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Sefton Council

MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S

SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)

DATE: Tuesday, 6th July 2021

TIME: 6.30 pm.

VENUE: Town Hall, Bootle

Member

Councillor

Cllr. June Burns (Chair)

Cllr. Paula Spencer (Vice-Chair)

Cllr. Natasha Carlin

Cllr. Liz Dowd Cllr. Leo Evans

Cllr. Paula Murphy

Cllr. Mike Prendergast Cllr. Yvonne Sayers Cllr. Veronica Webster

Cllr. Andrew Wilson

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. Christine Howard

Cllr. John Kelly Cllr. John Dodd

Cllr. John Sayers LLB. Cert PA.

Cllr. Terry Jones Cllr. Steve McGinnity

Cllr. Greg Myers Cllr. Christine Maher

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Debbie Campbell, Senior Democratic Services

Officer

Telephone: 0151 934 2254 Fax: 0151 934 2034

E-mail: debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

See overleaf for COVID Guidance and the requirements in relation to Public Attendance.

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.

We endeavour to provide a reasonable number of full agendas, including reports at the meeting. If you wish to ensure that you have a copy to refer to at the meeting, please can you print off your own copy of the agenda pack prior to the meeting.

COVID GUIDANCE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

In light of ongoing Covid-19 social distancing restrictions, there is limited capacity for members of the press and public to be present in the *Ballroom*, *Bootle Town Hall* at any one time. We would ask parties remain in the *Ballroom* solely for the duration of consideration of the Committee report(s) to which their interest relates.

We therefore request that if you wish to attend the Committee to please register in advance of the meeting via email to debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk by no later than 12 noon, on Tuesday, 6 July 2021.

Please include in your email -

- Your name;
- Your email address;
- Your Contact telephone number; and
- The details of the report in which you are interested.

In light of current social distancing requirements, access to the **Ballroom** is limited.

We have been advised by Public Health that Members, officers and the public should carry out a lateral flow test before attending the meeting, and only attend if that test is negative. Provided you are not classed as exempt, it is requested that you wear a mask that covers both your nose and mouth.

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, including from the public gallery, 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 to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, 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 7 - 16)

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021

4. General Update on Covid-19 In Schools

The Interim Head of Education to provide a verbal update report

5. SEND Continuous Improvement Plan Update

(Pages 17 -

28)

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

6. Children's Improvement Journey

(Pages 29 -

36)

Report of the Head of Children's Social Care

7. Cabinet Member Reports

To Follow

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

8. Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan

(Pages 37 -

54)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer



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



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

REMOTE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH MARCH, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Murphy (in the Chair)

Councillor Carragher (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Bennett, Cluskey, Evans, Keith, Yvonne

Sayers, Thomas and Webster

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. M. Byrne, Healthwatch Representative

Mrs. S. Cain, Independent Advisory Member

Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative

Ms. C. McDonough, Parent Governor

Representative

Councillor J. J. Kelly, Cabinet Member – Children,

Schools and Safeguarding

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr. Stuart Harrison, Diocese Representative.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received

33. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

34. PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR KEY CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Further to Minute No. 53 of 17 March 2020, the Committee considered Integrated Performance Reports for Key Children's Services, submitted by NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group. The Integrated Performance Reports set out information on:

- Alder Hey Children's Mental Health Services;
- Improve Access to Children & Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMH);
- Waiting times for Routine/Urgent Referrals to Children and Young People's Eating Disorder Services;

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- Children and Young People new Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) referrals within 12 and 30 weeks;
- Children and Young People new Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) referrals within 12 and 30 weeks;
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS);
- % Referral to Choice within 6 weeks;
- % Referral to Partnership within 18 weeks;
- Children's Community (Alder Hey);
- Paediatric Speech and Language Therapies (SALT);
- Paediatric Dietetics;
- Paediatric Occupational Therapy (OT); and
- Paediatric Children's Continence Promotion Service.

Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; and Martin McDowell, Deputy Chief Officer, NHS South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; attended the meeting to present the Integrated Performance Reports and to respond to questions/issues raised by Members of the Committee. Fiona Taylor indicated that representatives of Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust could be requested to provide an overview of services when the matter was next considered.

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

- How services and staff were commissioned, as some indicators appeared to vary. Representatives of Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust could be requested to provide an overview on the flexibility of services and staff at a future meeting.
- Any differentiations in diagnosis between boys and girls for ASD and ADHD. Would girls go undiagnosed? What age range were children diagnosed? Information would be sought from Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust.
- Reasons for the delay in the start of assessment of some children and young people for new Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) referrals within 12 and 30 weeks and actions being taken to rectify.

RESOLVED: That

- the Integrated Performance Reports be noted;
- (2) the Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG be requested to:
 - (a) seek information from Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust on any differentiations in diagnosis between boys and girls for Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), including the age

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range of children diagnosed and the risk of girls being undiagnosed, the information to be provided to the Senior Democratic Services Officer, for circulation to Members of the Committee; and

(b) consider inviting representatives of Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust to provide an overview on the flexibility of services and staff at a future meeting.

35. REVIEW OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER & SAFEGUARDING IN SEFTON - UPDATE ON ACTIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN

Further to Minute No. 54 of 17 March 2020, the Committee considered a joint presentation by NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Sefton and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group, providing an update on actions being undertaken since the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Review of Looked After Children and Safeguarding in Sefton. The presentation set out the following:

- Context:
- Process;
- Update;
- Lessons Learned; and
- Evidence of Impact.

Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; and Helen Case, Designated Nurse, for NHS South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, attended the meeting to present the update and to report on the progress of actions.

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

- The Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) referred to within the presentation was the same as the JTAI referred to under Minute No. 37 below.
- The good progress made regarding health assessments was welcomed, particularly as certain practices were now considered to be good practice.
- The tracking and sampling technique adopted to follow the experiences of children where there had been safeguarding concerns or who were looked after.
- The good progress made by the team following the review was acknowledged, despite the number of children coming into care and the pressures due to the pandemic.

RESOLVED:

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That the joint presentation be noted.

36. HIGH NEEDS FUNDING UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 30 (6) of 26 January 2021, and to Minute No. 89 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4 February 2021, the Committee considered the report of the Head of Education Excellence in relation to the financial position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block Budget; actions to address ongoing in-year pressures; and longer-term sufficiency plans to meet increasing demand for specialist places, to improve processes and governance and balance the budget.

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

- The relationship of the local authority with schools, in relation to grants and budgets.
- The possibility of additional funding from the Department for Education (DfE), given the pressures of the pandemic.
- How the High Needs Block Budget was determined for each local authority.
- The demand pressures facing education, particularly in relation to the pandemic.
- Views on proposed initial changes to the High Needs National Funding Formula were currently being sought from the DfE and the link would be provided.
- Post-16 provision in relation to young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and how best to promote the current strategy and approach.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Head of Education Excellence be requested to provide the link to the Department for Education public consultation on proposed initial changes to the High Needs National Funding Formula to the Senior Democratic Services Officer, for circulation to Members of the Committee.

37. PROGRESS OF JOINT TARGETED INSPECTION ACTION PLAN

Further to Minute No. 6 of 22 September 2020, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education on the progress of the delivery of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan (JTAI).

The report set out the background to the matter, indicating that between 23 and 27 September 2019, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, (HMICFRS) and HMI Probation (HMIP) carried out a joint inspection of the multi-agency

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response to abuse and neglect in Sefton. This inspection included a "deep dive" focus on the response to children's mental health. At its meeting in January 2020, the Committee received the published letter and a presentation from the partnership in response to the inspection. The written Statement of Action was produced and submitted to OFSTED on 30 March 2020 and on 17 April 2020, correspondence was received stating that Ofsted, the CQC, HMICFRS and HMI Probation had reviewed the action plan and agreed that it demonstrated an accurate understanding of the areas of priority action and findings of the joint inspection team.

