations.
27 November 2020	Information on home schooling was considered, together with the draft recommendations.



17 December 2020	Lead Member met with officers to discuss the draft recommendations.
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In addition, Working Group Members undertook site visits, as follows:

Date	Site Visit
27 November 2019	Site visit to the Council's Complimentary Education Service based at the Pinefield Centre, Formby, to meet with members of staff and hear about the services provided at the Pinefield Centre, Formby.
25 February 2020	Site visit to Jigsaw Primary Pupil Referral Unit, Thornton.
28 February 2020	Site Visit to Newfield School, Edge Lane, Thornton.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Working Group Members considered the following documents during the course of their review:

1. School Attendance Toolkit.
2. Exclusion figures for 2018/19 and 2019/20.
3. MACE Attendance Figures
4. Sefton Education Cohort.
5. What we know about SEND in Sefton.
6. Information on SEND/Referrals.
7. Information received on home schooling via the Facebook page of the Sefton Parent Carers' Forum.
8. Report submitted by the Co-ordinator; Complementary Education Service, on home schooling.



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## **INTERVIEWING OF KEY WITNESSES**

During the course of the review Working Group Members met with the following:

**Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education**

**Team Manager Locality South, Attendance and Welfare Services**

**Interim Head of Education**

**Staff and pupils at the Complementary Education Service, Pinefield Centre, Formby**

**Staff and pupils at the Jigsaw Referral Unit, Thornton**

**Staff and pupils at Newfield School, Thornton**

## **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE WORKING GROUP REVIEW**

Unfortunately, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the first lockdown curtailed the activities of the Working Group for some considerable time during the spring and summer of 2020 and prevented further face to face meetings and the lack of opportunity for Members to access mainstream provision to see some of the good work currently undertaken.



## KEY FINDINGS DURING THE REVIEW

1. At the commencement of the review, some of the good practice through the School Attendance Tool kit was shared with Members.
2. Concerns were raised regarding possible child exploitation and data was shared with Members. This is a priority area for Children's Services in relation to children missing school.
3. All schools in Sefton operate some form of a first day response scheme following up on absence and lateness with pupils to identify barriers and reasons for absence.
4. A significant number of schools undertake home visits to families where they are deemed to be vulnerable.
5. Looked after children's attendance is discussed at the personal education planning meeting.
6. The virtual school has a dedicated attendance worker.
7. Young people of school age who are discharged from custody are discussed at the monitoring and placements children missing education panel and a plan is put into place to enable those children to access an education package.
8. All schools attend the multi-agency child exploitation meetings (MACE) which looks at persistent absence and planning for children and young people to divert them away from risk taking behaviours.
9. Class teachers and form tutor groups identify issues, intervene early and help set targets.
10. Some schools gather feedback from pupils about their attendance and look at modifying the curriculum.
11. Some schools apply rewards and sanctions consistently.
12. School attendance forms part of some children's personalised learning plans.
13. The majority of schools analyse the data to identify patterns and trends to address any barriers that may be preventing children attending schools.
14. There has been an increase in the young carers' service being present in schools to address barriers for those children who have additional caring responsibilities.
15. Some schools recognise and celebrate small steps in improving attendance.



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16. Attendance is correlated with behaviour and attainment data as part of the school's triangulation.
17. Addressing persistent absence is included in early help and children's social care assessments.
18. The Council operates a school attendance panel which discusses expectations with parents about the child's attendance. The panel also considers the child's voice and addresses any barriers that may be preventing them from attending school. There are specific questions in relation to bullying asked at the panel to gather the parents and child's views.

## KEY FINDINGS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE WORKING GROUP

1. Members considered that there was statistical evidence of a "north/south divide" within the Borough in terms of school attendance and persistent pupil absence.
2. There is already plenty of good practice undertaken by schools in the Borough and by the Local Authority.
3. The importance of emphasising good school attendance habits during the early years' stage.
4. It is important to deliver clear messages regarding the importance of school messages at admission and transition events. The early years' stage is also important in identifying any children coming into school from nursery who may have additional needs.
5. Regarding the importance of monitoring the attendance of vulnerable children across the early years' stage, the Covid-19 pandemic has provided an opportunity for work in this area to commence and this needs to continue.
6. Although it is recognised that the Council is unable to support additional posts at this time, due to the financial situation of the Council, nevertheless, Members considered that it was important to recognise the aspiration for a dedicated worker to support those children on Education Health and Care Plans, in order that any barriers to school attendance can be recognised and addressed. There is currently a temporary post undertaking such work and as part of the on-going work on school attendance, consideration could be given at some point as to how this could be made into a permanent post.
7. School attendance should ideally be part of the enhanced transition and not just for children and young people on the SEND register, as this helps to address the early identification of any school attendance issues. Members considered that there were issues at transition from the primary to secondary stage and whilst children with more high-level SEND were identified, it could



sometimes be that lower levels of SEND were not always recognised as much as they might be.

8. Sanctions for non-attendance of school were not always applied as consistently across primary and secondary schools as they might be.
9. It was recognised that children who have contact with the school SENCO but who are not necessarily on the SEND register often form good, trusting relationships with teaching staff, support staff and/or office staff. This could provide an opportunity for an adult mentor to build up a positive relationship with the child and to be a good role model. This could be raised through both the Primary and Secondary Schools Association.
10. All schools provide training in SEND and ASD. Additional encouragement could be given for quality training, such as trauma training, to include school office staff.
11. Many schools have a “buddy scheme”, where younger pupils are “matched up” with older peers to ensure they have something in common. This can assist with school attendance.
12. The transition stage is vitally important in retaining and ensuring good school attendance. Communication, together with the sharing of good practice, is key.



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## CONCLUSIONS

1. That the good practice regarding school attendance currently undertaken by the Council and schools, as outlined in the findings of the report, should be acknowledged and recognised.
2. A campaign to tackle school attendance across all key stages with a specific emphasis on the early years and foundation stage, should be considered, the campaign to focus on conveying clear messages about how absence affects attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes.
3. Clear messages about expectations, routines and consequences to new pupils and families through prospectus and admission/transition events, should be delivered.
4. The school attendance of vulnerable children should be ensured and monitored across the early years stage.
5. There is an aspiration for a post of a dedicated worker for children who are supported by Education, Health and Care Plans, in order to address any barriers for children and young people attending school; this aspiration could be considered in the future as part of the on-going work on school attendance. It is recognised and acknowledged that this may not be possible at the current time.
6. Attendance should ideally be part of the enhanced transition and not just for children and young people on the SEND register, as this will address the early identification of any school attendance issues.
7. Sanctions for non-school attendance should be applied consistently across primary and secondary schools in the Borough.
8. Schools should be encouraged to provide an adult mentor to those children who have contact with the school SENCO but who are not on the SEND register, with whom the children can have regular access and build up a relationship.
9. Schools should be encouraged to provide training in SEND and ASD conditions to all teaching staff, to include office staff.
10. Buddy schemes with older peers should be extended to all schools, pupils to be “matched up” to ensure they have something in common.
11. Communication between primary and secondary schools could be improved at transition stage, to ensure children are “understood” by teaching staff in secondary schools and that any good practice is shared.





12. A six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations outlined above, will be required by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), as is standard practice with all working group reports.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

In producing this report on persistent pupil absence in education, acknowledgements and thanks are attributed to the individuals outlined below, for their time and input:

- *The following officers from the Council:*
- **Senior Democratic Services Officer**
- **Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education**
- **Team Manager Locality South, Attendance and Welfare Services**
- **Interim Head of Education**
- **Staff and pupils at the Complementary Education Service, Pinefield Centre, Formby**
- **Staff and pupils at the Jigsaw Referral Unit, Thornton**
- **Staff and pupils at Newfield School, Thornton**

Thanks must also go to the Members of the Working Group who have worked hard and dedicated a great deal of time to this review, namely:



***Councillor Claire Carragher  
(Lead Member)***



***Councillor Maria Bennett***



***Councillor Pat Keith***

***Mrs. Sandra Cain  
Independent Advisory Member***



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the good practice regarding school attendance currently undertaken by the Council and schools, as outlined in the findings of the Final Report, be acknowledged and noted.
2. That the Interim Head of Education be requested to explore the possibility of:
  - (a) a campaign to tackle school attendance across all key stages with a specific emphasis on the early years and foundation stage, the campaign to focus on conveying clear messages about how absence affects attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes.
  - (b) delivering of clear messages about expectations, routines and consequences to new pupils and families through prospectus and admission/transition events.
  - (c) ensuring that the attendance of vulnerable children is monitored across the early years stage.
  - (d) an aspiration for a post of a dedicated worker for children who are supported by Education, Health and Care Plans, in order to address any barriers for children and young people attending school; this aspiration could be considered in the future as part of the on-going work on school attendance.
  - (e) attendance being part of the enhanced transition and not just for children and young people on the Special Educational Needs and disability (SEND) register, as this will address the early identification of any school attendance issues.
  - (f) sanctions for non-attendance being applied consistently across primary and secondary schools.
  - (g) schools providing an adult mentor to those children who have contact with the school Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) but who are not on the SEND register, with whom the children can have regular access and build up a relationship.
  - (h) encouraging schools to provide training in SEND and Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) conditions to all teaching staff, to include office staff.
  - (i) Extending buddy schemes with older peers to all schools, pupils to be “matched up” to ensure they have something in common.
  - (j) Improving communication between primary and secondary schools at transition stage, to ensure children are “understood” by teaching staff in secondary schools and that any good practice is shared.

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3. That the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with relevant officers in order to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) receives a six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations outlined above.



## Overview & Scrutiny



**For further Information please contact:**

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**Sefton Council** 



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# Agenda Item 5

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 26 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Covid Management in Schools		
<b>Report of:</b>	Interim Head of Education Excellence	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>			
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:** The purpose of this report is to provide a summary update to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, outlining the safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable children who did not attend school during the COVID-19 first lockdown, between March 2020 to June 2020. The report will also reference information relating to the wider reopening of schools following this period.

## Recommendation(s):

(1) That the report be noted.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To appraise the Committee of the safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable children who did not attend school during the COVID-19 first lockdown between March 2020 to June 2020.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

N/A

## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs N/A

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## (B) Capital Costs N/A

### Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> All Council resources required to support safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable children who did not attend school during the COVID-19 first lockdown, between March 2020 to June 2020 were contained within existing budget provision.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> COVID Act 2020 has removed statutory enforcement of school attendance.
<b>Equality Implications:</b> The actions undertaken encourage the most vulnerable to attend school and education settings.

### Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Encourages our most vulnerable pupils to attend school

Protect the most vulnerable: We know that children are safer when they are attending school and accessing education and we want all children to achieve their full potential.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: as above
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: Actions undertaken contribute to the continuous improvement for school attendance of vulnerable pupil
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

### What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

#### (A) Internal Consultations



The Executive Director of Children Social Care and Education. Children’s Social Care, Virtual School, Early Help have been involved in the consultations and changes to practice in relation to school attendance for vulnerable children.

Report requested by the Persistent Absence Members Working Group.

Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6269/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4470/21.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## **(B) External Consultations**

None

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Tracy McKeating
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	Tel: 0151 934 3269
<b>Email Address:</b>	tracy.mckeating@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## **1. Introduction/Background**

From 20th March 2020, parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible. Schools remained open, only for children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and who cannot safely be cared for at home.

In Sefton, throughout the COVID-19 crisis, all schools and colleges remained open with a significant number remaining open during the school holiday periods, with some schools staying open during bank holidays as well. As part of the partnership response to COVID-19 an ‘Education cell’ was established, providing business continuity, planning, advice, support and local information to support families ensuring that schools received the relevant public health advice. As part of this business continuity framework a specific task group was put into place to review vulnerable children and school attendance, to ensure the interventions would be fit-for-purpose for responding to the pandemic.

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## **2. VULNERABLE PUPILS GROUP ATTENDING SCHOOL GROUP:**

- 2.1 A weekly meeting was put into place in April 2020, to look at the attendance of vulnerable children. The membership included Children's Social Care, Early Help/school attendance, Virtual School and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
- 2.2 A checklist register was submitted weekly including those children who were Looked After, or known to the partnership through Child Protection, Children in Need, or Early Help and those that schools had identified as vulnerable. The checklist also enabled schools to add comments and informed the Council what interventions/support has been offered for those children not attending. Children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) were dealt with by the Special Educational Needs Service through the completion of risk assessments with schools.
- 2.3 There was an expectation that vulnerable children who have a Social Worker and those children supported by an EHCP Plan will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have significant underlying health conditions that put them at risk.
- 2.4 Those children with an EHCP were risk-assessed by School in consultation with the Local Authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a School place in order to meet their needs; or, whether they can safely have their needs met at home.
- 2.5 This weekly meeting has focused on monitoring attendance and identifying what some of the barriers have been for children eligible to access a school place. If any challenges have arisen in relation to children not attending school, one of the groups have addressed this. Good practice across schools and other services supporting the child has also been identified.

## **3. ATTENDANCE INTERVENTIONS**

- 3.1 From Monday, 23rd March 2020 until schools reopened for all pupils, the DfE confirmed schools were not required take the normal attendance register. Schools had to submit a status form daily, that contained the data in relation to vulnerable and key worker children.
- 3.2 The attendance legislation was changed by the Coronavirus Act 2020, to ensure that parents do not commit an offence if their child is not attending school regularly.
- 3.3 Schools and education settings had to produce an addendum Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy outlining the arrangements for monitoring children who were not in school and the contact arrangements.
- 3.4 Children open to Social Care were visited by Social Workers. Those supported by Early Help Plans were monitored by Early Help with both door step visits and digital interventions. To address any concerns about those children who were not

on a plan, a team of Early Help School Attendance Workers visited them undertaking door step visits.

- 3.5 The School Attendance Panel function had to be adapted. Prior to calling the School Attendance Panel meeting, the school must submit evidence to show that they have tried to improve the pupil's attendance. The LA invites the parent and the school to a panel meeting. At the meeting, the School Attendance Lead issues the parent with a formal warning and advises that the LA will instigate legal proceedings if attendance does not improve. The pupil and parents are given the opportunity to explain the reasons for the poor attendance and explore any ways in which the Panel can provide support. Addressing bullying is embedded into this process. The Panel then produces an action plan based on the strengths-based model of practice. If the family are involved with other agencies they are encouraged to attend. As there is a pandemic this panel has not been able to go ahead. What has been agreed is that the attendance lead will see these families in the family well-being centre which will help address problems that may be beyond the capacity of the school to deal with unaided.
- 3.6 To assist in the promotion of attendance of vulnerable children, a leaflet aimed at encouraging parents and children to see the benefits of their attendance at school, has been sent out.

Correspondence has been sent to parents encouraging children to attend. Promotional materials have been posted on social media platforms including videos reassuring parents about safety measures have been produced by children in schools and the 0 to 19 service school nurses.

- 3.7 Due to the COVID pandemic we could not have the face- to -face annual attendance network. An attendance surgery was set up virtually whereby schools can come and discuss school attendance issues. The surgeries are aimed at school strategic leader for attendance and the school attendance administrator. This provided an opportunity to share good practice and develop strategies for schools to implement and report back on, in subsequent Network meetings.

## **4. CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION**

- 4.1 Sefton Council continued to operate the Children Missing Education procedures and all children who came into the LA requiring a school place accessed an education setting without delay.

## **5. ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION**

- 5.1 The numbers of families requesting to home educate their children increased significantly from September re-opening of schools and through the Autumn term. Sefton had an overall increase of 25% by the end of December. The total number of Elective Home Education new requests received since term started is four which means our current total in Sefton currently stands at 200. This would indicate that the rapid rate of deregistration from September has gradually reduced though numbers have remained high overall. 63 pupils have been closed to EHE since

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September 2020 through re-engagement with school settings or moving out of area.

Although numbers remain significant and of concern, this increase has been below the national average reported increase of 38% (ACDS Annual Home Education Survey).

- 5.2 A significant number of parents/carers were citing anxiety about COVID19 as the reason for choosing to home educate. Covid related concern is now ranked third in the list of reasons that parents provide for requesting deregistration.
- 5.3 We have asked our headteachers to work with parents to ensure that they fully understand that by electing to home educate, their child will be removed from a school roll and will therefore not access the school's remote learning offer. We have requested that headteachers ensure parents have access to the 2019 DFE guidance to parents considering elective home education. Heads are actively encouraged to inform EHE officers in situations where parents are contemplating EHE to ensure that where possible any issues or disputes can be resolved.
- 5.4 For all new de-registrations, families are being contacted by LA officers who during initial contacts discuss with parents the reasons why they want to home educate. Staff ensure that parents who are not sending their child to school because they are anxious about Covid 19 related issues understand their options and the implications of continuing to provide home education. The team also provide information to parents on home education and continue to establish whether the education provided by the parent is suitable for the child.
- 5.5 Sefton has a clear policy on EHE which is in line with DFE guidance for Local Authorities and for Parents.
- 5.6 Arrangements are in place through the In Year Fair Access Protocol to return children to school should elective home education be deemed as unsuitable or if parents change their minds about their decision.

## 6. AUTUMN TERM

- 6.1 During the Autumn term despite being in tier 3 Sefton overall absence in schools and education settings was above the national average.

# Agenda Item 6

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Children and Young Peoples Plan Data Dashboard in depth narrative.		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All.
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

This report is to present to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee an update on the data relating to the Children and Young Peoples Plan four priorities, presented to the previous Committee

## Recommendation:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the committee receives a further update on the progress of the plan in six months.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The committee is asked to routinely receive and note updates to ensure compliance with required governance standards.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not applicable.

## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no additional revenue costs identified within this report.

### (B) Capital Costs

There are no additional capital costs identified within this report.

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
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There are no additional resource implications
<b>Legal Implications:</b>
<b>Equality Implications:</b>

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The indicators reflect the impact of the Children and Young Peoples Plan which aims to ensure every child and young person in Sefton is Heard Happy, Healthy and Achieves their full potential
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Ensuring Sefton children are Heard, Happy, healthy and Achieving will support them to make a positive contribution to their community and achieve their potential into adulthood. .
Commission, broker and provide core services: The indicators reflect the impact of the Children and Young Peoples Plan which states 4 priorities that will shape all activity in relation to Children and Young People in Sefton from 2020 – 2025 and influences the Joint Commissioning Strategy.
Place – leadership and influencer: The indicators reflect the impact of the Children and Young Peoples Plan which states 4 priorities that will shape all activity in relation to Children and Young People in Sefton from 2020 – 2025.
Drivers of change and reform: The indicators reflect the impact of the Children and Young Peoples Plan which states 4 priorities that will shape all activity in relation to Children and Young People in Sefton from 2020 – 2025.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director Corporate Resources & Customer Services (FD.6268/21) and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4469/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eleanor Moulton
Telephone Number:	07779162882
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:Eleanor.Moulton@sefton.gov.uk">Eleanor.Moulton@sefton.gov.uk</a>

## Appendices:

1. The latest Children and Young Peoples Plan dashboard

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 On the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the Committee will recall that a report was presented detailing the final version of the Children and Young Peoples Plan, 2020 – 2025. Following the Committees review of the draft plan in November 2019. Setting out that the plan went on to gain cabinet approval in January and was adopted as Children and Young Peoples plan for Sefton with affect from the 1st March 2020. The report presented a delivery plan to accompany the document and an animation to support the communication of the plan's key priorities and an example copy of the data dashboard that forms part of the delivery plan.
- 1.2 The Committee will recall the data contained in the dashboard led to debate and an action was agreed to come back to the January meeting with the most up to date data available and a fuller narrative to the performance and statistics presented, in addition a workshop was held with committee members to look at the data in detail .
- 1.3 The data dashboard is intended to indicate progress about the ongoing delivery of the Children and Young Peoples plan across the whole partnership of Health, Social Care, Public Health, Early Help, and Education and the important role of the Community , Voluntary and Faith Sector. The intention is to help inform focus on areas of continuous improvement required and to understand the effect of delivery of a wide range of operational and strategic developments. All of which are supported through robust governance and scrutiny and over seen by the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board. .

### 2. Updates on each Dash Board area:

**Indicator 1 – Proportion of Children Classed as Overweight or Obese – Reception (%) and 2. Proportion of Children Classed as Overweight or Obese - Year 6 (%) (these are annual indicators)**

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The National Child Measurement programme was halted during 2020 due to COVID-19 which explains why the data for reception aged children is incomplete. The programme is due to recommence in January 2021. Despite the lack of available data for 2020/21 we anticipate further negative impact on overweight and obesity levels due to the pandemic.

Overweight and obesity levels in reception remain steady, however by the time children reach YR6, almost 39% are overweight or obese and boys fair worse than girls at the same age.

There continues to be a strong correlation between socio economic disadvantage and obesity and with inequalities widening as a result of COVID-19, we expect that poor nutrition and lack of opportunities to be physically active, will impact on people living in poverty the most.

PH is committed to adopting a Whole Systems Approach to obesity across the life course and this is a key workstream for the Integrated Commissioning agenda in Sefton. Consultation was carried out in late 2019, early 2020 with key stakeholders to determine key priorities. Food poverty was indicated a priority at that point. Since September work has recommenced through an integrated commissioning framework. Acknowledging the impact of COVID-19 on people and families, it is proposed that a piece of behavioural insight work takes place to develop better understanding of local people's perception of overweight and obesity, importance of affordable and accessible nutrition and opportunity to be active.

Active Sefton provide prevention and early intervention programmes in school and community settings to address overweight and obesity, poor nutrition and inactivity. During COVID-19, activities have continued to be delivered online and support for schools has been made available. It is proposed that the school offer be reviewed considering the current data, with activities targeted in hot spot areas. This will require commitment across the partnership to prioritise this agenda.

0-19 Healthy Child Programme provide support for new mother to breastfeed and wean their children, a key contributor to healthy weight going forward, which includes provision of peer support. NBWH are undertaking a review of infant feeding provision to better meet the needs of families locally. Sefton has agreed to contribute to a research project on infant feeding which will help to build capacity and expertise in this area.

### **Indicator 3. Proportion of Mothers Smoking at Time of Delivery (SATOD) (%) (this is a quarterly indicator)**

Smoking in pregnancy is a common cause of pregnancy and post-natal complications associated with low birth weight. Passive smoking in infancy is a leading risk factor in sudden infant deaths.

Smoking in pregnancy shows a strong association with younger age and socio-economic disadvantage. Risk also increases with second or subsequent pregnancy, white ethnicity, and for women with complex social needs.

The social gradient for women who are identified as continuing to smoke at the end of their pregnancy is less steep, compared to early pregnancy. This shows that Maternity and Stop smoking services are delivering effective support for women who experience multiple challenges. But it also underlines the importance of building in wider psycho-



social support to improve mental wellbeing and lower risk of relapse or continuation of smoking.

Key points:

- The Public Health Outcomes Framework now includes an indicator for the proportion of women identified as smoking in early pregnancy. In 2018/19 17.7% of women were identified as smoking in early pregnancy (vs 12.8% nationally), and Sefton ranks sixth highest in the North West.
- In 2019/20 255 (10.8%) of pregnant women in Sefton were identified as continuing to smoke at time of delivery. This compares to 12.8% in the North West and 10.4% in England. (This period covers the year to 31st March, so a small effect on clinical practice and detection of smoking may be present.)
- Sefton's rate is falling significantly faster than the national rate, but is not currently on track to achieve the national target of 6% in 2022 across all parts of Sefton
- The clear improving trend over the last three years compares favourably to other CCG areas in Cheshire and Merseyside
- The 2019/20 figure in Southport and Formby area is 8.7% (77 women), almost 2% points lower than the previous year.
- The 5.9% to 14.0% 20/21 quarter 1 vs 19/20 quarter 1 comparison in the performance framework is within expected variation given the small numbers involved but is likely to be distorted by suspension of carbon monoxide monitoring. This is also the case for quarterly comparison in South Sefton
- In South Sefton, the 2019/20 rate is higher, but falling at a similar pace (12.8%, 178 women).

Action, progress and covid-19 update:

- Southport and Ormskirk Maternity Unit have a dedicated midwife who provides targeted support to pregnant women throughout their antenatal period, however. It is worth noting that some of these women give birth at Liverpool Women's Hospital and so there is also positive impact on SATOD data for South Sefton, similarly, some women who give birth in Southport and Ormskirk Hospital, have received their antenatal care, from another team, who may not provide the same level of support for pregnant women.
- Due to COVID-19 there has been changes in practice and improvements in practice
- No Carbon Monoxide monitoring was carried out due to COVID-19 restrictions. CO monitoring is due to recommence, following publication of new guidance. This ensures an objective measure of women's smoking status, rather than self-report.
- Home visits for more intensive support from the specialist midwife and the pregnancy advisor in the stop smoking service have been suspended during

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COVID but specialist follow-up and advice continue at scan appointments and particularly where woman do not remain engaged with the stop smoking service

- Women now have to wait for a supply of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) from the stop smoking services, instead of using a voucher to collect NRT from the pharmacy on the same day.
- COVID-19 has delayed the roll-out of evidence-based BabyClear training, but revised maternity staff training was rolled out during in the summer
- Weekly meetings introduced between maternity service and the specialist stop to discuss referrals and actions.

## **Indicator 4. Proportion of Children with Up-to-date Immunisations for DTAP/IPV/HIB at 1 year old (%) (this is an annual update)**

These immunisations are under taken in General Practice and although promoted through the 0 – 19 service they are managed through NHS England.

## **Indicator 5. Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000) (this is an annual update)**

This indicator relates to the performance of indicators 1 - 4 as well as wider determinants of health and wellbeing, the delivery of the 2020 – 2025 health and wellbeing strategy highlights this and gives us a system direction to work collectively on this area, this indicator will only be affected by long term efforts in this area and the ultimate ambition of the Startegy is that we will make a impact as a system by 2025.

## **Indicator 6. Self-harm Hospital Admissions - 10-24 yr olds (Rate per 100,000)**

Between 2017/18 and 2018/19 one of Sefton's main acute providers (Southport & Ormskirk) enacted a change in their emergency pathway process to increase the number of same day emergency care (SDEC) beds. This resulted in an increase in A&E attendances converting into an admission, mostly less than a day's length of stay. This was not a trend noted across the county as conversion rates nationally rose by 1% whereas Southport & Ormskirk Trust increased close to 10%.

This change resulted in increased numbers of Self Harm short stay admissions but not a corresponding increase in Self Harm A&E attendances / patients. A period of observation is recommended with the Self Harm NICE guidance. The increase for Self-Harm admissions is noted not only in Sefton but also in West Lancashire (the other main CCG user of S&O Trust).

## **Indicator 7 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children – aged 0-14 (Rate per 10,000) (this is an annual update)**

## **Indicator 8. Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children - aged 15-24 (Rate per 10,000)**

For indicators 7 and 8 as with the narrative and performance for Self-Harm admissions the pathway change within Southport & Ormskirk Trust across emergency care resulted in increased same day emergency care admissions. The implementation of this pathway change was Trust wide and as such conversion rates from A&E attendances to emergency admissions increased above levels seen nationally.

## **Indicator 9. Proportion of Pupils with Social / Emotional / Mental Health Needs (%)**

Although performance against national and north west comparators is better in Sefton, the actual numbers have risen nationally. The council leads a multi-disciplinary Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group which has just completed a new strategy on this that will be presented to the committee for comment before final adoption later this year. A significant amount of work to support this area has been completed with an emotional mental health tool kit for school and additional mental health support teams working with our schools. 2020 also saw the joint recommission and expansion of 'Kooth' an online platform to offer emotional and mental health support and access to trained counsellors.

## **Indicator 10. Proportion of Children and Young People (aged 0-18) with a Diagnosable Mental Health Condition who are Receiving Treatment from NHS Funded Community Services. (this is a quarterly indicator)**

Overall in the rolling 12 months ending June 2020, of the 4,998 children with diagnosable mental health conditions 35.9% received treatment during the year. This exceeds the national target for 2020/21 (35%). Projections for the remainder of 2020/21 are that the access will rise to around 40%.

## **Indicator 11. Average Wait for Completed Pathway in Month - Speech & Language Therapy (this is a quarterly indicator)**

All therapy services have been impacted on as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with NHSE guidance for community services, all but clinically urgent services were cancelled to support the acute response during the first lockdown in 2020. As we moved into Phase 3 of the pandemic response, the focus of activity was service restoration, specifically the increase in face to face activity both in clinic and education settings. At the end of November all therapy waiting times were below the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard

## **Indicator 12: Average Wait for Completed Pathway in Month – Physio**

All therapy services have been impacted on as a result of the COVID pandemic. In line with NHSE guidance for community services, all but clinically urgent services were cancelled to support the acute response during the first lockdown in 2020. As we moved into Phase 3 of the pandemic response, the focus of activity was service restoration, specifically the increase in face to face activity both in clinic and education settings. At the end of November all therapy waiting times were below the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard

## **Indicator 13. Average Wait for Completed Pathway in Month - Occupational Therapy**

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All therapy services have been impacted on as a result of the COVID pandemic. In line with NHSE guidance for community services, all but clinically urgent services were cancelled to support the acute response during the first lockdown in 2020. As we moved into Phase 3 of the pandemic response, the focus of activity was service restoration, specifically the increase in face to face activity both in clinic and education settings. At the end of November all therapy waiting times were below the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard

## **Indicator 15. CAMHS - % Referral to Choice Within 6 Weeks In line with NHSE requirements**

A 24/7 CAMHS Crisis Service was implemented in April 2020. CAMHS staff were redeployed to as part of the initial staffing which reduced capacity within the service. As we moved into Phase 3 CAMHS staff began to return to the core service restoring capacity. Referral to choice waiting time has seen a small reduction in compliance with the agreed 6 week completed pathways standard (92%). This is due to an increase in urgent referrals, seen since COVID (who require an appointment within 2 weeks) and therefore some children waiting for routine appointments have waited longer than 6 weeks. There is additional capacity in the service from January 2021 and it is expected that this position will improve from this point via National Lottery and CCG funding. In addition, CCG has provided similar funding to Venus and Parenting2000.

## **Indicator 16: CAMHS - % Referral to Partnership Within 18 Weeks**

In line with NHSE requirements 24/7 CAMHS Crisis Service was implemented in April 2020. CAMHS staff were redeployed to as part of the initial staffing which reduced capacity within the service. As we moved into Phase 3 CAMHS staff began to return to the core service restoring capacity. Referral to partnership waiting times has deteriorated in November. The overall waiting list for first partnership has only increased by 9 in the month of November, however the service is experiencing additional demand for urgent choice and partnership appointments (as a result of COVID) and there are a number of complex and high risk young people requiring significant support from the Sefton CAMHS team. There is additional capacity in the service from January 2021 and it is expected that this position will improve from this point via National Lottery and CCG funding. In addition, CCG has provided similar funding to Venus and Parenting2000

## **Indicator 18. Rate of Children Looked After (CLA) per 10,000 Population**

Over the last couple of years, Sefton's rate of Looked After Children has increased and is now above the Northwest and national average. However, the trend of increasing numbers can be seen across the north west and England and has been further impacted upon due to covid 19. It is reported that within the past decade, the number of children in care across the country has increased by 28% which has placed pressure on all Local Authority's.

In sefton, prior to a child coming into care, careful consideration is given to that child's care plan and agreement is given through consultation with the council's legal department and a service manager. We also oversee and ensure our children exit care if it is safe to do so, this will ensure that children do not continue to be a Looked after unnecessarily. A CSC annual and bi annual report is regularly provided to Overview and scrutiny which provides further information and detail about the services provided by CSC and children who are Looked After.

**Indicator 19: Rate of Child Protection Plans (CPP) per 10,000 Population (this is a quarterly indicator) indicator 22. Proportion of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan for a Second or Subsequent Time (%).**

Sefton's rate of Child Protection is slightly below the Northwest average but above the national average. Child protection numbers have remained static, however increased incrementally since 2016. Neglect is more widely recognised by the partnership and children are identified as requiring a child protection plans based on their level of need and are reviewed on a regular basis by a multi-agency group. In 2020, we strengthened our child in need oversight with the introduction of a Child In need (CIN) Independent reviewing officer who oversees complex CIN cases. We expect over time, with this strengthened Child In need process, that this may decrease the number of children subject to Child Protection plans as well as those who are subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time A CSC annual and bi annual report is regularly provided to Overview and scrutiny which provides further information and detail about the services provided by CSC and children who are subject to child protection plans.

**Indicator 20. Rate of Children in Need (CiN) per 10,000 Population (this is a bi annual indicator)**

This indicator provides information on the overall number of children open to children's Social Care. The rate of Children in Need in Sefton has steadily increased over the last few years, and Sefton is currently experiencing a higher rate above both the regional and England averages. There is ongoing work with early help to ensure children receive an appropriate service at the right time and children will receive the support from a social worker if this is required. A Children's Social Care annual and bi annual report is regularly provided to Overview and scrutiny which provides further information and detail about the services provided by CSC and children who receive a service from a social worker,

**Indicator 21. Proportion of Children Meeting 'Good' for Work Being Child Centred (%) (this is a bi annual indicator)**

This indicator identifies those children who have been subject to a case file audit, where practice demonstrates that the work undertaken was child centred and the voice of the child was present and informing their plan. This is a small sample of the number of children who are open to CSC and therefore the performance within this indicator fluctuates. Case file audits demonstrate that evidence of direct work with children is strong in some cases, most notably for children who are Looked after. In order to improve the voice of the child further and ensure this is captured, training is being delivered to social workers and we are revising documentation in our Liquid Logic system to make it more accessible to children and young people. Voice of the child is also a key area of focus for the principal social worker.

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## **Indicator 23. Rate of Open Early Help Episodes per 10,000 Population Rate of Open Early Help Episodes per 10,000 Population**

It is likely that the increase in Early Help Episodes, coincides with the impact of COVID. A rise in Early Help cases was seen right at the start in March followed by another peak in October likely to coincide with children returning to schools. Family wellbeing Centres lead on 78% of these cases.

## **Indicator 24. Proportion of Early Help Episodes Ended as 'Could Not Engage' (%)**

This has been an area of focus and possibly reflects the impact of the new engagement toolkit. The reduction could also be attributed to the fact that families are in greater need and are more willing to accept support.

## **Indicator 25. Proportion of Children Subject to an Early Help Plan for a Second or Subsequent Time %**

It could be suggested that the decline in repeat referrals reflects an improvement in case work which is also reflected with Troubled Family claims. Analysis would also need to be considered alongside the proportion of children who stepped up to CSC in order to gain a full view.

## **Indicator 26. Early Years Foundation Stage (ALL): % Achieving a Good Level of Development**

(this is an annual indicator)

Sefton have remained broadly in line with regional averages though have showed a slight decline compared to the National Averages. Focused work with school readiness hubs is in place to address this.

## **Indicator 27. Early Years Foundation Stage (SEN = S&E): % Achieving a Good Level of Development**

## **Indicator 28. Key Stage 2 (ALL): % Achieving Expected Standard (Test RWM)**

## **Indicator 29. Key Stage 2 (SEN = S&E): % Achieving Expected Standard (Test RWM)**

## **Indicator 30. Key Stage 4 (ALL): Progress 8 Score**

## **Indicator 31. Key Stage 4 (SEN = S&E): Progress 8 Score**

For indicators 27 to 31 the data presented is for 2018-2019. Due to covid a decision was made by the government not to publish any data for 2019-2020 given the disruption to children's education. There will not be any data published for 2020-2021 as exams and tests will not be taking place. To ensure that we are aware of any issues we are working closely with schools through meetings and monitoring of websites to ensure the provision of remote learning focuses on pupils' learning and progress.

## **Indicator 32. Proportion ALL Primary Pupils Absent more than 10% of the School Year (%)**

## **Indicator 33. Proportion ALL Secondary Pupils Absent more than 10% of the School Year (%)**

## **Indicator 34. Proportion ALL Special Schools Pupils Absent more than 10% of the School Year (%)**

For indicators 32 to 35. There is a full report being presented to overview and scrutiny committee today highlighting attendance during covid. However, Sefton was above national average for attendance in the autumn term of 2020 and above average for the attendance of vulnerable children and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.

## **Indicator 35. Proportion of Places/Learners in State Funded Schools Rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' in their Ofsted Inspection (%)**

There have not been any full inspections since March 2020 due to covid. Several schools have had an Ofsted visit in the autumn term which was fact finding and no judgement made, all the visits were positive. Spring term 2021 Ofsted will be visiting inadequate schools, and some requires improvement schools however no judgement will be given. As of February 2020, 94% of primary aged children attend good or better schools; 56% of secondary aged children attend good or better schools; 100% of children in special schools are in good or better and 100% of nursery children in nursery schools are in good or better.

## **Indicator 36. Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support as Percentage of all School**

This indicator reflects the rate only and not performance or need for improvement

## **Indicator 37. Proportion of New EHC Plans Issued within 20 Weeks (excluding exception cases) (%)**

This is greatly improved under the SEND continuous improvement work stream and is managed through this route, a report on SEND is available for committee today.

## **Indicator 38 Missing Children Numbers**

The rate of missing children has remained static over the last 6 months following a drop in the first half of the year that coincided with the first National Covid lockdown. Quality audits are showing us that there is no single specific factor in children and young people going missing. There remains a high refusal rate in agreeing to an independent Return Interview which quality audits tells us again there is no specific reason for. This is an area of close scrutiny and is reported regularly to the Child Exploitation sub group of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. In addition there are strong links with the Children Missing Education to ensure that information is shared to support this group of young people.

## **3. Conclusion**

The report provides the detail around each indicator with the intention of measuring performance around the four priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan. The indicators are intended to be a proxy measure around progress of the plan, they are

# Agenda Item 6

reported in regularly to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and where indicated further reporting or a deep dive into a specific issue may be requested.



# Overview Dashboard

# Children & Young People

Updated: January 2021

Roger Robinson  
Commissioning Support & Business Intelligence Service  
Data, Performance, Analysis & Insight



Sefton  
2030  
Ready for the future

## Document Control

Version	Date of Issue	Reason for Issue
V1	10/02/2020	Template Finalised

## Document Ownership

Role	Name/Title
Collated by	Roger Robinson Business Intelligence & Performance Lead
Contributors	Sefton LA, Local CCGs
Release Authority	Eleanor Moulton Integrated Care & Health Manager
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## Distribution

Item	Groups
To	Cabinet Member, ASC DMT, ASC Teams
Sensitivity	N/A

## Commentary

# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard

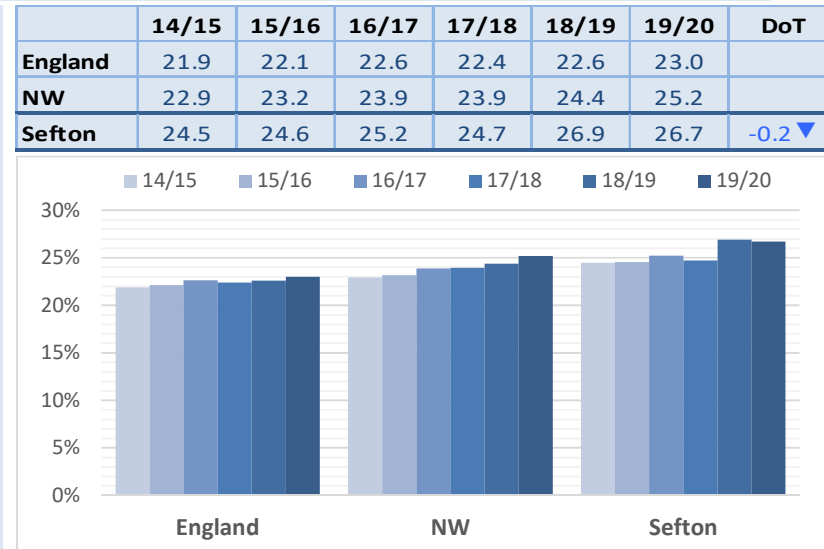


## 1. Proportion of Children Classed as Overweight or Obese - Reception (%)

**16% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**6% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**1% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods



The proportion of 'Overweight' or 'Obese' children in Reception remained high in 19/20. As this data is essentially a sample of pupils although reception data was deemed fit for publication it should be noted it only achieved 32% coverage in 19/20. Note this collection has been paused due to Covid-19.

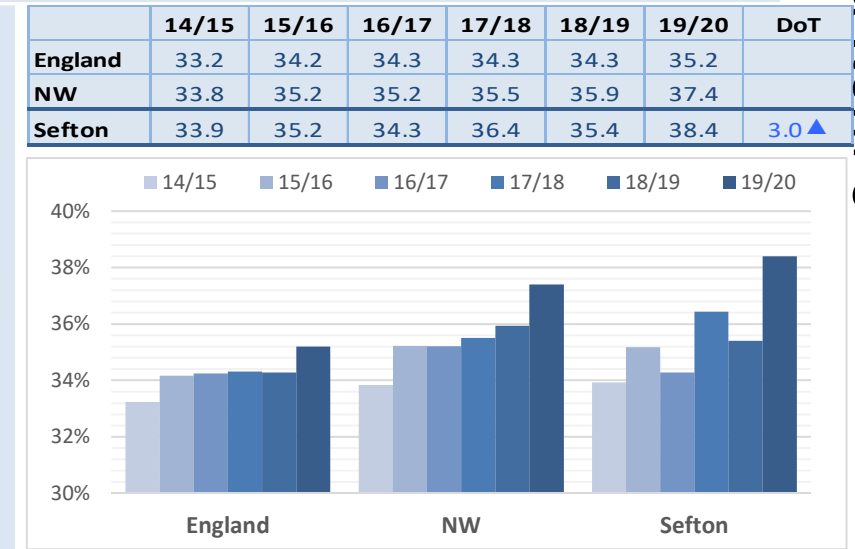


## 2. Proportion of Children Classed as Overweight or Obese - Year 6 (%)

**9% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**3% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**8% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods



The proportion of 'Overweight' or 'Obese' children in Year 6 rose in 2019/20 and whilst all areas have seen increases in obesity Sefton is above the NW average for the first time. As this data is essentially a sample of pupils Year 6 data is deemed reliable at 94% coverage. Note this collection has been paused due to Covid-19.

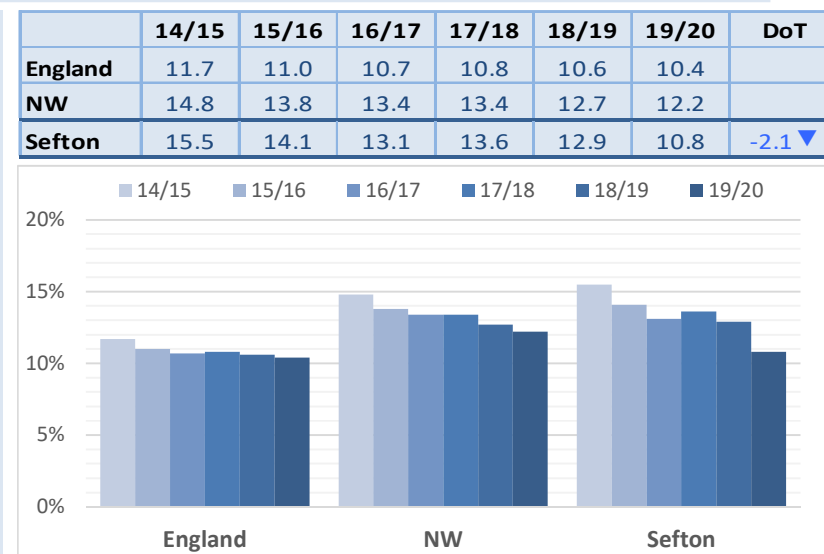


## 3. Proportion of Mothers Smoking at Time of Delivery (SATOD) (%)

**4% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**11% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ✓

**16% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods



The proportion of mothers smoking at time of delivery in Sefton has declined over recent years. Note that due to COVID-19 there has been changes in practice and improvements in practice: No Carbon Monoxide monitoring was carried out due to COVID-19 restrictions though CO monitoring is due to recommence. Home visits for more intensive support from the specialist midwife and the pregnancy advisor in the stop smoking service have been suspended during COVID but specialist follow-up and advice continue at scan appointments and particularly where woman do not remain engaged with the stop smoking service. COVID-19 has delayed the roll-out of evidence-based BabyClear training, but revised maternity staff training was rolled out during in the summer. Weekly meetings introduced between maternity service and the specialist stop to discuss referrals and actions.

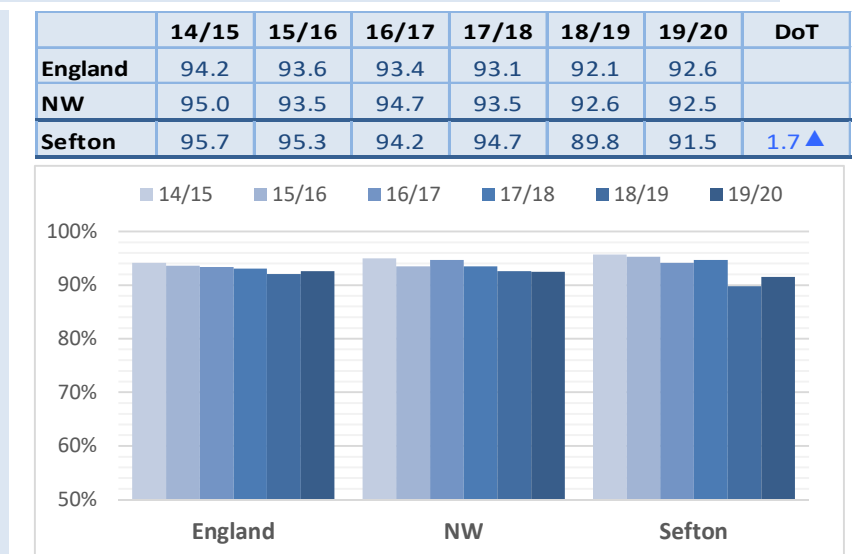


## 4. Proportion of Children with Up-to-date Immunisations for DTAP/IPV/HIB at 1 year old (%)

**1% Lower**  
Than the National Average ❌

**1% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**2% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods



The proportion of immunised children increased in 2019/20.

# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



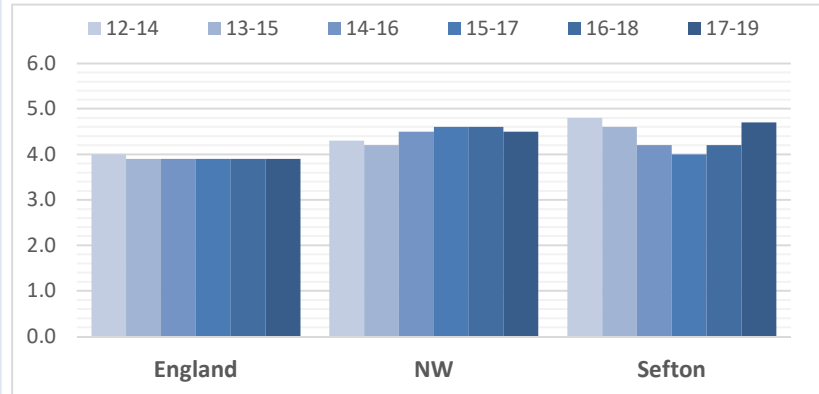
## 5. Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000)

**21% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**2% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**12% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	12-14	13-15	14-16	15-17	16-18	17-19	DoT
England	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	
NW	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	
Sefton	4.8	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.7	0.5 ▲



Sefton's infant mortality rate has remained between 4 and 5 per 1,000 over the last 6 years, and is not significantly different to the England average. The rate for 2017-19 increased compared to 16-18. It should be noted, however, that these rates are based on small numbers - there are less than 15 infant deaths (under 1 years) per year.



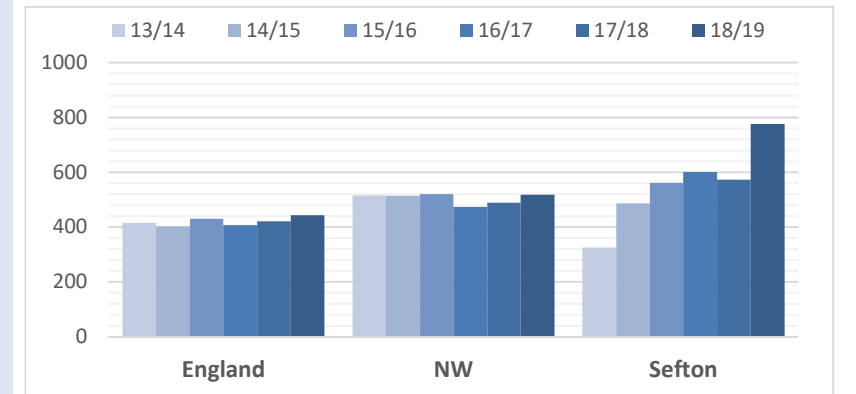
## 6. Self-harm Hospital Admissions - 10-24 yr olds (Rate per 100,000)

**75% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**50% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**35% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	DoT
England	416	402	431	407	421	444	
NW	515	515	520	474	489	517	
Sefton	326	486	561	601	574	776	202 ▲



Over the previous four years the proportion of children admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm steadily increased in Sefton. This pattern was contrary to patterns elsewhere where rates per head of population remained relatively stable. In 18/19 the recorded rate of self harm was particularly high compared to the national average though as explained in the associated report this figure is significantly influenced by a recording / process change in Southport Hospital and does not necessarily reflect a significant jump in actual self harm levels.



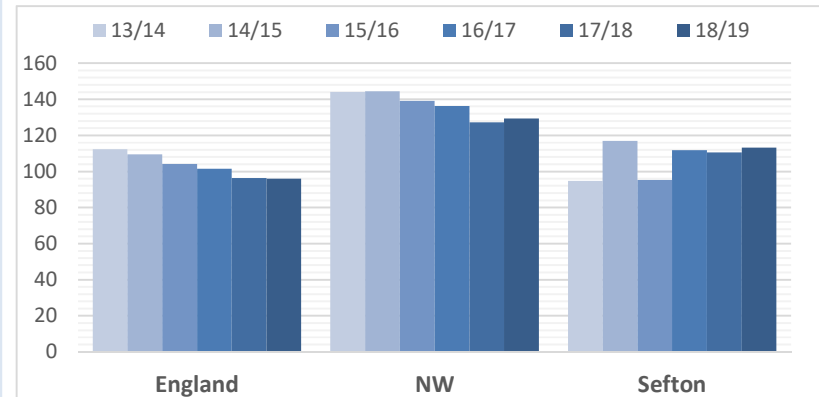
## 7. Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children - aged 0-14 (Rate per 10,000)

**18% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**13% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ✓

**2% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	DoT
England	112	110	104	102	96	96	
NW	144	145	139	136	127	130	
Sefton	95	117	95	112	111	113	2.7 ▲



Sefton's levels of hospital admissions for children is below the Northwest average.



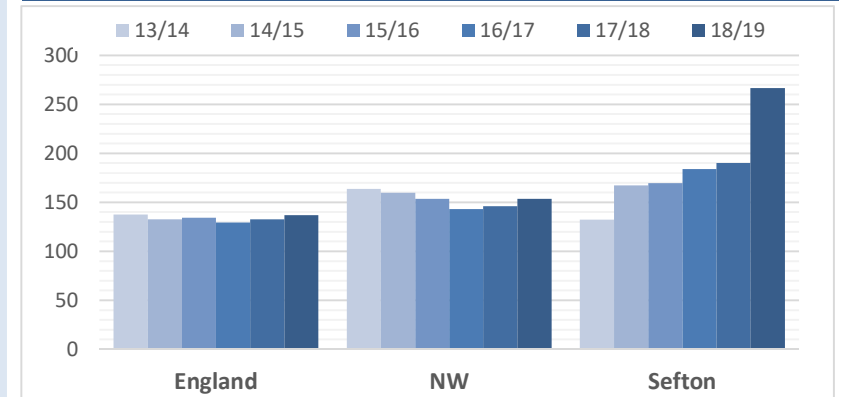
## 8. Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children - aged 15-24 (Rate per 10,000)

**95% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**74% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**40% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	DoT
England	138	133	134	129	133	137	
NW	164	160	154	143	146	154	
Sefton	132	167	170	184	190	267	76.7 ▲



Sefton's current rate of hospital admissions for older children and young adults is above the national average though this too may have been influenced by the recording / process change in Southport Hospital which are detailed in the associated report.

# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



## 9. Proportion of Pupils with Social / Emotional / Mental Health Needs (%)

**21%** **Lower**

Than the National Average



**17%** **Lower**

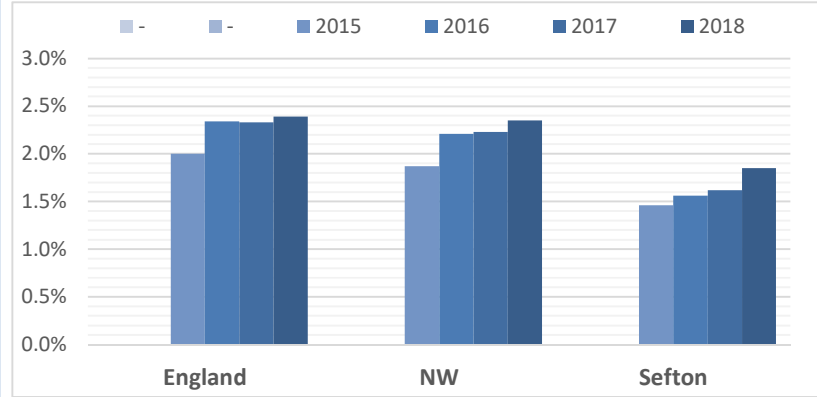
Than the Northwest Average



**14%** **Increase**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	-	-	2015	2016	2017	2018	DoT
England	-	-	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.4	
NW	-	-	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.4	
Sefton	-	-	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9	0.2▲



Over the last four years the proportion of children with social, emotional and mental health needs has steadily increased in Sefton, mirroring a similar pattern across the country. The rate remains slightly below the national and regional averages.



## 10. Proportion of Children and Young People (aged 0-18) with a Diagnosable Mental Health Condition who are Receiving Treatment from NHS Funded Community Services.

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

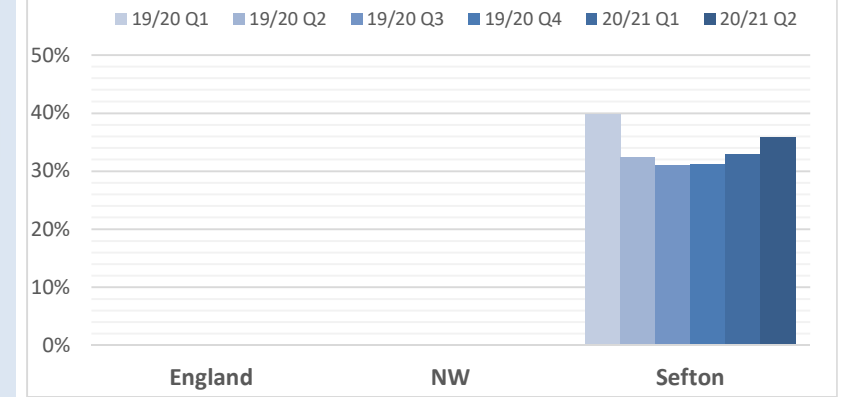
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**9%** **Increase**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4	20/21 Q1	20/21 Q2	DoT
England	-	-	-	-	-	-	
NW	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sefton	39.9	32.5	31.1	31.3	32.9	35.9	3.0▲



Overall in the rolling 12 months ending June 2020, of the 4,998 children with diagnosable mental health conditions 35.9% received treatment during the year. This exceeds the national target for 2020/21 (35%). Projections for the remainder of 2020/21 are that the access will rise to around 40%.