The JTAI Written Statement of Action was attached to the report.

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

- The proposal for the mental health triage car was welcomed and it was hoped that it would be progressed.
- Methods for children to interact with their social worker and other support staff.
- Scrutiny and challenge by other boards.
- Future inspections and follow-up actions.

RESOLVED:

- (1) the progress of the delivery of the action plan be noted; and
- (2) a further report on the progress of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan be requested in six months' time or when it is completed, whichever is the sooner.

38. BI-ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Further to Minute No. 49 of 17 March 2020, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education, summarising the progress in relation to the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan for the last six months.

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

- 1. Assessment, planning and review
- 2. Achieving early permanence
- 3. Continuous practice development and a stable workforce
- 4. Ensuring good quality management oversight and supervision
- 5. Quality Assurance/Performance Framework- delivering improvement.

The Children and Young People's Scorecard was attached to the report.

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

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- Clarification on the frequency of reporting the matter to the Committee.
- Good quality supervision remained an ongoing concern.
- Recruitment of social workers remained an on-going concern.
- Clarification regarding referrals and re-referral rates to Children's Social Care.
- Caseloads held by social workers remained an ongoing concern.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) 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.

39. EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

Further to Minute No. 40 of the Health and Wellbeing Board of 10 March 2020, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education presenting the new Sefton Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026. The final draft of the Strategy was attached to the report. The report outlined recent activity and the approach taken to refresh the content of the Sefton Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy, together with the next steps to be taken.

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

- Had the Wellbeing Toolkit been rolled out to schools and colleges and had any feedback been received? An overview could be provided to the next Committee meeting. Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust also had a good news item to report.
- The former Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Working Group had advocated emotional support in schools.
- The age range the Strategy was directed to, together with the organisations that would support the Strategy.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education be requested to consider presenting an overview of the Wellbeing Toolkit rolled out to schools and colleges, together with any feedback received, to a future meeting of the Committee.

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40. CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2020

Further to Minute No. 51 of 17 March 2020, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education providing an overview of the activities of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board 2020. The overview related to all Board activities completed between January 2020 and December 2020. The Corporate Parenting Board – Annual Activities Report 2020 was attached to the report.

In line with local and national guidance and restrictions, in relation to COVID 19, meetings of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board had been facilitated via Microsoft Teams. Virtual attendance at meetings had not been affected by this.

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

- The positive contribution of the work of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board and acknowledgement of organisations and individuals concerned, particularly the Making a Difference Group.
- An annual survey of all children in care took place.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

41. CABINET MEMBER REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer in relation to the most recent report of the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Safeguarding for the period February – March 2021. The report outlined information on the following:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND);
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Capital Funding to Support Children in Sefton; and
- · Announcement of Ofsted Focussed Visit.

Councillor J.J. Kelly, Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Safeguarding, attended the meeting to present his update report and highlight aspects of it. He suggested that the recruitment challenges in social work could be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

A Member of the Committee asked questions/raised issues on the following:

Details of the Capital Funding to Support Children in Sefton.

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 The Ofsted Focussed Visit of Children's Services had taken place the previous week and the outcome would be shared with Committee Members in due course.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Cabinet Member update report be noted.
- (2) the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education be requested to share the outcome of the Ofsted Focussed Visit of Children's Services, that had taken place during March 2021, with Members of the Committee, once it became available.

42. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer submitting the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/21; reporting on progress of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group; reporting on progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group; reporting on progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group; noting that there were no items for pre-scrutiny within the current 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.

The report set out the outcome of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group that had completed its review; progress to date made by the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group; and progress to date made by the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group. The Chair of the Committee had agreed to serve on the latter Working Group that had been established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills).

There were no items for pre-scrutiny within the current Key Decision Forward Plan that fell under the Committee's remit.

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

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

- Preferred terms for referring to autism conditions and the rejection of the jigsaw piece as a symbol for autism.
- The Work Programme for the Committee for the 2021/22 Municipal Year and the possibility of holding a planning meeting with the Chair of the Committee.