## 11. Average Wait for Completed Pathway in Month - Speech & Language Therapy

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

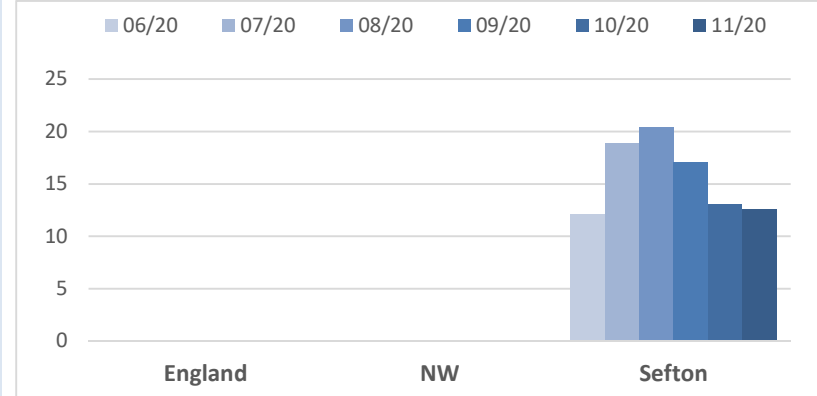
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**4%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20	11/20	DoT
England	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
NW	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sefton	12.1	18.9	20.4	17.0	13.1	12.6	-0.5▼



All therapy services have been impacted on as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with NHSE guidance for community services, all but clinically urgent services were cancelled to support the acute response during the first lockdown in 2020. As we moved into Phase 3 of the pandemic response, the focus of activity was service restoration, specifically the increase in face to face activity both in clinic and education settings. At the end of November all therapy waiting times were below the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard.



## 12. Average Wait for Completed Pathway in Month - Physio

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

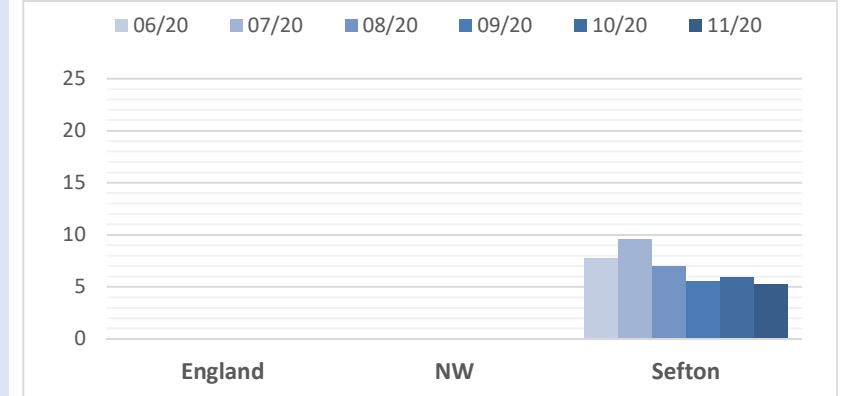
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**12%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20	11/20	DoT
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sefton	7.7	9.6	6.9	5.6	5.9	5.2	-0.7▼



All therapy services have been impacted on as a result of the COVID pandemic. In line with NHSE guidance for community services, all but clinically urgent services were cancelled to support the acute response during the first lockdown in 2020. As we moved into Phase 3 of the pandemic response, the focus of activity was service restoration, specifically the increase in face to face activity both in clinic and education settings. At the end of November all therapy waiting times were below the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard.

# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



## 13. Average Wait for Completed Pathway in Month - Occupational Therapy

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

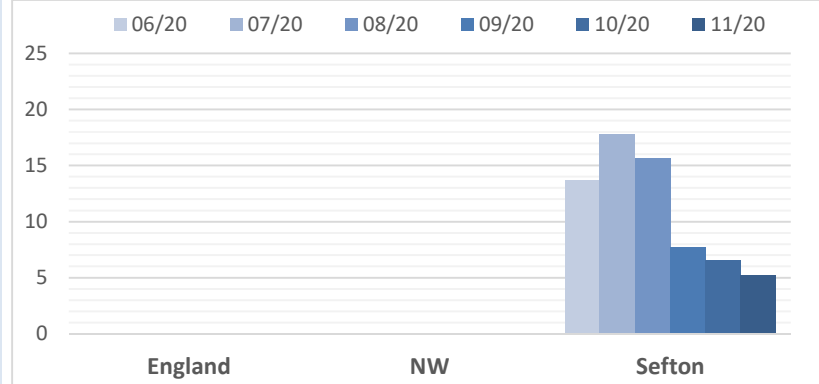
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**17% Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20	11/20	DoT
England	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
NW	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sefton	13.7	17.8	15.6	7.7	6.6	5.3	-1.3 ▼



All therapy services have been impacted on as a result of the COVID pandemic. In line with NHSE guidance for community services, all but clinically urgent services were cancelled to support the acute response during the first lockdown in 2020. As we moved into Phase 3 of the pandemic response, the focus of activity was service restoration, specifically the increase in face to face activity both in clinic and education settings. At the end of November all therapy waiting times were below the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard.



## 14. Average Wait for Completed Pathway in Month - Dietetics

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

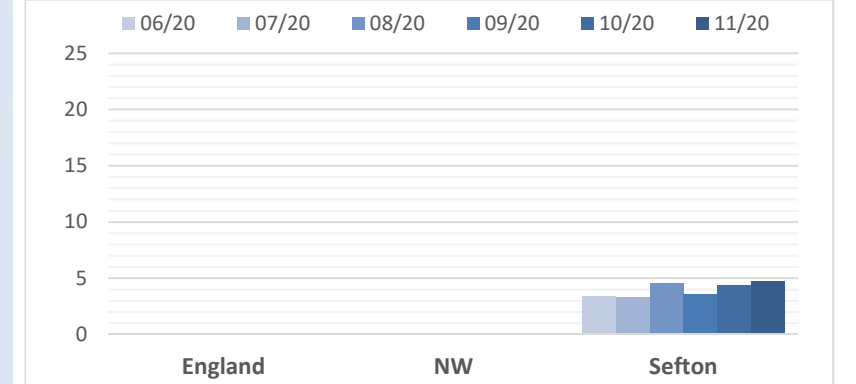
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**11% Increase**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20	11/20	DoT
England	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
NW	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sefton	3.4	3.3	4.6	3.6	4.3	4.7	0.4 ▲



All therapy services have been impacted on as a result of the COVID pandemic. In line with NHSE guidance for community services, all but clinically urgent services were cancelled to support the acute response during the first lockdown in 2020. As we moved into Phase 3 of the pandemic response, the focus of activity was service restoration, specifically the increase in face to face activity both in clinic and education settings. At the end of November all therapy waiting times were below the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard.



## 15. CAMHS - % Referral to Choice Within 6 Weeks

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

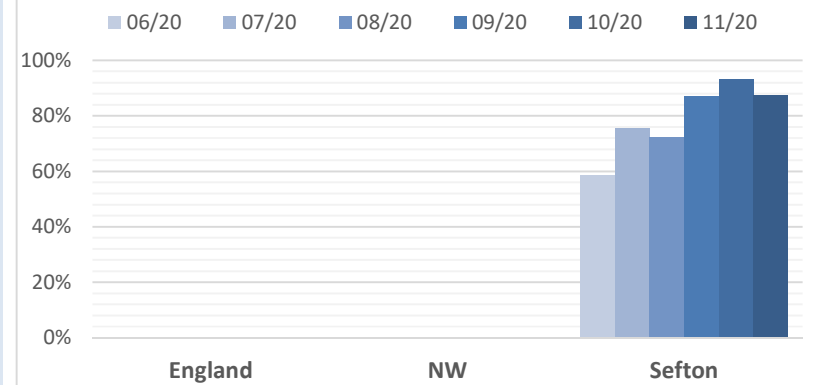
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**7% Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20	11/20	DoT
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sefton	58.9	75.5	72.4	86.9	93.2	87.3	-6 ▼



In line with NHSE requirements 24/7 CAMHS Crisis Service was implemented in April 2020. CAMHS staff were redeployed to as part of the initial staffing which reduced capacity within the service. As we moved into Phase 3 CAMHS staff began to return to the core service restoring capacity. Referral to choice waiting time has seen a small reduction in compliance with the agreed 6 week completed pathways standard (92%). This is due to an increase in urgent referrals, seen since COVID (who require an appointment within 2 weeks) and therefore some children waiting for routine appointments have waited longer than 6 weeks. There is additional capacity in the service from January 2021 and it is expected that this position will improve from this point via National Lottery and CCG funding. In addition, CCG has provided similar funding to Venus and Parenting2000.



## 16. CAMHS - % Referral to Partnership Within 18 Weeks

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

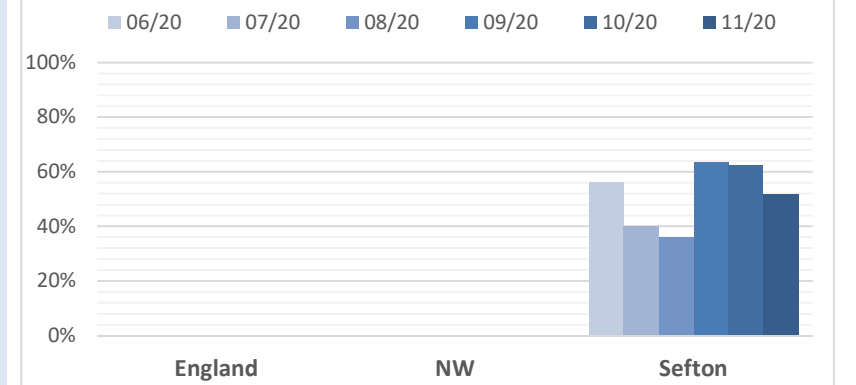
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**17% Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20	11/20	DoT
England	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
NW	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sefton	56.3	40.0	36.0	63.6	62.5	51.9	-10.6 ▼



In line with NHSE requirements 24/7 CAMHS Crisis Service was implemented in April 2020. CAMHS staff were redeployed to as part of the initial staffing which reduced capacity within the service. As we moved into Phase 3 CAMHS staff began to return to the core service restoring capacity. Referral to partnership waiting times has deteriorated in November. The overall waiting list for first partnership has only increased by 9 in the month of November, however the service is experiencing additional demand for urgent choice and partnership appointments (as a result of COVID) and there are a number of complex and high risk young people requiring significant support from the Sefton CAMHS team. There is additional capacity in the service from January 2021 and it is expected that this position will improve from this point via National Lottery and CCG funding. In addition, CCG has provided similar funding to Venus and Parenting2000.

# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



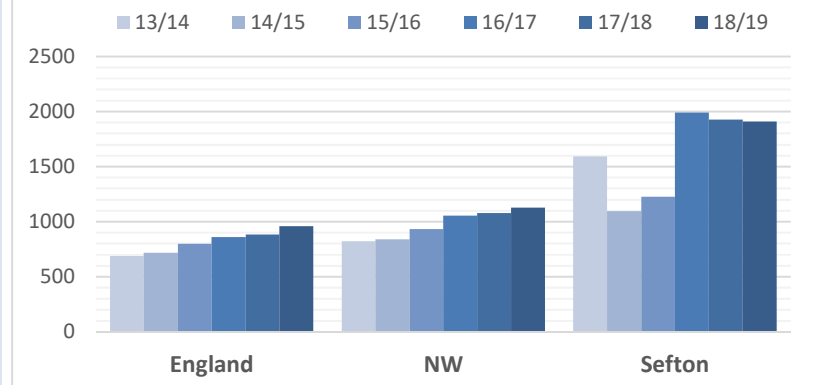
## 17. Accident & Emergency Attendances - under 1 year (Rate per 1,000)

**99% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**69% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**1% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	DoT
England	688	720	799	860	885	957	
NW	824	839	934	1054	1079	1129	
Sefton	1593	1096	1226	1990	1929	1910	-19 ▼



For national and regional trends there has been a general increase in A&E attendance rates. Over the last three years Sefton has been above the national and regional levels.



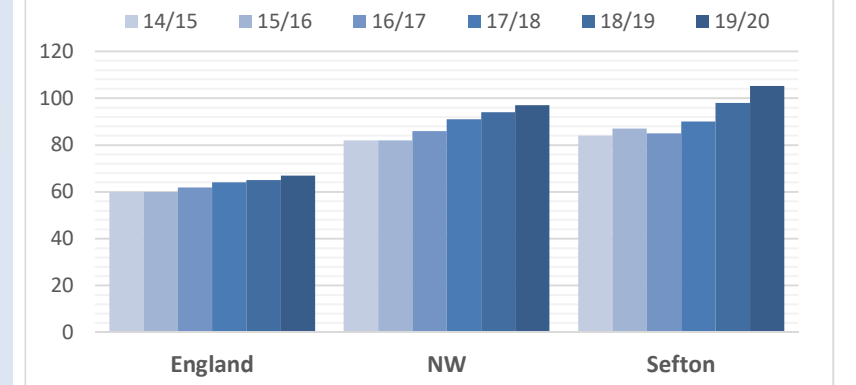
## 18. Rate of Children Looked After (CLA) per 10,000 Population

**62% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**12% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**7% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	DoT
England	60	60	62	64	65	67	
NW	82	82	86	91	94	97	
Sefton	84	87	85	90	98	105	7.2 ▲



Over the last couple of years Sefton's rate of Looked After Children has increased and is now above the Northwest and national average. However, the trend of increasing numbers can be seen nationally and regionally and has been further impacted upon by Covid-19. It is reported that within the past decade the number of children in care across the country has increased by 28% which has placed pressure on all Local Authorities. In Sefton, prior to a child coming into care, careful consideration is given to that child's care plan and agreement is given through consultation with the councils legal department and a service manager. We also oversee and ensure our children exit care if it is safe to do so, this will ensure that children do not continue to be a Looked After unnecessarily. A CSC annual and bi annual report is regularly provided to Overview and Scrutiny which provides further information and detail about the services provided by CSC and children who are Looked After.



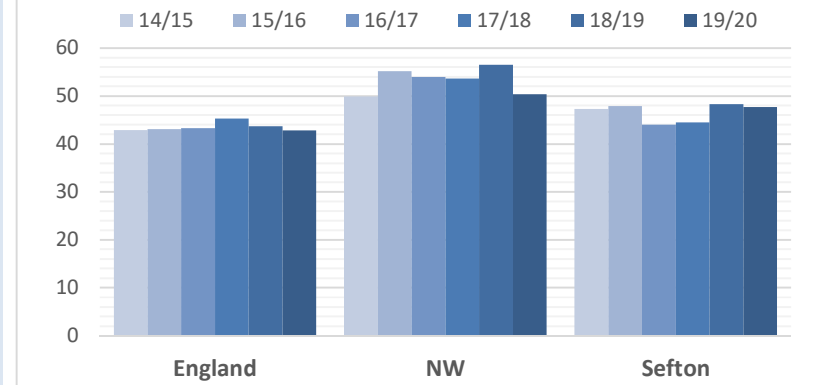
## 19. Rate of Child Protection Plans (CPP) per 10,000 Population

**9% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**16% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ✓

**1% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	DoT
England	43	43	43	45	44	43	
NW	50	55	54	54	57	50	
Sefton	47	48	44	45	48	48	-0.6 ▼



Sefton's rate of Child Protection is slightly below the Northwest average but above the national average. Child Protection numbers have remained fairly static, however increased incrementally since 2016. Neglect is more widely recognised by the partnership and children are identified as requiring a Child Protection plan based on their level of need and are reviewed on a regular basis by a multi agency group. In 2020 we strengthened our child in need oversight with the introduction of a Child In need (CIN) Independent Reviewing Officer who oversees complex CIN cases. We expect over time, with this strengthened Child In Need process, that this may decrease the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans. A CSC annual and bi annual report is regularly provided to Overview and Scrutiny which provides further information and detail about the services provided by CSC and children who are subject to Child Protection Plans.



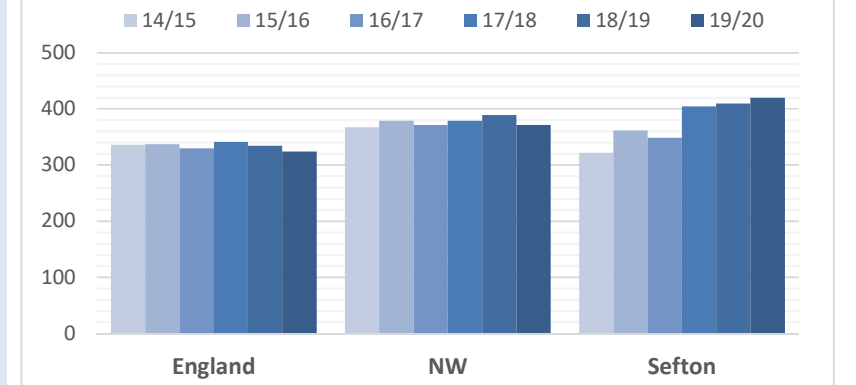
## 20. Rate of Children in Need (CiN) per 10,000 Population

**26% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**8% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**3% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	DoT
England	337	337	330	341	334	324	
NW	367	379	372	379	389	372	
Sefton	322	362	349	405	409	420	10.7 ▲



This indicator provides information on the overall number of children open to children's Social Care. The rate of Children in Need in Sefton has steadily increased over the last few years, and Sefton is currently experiencing a higher rate above both the regional and England averages. There is ongoing work with Early Help to ensure children receive an appropriate service at the right time and children will receive the support from a social worker if this is required. A CSC annual and bi annual report is regularly provided to Overview and Scrutiny which provides further information and detail about the services provided by CSC and children who receive a service from a social worker.



# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



## 21. Proportion of Children Meeting 'Good' for Work Being Child Centred (%)

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

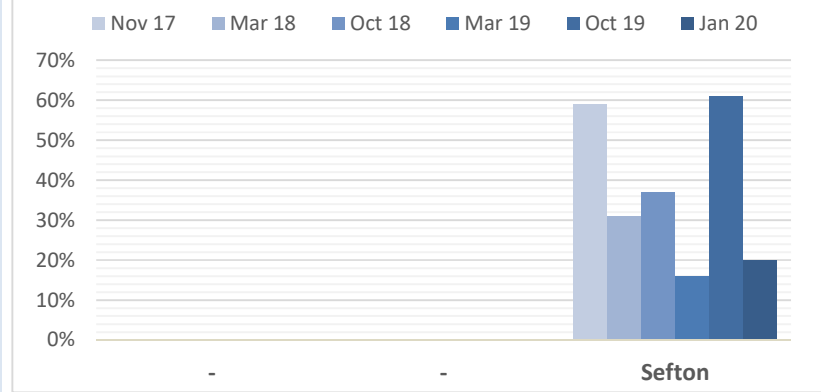
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**67%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	Nov 17	Mar 18	Oct 18	Mar 19	Oct 19	Jan 20	DoT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sefton</b>	59.0	31.0	37.0	16.0	61.0	20.0	-41.00



This indicator identifies those children who have been subject to a case file audit, where practice demonstrates that the work undertaken was child centred and the voice of the child was present and informing their plan. This is a small sample of the number of children who are open to CSC and therefore the performance within this indicator fluctuates. Case file audits demonstrate that evidence of direct work with children is strong in some cases, most notably for children who are Looked After. In order to improve the voice of the child further and ensure this is captured training is being delivered to social workers and we are revising documentation in our Liquid Logic system to make it more accessible to children and young people. Voice of the child is also a key area of focus for the principal social worker.



## 23. Rate of Open Early Help Episodes per 10,000 Population

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

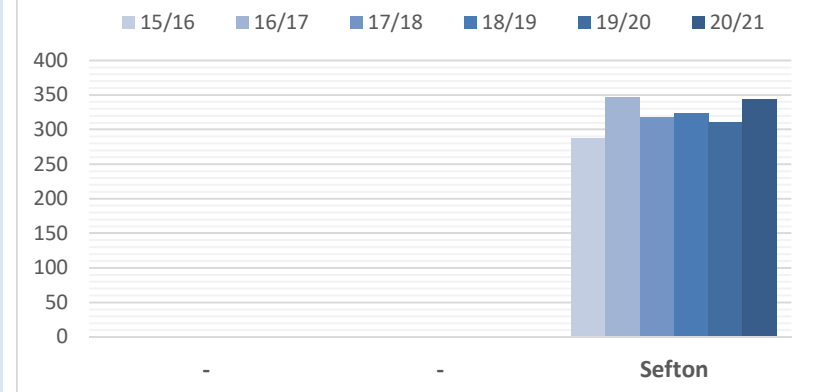
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**10%** **Increase**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	DoT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sefton</b>	288	347	318	324	311	343	32▲



The current rate of open Early Help Episodes at 20/21 Qtr 3 currently shows a 10% increase from 19/20 and is the second highest proportion since 16/17 reflecting the wider demand for support across our communities and the impact of COVID-19.



## 22. Proportion of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan for a Second or Subsequent Time (%)

**5%** **Higher**

Than the National Average

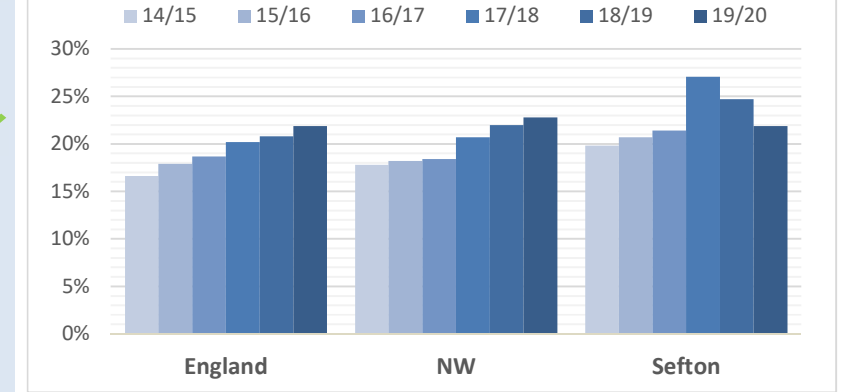
**0%** **Lower**

Than the Northwest Average

**10%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	DoT
<b>England</b>	16.6	17.9	18.7	20.2	20.8	21.9	
<b>NW</b>	17.8	18.2	18.4	20.7	22.0	22.8	
<b>Sefton</b>	19.8	20.7	21.4	27.1	24.7	21.9	-2.40



The proportion of repeat protection plans peaked in 17/18 and has subsequently fallen and is now below the regional average and equal the national average. A CSC annual and bi annual report is regularly provided to Overview and Scrutiny which provides further information and detail about the services provided by CSC and children who are subject to Child Protection Plans.



## 24. Proportion of Early Help Episodes Ended as 'Could Not Engage' (%)

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

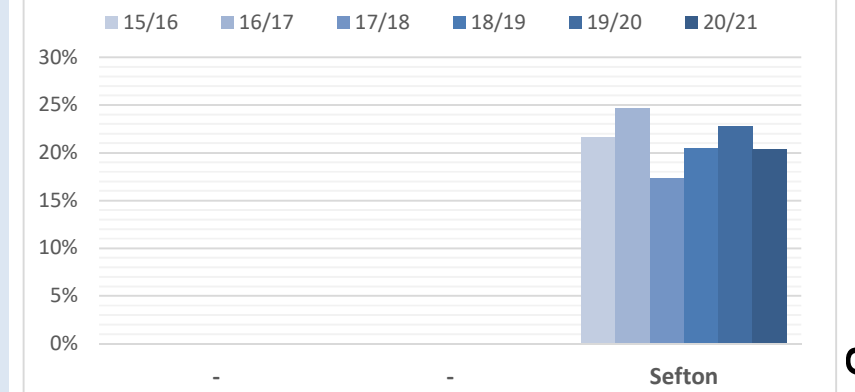
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**11%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	DoT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sefton</b>	21.6	24.7	17.3	20.5	22.8	20.4	-2.4▼



20/21 Qtr 3 shows a slight decrease of 2.4% from the 19/20 whole year figure.

# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



## 25. Proportion of Children Subject to an Early Help Plan for a Second or Subsequent Time (%)

**N/A** **N/A**

Than the National Average

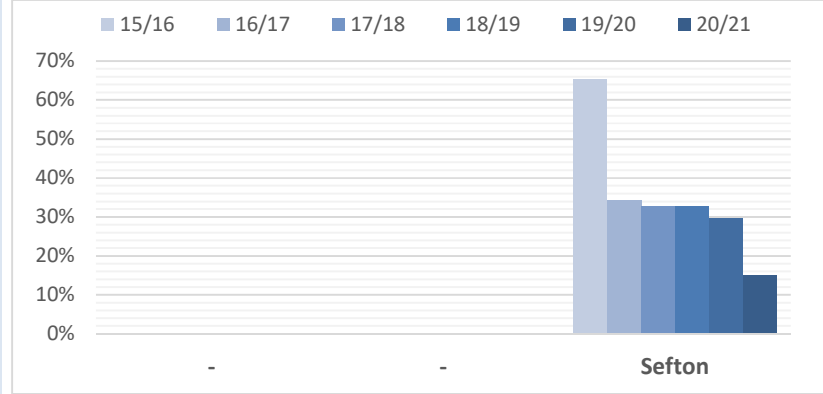
**N/A** **N/A**

Than the Northwest Average

**50%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	DoT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sefton</b>	65.4	34.2	32.80	32.60	29.70	14.90	-14.80



The proportion of repeat referrals at 20/21 Qtr 3 is the lowest for the last five years half the proportion of repeat referrals than last year.



## 26. Early Years Foundation Stage (ALL): % Achieving a Good Level of Development

**4%** **Lower**

Than the National Average

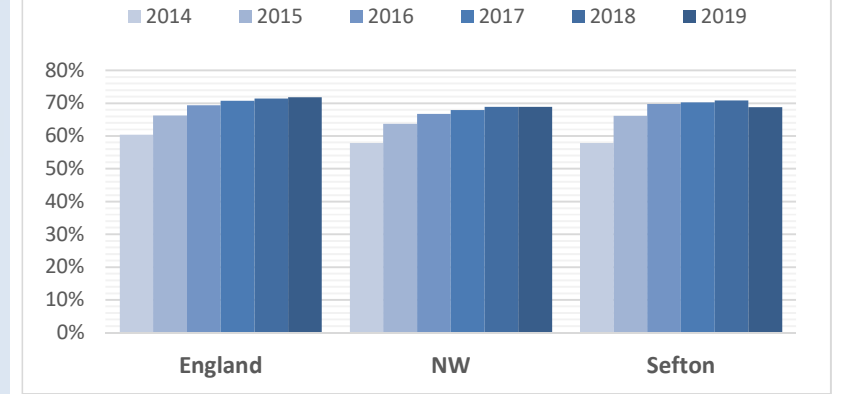
**0%** **Lower**

Than the Northwest Average

**3%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	DoT
<b>England</b>	60.4	66.3	69.3	70.7	71.5	71.8	
<b>NW</b>	57.8	63.7	66.7	67.9	68.9	68.9	
<b>Sefton</b>	57.8	66.2	69.8	70.3	70.8	68.8	-2.0



Sefton's children's school readiness remains in line with the region, but slightly below the national average.



## 27. Early Years Foundation Stage (SEN = S&E): % Achieving a Good Level of Development

**100%** **Lower**

Than the National Average

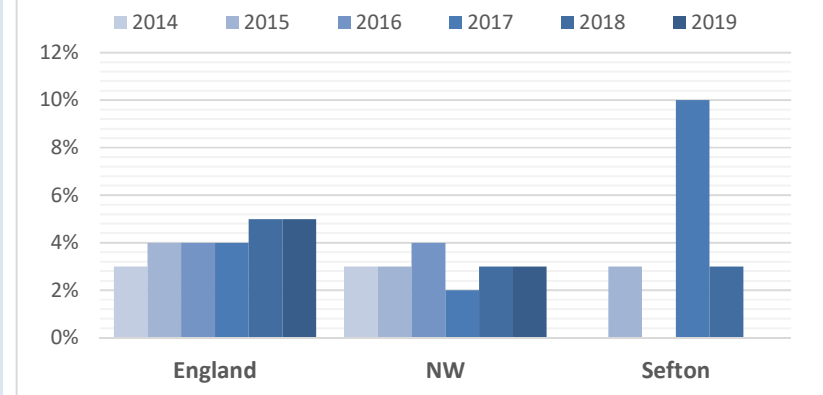
**100%** **Lower**

Than the Northwest Average

**100%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	DoT
<b>England</b>	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	
<b>NW</b>	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	
<b>Sefton</b>	-	3.0	0.0	10.0	3.0	0.0	-3.0



Note that this data will be very volatile due to the relatively small numbers in the numerator for Sefton.



## 28. Key Stage 2 (ALL): % Achieving Expected Standard (Test RWM)

**3%** **Lower**

Than the National Average

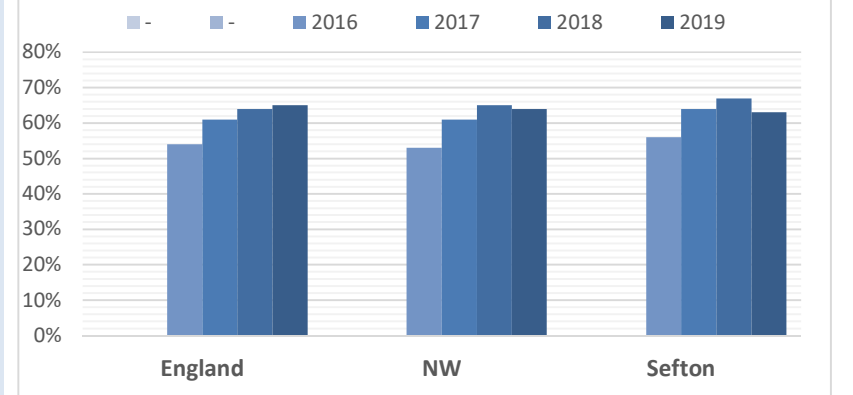
**2%** **Lower**

Than the Northwest Average

**6%** **Decrease**

In Sefton over the last two periods

	-	-	2016	2017	2018	2019	DoT
<b>England</b>	-	-	54.0	61.0	64.0	65.0	
<b>NW</b>	-	-	53.0	61.0	65.0	64.0	
<b>Sefton</b>	-	-	56.0	64.0	67.0	63.0	-4.0



Traditionally KS2 performance in Sefton has been relatively good, but in the most recent year performance in Sefton fell below the national and regional averages for the first time.



# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



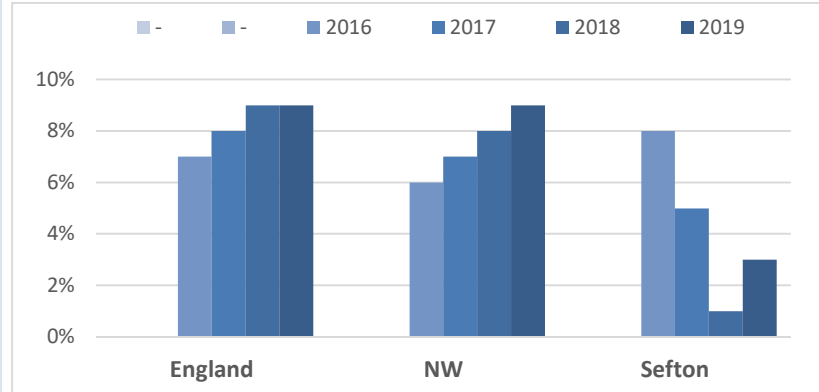
## 29. Key Stage 2 (SEN = S&E): % Achieving Expected Standard (Test RWM)

**67% Lower**  
Than the National Average ❌

**67% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**200% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	-	-	2016	2017	2018	2019	DoT
England	-	-	7.0	8.0	9.0	9.0	
NW	-	-	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	
Sefton	-	-	8.0	5.0	1.0	3.0	2.0▲



Note that this data will be very volatile due to the relatively small numbers in the numerator for Sefton.



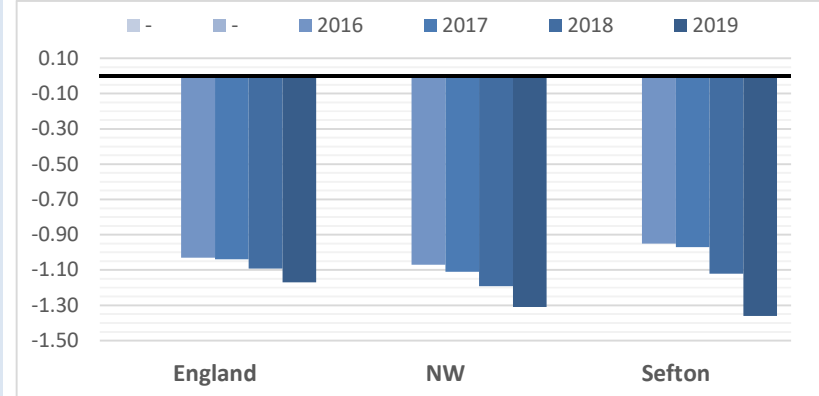
## 31. Key Stage 4 (SEN = S&E): Progress 8 Score

**16% Lower**  
Than the National Average ❌

**4% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**13% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	-	-	2016	2017	2018	2019	DoT
England	-	-	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	
NW	-	-	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	
Sefton	-	-	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.4	-0.2▼



Note that this data will be very volatile due to the relatively small numbers in the numerator for Sefton.



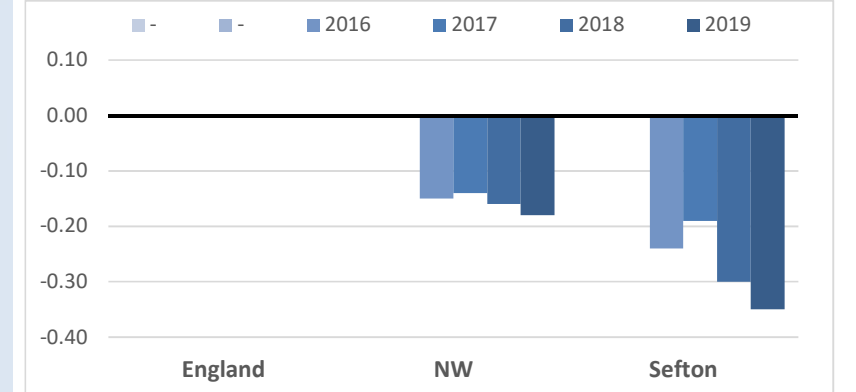
## 30. Key Stage 4 (ALL): Progress 8 Score

**N/A N/A**  
Than the National Average

**94% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**17% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	-	-	2016	2017	2018	2019	DoT
England	-	-	-	-	-	-	
NW	-	-	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	
Sefton	-	-	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1▼



Progress 8 performance in Sefton in 18/19 is comparatively poor in Sefton and worsened last year.



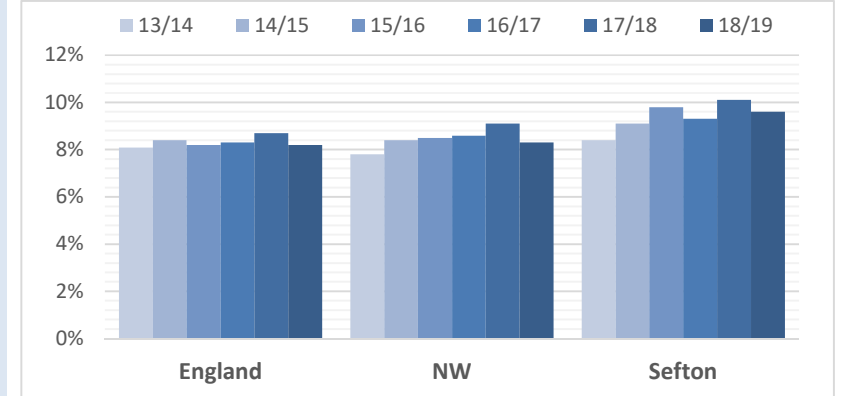
## 32. Proportion ALL Primary Pupils Absent more than 10% of the School Year (%)

**17% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**16% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**5% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	DoT
England	8.1	8.4	8.2	8.3	8.7	8.2	
NW	7.8	8.4	8.5	8.6	9.1	8.3	
Sefton	8.4	9.1	9.8	9.3	10.1	9.6	-0.5▼



Primary pupil absences in Sefton have consistently run above the national average and increased again in 18/19 though this does shadow a lower but similar annual increase in the regional average.

# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



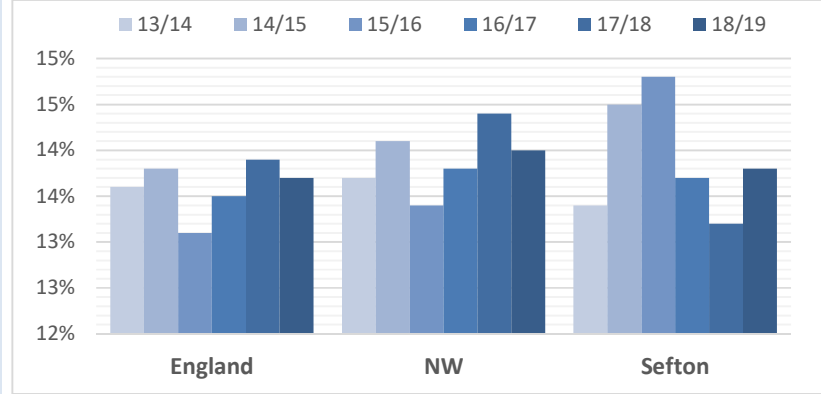
## 33. Proportion ALL Secondary Pupils Absent more than 10% of the School Year (%)

**1% Higher**  
Than the National Average ❌

**1% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ✅

**5% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	DoT
England	13.6	13.8	13.1	13.5	13.9	13.7	
NW	13.7	14.1	13.4	13.8	14.4	14.0	
Sefton	13.4	14.5	14.8	13.7	13.2	13.8	0.6▲



Secondary pupil absences in the last two years has been more in line with the national average and better than the Northwest and England averages in the last year.



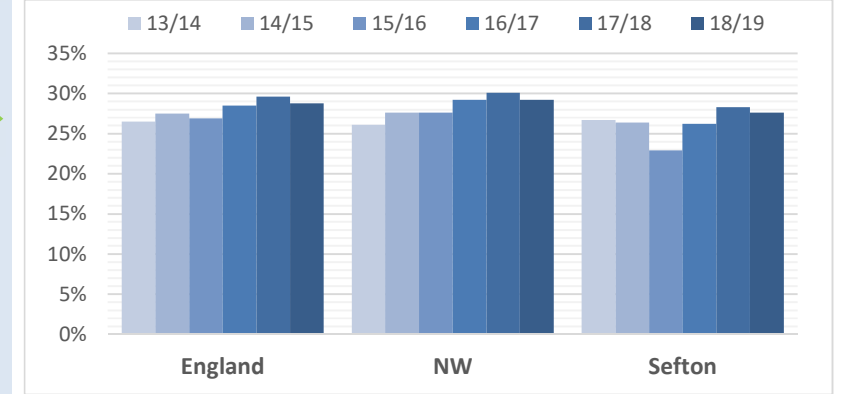
## 34. Proportion ALL Special Schools Pupils Absent more than 10% of the School Year (%)

**4% Lower**  
Than the National Average ✅

**5% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ✅

**2% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	DoT
England	26.5	27.5	26.9	28.5	29.6	28.8	
NW	26.1	27.6	27.6	29.2	30.1	29.2	
Sefton	26.7	26.4	22.9	26.2	28.3	27.6	-0.7▼



Absences in special schools are much higher than in non-specialist schools, but in general performance in Sefton is better than the equivalent schools based on the Northwest and England averages, although there has been a gradual increase in absence levels over the last three years.



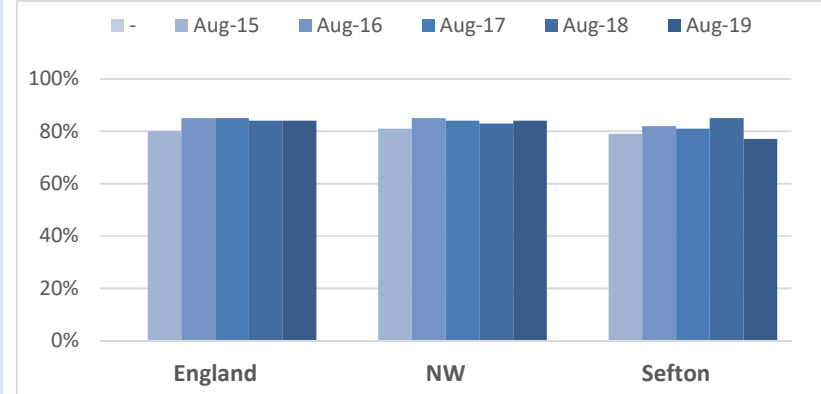
## 35. Proportion of Places/Learners in State Funded Schools Rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' in their Ofsted Inspection (%)

**8% Lower**  
Than the National Average ❌

**8% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ❌

**9% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	-	Aug-15	Aug-16	Aug-17	Aug-18	Aug-19	DoT
England	-	80.0	85.0	85.0	84.0	84.0	
NW	-	81.0	85.0	84.0	83.0	84.0	
Sefton	-	79.0	82.0	81.0	85.0	77.0	-8.0▼



Perhaps connected with the fall in overall attainment levels Ofsted rating data for state funded schools in Sefton suggests that Sefton has generally lagged behind the national average in terms of the proportion of places/learners in establishments rated good or outstanding, and in particular Sefton saw a significant fall in 2019.



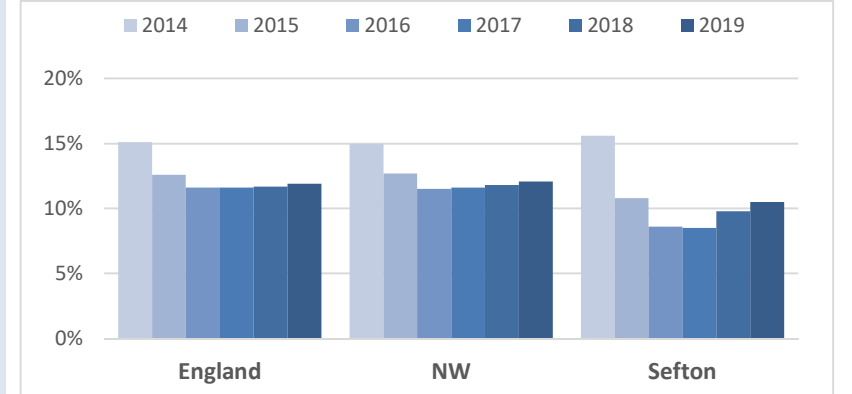
## 36. Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support as Percentage of all School

**12% Lower**  
Than the National Average ✅

**13% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ✅

**7% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	DoT
England	15.1	12.6	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.9	
NW	15.0	12.7	11.5	11.6	11.8	12.1	
Sefton	15.6	10.8	8.6	8.5	9.8	10.5	0.7▲



The proportion of pupils recorded as having Special Educational Need support in Sefton has generally been below the national and Northwest averages, but rose slightly in 2019.

# Children & Young People Overview Dashboard



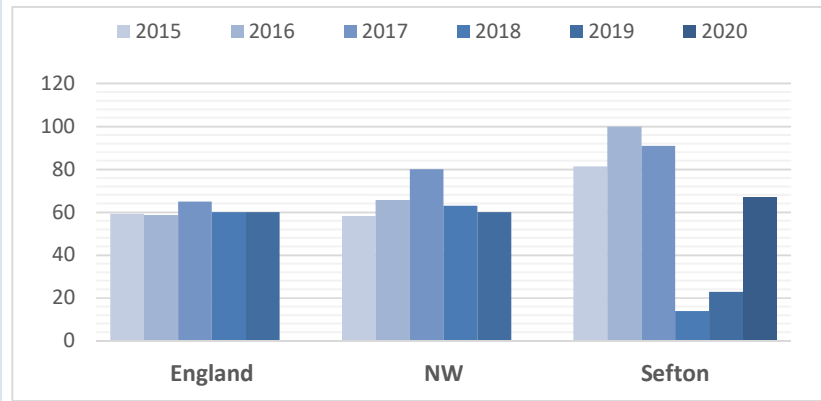
## 37. Proportion of New EHC Plans Issued within 20 Weeks (excluding exception cases) (%)

**11% Higher**  
Than the National Average ✓

**6% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average ✓

**192% Increase**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	DoT
England	59.2	58.6	64.9	60.1	60.1	-	
NW	58.2	65.7	80.1	63.1	60.1	-	
Sefton	81.3	100.0	91.0	13.8	22.9	66.9	44.0 ▲



The proportion of Education Health and Care (EHC) plans issued within 20 weeks fell dramatically in 2018. Following inspection an action plan has been introduced to remove the existing backlog and improve performance on new plans. This has begun to see an improvement in the proportion of plans completed in 2019 and a completion of the existing backlog. In 2020 we are now achieving above the National average for plans completed within 20 weeks.



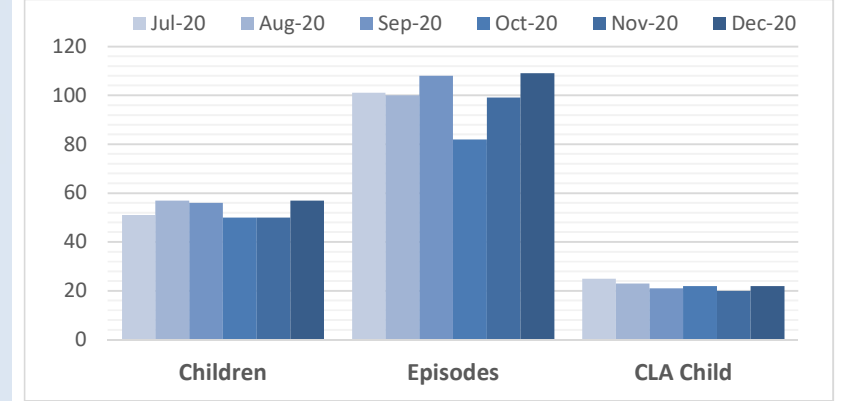
## 38. Missing Children (Nos)

**14% Increase**  
In missing children ✗

**10% Increase**  
In missing episodes ✗

**10% Increase**  
In missing Children Looked After

	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	DoT
Children	51	57	56	50	50	57	7.0
Episodes	101	100	108	82	99	109	10.0
CLA Child	25	23	21	22	20	22	2.0 ▲



The rate of missing children has remained relatively static over the last six months



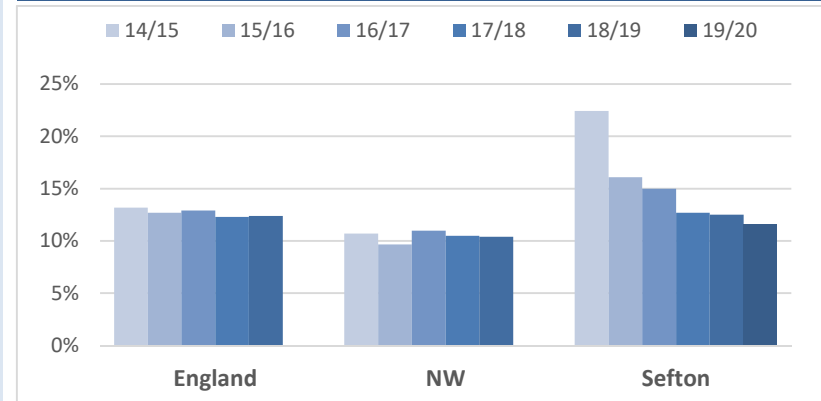
## 39. Proportion of Children in Need with a Disability (%)

**6% Lower**  
Than the National Average

**12% Higher**  
Than the Northwest Average

**7% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	DoT
England	13.2	12.7	12.9	12.3	12.4	-	
NW	10.7	9.7	11.0	10.5	10.4	-	
Sefton	22.4	16.1	15.0	12.7	12.5	11.6	-0.9 ▼



Sefton's proportion of Children in Need with a disability is in line with the national average, though slightly above the regional average.



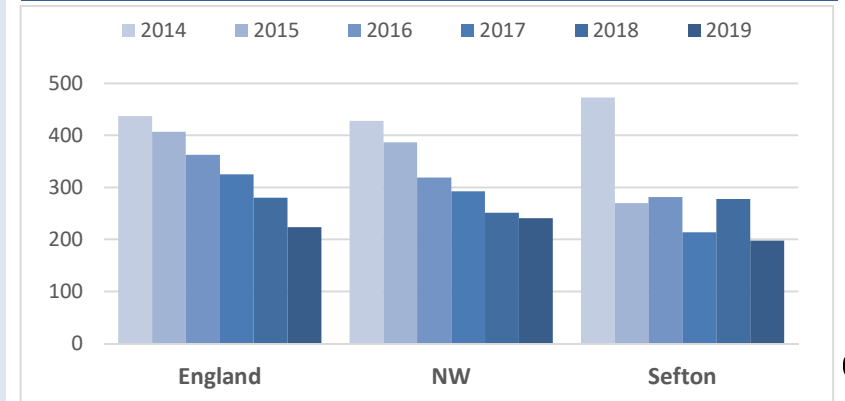
## 40. First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (Rate per 100,000)

**11.5% Lower**  
Than the National Average ✓

**17.9% Lower**  
Than the Northwest Average ✓

**28.7% Decrease**  
In Sefton over the last two periods

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	DoT
England	437.5	407.0	362.8	325.2	280.4	223.7	
NW	427.9	386.5	319.0	292.5	251.6	241.0	
Sefton	473.3	269.7	281.5	214.3	277.7	197.9	-79.8 ▼



Nationally and regionally entrants to the Youth Justice System have tended to fall over the last six years. This pattern has generally been followed by Sefton, though with a peak in 2018. Except for 2018 Sefton has also had a lower than average rate of new entrants.

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# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 26 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	SEND Continuous Improvement Plan Update		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care (Chair of SEND Continuous Improvement Board) Cabinet Member Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

The report provides a brief update on the progress made against with regard to the SEND Continuous Improvement Plan.

## Recommendation(s):

- (1) Note the progress made and that activity continues to be prioritised during the pandemic.
- (2) Note that a further report will be brought to a future committee.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Health & Wellbeing Board provides system leadership, keeps the Council's Cabinet informed of progress and if necessary, will escalate concerns.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) provides additional scrutiny.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

NA

## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

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## (A) Revenue Costs

The CCGs have invested a recurring £35k in SENDIASS and a recurring £100K+ in Speech and Language Therapy.

The CCGs in Sefton prioritised additional investment in the ASD pathway to provide an inclusive 0 -18 NICE compliant assessment and diagnostic service

The CCGs have provided additional short term Sefton CAMHS investment to support service resilience and capacity in response to covid.

The Council has invested some additional temporary resources (£0.400m in 2020/21) into the SEND team in order to deliver the changes required. In addition to this the Council has invested in the development of the Local Offer.

## (B) Capital Costs

### Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
<b>Legal Implications:</b> The Children and Families Act (2014) places a statutory duty on local authorities, education providers, CCGs and other NHS organisations to provide support for children and young people with SEN or disabilities aged 0-25. In doing these local authorities, NHS England and their partner CCGs must make arrangements for agreeing the education, health and social care provision reasonably required by local children and young people with SEN or disabilities.
<b>Equality Implications:</b> The equality implications will be assessed as the Improvement Plan progresses. The SEND Continuous Improvement Board will be kept informed of all equality implications, risks and mitigations.

### Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The delivery of the Improvement Plan will ensure a focused response on providing improved outcomes for the children and young people with SEND and their families.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The delivery of the Improvement Plan responding to the revisit and the subsequent activity will need to build the trust and confidence of the community that the Council and its Health partners are delivering on their commitments
Commission, broker and provide core services: A key pillar of the Improvement Plan is the development of a Joint Commissioning Strategy. Through this strategy our ambition is to ensure adequate services that can respond when people need it most.

<p>The Joint Commissioning Strategy for SEND has been developed in the context of the Children and Young People's Plan "My Sefton: heard, happy, healthy, achieving,'.</p> <p>On 11th March 2020 the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board agreed the SEND Commissioning Action Plan which has continued to be delivered during the COVID 19 pandemic.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: The Council will work with partners, in particular commissioners and providers of Health Services, to work towards common goals in relation to the delivery of the Improvement Plan. The Council has a key role in holding the whole system to account on this matter and will ensure an evidence-based plan is delivered against.</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: The Council will work with partners, in particular Health, to make change happen so as to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment:</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener</p>

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 6266/21.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 4467/21 ) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

The Council has and will continue to engage with the CCG, other Health partners, the voluntary, community and faith sector, schools and Sefton Parent Carer Forum on this matter.

The initial parent career survey closed on 18th December 2019. The feedback gathered has been analysed and shared with the SENDCIB and Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding) in January 2020.

Engagement with Sefton Parent Carer Forum continues on a regular basis, with new opportunities such as the use of Microsoft Teams being used in light of the COVID 19 pandemic.

In March 2020 many children and young people also took part in the Youth Conference. Schools are represented within the governance of the Improvement Plan and updated via the SEND Schools Forum.

During September and October 2020, a short mid-year survey was also undertaken.

Health providers are committed to continuing Page 71, ment with children, young people and their families on the development, delivery and experiences of local health services

# Agenda Item 7

for those with SEND, and there are a number of established channels and groups to facilitate this. For example, there has been active involvement of young people and their carers in the ongoing development of the ASD/ADHD pathways.

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**



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Immediately following the Committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Tanya Wilcock
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Email Address:	Tanya.wilcock@sefton.gov.uk

## Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

## Background Papers:

COVID-19 Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidanceonvulnerable-children-and-young-people#children-with-education-health-and-careehcplans>

Coronavirus Act 2020 Modification of section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014 (England) Notice 2020  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882290/CV19\\_Act\\_modification\\_notice\\_SEND.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882290/CV19_Act_modification_notice_SEND.pdf)

House of Commons Education Committee (Special educational needs and disabilities) issued its First Report of Session 2019–20 is available at  
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201920/cmselect/cmeduc/20/20.pdf>

Published version of the SEND Improvement Plan  
[https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/sefton/fsd/files/sefton\\_send\\_improvement\\_plan.pdf](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/sefton/fsd/files/sefton_send_improvement_plan.pdf)

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report informs Overview and Scrutiny members of the progress made and improvements planned in response to the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission in the joint local area special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) revisit that took place between 15th to 17th April 2019.
- 1.2 Elected members are aware that in response the partnership has developed and is continuing to make good progress in delivering the agreed Improvement Plan. The SEND Continuous Improvement Board (SENDCIB) continue to receive support and challenge from the NHS England and DfE advisors.