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RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted;
- (2) consideration be given to holding a planning meeting with the Chair of the Committee to discuss the work programme for 2021/22;
- (3) consideration be given to the inclusion of the following items within the 2021/22 work programme:
 - School sufficiency numbers;
 - · Recruitment of social workers; and
 - Inclusion of representatives of Alder Hey and Mersey Care (ages 18-25) for future reporting of performance reports for key children's services;
- (4) the outcome of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group review and the fact that a six-monthly report setting out progress made against each of the recommendations will be received in due course, be noted;
- (5) the progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group be noted;
- (6) the progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group, established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), be noted;
- (7) the fact that there are no items for pre-scrutiny within the current Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee on this occasion, be noted;
- (8) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted; and
- (9) the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with Ms. C. McDonough, Parent Governor Representative, regarding future references to autism conditions.



Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 6 July 2021
Subject:	SEND Continuous Improvement Plan Update		
Report of:	Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care (Chair of SEND Continuous Improvement Board) Cabinet Member Education Cabinet Member Children's Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The report updates Committee members on the progress made against the actions taken and progress made with regard to the SEND Continuous Improvement Plan.

Recommendation(s):

Members are asked to

- (1) note the progress made and that activity has continued to be prioritised during the pandemic
- (2) to note the progress to date.

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?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct costs associated with this report as it is to update progress made on the SEND continuous Improvement Plan.

(B) Capital Costs

N/A

Implications of the Proposals:

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

Both the Council and CCG have invested significantly in SEND services and support.

Legal Implications:

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.

Equality Implications:

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.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	Υ
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for	Υ
report authors	

The introduction of digital appointments and meetings has reduced the number of journeys.

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: 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. The Joint Commissioning Strategy for SEND was developed in the context of the Children and Young People's Plan "My Sefton: heard, happy, healthy, achieving,".

On 11th March 2020 the Health & Wellbeing Board agreed the SEND Commissioning Action Plan which has continued to be delivered during the COVID 19 pandemic.

The associated Action Plan will be reviewed in the next quarter

Place – leadership and influencer: The Council is working 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.

Drivers of change and reform: The Council is working with partners, in particular Health, to make change happen so as to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

Greater income for social investment:

Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6440/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4661/21) 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.

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.

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

In September 2020 a short survey was undertaken. The aim of this short survey was to take a snap-shot from parents and carers to understand whether you are seeing an improvement in the help and support you are receiving from health, education social care and the SEND casework team in Sefton.

In March this year parents and carers of children/young people with SEND had the opportunity to take part in a third survey on what is going well and what could be improved in our local area. This was a similar survey to that of November 2019 but with a couple of extra questions to understand the impact of COVID-19 and the pandemic and also how long parents and carers had been receiving SEND support for their child/young person.

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.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Jan McMahon
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4431
Email Address:	jan.mcmahon@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

NA

Background Papers:

SEND Improvement Plan

Joint Commissioning Strategy

Joint Commissioning Action Plan

Children and Young People's Plan

Parent Carer Surveys

1. Background

- 1.1 This report informs Overview & 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 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.
- 1.3 The SENDCIB and its sub groups have continued to meet remotely to monitor progress made and agreed any remedial action during the COVID 19 pandemic and all partners in the Local Area continue to prioritise the delivery of the required improvement.
- 1.4 The Local Area recognises the stress and concern that the COVID 19 pandemic has and continues to cause families and has remained accessible to provide support. All partners put business continuity plans in place and worked together to ensure that robust plans and effective communication was in place during this time of uncertainty. This work included communications confirming that the services in the Local Area are still available to support families.
- 1.5 There is a commitment to continue with SENDCIB on an ongoing basis to ensure continued improvement.

2. Delivering the Improvement Plan

2.1 SENDCIB meet and consider progress against the Improvement Plan on a regular basis. The Department for Education has continued to monitor progress and at the time of writing this report another progress meeting was planned to take place. The information below provides an update against actions;

Action 1

We are aware that national research identifies that most families are satisfied when the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is completed in 20 weeks. The changes made mean that new EHCP assessments are undertaken in a timely and professional manner with children, young people and their families having a named contact and the numbers receiving their plan in 20 weeks is in line with national averages.