## 2. Delivering the Improvement Plan

- 2.1 As previously reported the SENDCIB and its sub groups have continued to meet remotely to monitor progress made and agree any remedial action during the COVID 19 pandemic. All partners in the Local Area continue to prioritise the delivery of the required improvements.
- 2.2 On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 a monitoring visit by Senior Officials from the DfE and NHS England took place virtually with members of SENDCIB Board. The meeting was held to consider the progress Sefton has made against the SEND Continuous Improvement Plan since a previous monitoring visit which was held in January 2020. The meeting looked at the progress being made against each area of the Improvement Plan and the evidence submitted to demonstrate said improvements and any impact on the plan delivery resulting from Covid. Sefton also shared key achievements and where they had developed new ways of working through their Covid response.
- 2.3 In December 2020 we received a letter from the chair of the meeting, Fiona Nzegwu (Deputy Director, SEND Improvement and Intervention) to feedback on the outcome of that monitoring visit. The letter highlighted that the presentation, response to questions and supporting evidence (sent a month prior to the meeting) demonstrate that we have made clear and sustained progress against the improvement areas in the plan. Comments also noted that this is further supported by the positive improvements to statutory timescales for EHCPs and improvements also made to the quality of service delivery in Sefton. Officials have also informed us that they are reassured by the local partnership's ongoing commitment to making sustainable improvements to SEND services and to the lives of children and young people in our area. Evidence of the strength of the local partnership was provided through statements from those present at the meeting including Headteachers, Parents, Health Providers, CCG Chair and demonstrated an improved understanding of the interdependent relationships required across all of the improvement plan areas. It has been agreed that as a minimum a further monitoring review will be held in six months time June 2021,
- 2.4 On the same day as the visit by officials (8th December 2020) the SEND Continuous Improvement Board met for its regular monthly to review progress being made.
- 2.5 Good progress continues to be made with regards to the completion of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) within the 20-week timescales. This has improved to 66.5% completion (SEN2 data return) within the 20-week timescales compared with 40% completed a **Page 74** point in time in 2019. This is above the national average.

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- 2.6 Transition Reviews:  
There are 116 pupils in Year 6. 106 Review dates already set and of these 93 already held. These reviews must be completed by 15th February 2021 and the SENDCIB was assured that we are on plan to complete within statutory timescales. There are 142 pupils in Year 11. 124 Review dates already set and of these 86 already held. Again the SENDCIB was assured that these will be completed by the deadline of 31st March 2021.
- 2.7 All other reviews:  
For all other reviews there are 1680 EHCPs and 899 review dates have been arranged thus far up to July 2021 and this figure will continue to increase as we move through the school year. These reviews are delivered across the 3 terms of the school year. A report went to SENDCIB in July outlining the performance targets set for completion of these across the three term times. An update report on Reviews will be presented to the January 2021 SENDCIB meeting
- 2.8 The recently delivered training by NASEN is starting to have an impact on improving the quality of EHCPs. Feedback from the DfE Advisor who has reviewed the quality of some of the plans gives confidence that the quality of plans is improving. A multi agency quality assurance group is meeting every 3 weeks to review the quality of plans and their feedback is reported into the SENDCIB.
- 2.9 The number of SEND complaints received by the Council has reduced from 27 during 2019 (there were none in November and December 2019) to 12 from January 2020 to October 2020. In both years the complaints were received between April to October with the majority between July and September (20 in 2019 and 6 in 2020).
- 2.10 The number children and young people with SEND holding Personal Health Budgets (PHBs) has increased from fourteen in April 2019 to twenty-four, this number does not include PHBs for young people age 18 – 25 years who have a PHB outside of the CCGs contractual arrangements with Sefton Carers Centre. An updated report on PHBs will go to the SENDCIB in the coming months.
- 2.11 One of the key activities of the Improvement Plan was to establish and execute an annual survey for parents/carers of children and young people with SEND, on what is going well and what could be improved in our local area. The first survey was completed in December 2019 and provided the SEND Continuous Improvement Board with a baseline to monitor experience, involvement and satisfaction around the key areas of Education, Health, Social Care as well as information on how the system is working together. It was agreed that the SEND parent and carer survey will be conducted annually, however, following the March Board it was suggested that the sub-group would conduct a short follow-up survey in June 2020 as a way to test whether our improvements internally were having the desired impact on parents and carers and young people. Due to COVID-19 this survey was put back and was completed in September. The main (annual) survey will now take place in February 2021.
- 2.12 The Sefton Parent Carer Forum were fully involved in the design and coproduction of the short survey. SENDCIB considered the feedback from the short survey at its November meeting. The survey was completed by 243 responders, which is 13% response rate. The main findings were that parents and carers are reporting an improvement in the way health, education and social care and the SEN Casework team are working together to help and support them; education and schools stand out for

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praise from respondents particularly in relation to regular contact and information and there is an increase in the number of parents who feel they are listened to. Whilst improvements are being made, there are areas parents and carers feel need further attention, these are: improved communication and information from all parties of the SEND system, waiting times for written reports and appointments, waiting times for annual EHCP reviews, feeling listened to and continuation of work done to ensure services are working together to help improve services and outcomes for children and young people. SENDCIB considered the next steps which included the items noted by parents and carers and also how to embed service user feedback into our services consistently.

- 2.13 Apart from the co-produced survey, other examples of co-production include the Local Offer refresh, Preparing for Adulthood guide, refresh of EHCO paperwork, Public Health Budgets, ASD Pathway and SEND Young People's conference and Schools Get Talking weekly sessions.
- 2.14 At its December 2020 meeting SENDCIB members sought assurance on progress the waiting list associated with Action 5.2 development of the neurodevelopmental diagnostic pathway. It was noted in order to ensure that all children and young people referred and waiting have support until a potential diagnosis a Sefton resource pack has been produced. Alder Hey has written to the remaining 91 children and young people from the pre-01 April 2020 cohort and who are not known to the LA or commenced on the ASD diagnostic pathway, signposting families to the local offer, Alder Hey website and Sefton resources pack.
- 2.16 The Resource Pack has been shared with the Sefton Parent Carer Forum, Family Wellbeing centres, schools, health providers and is available on the Sefton Council website and the Local Offer.
- 2.17 As the resource pack is linked digitally to the local offer and the Sefton Directory anyone who needs access to IT can do this through the local library public access computers in Sefton. It is anticipated that all children and young people currently on the waiting list will have started their assessment by the target date of June 2021.
- 2.18 All therapy services have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with NHSE guidance for community services, all but clinically urgent services were initially cancelled to support the acute response during the first wave of the pandemic and were gradually stepped-up to pre-covid levels of activity in line with NHS phase 3 directives and recovery plans. In Sefton, all community therapy services were back to pre-covid levels of activity and were meeting SEND performance target by the end of September 2020.
- 2.19 At the end of November (there is a two-month time lag for reporting by health providers as per their agreed contracts) all therapy waiting times were ahead of the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard.
  - Paediatric Dietetics - November position: 4.7 weeks
  - Paediatric Occupational Therapy November position: 5.3 weeks
  - Paediatric Physiotherapy (PT) November position: 5.2 weeks
  - Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) has seen a reduction from 21.6 weeks in August to 12.6 weeks in November 2020.

- 2.20 Mobilisation of the CAMHS 24/7 crisis service in the early stages of the pandemic

ensured that those children and young people most at risk of harm could access care and support quickly. Following the initial impact of the pandemic, some CAMHS staff were redeployed to support the implementation and delivery of the 24/7 crisis service and this impacted on both the Referral to Choice and Referral to Partnership waiting times. Since their return to the core service, there has been a gradual improvement in waiting times up until October 2020. However, due to an increase in urgent referrals and the complexity of some young people requiring support as a result of the pandemic, both measures deteriorated in November 2020.

- 2.21 In response to these challenges, Sefton CCGs have provided initial short term investment to support resilience of the local CAMHS service and provide additional capacity which will take effect in January 2021.

Notably providers have provided assurance that no children's community therapy or CAMHS staff will be redeployed to support the acute response to the current covid wave.

See the appendix for more detailed information of performance and improvements to local health services for children and young people with SEND, including the response to the current covid position.

3. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny are asked to consider the progress being made and confirm if any matters should be escalated to Cabinet.
- Casework Officers now share mobile phone numbers when they first contact families which has improved communication
  - Parents and carers are now invited to joint outcome meetings
  - Access to Kooth has been extended up to the age of 25 proving more young people with access to on line support
  - Recite Me software has been added to the Local Offer and Council website which has improved accessibility
  - The offer from SENDIAS has been strengthened with new staff recruited and new management oversight, joint funding agreed with CCG and a new website in place.
  - Understanding of the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) role has been shared more widely and a dedicated e-mail address means that families are now able to contact the DCO directly
  - the implementation of a new appointment system at Alder Hey which is more user friendly and has led to fewer cancellations
  - and improvements to the prescribing system at Alder Hey make it easier for families to re-order medications.
  - Therapy waiting times – over the last 12 months, average waiting times for the services have reduced to within the SEND performance monitoring targets and the agreed commissioned waiting time standards, despite the impact and challenges of Covid -19 on improvement plans and trajectories.
  - Notably the SALT waiting times have reduced from 25 weeks in October 2019 to 12.6 weeks in November 2020, well below the SEND target KPI.
  - Sefton now has a fully implemented NICE compliant 0 -18 neurodevelopmental assessment & diagnostic pathway.
  - The 0 -18 ASD and ADHD Page 77e steadily decreasing in line with the backlog reduction plans and are on track to be zero by June 2021.

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## **4. Risk**

- 4.1 Whilst every effort will be made to ensure that the required change will put solid foundations in place, the Local Area remains vulnerable to a range of issues that can impact upon its financial sustainability and which impact upon the decisions that each member of the system must make. These include pressures across the system nationally such as the impact of demand pressures and most significantly central government policy.
- 4.2 The System Leadership and Governance Sub Group, jointly Chaired by the Council Chief Executive and the Chief Officer of the CCGs in Sefton, monitors risk on a regular basis and provide the risk log to the SENDCIB regularly. The SENDCIB will continue to monitor risks, putting in place mitigation where possible and escalating risks as required.
- 4.3 It is important to note that the SENDCIB has and will continue to meet virtually during the pandemic, as have all the sub groups. The Local Area recognises the stress and concern that the COVID 19 pandemic has and continues to cause families and local services remain accessible to provide support. All partners have put business continuity plans in place and are working together to ensure that robust plans and effective communication is in place during this time of uncertainty. This work has included communications confirming that local area services are still available to support families. Despite the enormous pressure across the local area, work to deliver the Improvement Plan has continued and required changes have happened at pace,

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The Local Area continues to make good progress in delivering the Improvement Plan with partners responding to the challenges including the COVID 19 pandemic. The Local Area recognises the significant challenges that continue to be faced by Sefton families of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) especially at this time of national restrictions. The system is confident that the actions being taken are having a demonstrable positive impact in 2020.
- 5.2 The partnership continues to prioritise SEND during the Covid 19 pandemic by meeting remotely and continuing to focus our attention on this important area. The Local Area recognises the need to maintain focus, continuing to work at pace and achieve demonstrable positive impact and all joint sub groups and the SENDIB continue to meet remotely to maintain focus and oversight on the Improvement Plan objectives. The COVID 19 pandemic has meant different ways of delivery but the focus and the priority remain on delivering the improvements required.
- 5.3 Partners remain committed to delivering the required actions that will improve the lives of Sefton's children and young people with SEND, to enable them to reach their potential. The impact of COVID 19 on the Improvement Plan will continue to be assessed and partners continue to collaboratively to minimise impact.

## Performance Update on KPIs for SEND Improvement Board as at 08.12.20

**Action 1. To improve the poor progress made from starting points by pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an EHCP at key stage 2.**

Key Performance Indicator Reference	Performance Measure that we will monitor	Area	Current Baseline January 2019 SEN (E)	Pupil Performance at October 2019 SEN (E)	Pupil Performance at January 2020 SEN (E)	Pupil Performance at October 2020 SEN (E)	Pupil Performance June 2021
KPI 1/1	Progress for children and young people with SEND (KS2)	Writing	-6.70	-4.10	National average	National average	National average
		Maths	-6.20	-3.80	National average	National average	National average

The SEN2 survey is a statutory data collection that takes place every January (based on the previous calendar year) and this information is provided to the Department for Education by the Local Authority. The 2020 survey deadlines are:

- survey day: Thursday 16 January 2020
- deadline for submitting data: Thursday 27 February 2020.

There is then a period of validation with the statistics not being confirmed until May 2020 for 2019.

The KPIs above will align to the statutory timetable and it is important to note that they will be used to robustly monitor local operational performance.

### **Current position.**

Due to the pandemic reporting on attainment is not being reported during 2020.

Baseline 1/ 2 to 1/ 6/

Key Performance Indicator	Performance Measure	Frequency	Baseline April 2019 - Note plan start date 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019	Performance at October 2019 3 Months	Performance at January 2020 6 Months	Performance at April 2020 9 Months	Performance at July 2020 12 Months	Performance at October 2020 18 Months	Performance at June 2021 24 Months
KPI 1/2	From 01.06.19 % of New EHCPs commenced will be completed within statutory timescales	Quarterly	3%	NA – measurement will commence from 01.07.19. 20 week window does not close until 17.11.19	10% of new EHCPs from 01.06.19. New statutory reporting period commences during this month	NA new statutory reporting period	NA new statutory reporting period	NA new statutory reporting period	NA new statutory reporting period
KPI 1/2a	% of New EHCPs commenced 01.01.20 completed within statutory timescales	Quarterly	NA	NA	1st month of monitoring 2020 local baseline established	15%	25%	50% or national average whichever is the higher	75% or national average whichever is the higher
<b>KPI 1/2 ACTUAL</b>				<b>17%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	
KPI 1/3	% of EHCP Reviews completed Yr. 6 and Yr. 11	Quarterly	NA	16%	50% complete	95%	95%	95%	95%
<b>KPI 1/3 ACTUAL</b>					YR 6 – 50% YR11 -	YR 6 93% YR11 – 71%	<b>YR 6 99% YR11 88.3%</b>	New academic year	
KPI 1/3a	All other EHCP reviews	Quarterly	NA	16%.	32%	48%	60%	new academic year	100%



<b>KPI 1/3a ACTUALS</b>								15%		
KPI 1/4	% of EHCP audits assessed as at least Good (local measure)	Quarterly	NA	NA training in September	Baseline 50%	Baseline plus 10%	Baseline plus 10%	Baseline plus 20%	Baseline plus 20%	
<b>KPI 1/4 ACTUALS</b>				99% staff across partnership received training	50%			50%		
KPI 1/5	% of EHCPs being completed in maximum of six weeks by Health from the date of request from the Local Authority *see code of practice for exemptions	Quarterly	NA	60%	70%	85%	90%	95%	95%	
<b>KPI 1/5 ACTUALS</b>					100%	100%	100%	100%		
KPI 1/6	% improvement in the quality of health information contained in EHCPs	Quarterly	NA	Establish baseline by 31.10.19 as training taking place September	80%	90%	95%	95%	95%	
<b>KPI 1/6 ACTUALS</b>							50%	50%		

**KPI 1/3a**

In June and July 2020 two reports were taken to the SEND Continuous Improvement Board to outline the reasons for the under performance in relation to the KPI 1/3a (All other reviews). There are approximately 1500 EHCPs over and above the YR6 and YR11 ones. These reviews have taken place in school however, the process has not always been finalised by the SEND Team. Documents when

returned to SEND team by schools have been reviewed to understand whether changes have been needed and those that have required significant change were completed and account for the 15% above. The report that went to the July 2020 SEND Continuous Improvement Board outlined the new processes we have in place that will ensure statutory compliance is achieved and term time targets have been reviewed to ensure we meet the target by July 2021. A further performance report is scheduled to go to the SEND Board in January 2021.

**KPI 1/4 & KPI 1/6**

Due to Covid -19 there was a delay in staff accessing training. Face to face delivery was suspended and it took some time for NASEN to move the training on line. As per Covid contingency plans, additional online training sessions were held in October and November 2020. It takes some time from delivery of training for staff to embed the changes to their advices and so there will be a time lag between training received and seeing quality of advice improved. To note that both the SEND Board DFE and NHS Advisors reviewed plans in November 2020 and fed back that they have noted improvements to the quality of the advice within the EHCPs.

**Action 2.**

**To address the poor operational oversight of the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) across health services in supporting children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families**

Key Performance Indicator	Performance Measure	Frequency	Current Baseline June 2019	Target for 6 months December 2019	Target for 12 months June 2020	Target for 18 months October 2020	Target for 24 months June 2021
KPI 2/1	Submission of quarterly DCO report	Quarterly	0	1	3	7	11
<b>KPI 2/1 ACTUALS</b>				1	3	7	
KPI 2/2	Annual DCO report	Annually	0	0	1st	NA	2nd
<b>KPI 2/2 ACTUALS</b>					completed		
KPI 3	Provider survey of understanding of DCO role and responsibilities (% of staff able to confirm and articulate what the DCO role is)	Bi- Annually	0	50%	75%	95%	95%
<b>KPI 3 ACTUALS</b>						98.57%	

Actions against this indicator have been completed

**Action 3 (linked to Action 1).**

**To improve the lack of awareness and understanding of Health Professionals in terms of their responsibilities and contributions to EHCPs.**

Key Performance Indicator	Performance Measure	Frequency	Current Baseline July 2019	Target for 6 months December 2019	Target for 12 months June 2020	Target for 18 months December 2020	Target for 24 months June 2021
KPI 3/1	Health practitioners routinely write health submissions for EHC plans for the children and young people (via Audit)	Quarterly	To be established following training in September 2019	Establish baseline by 31.12.19	Audit will sample 10% of EHCPs	Audit will sample 10% of EHCPs	Audit will sample 10% of EHCPs
KPI 3/2	% of positive "parental satisfaction survey" results received following completion of EHCP process	Quarterly	To be established	Will be considered in line with action 1 – satisfaction review at completion of plan			
KPI 3/3	% of staff having completed training		NA	50%	75%	95%	95%
<b>3/3 ACTUALS</b>						99%	
KPI 3/4	% of staff having completed refresher training		NA	0	50%		75%
KPI 3/5	% of staff confirming their increased level of confidence in the process following training	Quarterly	Baseline to be established following training in September 2019	25%	95%		95%

**KPI 3.4 & KPI 3/5**

Due to Covid most staff have now only just received their training so the refresher training referenced at KPI 3/4 is delayed. KPI 3/5 will also be delayed though evaluation feedback from the training does suggest that staff confidence in relation to the process and expectation on quality has improved. Refresher training has been planned to run throughout 2021

**Action 4.**

**To address the weakness of co-production with parents, and more generally communication with parents.**

Key Performance Indicator	Performance Measure	Frequency	Current Baseline April 2019	Baseline 6 months December 2019	Feedback at 18 months December 2020	Target for 24 months June 2021
KPI 4/1	Increased level of trust and confidence of parents and carers - in the local area to provide support (via survey)	Annual	Survey will establish baseline	Baseline established by 31.12.19	Baseline plus 10%	Baseline plus 15%
KPI 4/2	Parents, carers and young people rate the level of help and support children and young people with SEND receive to meet their needs (via Survey)	Annual	Survey will establish baseline	Baseline established by 31.12.19	Baseline plus 10%	Baseline plus 15%
KPI 4/3	Parents, carers and young people rate the level of information and advice available about the assessment process to support children and young people with SEND	Annual	Survey will establish baseline	Baseline established by 31.12.19	Baseline plus 10%	Baseline plus 15%
KPI 4/4	Parents and carers feel that they can influence change to service delivery	Annual	Survey will establish baseline	Baseline established by 31.12.19	Baseline plus 10%	Baseline plus 15%
KPI 4/5	Parents and carers feel that they are listened to in the development and review of EHCPs	Annual	Survey will establish baseline	Baseline established by 31.12.19	Baseline plus 10%	Baseline plus 15%
KPI 4/6	Parents, carers and young people believe that communication has improved (via survey)	Annual	The revisit identified that only 17% of the 150 parents who contributed to the revisit believe that communication has improved since 2016.	Initial survey will be baseline. 31.12.19	Baseline plus 10%	Baseline plus 15%

KPI	Performance Measure	Frequency	Questionnaire section	Current Performance Baseline December 2019		Short Survey Results October 2020			Notes
				Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	2019 Comparison	
KPI 4/1	Increased level of trust and confidence of parents and carers - in the local area to provide support (Collected Via Survey)	Annual	System working together and system improving	39%	62%	45%	54%	↑	
KPI 4/2	Parents, carers and young people rate the level of help and support children and young people with SEND receive to meet their needs (Collected Via Survey)	Annual	Help & Support *	58%	30%	47%	52%	↓	* Figures based on the number of people who responded positively or negatively 2020 survey focused on 6 KPIs (Monitoring and assessment not included)
			Monitoring and assessment	63%	37%				
KPI 4/3	Parents, carers and young people rate the level of information and advice available about the assessment process to support children and young people with SEND	Annual	information and advice about the assessment process	55%	45%	54%	46%	→	Change is negligible
KPI 4/4	Parents and carers feel that they can influence change to service delivery (Collected Via Survey)	Annual	Listened to in the development and review of child/young person's plans	62%	38%	64%	36%	↑	
KPI 4/5	Parents and carers feel that they are listened to in the development and review of EHCPs (Collected Via Survey)	Annual	Listened to in the development and review of child/young person's plans	62%	38%	40%	60%	↓	In 2020 reviews were not completed in the normal way due to covid
KPI 4/6	Parents, carers and young people believe that communication has improved (Collected Via Survey)	Annual	Extent of communication	66%	34%	41%	58%	↓	Includes data on ease of contact, timeliness, named contact, staff being calm and respectful, language is positive and

This was not a like for like survey – the October 2020 survey was a short mid- year one ( due in June 20 but delayed to Sept 20 due to Covid). The next like for like survey is due to go out in Feb/March 2021. This will give like for like data against the December 2019 one.

2019 Survey – 254 responses -16% response rate

2020 mid-year short Survey – 243 responses – 13% response rate

It is important to note that since the original baseline survey was conducted in December 2019, much of 2020 has been impacted by Covid-19. This has resulted in continuing pressures on schools, health services and changes to face to face work with children and young people to inform assessments. Rather than being in a post Covid recovery phase in September like we anticipated, we instead moved into wave two of the pandemic with increasing infection rates and ongoing disruption to pre-Covid normality.

**Action 5:**

To address the weakness of joint commissioning in ensuring that there are adequate services to meet local demand.

**Therapy services for children and young people (0 – 25 year olds) – targets and performance**

Key Performance Indicator	Performance Measure	Frequency	Baseline June 2019	Target for 3 months October 2019	Target for 6 months December 2019	Target for 12 months June 2020	Performance November 2020	Target for 18 & 24 months (December 2020 & June 2021)
KPI 5/1	Average waiting time for paediatric dietetics	Monthly	9 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	7 weeks
ACTUALS			5.7 weeks	6.2 weeks	7.4 weeks	3.4 weeks	4.7 weeks	
KPI 5/17 & 5/21	Average waiting times for dietetics (18 – 25 year olds)	Monthly	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks
ACLS	(Average wait of adult providers Mersey Care and Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Trusts)		N/A	N/A	N/A	2.9 weeks	6 weeks	
KPI 5/7	Average waiting time for paediatric occupational (OT)	Monthly	15 weeks	15 weeks	14 weeks	13 weeks	10 weeks	10 weeks
ACLS			12.6 weeks	16.8 weeks	12.9 weeks	13.7 weeks	5.3 weeks	
KPI 5/18 & 5/22	Average waiting times for OT (18 – 25 year olds)	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks
ACTUALS	(Average wait of adult providers Mersey Care and Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Trusts)		N/A	N/A	N/A	11 weeks	3 weeks	
KPI 5/3	Average Waiting Time for paediatric physiotherapy (PT)	Monthly	6 weeks	6 weeks	6 weeks	6 weeks	6 weeks	6 weeks
ACTUALS			6.1 weeks	5.7 weeks	5.1 weeks	7.7 weeks	5.2 weeks	
KPI 5/19 & 5/23	Average waiting times for physiotherapy (18 – 25 year olds)	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks
ACTUALS	(Average wait of adult providers Mersey Care and Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Trusts)		N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	
KPI 5/4	Average Waiting Time for Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)	Monthly	30 weeks	25 weeks	20 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks
ACTUALS			30.9	24.7	25.6	12.1 weeks	12.6 weeks	
KPI 5/20 & 5/21	Average waiting time for SALT (18 – 25 year olds)	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks
ACTUALS	(Average wait of adult providers Mersey Care and Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Trusts)		N/A	N/A	N/A	7.2	6.3 weeks	

- The table above illustrates the ongoing and sustained performance and improvements in therapy waiting times against the SEND staged targets which were introduced in June 2019. Despite the impact of the first and second waves of the pandemic on service delivery and capacity, improvements were achieved in line with Covid recovery plans and all services were back on track by September 2020.
- To the of end of November 2020 - and for the third month running - all therapy waiting times were below the SEND performance monitoring target and within the agreed commissioned waiting time standard.
- In June 2020, adult providers Mersey Care and Lancashire and Cumbria NHS Trusts began to report on the waiting times for 18 – 25 year olds which have also been consistently below the SEND performance targets and commissioned waiting time standard of 18 weeks N.B; as referral numbers for this age cohort are small for some therapies, a zero waiting time is reported in some months when no patients were waiting.
- Sustainability of the current therapy waiting times is subject to the impact of the current wave of Covid on staffing capacity due to illness and/or the requirement to self isolate; also the restrictions on the delivery of treatments in educational settings. This position is being closely monitored.
- Providers have given assurance that therapy staff will not be redeployed as part of the 2021 third wave covid response and all services have developed agile delivery models in response to the first wave and are able to deliver the majority of services remotely. Face to face appointments will continue where virtual appointments are not possible or when clinically required.



## CAMHS – targets and performance

KPI	Measure	Staged target (Dec 2019)	Staged target (March 2020)	Final target (June 2020)	August 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
5/5	% referral to choice within 6 weeks targets	50%	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%
	ACTUAL	58.1%	68.9%	58.9%	72.4%	86.9%	93.2%	87.3%
5/6	% overall pathway wait within 18 weeks targets (referral to partnership)	50%	75%	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%
	ACTUAL	62.9%	69.9%	56.3%	36.0%	63.6%	62.5%	51.9%

- In response to the first phase of the pandemic (March 2020 onwards), performance was impacted as staff were redeployed to support the implementation and delivery of the 24/7 crisis service, the set-up of which was brought forward in response to the pandemic.
- There has been a significant improvement in the waiting times over recent months, however, due to the increase in urgent cases (which require an appointment within 2 weeks) and the number of complex and high risk young people requiring support from the CAMHS team as a result of the pandemic, there has been a slight deterioration in performance in November 2020 for both measures.
- The CCGs have agreed additional short term investment to support service resilience and to protect against further deterioration in waiting times; this additional resource is scheduled to start in January 2021. This funding has also been granted to third sector providers Venus and Parenting 2000 which will increase overall CAMHS capacity across Sefton.