Good progress continues to be made and the completion of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) within the 20 week timescales which improved in 2020 with Sefton's SEN2 (annual performance report to DfE)2020 performance 66.6% this was below 10% the previous year (the year of the revisit). At the end of May 2021 performance was running at 65% and 100% of EHCPs were completed in a maximum of six weeks by Health from the date of request.

2.2 At the beginning of this process it was agreed that the focus on reviews should be young people who are in transition and all resources have been committed to this

area and improving EHCPs. Good progress has been made in the completions of Years 6 and 11 reviews and additional resource secured to improve performance and at the end of May 2021

- 98% Year 6 reviews completed 2 exceptions due to complexity.
- 64.5 % Year 11 reviews completed outstanding reviews where pending ongoing Post 16 consultation on settings. The situation is monitored on a weekly basis. It is anticipated that all Yr 11 reviews will be complete by July 2021.
- 2.3 To improve the quality of EHCPs the improvement work has included
 - Commissioning and delivering of National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN) training for the SEN workforce
 - SENDIASS (Information, Advice & Support Service) and SEN team delivering awareness training Social Care practitioners
 - Putting in place a Multi-Agency co-produced Quality Assurance Framework
 - Planning and delivering multi-agency moderation sessions including representatives of Sefton Parent Carer Forum
 - Health providers developing internal QA processes and SOPs to review health advices ahead of submission deadlines
 - Sharing good practice Escalation and progress reports to SEND Continuous Improvement Board

This has led to significant improvement, from 5th January 2021 to 20th April 2021

- 90 EHCPs written and quality assured
- o 14 reviewed by the Multi-Agency Quality Assurance Group and
- o 76 by the SEN Management Team
 - 87.78% of Education sections of the EHC Plan rated as Good or Outstanding, 92.2% of Health Sections and 95.6% of Social Care Sections
 - 92.2% of Health section good or outstanding
- 2.4 There has been an increase in the number of people accessing Personal Health Budgets (PHBs).
 - April 2019 CCGs reported 14 PHB's for Children with SEND
 - March 2021 24 PHB's for Children and Young People with SEND.

Action 2

2.5 A documented and approved management and accountability framework is in place for the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) with an oversight framework that sits alongside.

Action 3

2.6 Significant training has been delivered to ensure that all relevant health professionals are aware of their responsibilities and contribution to EHCPs. This has led to increased staff confidence, knowledge and understanding of SEND and EHCP requirements. The partnership is keenly aware of the size of the health

economy and new entrants to the workforce and is investigating how to successfully embed this training into the mandatory training programme.

It important to note that all advices for Sefton EHCPs are now being completed by the health practitioners involved in the child or young person's care.

Action 4

2.7 Addressing the weakness of co-production with parents, and more generally in communications with parents has been a key activity in delivering the Improvement Plan. Parent and Carer Forum representatives now feel more engaged with local leaders and have the opportunity to drive improvement and change. The capacity of Sefton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) is a challenge. The System Leadership and Governance sub group has reviewed attendance at all meetings and SPCF has engaged additional people to support activity. The System and Leadership Sub Group will continue to monitor capacity and where possible address issues as they arise, reprioritising activity if required.

Engagement and communication with young people has remained a priority during the COVID 19 pandemic and has been conducted via telephone and video conferencing for example Schools Get Talking weekly meeting of children and young people with SEND facilitated by voluntary sector. Following the success of the young person's Transition event in February 2021, discussion with the Sefton Parent Carer Forum (PCF) identified the need for a similar event aimed at parents/carers. Two virtual events were held (morning and evening) with presentations from both local FE Colleges, Career Connect and Sefton Social Care Transitions Team. Both sessions were well-attended and positive feedback was received from Sefton PCF and parents.