- An additional Alder Hey forum is also being provided by a funded fixed term “COVID support team” which provides individual and group support for CYP presenting with deteriorating mental health owing to the pandemic.
- With this additional capacity in the service from January 2021, it is expected that the waiting time position will improve from this point.
- As with physical therapy services, providers have given assurance that therapy staff will not be redeployed as part of the 2021 third wave covid response and all services have developed agile delivery models in response to the first wave and are able to deliver the majority of services remotely. Face to face appointments will continue where virtual appointments are not possible or where clinically required.

### ASD assessment and diagnostic pathway – targets and performance

KPI	Measure	Staged target June 2020	August 2020	Sept 2020	Staged target Oct 2020	Nov 2020
<b>5/9</b>	% ASD assessments started within 12 weeks target	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
	ACTUAL	97.5	95%	96%	93%	93%
<b>5/10</b>	% ASD assessments completed within 30 weeks target	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
	ACTUAL	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%
<b>5/11 *quarterly</b>	ASD open referral backlog reduction target	638	N/A	N/A	579	N/A
	ACTUAL	631	N/A	N/A	558	N/A

- Since the implementation of the new pathway in April 2020, the targets for starting ASD assessments within 12 weeks and completing the process within 30 weeks have been met.
- The agreed plan for reducing the waiting list to zero by 30 June 2021 is still on track and the number of CYP waiting for an assessment continues to fall at a steady rate as evidenced.
- The ASD 16 -18 years commissioning gap has been resolved and the extended pathway was mobilised on 23 November 2020. Sefton now has a 0 - 18 NICE compliant assessment & diagnostic pathway.
- Since the launch of the new pathway in April 2020 and the constraints on delivery owing to the pandemic, external providers –

Axia and Healios – have successfully adapted delivery to an online assessment and diagnosis service which is now well established and which will continue during the current covid wave. Notably many families and young people prefer the online service.

### ADHD assessment and diagnostic pathway – targets and performance

KPI	Measure	Staged target June 2020	August 2020	Sept 2020	Staged target Oct 2020	Nov 2020
<b>5/12</b>	% ADHD assessments started within 12 weeks target	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
	ACTUAL	100%	81%	86%	100%	100%
<b>5/13</b>	% ADHD assessments completed within 30 weeks target	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
	ACTUAL	100%	100%	100%	98%	96%
<b>5/14 *quarterly</b>	ADHD open referral backlog reduction target	439	N/A	N/A	339	N/A
	ACTUAL	428	N/A	N/A	258	N/A

- Since the implementation of the new pathway in April 2020, the targets for starting ADHD assessments within 12 weeks and completing the process within 30 weeks have been met.
- The agreed plan for reducing the waiting list to zero by 30 June 2021 is still on track and the number of CYP waiting for an assessment continues to fall at a steady rate as evidenced.
- Since the launch of the new pathway in April 2020 and the constraints on delivery owing to the pandemic, external providers – Axia and Healios – have successfully adapted delivery to an online assessment and diagnosis service which is now well established and which will continue during the current covid wave. Notably many families and young people prefer the online service.

**Neurodevelopmental assessment and diagnostic pathways and waiting times (16 – 25 year olds)**

KPI	Measure	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Staged targets
5/15	Average waiting times for ASD service in weeks (ages 16 to 25 years)	85.2	89.4	89.2	66.2	To be determined
5/16	Average waiting times for ADHD service in weeks (16 to 25 years)	83.6	85.9	92.7	95.3	To be determined

**ASD pathway**

- SEND reporting on the waiting list data for 16 - 25 year olds awaiting assessment began in October 2020. As previously reported, the waiting times for this age group are significant. KPIs are yet to be established.
- For the month of November 2020, waiting times for service users up to 25 years accessing ASD services was 66.2 weeks with 210 on the waiting list, a reduction on the October position of 89.2 weeks.
- The CCGs and the provider Mersey Care have been working collaboratively to consider a way forward. In response, Sefton CCGs have allocated £100,000 for a waiting list initiative with an initial focus on the SEND cohort.
- The outline plan is that all 16 - 25 year olds will receive a telephone review before mid-January 2021 and those with a SEN or EHCP offered a full diagnostic assessment and access to appropriate post diagnostic support by end of February 2021.
- It is recognised that this is a short-term measure and Mersey Care has developed a business case for recurring investment in a sustainable service, for consideration by the Sefton and Liverpool CCGs. This will be considered in Q4.

**ADHD pathway**

- SEND reporting on the waiting list data for 16 - 25 year olds awaiting assessment began in October 2020. As previously reported, the waiting times for this age group are significant. KPIs are yet to be established.

- For the month of November 2020, waiting times for service users up to 25 years accessing ADHD services was 95.3 week with 128 on the waiting list, an increase on the October position of 92.7 weeks.
- The service is medically led and requires face to face interaction to conduct physical health observations, these could not take place during the first Covid-19 lockdown due to the restrictions and waiting times increased. Once the restrictions were lifted, the service resumed.
- In relation to the limitations to the current service model, the service is continuing with the agreed cap to the caseload and negotiations with the local GP network are ongoing with regard to transition from the ADHD service back to their care.
- Currently no funding has been agreed for a waiting list initiative.

NB. Joint Commissioning Strategy published -

<https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/documents/s96055/Enc.%205%20for%20SEND%20Continuous%20Improvement%20Plan%20Update.pdf>

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REPORT TO SEFTON COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
26 JANUARY 2021

**REPORT TITLE:** Sefton LSCB Report on Serious Case Review Activity

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Paula St Aubyn, Sefton LSCB Independent Chair

**BACKGROUND:**

Sefton LSCB is providing this report as an overview of Serious Case Review activity.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Sefton LSCB to provide an annual overview report to Sefton Council Overview & Scrutiny in relation to Serious Case Reviews in Sefton.

## Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

### Report on Serious Case Review (SCR) Activity

#### Introduction

Sefton LSCB has to date completed and published 5 SCR's. This report provides detail to the national and local processes followed in relation to this activity as well as the work undertaken to address the identified partnership learning. It is of note that none of the published SCRs concluded that any child death was preventable.

#### Purpose of these reviews

*“The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Learning is relevant locally, but it has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policy-makers. Understanding whether there are systemic issues, and whether and how policy and practice need to change, is critical to the system being dynamic and self-improving.”*

#### *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*

The LSCB reviews are undertaken to maximise any learning we can extract to the benefit of the whole partnership in improving its practice where gaps may be identified. It is not driven to apportion blame to any individuals or single agencies. Sefton LSCB has worked hard to create and achieve an inclusive, transparent and safe working environment for all agencies to contribute openly and honestly within this process.

#### Legal requirements

In England, child safeguarding practice reviews (previously known as serious case reviews) should be considered for serious child safeguarding cases where:

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected
- and a child has died or been seriously harmed.

This may include cases where a child has caused serious harm to someone else.

Serious harm includes but is not limited to, serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental or physical health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

This should include cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain.

- There are 2 types of reviews:
  - **Local reviews** – where safeguarding partners consider that a case raise issues of importance in relation to their area.
  - **National reviews** – where the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel considers that a case raises issues which are complex or of national importance. The Panel may also commission reviews on any incident(s) or theme they think relevant.

In England, the key guidance for safeguarding practice reviews is Working Together to Safeguard Children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (Department for Education, 2018).

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Ultimately, the decision to proceed to a review is always a local decision, for which local safeguarding partners are accountable. Meeting the criteria does not mean that safeguarding partners must automatically carry out a local child safeguarding practice review. Decisions on whether to undertake reviews should be made transparently and the rationale communicated appropriately, including to families.

As can be seen from the timeline below, Sefton LSCB have concluded and published 5 Serious Case Reviews between 2018 and 2020. These are those cases that met the Serious Case Review criteria as set out in governmental statutory guidance:

*A serious case is one where:*

*(a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and*

*(b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.*

**Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015**

	<b>SCR1 (MARTHA, MARY &amp; BEN)</b>	<b>SCR2 JANET</b>	<b>SCR3 CHARLIE</b>	<b>SCR4 MATILDA</b>	<b>SCR5 BEATRICE</b>
<b>Independent Author Appointed</b>	February 2018	June 2018	July 2018	November 2018	July 2019
<b>SCR Report to Sefton LSCB</b>	July 2018	January 2019	February 2019	April 2019	February 2020
<b>SCR report to National Panel</b>	July 2018	February 2019	March 2019	October 2019	March 2020
<b>SCR Publication</b>	July 2018	April 2019 (sensitive delay due to anniversary)	March 2019	October 2019	March 2020

## Sefton LSCB Review Process

All cases submitted to Sefton LSCB for review consideration are conducted in line with the policies and procedures. It is an expectation that Serious Case Reviews are completed within 6 months. The LSCB met this requirement in all of these cases. This process is governed by persons/people independent to any one organisation. The LSCB Business Manager who completes the Rapid Review\* is Independent. The Chair of Sefton LSCB who makes the final decision is independent, as is the commissioned author of the report.

<p>* The aim of this rapid review is to enable safeguarding partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time</li> <li>discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children’s safety and share any learning appropriately</li> <li>consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children</li> <li>decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review</li> </ul>
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By way of transparency, all legal and statutory requirements to notify government departments of serious incidents are followed. This is a Local Authority requirement.

All of the SCR’s are published and available to view on Sefton LSCB website [www.seftonlscb.org.uk](http://www.seftonlscb.org.uk)

Learning from Serious Case Reviews is also covered in Sefton LSCB annual report which is published and communicated to relevant forums. The annual report was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 9 September 2020 and presented to the Corporate Parenting Board on 25 August 2020.

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An open learning event for the whole multi-agency partnership was undertaken to share and disseminate the SCR learning. There was open invitation for elected members to attend as well as the working partnership.

Multi-agency 7-minute briefings are developed, shared and disseminated containing the key learning points from each Serious Case Review.

Learning from Serious Case Reviews are woven into all LSCB training programmes. From 2018 – present, Sefton LSCB has delivered 25 specific training courses (Working Together to Safeguard Children) to 539 practitioners. This specific course contains the learning from SCRs which is shared with delegates. Delivery of training during COVID19 has been challenging and Sefton LSCB has worked hard to develop virtual delivery to ensure the learning from SCRs continues to be a priority for Sefton LSCB to support continuous improved practice to ensure Sefton children are safeguarded.

## Sefton LSCB Serious Incident//Rapid Review/Case Review Process

Incident - child dies or is seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is known or suspected



**Within 5 working days of becoming aware of a serious incident, the Local Authority must notify the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and Sefton LSCB Business Unit.**



Following notification received, the LSCB has 15 working days to undertake a Rapid Review of the case.



**Day 1** – Sefton LSCB Business Unit notifies the Independent Chair, the LSCB Practice Review Group Chair, and begins the Rapid Review process

**By Day 10** – LSCB Business Unit facilitates the Rapid Review with the three statutory Safeguarding Partners. The Business Manager presents the analysis of the rapid review to the panel of LSCB members who are selected to oversee the SCR to agree a decision on what type of review should be undertaken

**By Day 12** – LSCB Business Manager submits the decision and initial recommendations to the Sefton LSCB Independent Chair

**By Day 14** – LSCB Independent Chair makes their decision on the case. LSCB Business Unit notifies the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

**Day 15** – LSCB Independent Chair's decision is fed back to the Chair of the standing sub group – (Practice Review Group) and the original referrer by the LSCB Business Manager.



**Day 15 onwards** – Once an independent author is identified, the LSCB Business Unit will inform the Child safeguarding Practice Review Panel (as required).

The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is sent a copy of the final Report at least seven working days before the date of publication.

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## What we have done as a result of the SCR's

- All relevant LSCB policies and procedures strengthened in light of the learning from the SCR's and other multi-agency reviews.
- Child Protection Standards amended to strengthen action planning expectations in relation to practice
- Early help practice standards have been introduced
- Neglect Strategy refreshed to include learning from SCR activity
- MASH Information Sharing Agreement approved and implemented
- LSCB have hugely increased practice resources on their website to support frontline staff. This includes all of the themes identified from the SCR's as well as complimentary resources in additional areas of safeguarding considerations
- Delivered partnership wide learning events (Hear My Voice) that reached over 1000 professionals.  
[See Sefton LSCB SCR Learning Event Newsletter](#)
  - *SCR learning events were delivered by a drama training company using the 'voice of the child' to disseminate the learning. There were 6 sessions delivered across 2 days (June & November 2019). There was open invitation for elected members to attend as well as the working partnership. Circa. 1000 practitioners from the children's workforce attended including a member of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review National Panel. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the events and the approach of the LSCB to learning.*
- The Level of Need Guidance has been refreshed and includes all themes of learning from these cases.
- The development of a bereavement strategy that provides advice and guidance for professionals.
- Representations to the Department of Health concerning the feasibility of developing and implementing a national IT system that provides greater connectivity between health professionals,
- Sought assurance from agencies that their information sharing policies are in place and include all cases, not just those that are managed under formal Child Protection procedures.

## What remains outstanding?

Graded Care Profile 2 is being refreshed and relaunched and the LSCB has provided the finance for the licensed training requirements from the NSPCC which will fund an additional 10 people to undertake the 'train the trainers' and become licenced to train others across the multi-agency partnership. The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) is an updated, evidence based, practical tool that supports practitioners in measuring the quality of care delivered to a child or children over a period of time. The tool provides a representative view of the current level of care and provides grades for different aspects of care. The grades are based on good quality observations and good quality evidence in the family home.

The train the trainer is booked for 13 and 14 January 2021. Following this, there will be a plan in place for a full roll out and ongoing programme of training and support across the partnership. The aim is to have a team of 14 licensed trainers and GCP2 champions who are representative of the full partnership.

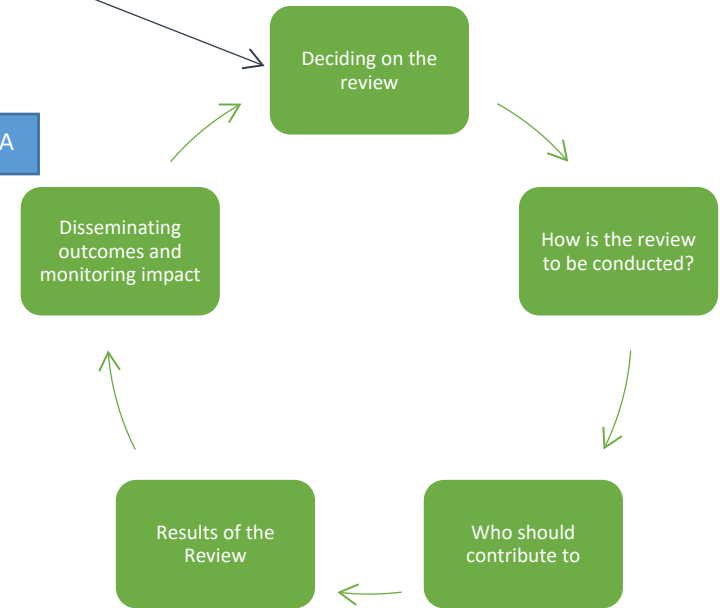
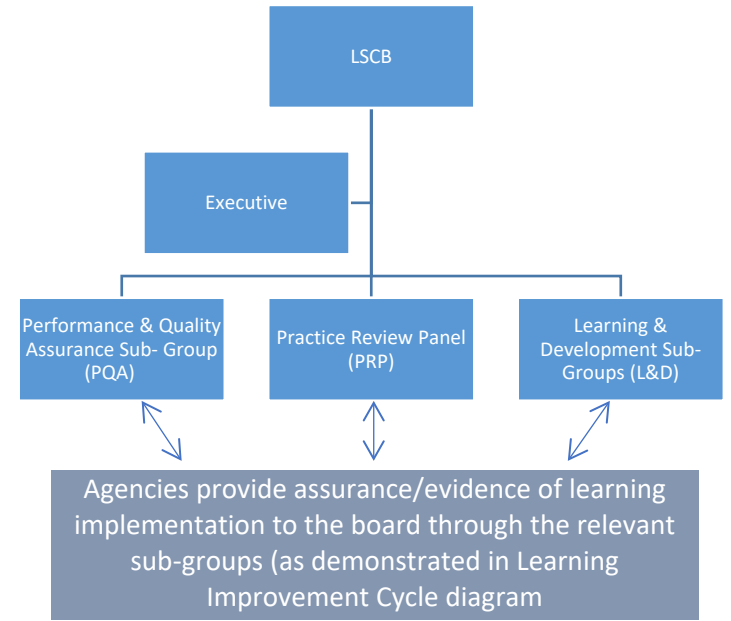
## How we evidence improvements in practice as a result of this learning.

The LSCB seeks to capture improvements in practice through a variety of cyclical activities as illustrated in Appendix 1.

## In conclusion

Sefton LSCB has concentrated its efforts to raise activity in relation to learning and practice improvements across a large and diverse partnership and this is evidenced in one way, through the transparency and communications of our case reviews. Whilst none of the SCR's concluded that any child death was preventable, there is always significant learning as a partnership to extract and this was the clear drive by the strategic leaders across the partnership.

**Paula St Aubyn**  
**Sefton LSCB Independent Chair**  
**January 2021**



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# Agenda Item 9

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 26 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Fostering Service Annual Report		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Children's Social Care	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No.
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

The Fostering Service provides a range of short term and permanent placements for our Looked After Children with foster carers who have a diverse range of skills and experience. Our foster carers provide respite support to each other, support to birth parents and carers, emergency care, care for children in preparation for adoption and long-term permanence. Many of our young people have chosen to Stay Put with foster carers and they have been able to support them beyond 18, through to independence and into adulthood.

As of 31st March 2020, Sefton Fostering Service had 89 approved mainstream fostering households caring for 159 children and 62 connected carer households caring for 67 children. The remainder of our children in care are placed with Independent Fostering Agencies, residential units, residential schools, Staying Put placements, Supported Lodgings or in semi-independent accommodation and children placed for adoption.

This is a summary report of the fostering service highlighting practice and plans to build on current achievements for the period 2019/2020.

## Recommendation(s):

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Committee continues to receive annual reports in relation to the progress of Children's Social Care Fostering Service.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Overview and Scrutiny Committee have a key role as corporate parents and therefore should have an overview and understanding of the fostering service which provides in house placements for Looked After Children.

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## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

N/A

## **What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

### **(A) Revenue Costs**

There are no additional revenue costs identified within this report.

### **(B) Capital Costs**

There are no additional capital costs identified within this report.

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

### **Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):**

There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report.

### **Legal Implications:**

There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

### **Equality Implications:**

There are no equality implications as a result of this report.

## **Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable:

This report sets out the foster placements for those children who become Looked After. In Children's Social Care we strive to maintain sufficiency of placements and provide good quality placements.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

Children's social care work with children, their families and carers in to improve outcomes for children

Commission, broker and provide core services:

The scrutiny of Children's Social Care fostering team supports the aspiration for all services for children to be good or better.

Place – leadership and influencer:

N/A

Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6267/21.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4468/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

N/A

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### Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:  
Sefton Fostering Service Annual report 2019/2020

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

#### 1. Introduction/Background

Please see the appendices for the annual report which provides an overview of the fostering service activity for the years 2019/2020.

Sefton's Fostering Service is made up of a Team Manager, a Lead Practitioner, 9 Social Workers, 4 Placement Support Workers, 1 Recruitment and Marketing Officer and 1 Training and Development officer. Business support is provided by a team of 5. The service is overseen by a Service Manager who is responsible for the Fostering Service and Corporate Parenting. Children's Services Head of Service is responsible for oversight of the whole service and maintaining standards. The aim of Sefton Fostering Service is to provide a range of high quality, appropriate foster placements that meet the National Minimum Standards.

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(2011), the requirements set out in Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and ensure the best possible outcomes for Sefton's children who require care.

Our aim is always to increase the number of fostering households so that we can offer more choice and ensure children's individual needs are met. We have a specific need for more carers who can support young people over the age of 11 years, larger sibling groups and children with complex needs.

In 2020/2021, the fostering service has been managing through the national lockdown due to covid 19 and ensuring support is provided to our carers at a critical time. However, we also recognise that we want to continue to drive improvements as a service and some of these areas include:

- Placement choice and sufficiency will remain a challenge. A whole service approach is being considered as part of Children's Service Demand Management strategy. We will be considering the structure of the Fostering Services and processes to ensure that all staff are best utilised to meet the needs of our existing carers, children in their care and meet growing demand.
- Work with our partners in marketing and communications to consider our recruitment and marketing strategy; to increase choice of appropriate placements. Undertake targeted recruitment campaigns to increase the number of foster placements for all ages of children.
- Strengthen support available to connected carers via commissioning services to assist them – Grandparents Plus/Kinship Connect

# Sefton Fostering Service

## Annual report

### 2019–2020



# Agenda Item 9

## Sefton Fostering Service Annual report 2019–2020

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## Introduction

This report provides an overview of the work of Sefton fostering Service during 2019/20 and highlights the quality of practice, the output of the service and innovations planned to strengthen and enable the service to build on current achievements.

Sefton's Fostering Service is made up of a Team Manager, a Lead Practitioner, 9 Social Workers, 4 Placement Support Workers, 1 Recruitment and Marketing Officer and 1 Training and Development officer. Business support is provided by a team of 5. The service is overseen by a Service Manager who is responsible for the Fostering Service and Corporate Parenting. Children's Services Head of Service is responsible for oversight of the whole service and maintaining standards. The aim of Sefton Fostering Service is to provide a range of high quality, appropriate foster placements that meet the National Minimum Standards (2011), the requirements set out in Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and ensure the best possible outcomes for Sefton's children who require care.

We want to ensure that every child and young person who cannot live with their birth family grows up as part of a loving family who can meet their needs during their childhood and beyond. We want every child to be heard, happy, healthy and achieve. Our foster carers are there to support children and young people emotionally and physically, to provide them with a safe and secure home where they feel wanted and cared for. We want every child to have a sense of belonging; for them to feel valued and part of their foster family and for them to be supported to maintain good links with their family and significant others if this is considered to be in their interests. We want our carers to be equipped to support children to develop independence skills; for them to achieve and enjoy throughout their childhood and into adulthood.

Sefton Fostering service provides a range of short term and permanent placements with foster carers who have a diverse range of skills and experience. Our foster carers provide respite support to each other, support to birth parents and carers, emergency care, care for children in preparation for adoption and long-term permanence. Many of our young people have chosen to Stay Put with foster carers who have been able to support them beyond 18 through to independence and into adulthood.

We have seen a rise in requests from court to assess family members who have come forward to care for children within care proceedings. This has had a significant impact on our workload however is recognised as vital work as we know that children do best when cared for within their family network if this is assessed as safe and consistent for their welfare. Connected carers are eligible for the same level of services and support as mainstream foster carers.





## Number of fostering households

As of 31st March 2020, Sefton Fostering Service had 89 approved mainstream fostering households caring for 159 children and 62 connected carer households caring for 67 children.

The remainder of our children in care are placed with Independent Fostering Agencies, residential units, residential schools, Staying Put placements, Supported Lodgings or in semi-independent accommodation and children placed for adoption.

## Kinship data 1/4/19 – 31/3/20

### Viability assessments 2019/20

153 requests for Viability

### Panel activity

23 kinship households approved at panel

5 to panel not to approve

2 terminated at panel

### Regulation 24 Connected Carers / Special Guardianship Order (SGO) Child Arrangement Orders (CAO) - children placed

38 households

5 households placements ended (before panel approval)

2 SGO's granted (before panel approval)

2 CAO granted (before panel approval)

In addition, 20 households which began assessment as Connected Carer/SGO carer households in the year.

### Placement sufficiency:

Our aim is always to increase the number of fostering households so that we can offer more choice and ensure children's individual needs are met. We have a specific need for more carers who can support young people over the age of 11 years, larger sibling groups and children with complex needs.

Research both locally and nationally has shown that recruitment of foster carers is a challenge. We have seen an increase in the numbers of children and young people coming into care, creating increased demand for foster carers. We have seen a decline in new approvals this year but have plans in place through our Demand Management strategy to understand our processes better; revitalise our marketing strategy and recruit more foster carers.

In October 2019, a Children's Demand Management Programme was set up to specifically look at recruitment and sufficiency of foster carers with a targeted recruitment plan of achieving 50 new fostering households over the next 3 years. This work is ongoing, and it is recognised that an invest to save approach is required to achieve this ambition. In the last year, we have lost some foster carers and we recognise that retention of existing carers is of equal importance. We need to ensure that our "offer" remains attractive to existing carers and appeals to new applicants.

Despite its rewards, fostering can be a very demanding vocation. Sefton's Fostering Service recognises this and understands good outcomes for children can only be achieved when foster carers feel valued, supported and equipped to provide the attention, commitment and care that children who have experienced trauma, neglect,



harm and loss require. Our foster carers tell us that our training offer is good and we have a committed group of experienced foster carer mentors who are able and willing to support new foster carers. Work is planned with our mentors to increase their role to ensure new carers receive enhanced support at the right time. Consideration is also being given to innovative fostering models; namely the Mockingbird Family Model.

Foster carer feedback has improved over this last year as a consequence of improving our foster carer annual review process. All foster carers are sent a consultation form to complete and return prior to their planned review. Their feedback informs the review and contributes to ongoing service development.

## Foster Carer Survey 2019/2020

### Foster Carer Survey 2019 – Analysis

We had a total of 26 Responses

The preferred way to complete the survey was online with 81% completing online. (Survey was also sent via post as some foster carers do not access email)

People who responded came from 5 areas:

Southport – 6 responses

Formby – 5 responses

Crosby – 1 responses

Litherland – 2 responses

Bootle – 2 Responses

### Foster Carer responses

The majority of people that completed the survey had been fostering between 3 – 10 years i.e placements with caring for children from the local area

#### How did you find out about being a Sefton Council Foster Carer?

The majority of people found out about Sefton Fostering from researching with recommendations from friends coming a close second.

#### What attracted you to be a Sefton Council Foster Carer?

The three main reasons that attracted people to Sefton Fostering was the locality of children i.e. placements from the local area, being able to help children and make a difference to their lives and the training and support on offer. Another reason given was knowing a child that requires fostering (more applicable to connected carers).

### Comments about being a Sefton Council Foster Carer?

*“Since joining Sefton I have been very happy working with a group of lovely people. The training, which is excellent, needs special mention as does the Organisational culture which is co-operative and helpful. Foster carers are valued and seen as part of the team. Information for carers could be improved as stated above.”*

*“Get better at communicating. Especially Locality social workers, talk to Foster Carers about other commitments before arranging contacts and LAC’s etc. People juggling, other foster children, birth children, work commitments. See us as other professionals working with you. To cc on the computer is really simple. Plan long term placement moves and moves to family better, have planning meetings involve everybody.”*

*“As a mentor for new foster carers I feel it is crucial that we are supporting new carers from the very first day. Far too many are giving up on placements before giving it some time. mentoring carers want to go in and help stop the breakdown, but we are not being allocated new carers. What I have learnt over the last 8 years has made me realise how little i knew at the beginning. That is when you need supporting the most.”*

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*“It’s very enjoyable, rewarding but also challenging at times”.*

*“Talk to foster carers about other commitments they have before arranging contact session etc also if they have more than one placement need to talk more to the foster carers as to how contact session will be managed”.*

*“Support is key to success of placements, support needs to be from day one of placement”.*

## Placement Support Workers

We have 4 full time Placement Support Workers who play an important role in terms of placement stability and retention. 2 of our PSW’s also support the Marketing and Recruitment officer in following up initial enquiries and undertaking initial home visits.

1 PSW runs a Kids Club on a monthly basis which attracts children who are looked after and children of the foster family. This group offers fun, time out and peer support. PSW’s access Sefton training and can tap into foster carer training.

## Staying Put

Over the last year; 32 young people between 18 and 21 years have remained living with their former foster carers on a “staying put” basis. Their carers continue to have access to Sefton Fostering training offer and receive ongoing financial support. The young people have their own Personal Advisor from our Leaving Care team.

## Foster Carer recruitment

The service has a dedicated part time Marketing and Recruitment Officer who is responsible for recruitment of new mainstream foster carers. This Communications Officer works alongside a Marketing Manager and Communications person based in Strategic support to plan and review marketing activity to recruit more carers. Additional capacity is required to increase recruitment of foster carers.

## Other developments during 2019/2020

- Increased supervisory visits to 6 per year to increase support for carers
- More structured annual review process
- Introduction of foster carer file audits
- Fostering Service Improvement plan.

## Recruitment

### Fostering Enquiries 2019– 2020 Progressions

**Total Approvals – 5**

**Total – Enquiries 320**

Stages	Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Pre Stage	Enquiries	8	22	18	13	9	25	16	38	70	61	27	13	320
Stage 1	Registration of Interest	1	8	6	7	2	10	6	6	8	15	3	6	79
	Initial Visit	1	5	4	4	1	6	2	2	1	7	0	3	37
	Open Stage 1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	7
Stage 2	Awaiting Preparation Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	5
	Awaiting Assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
	Assessments	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
	Approvals	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

### Pre Enquiry – 320 Enquiries

79 Progressed to Registrations of Interest (ROI)

18 On hold - still engaging with

223 Closed \* 181 Withdrew from the process and 42 were discontinued

## ROI

Of the 79 ROI completed 37 Initial Visits (IV) were undertaken and 7 ROI are currently on hold. 35 ROI were closed before an initial visit was undertaken.

(35 ROI closed before Initial Visit) \*See below for closure reasons (Withdrew -24 Terminated as unsuitable - 16)

#### \* Closure Reasons

##### Withdrew

10 – No Further Response

5 - Proceeding with another agency

2 - Medical Issues / Family Illness

2 – Need more time to consider Fostering

2 – Change of circumstance

1 – Withdrew due to the Covid 19

1 - Applying to adopt

1 -Didn't want their ex-partner to be contacted

##### Unsuitable

6 – Medical Issue

3 – Smokes / e cigarette and want to foster Under 5

2 – Safeguarding Concerns

2 – Recent Bereavement

1 – Work / Child Care commitments

1 – Criminal Conviction

1 – Room unsuitable

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## Initial Visits completed - 37

19- Progressed to Stage 2

18 - Closed \*see reasons below

### \*Closure Reasons – Stage 1 - 18

6 - Not ready to proceed further

3 - Health Issues

2 - Proceeding with another agency

2 - Change of circumstance

2 - No further Contact

1 - Work Commitments

1 - Recent Bereavement

1 - Decided to put fostering on hold until son is older

Status of Enquires that progressed to Stage 2 - 19

2 - Approved to date

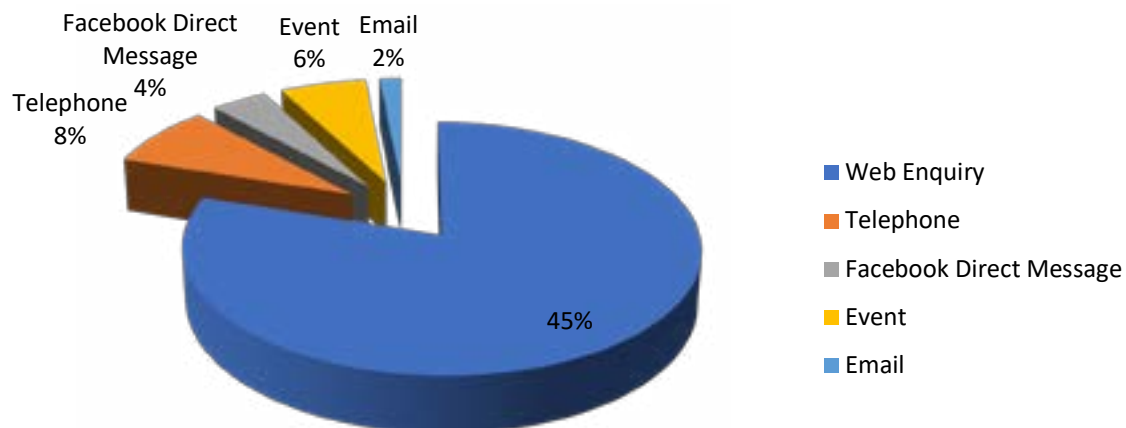
5 - Assessments Ongoing

4 - Awaiting Assessment

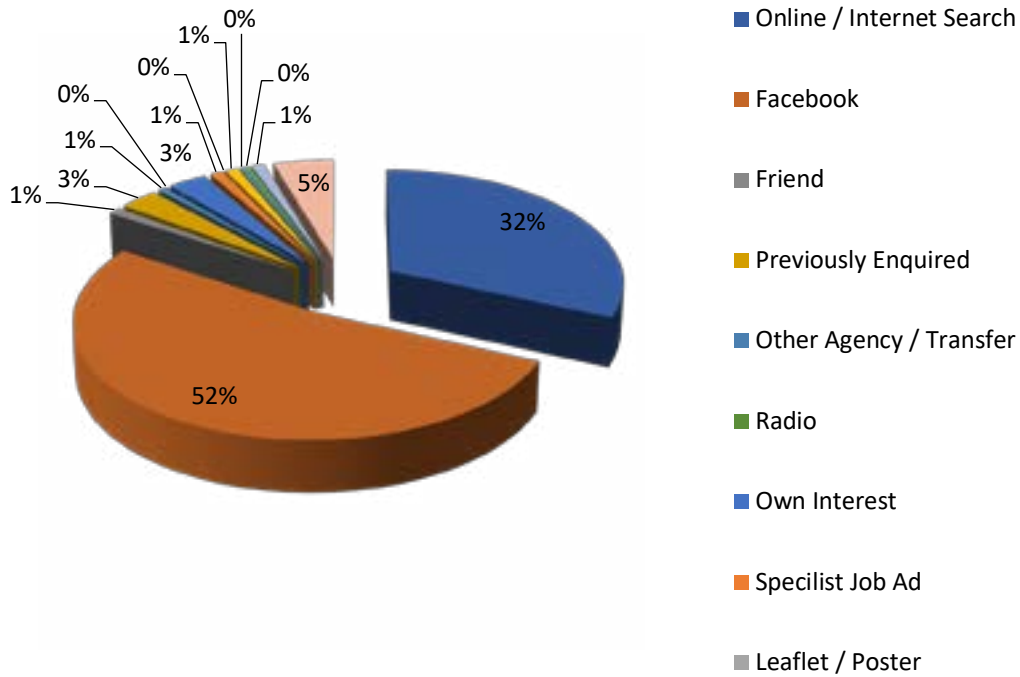
5 - Awaiting Preparation Groups

3 - Open / Ongoing

## Method of Enquiry April 2019 – March 2020

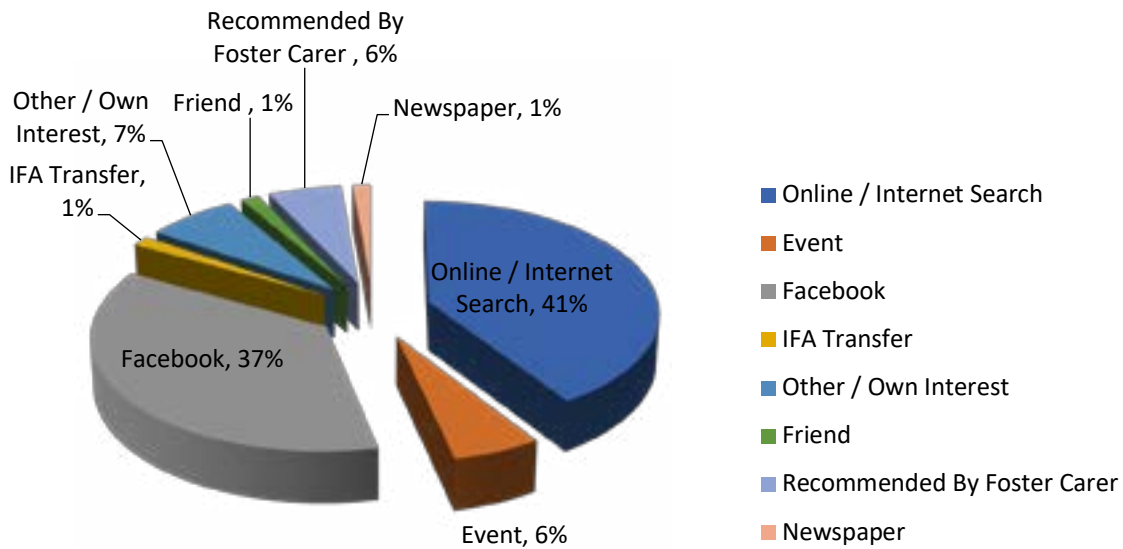


## Source of Enquiry



The two largest sources of enquiry are Facebook with 52% and online / internet searches with 32%.

## Source for enquiries that progress to ROI



The sources of enquiries that progress to ROI largely follow the same pattern as for enquires with the two biggest being online / internet searches with 41% and Facebook with 37%.

Research indicates that people typically take 2 years to contemplate and find out about fostering. We know that the response they receive to their initial contact will influence whether they proceed with the Council when they are ready. (Fostering Network)

We have struggled to recruit carers from diverse backgrounds with

the skills to meet the diverse needs of some children: including older children, children from large sibling groups,

# Agenda Item 9

parent/child placements as well as for our unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. We have improved our training offer to include cultural competence to better equip our foster carers. Targeted recruitment for teenage carers has remained a priority however little specific interest has been achieved. We reviewed our criteria to attract more interest however this has had little impact.

Sefton Council has an ambitious plan to recruit an additional 50 foster carers over the next 3 years; work has begun to consider structure, processes, marketing, recruitment and website developments. The recruitment of foster carers continues to be a challenge in Sefton and nationally, Sefton Fostering are competing with Independent Fostering services and neighbouring local authorities.

We make every effort to place children in their own communities; when this is not possible due to lack of availability or due to the child's needs requiring specialist support, Sefton commissions placements through external independent fostering agencies (IFA) or independent residential placements. All IFA's are approved and monitored through Turning the Taps panel, which is chaired by Sefton's Head of Children's Service (HOS). These placements tend to be more expensive than placing children in the care of our own foster carers. Every effort is made to keep the use of these placements to a minimum and we try to return children/young people to our own in house foster carers; or their families as soon as possible. However, if there are ongoing care proceedings the local authority is often directed by the court to leave children/young people in their placements until the conclusion of the proceedings to provide consistency.

The number of children who are looked after has risen over this last year. Recruitment of new mainstream foster carers remains a high priority for the service to ensure we maximise placement capacity and sufficiency in house and meet Sefton Children's needs within their own communities.

Sefton Fostering Service aims to recruit 50 new foster care households over the next three years. The structure of the fostering service is being considered alongside marketing, recruitment and website development in order to achieve this. Digital marketing services are being used which are known to attract greater attention and we are looking at ways to improve our response to initial enquiries and the Applicants fostering journey. Whilst recognising the importance of face to face interaction with applicants, we want to develop the use of 'online chats' which can be more easily accessible to those considering fostering.

We now also keep in touch with previous applicants who have made a fostering enquiry and withdrew. We send updated fostering information by letter or e-mail to keep potential applicants informed; an e-mail is sent out to all open enquirers informing them of monthly information events. We recognise that fostering impacts on the whole family; that fostering is a big commitment and we want to be available to support interested people whenever the time is right for them.

We are continually reviewing what is working well and looking at ways we can improve. Demand management meetings have focused our attention and will allow us to scrutinise our systems and processes in more detail. The Marketing, recruitment and website subgroup will consider fostering images, branding and advertising and the ongoing development of our website to make it more interactive. The impact of the use of social media, which includes digital campaigns will be monitored more systematically and we will continue to use social media to advertise support information evenings and show regard to our existing foster carers. Bespoke marketing and advertising campaigns have been used to attract carers for a child who was being cared for in a residential unit.

## Early permanence

Stability and early consideration of permanence is key to all children. Careful matching at the earliest opportunity with permanent carers to reduce disruption, uncertainty and instability is key. More placement choice is required in order to consider this for every child and young person. We recognise that more effective links are required with other parts of children's services to ensure that children's needs, wishes and feelings are sought and understood and that permanent foster carers are identified earlier. Once it has been identified that permanency is required, a more robust and targeted approach to family finding is required. Sefton plan this year to train social workers in family group conferencing techniques. This will enable early consideration of a child and families support network; bringing together family and family friends when things are difficult.

## Annual Foster Carer Reviews

A part time Fostering Independent Reviewing Officer (FIRO) was appointed in March 2019 to chair annual foster carer reviews; bringing independence and scrutiny of the Fostering Service and consistency of practice. The FIRO is based in the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit alongside other Independent Reviewing Officers for children who are looked after.

A new annual review administration process has been set up and is now established and functioning more effectively and consistently across the service. Reviews are planned in advance to allow for wide consultation, completion of review documentation and quality assurance by Fostering Managers. Reviews have generally been taking place at the foster carers home with the Supervising Social Worker present.

In January 2020, a foster carer annual review video was created which involved 2 foster carers, FIRO, Supervising Social Worker, Training and Recruitment Officer and Fostering panel members. This will be used to inform safeguarding training and will be uploaded to the Sefton Fostering Website when the new annual review template is ready to be launched; alongside examples of review consultation forms. The aim is to make this process as transparent as possible so that carers and others know what is expected.

It is essential that feedback from children and young people and their social workers informs foster carers annual reviews. This has been a challenge to receive and different techniques are being considered to increase response rates. Feedback is also requested from the child's IRO, education and any other relevant service. We have made good progress in respect of annual reviews this year but will continue to strive for increased engagement and consistent quality.

Learning from foster carer annual reviews has continued throughout the year with feedback sessions being provided to the team by the FIRO who has also met with our foster carer support groups and mentor group. Areas for improvement have been addressed within our Fostering Service Improvement plan.

The new annual review process was implemented on 31.07.2019. As of 31.03.20, 35 reviews had been completed. We are reviewing the timeliness of reviews.

## Comments received from some of our foster carers to inform their annual foster carer review.

*"Always good at dealing with queries. Returns calls and texts even if she doesn't have the answers straight away. She is really friendly and professional too." SSW*

*"Does what she says" SSW*

*"Absolutely superb, I cannot speak highly enough of her; available at all stages of my fostering process" SSW*

*"Explains the requirements of a foster carer"*

*"Invaluable; he helped with transport to allow us to spend time with our children" PSW*

*"Informative and friendly" SSW*

*"My SSW reminds me of fostering standards" SSW*

*"First aid trainer was amazing... grateful for information to help us look after babies"*

*"Attachment training was excellent"*

*"Spent time getting to know X and he spoke positively about her"*

*"When SSW was off sick we could contact other staff"*

*"Good"*

## Foster Carer File audits

Sefton Fostering Service is committed to improving practice and in doing so ensuring that foster carers receive the right support to care for some of our most vulnerable children. This year we have introduced auditing of our foster carer files to consider compliance and quality. Foster Carer case file audits will be planned at intervals throughout the year. The outcome of these audits will inform team development sessions, training requests, further auditing activity and our improvement plan. Good practice will be celebrated and any gaps will be addressed.

## Retention

Retention of existing foster carers continues to be a high priority for the fostering service. We know how important support and training is to retention of carers. For those who choose to leave the service we need to better understand their reasons why and to this end we are considering how best to complete exit interviews.

## Training

We have a full time Training and Development Officer who is responsible for coordinating, developing and delivering a programme of training days, workshops and e-learning which is responsive to the diverse requirements of the Fostering Service; to include the needs of members of our Fostering Panel. The training programme includes “pre-approval” training, i.e. Skills to Foster, mandatory training for all foster carers and workshops. Also, training sessions aimed specifically at supporting our connected carers. Sessions take place during the daytime and at evenings and weekends to take into account carers other work commitments. Venues are used across the borough to ensure training is accessible to all. Our Training and Development Officer also offers support sessions to our carers to help them think about their TDS workbooks.

Training attendance in 2019-2020 by foster carers was 491 (76 training events) and 15 carers were supported in completing their portfolio

## Comments from foster carers attending training events

### Understanding Autism

*“Activities were brilliant, make you understand the difficulties and how their brain ticks.”*

### Moving on

*“I really liked the interactive approach. Great to hear from other carers experiences. Will use ideas when next I support a child to move on.”*

### Equality and Diversity

*“I feel I have more of an understanding and feel more confident to discuss trans issues and challenge discrimination. “*

*“Feel better equipped to support the children who come through my door.”*

### Promoting sleep

*“The whole course was very informative, especially the quiz & understanding how sleep works.*

*“It reinforced ideas about how to gradually encourage self-soothing.”*

### Contact

*“We needed to know at the start of fostering what is on this course because you could stand up for yourself and the children more.”*



*“It is good to have time to think about contact, working with the parents and understand what they might get from the time with their children.”*

*“When you know your role you can be creative. Flexibility is key to an ongoing positive relationship.”*

*“As a new carer I feel less worried and more hopeful about contact in the future.”*

A key area of development within the fostering service has been identified around the provision of specialist placements in particular for those children who can come back into a foster family following a period of time within a residential unit and those children and young people who are remanded or who come into local authority care at short notice. In order to address this, we need to look at the training required within Sefton and identify, not only within our existing cohort of carers but also from new applicants, those who could be approved as specialist carers for these young people.

The Fostering Service holds an Annual Conference for all Foster Carers to attend which includes professional speakers. This years conference was a huge success; our key speaker spoke with great energy and empathy about her experience of fostering and social work; about the importance of attachment and compassion fatigue. Others speakers talked about personal experiences of being in foster care, the new annual review process and cultural considerations. Foster carer mentors also spoke about their role and support available for new and existing carers and afternoon workshops allowed for group discussions. This event is used to network and demonstrate to Foster Carers that they are valued in their role. Feedback from carers and others was exclusively positive.

A foster carer handbook is being considered; a hard copy will be sent to all our Foster Carers. The handbook will contain pertinent information useful for carers and will be regularly updated to reflect any changes within the service. The handbook will be on our website. and will be updated accordingly. Any feedback from carers will be taken on board.

## Fostering Panel

It continues to be a busy period for the Fostering Panel, with a steady flow of Foster Carer approvals, resignations, deregistration of foster carers and annual foster carer reviews. There has been a steady increase in the number of placements made with Family and Friends Foster Carers as in the previous year. Foster Carer’s first annual reviews have been presented to panel, as have reviews requiring change of approval category, and reviews following concerns and guidance relevant to Fostering.

Panel Business	Number
Mainstream Assessment Foster Carers - Approved	5
Mainstream Fostering Assessments - Deferred by panel	2
Mainstream Fostering Assessments - Not Approved	0
Connected Person Fostering Assessments - Approved	22
Connected Person Fostering Assessments - Deferred by Panel	7
Connected Person Foster Carers – Not Approved	4
Request for extension of Regulation 24 - Connected Person/Special Guardian assessments	15
Deregistration of Mainstream Foster Carers	8
Deregistration of Connected Person Foster Carers	19
Foster Carer 1st Annual Reviews considered by panel	15
Foster Carer Reviews (not 1st) considered by panel	2
Foster Carer Reviews deferred by panel for additional information	2
Other reports to panel	0

## Connected Persons Carers (Friends & Family)

The Service is responsible for the assessment, training, and support of Connected Persons Carers and Special Guardianship carers. Connected Persons Assessments are presented to the Fostering Panel make a recommendation in respect of approval which is subsequently ratified by the Agency Decision Maker.

Family and Friends Foster Carers put themselves forward to care for children who are connected to them by association or relationship. They are assessed by the Service as to their suitability to provide appropriate care in accordance with the Fostering Regulations 2011. From April 2019 – March 2020 there were 22 Family and Friends Carers approved.

Schedule 4 of Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (England) 2010 Assessments whereby Family and Friends Foster Carers are granted temporary approval require allocation of a Social Worker to supervise and assess the placement suitability within a sixteen-week timescale. An extension of eight weeks continues to be applied where required and a clear process is being followed via Fostering Panel and Head of Service to reduce the number of unregulated placements. Delay is caused by delays in receipt of checks and references, rather than assessment completion.

All approved Foster Carers are allocated a qualified Supervising Social Worker. Following approval, the Supervising Social Workers are responsible for supervising and supporting carers, ensuring that they have the necessary guidance, support, challenge and direction to maintain a quality service, including safe care practices. This includes a foster carer agreement that they must work within the agency's policies, procedures and guidance. Our foster carer agreement has been adapted to take into account changes to training expectations and the frequency of supervisory visits.

Sefton has a commissioning arrangement with Foster talk who offer support to all of Sefton's approved Foster Carers including; legal advice and expenses, insurance cover, a 24-hour legal advice helpline, a 24-hour counselling support helpline, an education support line, a Social Work support helpline and access to discounts.

We hope to be able to commission services from Grandparents Plus/ Kinship Connect to further support our connected carers in the future.

## Special Guardianship

The responsibility for the assessment and support of Special Guardianship Orders is that of the Fostering Service. This encourages a more joined up approach between teams with the completion of assessment being a joint activity between the Social Worker in Fostering and the Social Worker for the child. If the Care Plan for the child recommends Long Term Fostering with either mainstream or Family and Friends as a permanency option a Special Guardianship Order should be considered where this is deemed to be in the child's best interests, essentially removing the child from the care system, and transferring parental responsibility to the carer. A tracking tool has been devised and there is monthly oversight of progress to ensure permanency is achieved via SGO in a timely manner. 15 SGO were granted through the period 2019/20.

To support placement stability, we need to ensure disruption meetings are taking place consistently. Placement stability meetings will be chaired by the children's team managers. This area needs development to ensure that practice is consistently supporting children and foster carers. Any placement difficulties need to be identified at an earlier stage following supervisory visits. This will continue to be a key area of focus next year as we work towards improving placement stability for our children.

## Resignations

Historically, we have not as a Service been as pro-active as we could be in understanding why foster carers choose to resign. Moving forward, it is our intention to offer foster carers an exit interview with an independent person in order to better understand their reasons and rationale for their decision. A process is being considered to facilitate exit interviews in the near future.

## Allegations

In some circumstances, allegations about a foster carer are made and these are discussed with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Narrative	Number
The number of allegations against foster carers made by fostered children	4
The number of allegations against foster carers made by other sources	3
The number of children who have made allegations against their foster carers	4
The number of foster carers who have been subject to allegations	7
<b>Physical abuse</b>	4
<b>Sexual abuse</b>	0
<b>Neglect</b>	1
<b>Emotional abuse</b>	2

**2 concerns resolved no further action and 5 with a recommendation to return to panel for an early review.**

## Complaints

In the last year, the Fostering Service has received one complaint which was in relation to a kinship foster carer who was caring for her grandchildren. The carer was unhappy with the service she was receiving and the delay in her assessment. This was investigated through Sefton's complaints service and the carers complaint was upheld and a letter of apology was sent to the carer.

### Independent Review Mechanism (IRM)

If carers or prospective carers are unhappy about recommendations made by the fostering panel and decisions made by the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) they can appeal the decision through two mechanisms. One is a request for another Fostering Panel to hear issues again and another is for the case to be referred to the IRM. In this financial year Sefton have had one case referred to the IRM Panel who unanimously recommended the couple were suitable to be approved as connected persons foster carers. The final decision by the ADM was to uphold the decision of Sefton's fostering panel not approve the applicants.

### Compliments

The Fostering Service welcomes compliments and suggestions and has received many compliments about social workers in the fostering service and compliments about the placement support workers who have completed a wide range of activities and events for children looked after. We also welcome any suggestions that can improve the service we provide.

## Progress made during 2019/2020

### Key priorities were:

- Specialist teen scheme – This was launched in 2018 however we have not been able to attract or recruit specific carers. We are considering our marketing and recruitment strategies as part of wider demand management.
- Increase numbers of children leaving care through permanency routes e.g. SGO – this work is ongoing.
- Placement stability and retention of new carers – we are continually reviewing support available to new carers; support provided by our foster carer mentors and training available.
- Reduce number of children placed in external placements – over this last year we have managed to return one child to foster care.

## The Fostering Service looking head 2020/2021

In a televised announcement on 23 March, Boris Johnson said: “From this evening I must give the British people a very simple instruction - you must stay at home.” We envisage new challenges this year as a consequence of the Coronavirus Pandemic. We will continue to support our carers; take heed of government guidance and innovate where necessary.

- We will continue to work with our foster carers and mentors to ensure participation in practice and that their views shape service improvements and delivery.
- Placement choice and sufficiency will remain a challenge. A whole service approach is being considered as part of Children’s Service Demand Management strategy. We will be considering the structure of the Fostering Services and processes to ensure that that all staff are best utilised to meet the needs of our existing carers, children in their care and meet growing demand.
- Work with our partners in marketing and communications to consider our recruitment and marketing strategy; to increase choice of appropriate placements. Undertake targeted recruitment campaigns to increase the number of foster placements for all ages of children.
- Improve Sefton Fostering website; make payment levels and assessment timescales more transparent, annual review process clearer.
- Set up an exit interview process to ensure that learning is captured from those carers who leave the service.
- Ensure that a foster carer handbook is available for our carers by the Summer 2020.
- Further improve our foster carer annual review process by refreshing the annual review form; encouraging greater feedback from children and their social workers and by improving timeliness and ensuring consistent quality.
- Learn from foster carer file audits and feedback from annual foster carer reviews; ensure robust management oversight and supervision to close learning loops.
- Commit to team development sessions; ensuring we get the basics right every time; increasing our skills and knowledge accordingly.
- Improve quality and timeliness of assessments and quality assurance of information presented to Fostering Panel.
- Improve communication with Fostering Panel; by setting up quarterly meetings.
- Update policies and procedures to support the Fostering Service and our foster carers.
- Strengthen support available to connected carers via commissioning services to assist them – Grandparents Plus/Kinship Connect
- Ongoing consideration of innovative models of working; namely Mockingbird Family Model.
- In previous reports, it was acknowledged that fostering performance data was lacking. this remains an area of development and requires further work this year to improve data collection and management grip.

- The Fostering Service intends to improve performance in permanence planning by ensuring that more young people are matched at the earliest opportunity with permanent carers to ensure that the time children and young people wait to be permanently matched is reduced.
- Recognition and identification of placement difficulties which are likely to cause placement breakdown requires focus to ensure that those children who are experiencing two or more placement moves are being monitored and that issues around placement support are being addressed at the earliest stage.
- More effective links with other parts of children's services so children who require a permanent foster carer are identified earlier and once these children are identified a more robust and targeted approach to family finding is further embedded.
- These improvements remain the same as in 2018/2019 so it is recognised that there is a need to introduce A more robust management tracking system for timescales of friends and family assessments as well as ongoing work with Practitioners and Managers to ensure all assessments are high quality.
- Ongoing work to ensure good communication with Fostering Panel.

**Maria Spatuzzi**

Fostering Manager

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## Notes

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# Agenda Item 9

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Sefton Fostering Service  
Annual report  
2019-2020

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Cabinet Member Report – November – December 2020		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Children's Services and Safeguarding		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:**

To submit the Cabinet Member - Children's Services and Safeguarding report relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Recommendation:**

That the Cabinet Member - Children's Services and Safeguarding report 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 report, which are referred to in this update, are contained within the respective reports.

**(A) Revenue Costs – see above**

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**(B) Capital Costs – see above**

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
<b>Legal Implications:</b>
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.

## **Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. The Cabinet Member update provides information on activity within Councillor John Joseph Kelly's portfolio during a previous two-month period. Any reports relevant to his portfolio 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

## **What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

### **(A) Internal Consultations**

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

### **(B) External Consultations**

Not applicable

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2254
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:debie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk">debie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk</a>

## Appendices:

The following appendix is attached to this report:

- Cabinet Member - (Children's Services and Safeguarding) 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, is the most recent Cabinet Member report for the Children's Services and Safeguarding portfolio.

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### **CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
<b>John Joseph Kelly</b>	<b>Children, Schools and Safeguarding</b>	<b>Nov / Dec 2020</b>

Cabinet Member Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding).

#### **SEND**

An Improvement Progress visit was undertaken by DfE and CQC with members of the SEND Children’s Improvement Board. The feedback was positive in relation to the significant progress that has been made. An update on SEND progress and the drive for continuous improvement is available for committee today. The SEND continuous Improvement Board has continued to meet throughout the pandemic.

Updates have been received in relation to Aiming High and Springbrook short break offer during the pandemic.

Springbrook has offered overnight stays though reduced the offer to two children per night to maintain social distancing.

The Aiming High service has continued to offer support, recognising that some families are very anxious about attendance in groups and the team have maintained contact families. Approximately 60 children benefited each week from 173 hours of delivery.

A Joint position statement was agreed in relation to children with Pathological Demand Avoidance which was co-produced between Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust, Education (Liverpool and Sefton) and Parent Carer Forums (Liverpool & Sefton)

#### **Commissioning**

A report was received and agreed regarding the award of contract for supported lodgings, until such services can be re-procured using the established North-West Placements Purchasing system, which is expected to be available from July 2021.

#### **Response to Covid 19 Pandemic**

At the time of writing the LA and all partners are responding to the impact of the National Lockdown announced on 4<sup>th</sup> January 20. All schools and nurseries remain open to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children, SMART testing is being implemented in secondary schools and we are working through issues as they arise collaboratively with School Leaders and Partners. Children’s social care and Early Help services continue to operate to support families and ensure they are safeguarded.

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**APPENDIX A**

CLLR John J Kelly BA(Hons) M.Sc. DASS CQSW DMS



# Agenda Item 11

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 January 2021
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)		12 January 2021
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		19 January 2021
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)		26 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Executive/Scrutiny Protocol		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To advise of the decision of Cabinet (Minute No. 69) of its meeting held on 3 December 2020 approving the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol for use in Sefton.

## Recommendation:

That the decision of Cabinet in approving the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol for use in Sefton be noted and welcomed.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with previous decisions of the Cabinet, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees seeking the production of an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol in Sefton.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

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No alternative options have been considered because the production of an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol in Sefton was requested by Cabinet.

## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from the production the protocol. Any financial implications that do arise will be reported to the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees at the appropriate time.

### (A) Revenue Costs

See above

### (B) Capital Costs

See above

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The development of an Executive / Scrutiny protocol should improve relationships between Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Members and contribute towards more effective scrutiny in Sefton.
Place – leadership and influencer: As above
Drivers of change and reform: As above
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report.
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report.

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 6213/20) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4405/20) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## **(B) External Consultations**

None

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following this meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	Paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

Executive/Scrutiny Protocol – Appendix A

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### **1. Introduction/Background**

1.1 Members will be aware that during the last cycle of meetings the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board recommended that that Cabinet approve an Executive / Scrutiny Protocol. The Protocol had been produced by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

### **2. Cabinet Consideration**

2.1 At its meeting held on 3 December 2020 Cabinet considered the Executive / Scrutiny Protocol and approved its use in Sefton.

2.2 At the Cabinet meeting, Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services highlighted the importance of a similar approach in engaging with and holding Partners to account.

2.3 The Protocol has now been published on the Council's website and will be used as part of future Member Induction and Member Development Programmes.

### **3. Conclusion**

3.1 This report is for information and to advise that Cabinet had approved the Executive / Scrutiny Protocol for use in Sefton.

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## EXECUTIVE / SCRUTINY PROTOCOL



**ONECOUNCIL** Working Together

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## APPENDIX A

### PROTOCOL ON EXECUTIVE & OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RELATIONS IN SEFTON

#### Contents

1. Introduction
2. Aims of the Protocol
3. Functions of Overview and Scrutiny
4. The Conduct of Meetings
5. The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
6. Pre-Scrutiny
7. “Call-In” of Decisions
8. Working Group Reviews
9. Public Participation in the Overview and Scrutiny Process
10. Specific Duty of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) – Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.2 This Protocol applies to all Members of Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees, co-opted members who sit on O&S Committees, all Members of the Cabinet and senior officers.
- 1.3 The Protocol is not intended to replace *Chapter 6 – Overview and Scrutiny* of the Council's [Constitution](#), nor is intended to replace *Chapter 2 – Members – Code of Conduct*, rather it is intended to enhance and supplement the requirements of the Constitution and set out guidance for good practice.
- 1.4 Scrutiny should be a strategic function of the authority. It should be central to the organisation's corporate governance; a crucial cog in the decision-making machine.

### 2. Aims of the Protocol:

- 2.1 Clarify Relationships
- 2.2 The aim of the Protocol is to clarify relationships between O&S Members and Cabinet Members, to ensure an efficient O&S function, including holding the Cabinet to account on behalf of the electorate, and to encourage good communication between O&S and the Cabinet.
- 2.3 Positive Interaction
- 2.4 The Protocol refers to the respective powers, roles and responsibilities for both O&S Members and Cabinet Members. Guidance is set out on the way in which both O&S Members and Cabinet Members should interact, in order that Members maximise their roles and for the Authority to have an effective O&S function for the benefit of the Council as a whole. It also offers guidance to senior officers who support this process.
- 2.5 Promote a Culture of Mutual Respect
- 2.6 The Protocol aims to promote a culture of mutual respect, trust and courtesy in the relationships between O&S Members, Cabinet Members and senior officers, and to foster a climate of openness leading to constructive debate and communication, with a view to ensuring service improvements for the benefit of Sefton citizens.
- 2.7 Parity of Esteem
- 2.8 "Parity of esteem" means that the scrutiny function of the Council deserves the same respect, and has the same importance in the governance system, as

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## APPENDIX A

executive decision-making activities. Requests from scrutiny to engage with, and recommended changes to, policies, plans and activities should be treated with the same respect and consideration as if they came from a Cabinet Member.

### **3. Functions of Overview and Scrutiny**

3.1 The general role and specific functions of the O&S Committees can be found within Chapter 6 of the Council's Constitution. The key responsibilities of O&S are to:

- (a) Hold the Cabinet, Cabinet Members and senior officers to account for their decisions, on behalf of the electorate;
- (b) Review Council policy, the way policies are implemented and their impact on local citizens;
- (c) Scrutinise Executive decisions before they are made and before they are implemented; and
- (d) Contribute to the development of policy by investigating issues of local concern and making recommendations to the Cabinet, to the Council and to partner organisations.

### **4. The Conduct of Meetings**

- 4.1 Cabinet Members are actively encouraged to attend meetings of O&S Committees relevant to their Portfolio, in order to present their Cabinet Member Update Reports and to respond to questions/comments from O&S Members.
- 4.2 Cabinet Members may be required to attend meetings of O&S Committees in particular circumstances, e.g. the consideration of "called-in" items.
- 4.3 The principle of the "critical friend" should always be adhered to between Scrutiny Members and Cabinet Members, senior officers and any external partners.
- 4.4 All Members should promote an atmosphere of openness at the O&S Committee meetings and should strive to ensure that questioning and debate takes place within a climate of mutual respect and trust.
- 4.5 O&S Committee Members should be prepared to ask searching questions and where necessary, provide constructive challenge to Cabinet Members on issues that fall under their Portfolio.



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- 4.6 Cabinet Members should be willing to respond to any question put. However, it should be noted that that Cabinet Members may not necessarily be in a position to answer every question immediately or in detail. In such circumstances the matter may be referred to a senior officer in attendance or a written answer may be sought.
- 4.7 Cabinet Members should value the contribution of O&S Committee Members who raise issues and respond in an appropriate and manner, in order to make a positive contribution to Scrutiny meetings.
- 4.8 Cabinet Members should, with the permission of the Chair, be permitted by the O&S Committee to speak upon any item on the agenda under discussion and may at any time offer to assist the Committee by the provision of factual information or advice in relation to the matters under discussion.
- 4.9 The Chair, supported by senior officers, shall provide leadership and guidance to the Committee on all scrutiny matters and shall promote the Committee's role in improving services and monitoring the effectiveness of Council policies, through effective scrutiny.
- 4.10 Party politics and the use of the Party Whip shall be avoided during O&S Committees.
- 4.11 Senior officers shall liaise and agree their attendance at meetings of O&S Committees during the Municipal Year.

### **5. The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 5.1 The Council's Strategic Leadership Board, comprised of the Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Heads of Service, shall be invited to identify any appropriate items for inclusion in the Work Programme of O&S Committees.
- 5.2 The Work Programme of items submitted to O&S Committees at the beginning of each Municipal Year shall be drafted in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.
- 5.3 A manageable number of items should be identified in order to demonstrate that the scrutiny function "adds value" to the Council.
- 5.4 The O&S Committees will be responsible for setting their own work programme.
- 5.5 O&S Members are reminded at each meeting that they are able to request other items for inclusion within the Work Programme, provided such items fall within the terms of reference of the Committee.

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- 5.6 A Member of an O&S Committee is entitled to give notice to the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that they wish an item relevant to the functions of the Committee to be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Committee.
- 5.7 The Cabinet and/or the Council may refer a matter to one or more O&S Committees.
- 5.8 The Chair of the O&S Committee may consider alternative methods of dealing with items in order to avoid over-loading Committee agendas. These may include informal presentations, visits to front-line services, site visits / informal discussions with external partners, etc.

### **6. Pre-Scrutiny**

- 6.1 The Key Decision Forward Plan sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the following four-month period. The Forward Plan is updated and published each month. The Forward Plan appears on the Council's website and an email alert is sent to all Members of the Council when a new Forward Plan is published.
- 6.2 A summary of the latest Forward Plan, setting out the Key Decisions that fall under the remit of each O&S Committee, is submitted to each meeting of the O&S Committees and appears under the Work Programme item, a standing item on each O&S agenda.
- 6.3 O&S Members should peruse Decisions to be taken and may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit (terms of reference) of the O&S Committee.
- 6.4 The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made. Pre-scrutiny can be used to resolve potential disagreements.
- 6.5 Any items agreed for pre-scrutiny will be included within the O&S Committee's work programme.
- 6.6 Where O&S Committees request to pre-scrutinise a Key Decision, the relevant Cabinet Member should endeavour to attend the meeting concerned, in order to respond to questions, and consider the views put by O&S Members.
- 6.7 Relevant senior officers shall attend an O&S Committee meeting where a Key Decision is pre-scrutinised by O&S Members, in order to respond to questions, and consider the views put by those Members.

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- 6.8 Cabinet Members may wish to seek views from Scrutiny Members on a Key Decision, particularly on policy development and review, before it is taken. The relevant senior officer will be responsible for forwarding the details through to the Scrutiny Manager for inclusion on the agenda.
- 6.9 The O&S Committee may express views or make recommendations in relation to Decisions to be taken.
- 6.10 The Cabinet will consider any recommendations or views expressed by the O&S Committees and to take such action it sees fit.
- 6.11 Utilising the option for pre-scrutiny does not exclude the Decision from being subject to “call-in”. However, it will allow the Cabinet Member(s) the ability to consider different views and perspectives of a Decision, before it is taken and avoid potential conflict and a requirement for “call-in”.
- 6.12 Heads of Service shall be requested to identify any policy/strategy items for pre-scrutiny by the relevant O&S Committee.

### **7. “Call-In” of Decisions**

- 7.1 Decisions taken by the Cabinet appear within the Minutes of Cabinet Meetings. The Minutes indicate the “call-in” period for the Decisions made.
- 7.2 Decisions taken by individual Cabinet Members are subject to “call-in”, are published on the Council’s website, and an email alert is sent to all Members of the Council.
- 7.3 “Call-in” can occur when three non-Executive Members have reasons/evidence to challenge the Decision, based on the guidance set out within Chapter 6 of the Council’s Constitution.
- 7.4 A decision shall only be the subject of one “call-in” by non-Executive Members.
- 7.5 Non-Executive Members shall refer to a specific Decision and in instigating the “call-in”, are required to provide as much information, detail, explanation, evidence and/or facts as possible, within the requisition. This will enable appropriate officers to determine whether the “call-in” is valid or not.
- 7.6 Non-Executive Members shall trigger the “call-in” electronically, using the Council’s Modgov system. This will alert the relevant officers and prevent the Decision from being actioned.

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- 7.7 During 2017/18, the O&S Management Board developed a [Call-In Procedure](#) to be used at O&S Committees when dealing with “called-in” items. This was agreed by the four O&S Committees and shall be adhered to at all meetings held to consider “call-in items”.
- 7.8 The following are required to attend the O&S Committee meeting to consider the “called-in” item, in order to address O&S Members on the item and respond to questions / comments raised by O&S Members:
- (a) the lead “call-in” Member;
  - (b) the Leader of the Council and/or relevant Cabinet Member; and
  - (c) relevant senior officer representative(s).
- 7.9 Only the lead call-in Member shall be permitted to:
- Address the O&S Committee, explaining the reason for “call-in”;
  - Respond to questions put by Committee Members; and
  - Sum up the case for “call-in”.
- 7.10 Subject to the agreement of the O&S Committee, a representative of the public may make representations in relation to the “called-in” item, in accordance with the Call-In Procedure previously agreed by O&S Committees.
- 7.11 The “call-in” procedure should not be abused. It should not be used as a substitute for early involvement in the decision-making process. Its use as a party-political tool should be avoided.

## 8. Working Group Reviews

- 8.1 Heads of Service will be requested to consider potential topics for review via the Strategic Leadership Board and these will be submitted to O&S Committees for consideration, along with any other suggestions from O&S Members. The Committee shall approve any topics to be reviewed.
- 8.2 The [Criteria Checklist for Selecting Topics for Review](#) shall be considered in approving topics to be reviewed.
- 8.3 At least 3 Members of the Committee shall be required to sit on a Working Group and one Member will be appointed as the Lead Member. Co-opted Members may sit on a Working Group.
- 8.4 Heads of Service have a valuable role to play in the review process in terms of suggesting appropriate topics for review, possibly contributing to the scope for the review, the provision of factual evidence, and identifying suitable witnesses.

## APPENDIX A

Officers involved in the review shall be open and honest in their discussions with Working Group Members.

- 8.5 The role of the Lead Officer for the review will be to assist in drafting the scope for the review, to provide professional advice and to ensure access to relevant information and personnel for Working Group Members.
- 8.6 Further to a report on Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities being agreed by O&S Committees during October/November 2019, Working Groups shall consider if it is appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration and, if so, how this should be carried out.
- 8.7 Working Group meetings shall be conducted in the manner outlined within paragraph 4 above. Working Group Members shall adhere to the principle of the “critical friend” during the course of a review. Constructive challenge may be adopted during discussions with Council officers, external partners, key stakeholders, etc. However, a culture of mutual respect shall be maintained at all times.
- 8.8 A final report, including any recommendations from the Working Group, will be drafted by the relevant officer from Democratic Services to reflect the views and wishes of the Working Group concerned, subject to any legal and/or financial implications provided by Legal and Finance officers.
- 8.9 Recommendations may be produced that impact on the Council or external partners.
- 8.10 The final report will be presented to the parent O&S Committee, the Cabinet, and finally to full Council.
- 8.11 The Lead Member of the Working Group concerned will normally present the final report to the Cabinet and to the Council. Where this is not possible, an alternative Member of the Working Group will be asked to present.
- 8.12 The relevant senior officer shall ensure that an update on the implementation of recommendations is presented to the parent Committee approximately six months following approval of the final report by the Council. Actions taken since approval of the recommendations should be outlined within the update, together with progress on any implementation required. Where actions have not been carried out, reasons should be given, together with an anticipated timeline for implementation.

## 9. Public Participation in the Overview and Scrutiny Process

# Agenda Item 11

## APPENDIX A

- 9.1 O&S Members should represent the voice of the public.
- 9.2 As outlined in paragraph 3.1 above, key responsibilities of O&S are to:
  - (a) Hold the Cabinet, Cabinet Members and senior officers to account for their decisions, on behalf of the electorate; and
  - (b) Review Council policy, the way policies are implemented and their impact on local citizens;
- 9.3 The Constitution indicates that O&S Committees allow citizens to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public inquiries into matters of local concern.
- 9.4 Citizens may contribute to Council considerations by participating in question time at Council meetings, making representations to the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member or a Committee and may be asked to contribute to O&S Working Group reviews.
- 9.5 The Council's petitions scheme, detailed within the Constitution, allows citizens to address O&S Committees.
- 9.6 As outlined in paragraph 7.11 above, subject to the agreement of the O&S Committee, a representative of the public may make representations in relation to the "called-in" item, in accordance with the Call-In Procedure previously agreed by O&S Committees.
- 9.7 As outlined in paragraph 9.5 above, O&S Working Groups shall consider if it is appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration and, if so, how this should be carried out.
- 9.8 Senior officers may advise O&S Committees of particular matters of public concern, with a view to the possible establishment of a Working Group review to address such matters.
- 10. Specific Duty of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) – Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements**
- 10.1 Local authorities may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in its area.
- 10.2 The NHS Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) places a statutory duty on commissioners and providers of NHS / health services to consult local authority health overview and scrutiny committees on any proposals for significant development or substantial variation/reconfiguration in health services.

## APPENDIX A

- 10.3 Section 30 of The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provides that where more than one local authority is consulted on proposals for significant development or substantial variation in health services, a joint overview and scrutiny committee may be established to comment on the proposals for change.
- 10.4 The Council has delegated its duties relating to health services to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health).
- 10.5 At its meeting on 3 June 2014, the Council approved the [Protocol for the Establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements for Cheshire and Merseyside](#).
- 10.6 The Council and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) shall adhere to the Protocol in relation to substantial variations and joint health scrutiny arrangements.

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# Agenda Item 12

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2020/21, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To review the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/21; to report on progress of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group; to report on progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan; and to receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Recommendation:

That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) the completion of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group review be noted;
- (3) the progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group be noted;
- (4) items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be considered and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above; and
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

# Agenda Item 12

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2020/21; to report on progress of the working group established by the Committee; to identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny “adds value” to the Council; and to comply with a decision of the Committee to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues before making formal decisions.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to approve its Work Programme and identify scrutiny review topics.

## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

**(A) Revenue Costs – see above**

**(B) Capital Costs – see above**

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.

## Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. Reference in the Work Programme to any other reports could impact on the Council’s Core Purposes, in which case they will be referred to in the report when submitted.
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

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Work Programme Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the Work Programme report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2254
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk">debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk</a>

## Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix A - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2020/21;
- Appendix B – Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## Introduction/Background

### 1. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

- 1.1 The Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/21 is attached at **Appendix A** to the report. The programme has been produced in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.
- 1.2 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2020/21 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.3 **The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for the remainder of 2020/21, as appropriate, and note that additional items may be submitted to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.**

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## **2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC(S) - PERSISTENT PUPIL ABSENCE WORKING GROUP**

- 2.1 At the meeting on 9 July 2019, the Committee established a Working Group to review the topic of persistent pupil absence in schools. Councillors Bennett, Carragher (Lead Member), Keith and Mrs. Sandra Cain, Independent Advisory Member, have been appointed to the Working Group.
- 2.2 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Working Group was not been able to meet after February 2020 until October 2020.
- 2.3 At the time of drafting this report it is anticipated that the Final Report of the Working Group will appear elsewhere on the agenda for the meeting.
- 2.4 **The Committee is requested to note that the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group has completed its review.**

## **3. HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE WORKING GROUP**

- 3.1 At the last meeting of the Committee held on 10 November 2020, the Chair reported that Members of the Committee would be invited to serve on the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group, established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), and a copy of the draft Scoping Document would be circulated to Members to aid them in their deliberations on this matter.
- 3.2 The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Murphy, has agreed to serve on the Working Group. Councillor Doyle, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) has also agreed to serve on the Working Group.
- 3.3 Councillors Janis Blackburne, Dave Robinson and Anne Thompson, from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), have agreed to be Members of the Working Group. A summary of activity is outlined below:

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
4 December 2020	The Working Group appointed Councillor Robinson as its Lead Member; and approved its Scoping Document to review the topic of housing support services provided to vulnerable people by non-governmental organisations and charities and their links to statutory agencies covered by the Communities and Housing portfolio. This is a wide-ranging topic and will include looking at accommodation and support services provided to Asylum Seekers, Syrian Refugees, those fleeing domestic violence and vulnerable homeless households. A meeting will be held shortly to appoint

	the Lead member and approve the scoping document and commence the review
22 January 2021	The Working Group will consider information on the scale and location in Sefton of supported accommodation for the cohorts of vulnerable people within the scope of this review; the comments raised by Members in their deliberation on the Scoping Document for example, details of the Serco contract specification with the home Office; and profiles of service users in relation to age, gender, children; and the support services commissioned by the Council and the accommodation related to those services; and the associated support service specifications.

**3.3 The Committee is requested to note the progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group.**

**4. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

- 4.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan, which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four-month period.
- 4.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 4.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.
- 4.4 The latest Forward Plan published on 23 December 2020 is attached at **Appendix B** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 4.5 Should Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan, would they please contact the relevant Officer named against the item in the Plan, prior to the Meeting.
- 4.6 **The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix B to the report, that fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.**

**5. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 During the October/November 2019 cycle of meetings, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a

# Agenda Item 12

report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny. This Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on 15 October 2019 (Minute No. 32 refers).

5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, one of which being that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S) be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.

## 5.4 **Role**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established by the Combined Authority in May 2017 in accordance with the Combined Authorities Order 2017.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:

- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a "critical friend" to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan.

## 5.5 **Membership**

The Committee is made up of 3 elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities of the LCR Combined Authority, along with one elected Member from both the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

Sefton's appointed Members are Councillors Dowd and Howard. Councillor Dowd is Sefton's Scrutiny Link. At the time of drafting this report, there is currently one vacancy for Sefton.

Councillors Pugh and Sir Ron Watson are the respective representatives of the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

## 5.6 **Chair**

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. Councillor Thomas Crone, a Green Party Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council was appointed Chair for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

## 5.7 **Quoracy Issues**

A high number of meetings of the LCRCAO&S have been inquorate in the past.

The quorum for meetings of the LCRCAO&S is 14, two-thirds of the total number of members, 20. This high threshold is not set by the Combined Authority but is set out in legislation.

The Combined Authority's Monitoring Officer will be looking to work with the Monitoring Officers from the other Combined Authorities to identify what problems they are experiencing with Scrutiny and how/if they had overcome them. Representations to Government would also be considered once all options locally to resolve the quorum issue had been exhausted. The CA Monitoring Officer would then be able to provide evidence to Government that the quorum level was obstructing the work of scrutiny within the CA.

Remote meetings appear to have assisted with the quorum issue.

## 5.8 Meetings

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link:

<https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=365&Year=0>

### 14 January 2021

The most recent meeting of the LCRCA O&S, the budget meeting, was held on 14 January 2021, remotely, and the meeting was quorate. The LCRCA O&S was asked to consider the following business:

- Apologies for Absence;
- Declarations of Interest;
- Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 4 November 2020;
- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Budget 2021/22;
- Public Engagement at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- Any Other Business.

The Minutes of the above meeting will be made available using the link referred to above, in due course.

At the time of drafting this report, the next meeting of the LCRCA O&S is scheduled to be held on 10 March 2021 and will be held remotely. The agenda for the meeting will be made available using the link referred to above, in due course.

Details of all meetings can be obtained using the link referred to above.

## 5.9 ***The Committee is requested to note the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.***

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

## WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>7 JULY 20 Bootle CANCELLED</b>	<b>22 SEPTEMBER 20 Remote</b>	<b>10 NOVEMBER 20 Remote</b>	<b>26 JANUARY 21 Remote</b>	<b>16 MARCH 21 Remote/Bootle</b>
<b>Regular Reports:</b>					
Cabinet Member Update Report (Julie Campbell-Stenhouse/Debbie Campbell)			X	X	X
Work Programme Update (Debbie Campbell)		X	X	X	X
<b>Service Operational Reports:</b>					
Covid-19 Response (Vicky Buchanan)		X			
SEND Continuous Improvement Plan Update (Eleanor Moulton/Jan McMahon/Tanya Wilcock)		X		X	
Progress of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan (Laura Knights)		X			X
Children and Young People's Plan – Progress Update (Eleanor Moulton)			X		
Children's Social Care Annual Report (Laura Knights)			X		

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>7 JULY 20 Bootle CANCELLED</b>	<b>22 SEPTEMBER 20 Remote</b>	<b>10 NOVEMBER 20 Remote</b>	<b>26 JANUARY 21 Remote</b>	<b>16 MARCH 21 Remote/Bootle</b>
<b>Service Operational Reports (Continued):</b>					
Centre for Public Scrutiny - 10 Questions to ask if you are Scrutinising Climate Change (Paul Fraser)			X		
Climate Change Update – Presentation (Stephanie Jukes / Julia Thorpe)			X		
Draft Executive/Scrutiny Protocol (Debbie Campbell/Paul Fraser)			X	X	
Parent Governor Representative (Debbie Campbell)			X		
Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group Final Report (Debbie Campbell)				X	
Covid Management in Schools (Tracy McKeating)				X	
Children and Young People's plan Data Management In-Depth Narrative (Eleanor Moulton)				X	
Serious Case Reviews (Vicky Buchanan)				X	

Date of Meeting	7 July 20 Bootle CANCELLED	22 September 20 Remote	10 November 20 Remote	26 January 21 Remote	16 March 21 Remote/Bootle
Fostering Service Annual Report (Laura Knights)				<b>X</b>	
(Interim) Bi-Annual Report and Review of Children’s Social Care Improvement Plan (Laura Knights)					<b>X</b>
Educational Attainment (Tricia Davies)					<b>X</b>
Corporate Parenting Board (Annual Report) (Karen Gray)					<b>X</b>
<b>NHS Updates:</b>					
Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Across Sefton – Update Report (CCGs)			<b>X</b>		
Performance Reports for Key Children’s Services (CCGs)					<b>X</b>
Review of Health Services for Children Looked After & Safeguarding in Sefton – Update on Actions Being Undertaken (CCGs)					<b>X</b>





## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 - 31 MAY 2021**

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](http://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:-

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](http://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
High Needs Funding	Tanya Wilcock tanya.wilcock@sefton.gov.uk, Tricia Davies tricia.davies@sefton.gov.uk
Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group Final Report	Debbie Campbell debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2254

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>High Needs Funding</b> This report will provide members with an up to date position on the high needs budget position for the council and the key drivers of that budget position			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	4 Feb 2021 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 07/01/2021 to 04/02/2021. Reason: to enable further analysis of the high needs budget position			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Safeguarding, Executive Director of Children’s Services and Education, Head of Communities			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings, briefings and emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	High Needs Funding			
Contact Officer(s) details	Tanya Wilcock tanya.wilcock@sefton.gov.uk, Tricia Davies tricia.davies@sefton.gov.uk			



### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group Final Report</b> To present formally the final report of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	4 Feb 2021  4 Mar 2021 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 07/01/2021 to 04/02/2021. Reason: the Working Group review was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic and work needs to be completed.			
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	Interim Director of Children's Social Care and Education.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and emails.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group Final Report			
Contact Officer(s) details	Debbie Campbell debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2254			

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