The 2019 baseline survey was co-designed with representatives of the Sefton Parent and Carer Forum. This survey provided partners with a baseline for the SEND Improvement Plan to monitor experience, involvement and satisfaction around the key areas of Education, Health, Social Care, information provision and on how the system is working together.

Following this a mid-year shorter survey was planned to capture the parent and carer opinion of the local area provision and to track the perception of the impact of the reforms identified in the SEND Improvement Action Plan. Recognising the challenges of 2020, the SENDCIB agreed to postpone the survey from June 2020 until September 2020 and acknowledged that the responses may be influenced by the experiences of COVID/lockdown.

The spring 2021 survey was a duplicate survey to 2019, with a couple of extra questions that SENDCIB wanted to include to help understand the length of time parents and carers (and their child/young person) have been receiving SEND support and services and also to understand any impact COVID may have had during the past 12 months.

The feedback gathered through the three surveys is <u>published</u> on the Local Offer and a <u>You Said We Did approach has been adopted</u>. In the latest survey a large proportion of respondents either did not answer or indicated that the Social Care related questions were not applicable to them. Of the 2,061 children/young people

with an EHC Plan 313 are known to Children's Social Care. Therefore, the lower response rate to Social Care related questions is not surprising. Examples of Social Care services include; Aiming High, Respite (Springbrook), the Children with Disabilities Team, Children's Social Care and Early Help. Members are asked to note the progress to date.

- 2.8 The partnership's commitment to co-production and collaboration remains strong and examples of activity include;
 - Preparing for Adulthood Guide
 - Schools Get Talking Forum
 - Refreshed co-produced Local Offer website launched January 2021
 - Graduated Approach Booklet coproduced with parents/carers
 - The CAMHS 'one stop shop" on line information and referral platform https://www.seftonliverpoolcamhs.com/
 - Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) information leaflet and statement
 - Evaluation of the Alder Hey "Calm and Connected" virtual mental health support network
 - Personal Health Budget (PHB) leaflet targeted at CYP with SEND
 - A Parent Carer Forum Rep was part of interview Panel for Service Manager for SEND post and similarly will also be for the Senior SEN Casework Officer post

The work associated with Action 4 has led to improved parental trust and confidence. The parent carer survey in 2019 the level of feeling listened to 62% and this increased slightly to 64% in the short survey. In the parent carer survey April 2021 this level has now increased to 85%.

- 2.9 Investment has strengthened the SENDIASS offer leading to:
 - All contacts are responded to within five working days
 - Improved quality of offer
 - Steering group continues to oversee the role and impact of Information Advice and Support Services (IASS)
 - SENDIASS being part of the EHCP multi -agency audit group, attend the KIT meetings and the Coproduction sub group meetings.

Action 5

2.10 A SEND Needs Analysis has been developed, Joint Commissioning Strategy approved and associated Action Plan developed. Good progress is being made in the main and the Action Plan will be reviewed in Q2/3 this year in light of the pandemic and a refreshed needs analysis.

This work has included the co-produced enhancements to the Local Offer website although it is recognised that further work is still required to improve navigation and a review of Aiming High and respite services.

The Joint Commissioning Plans are also focusing on OT sensory, Speech, language and communication pathway in the early years utilising Public Health

England national developments. A project group has factored in training for the wider workforce and peer supporters. The pandemic has had an impact on this area of work

Following investment a new diagnostic pathway was implemented in April 2020 2.11 including an agreed waiting list management plan to reduce the historic waiting list to zero. In October 2020, CCGs agreed additional investment for ASD pathway to be extended to 16-18 years, bridging the commissioning gap. The extended service commenced November 2020. There has been a significant increase in demand for the service since November 2020. A number of mitigation actions have been taken including the use of independent sector providers to support assessments for new ASD pathway & further revisions to referrals forms to ensure the process is as efficient as possible. This has improved the timeliness to start the assessment process. Since the implementation of the new ASD pathway, waiting times targets have been achieved in the main. At the end of April 2021, 96% of assessments commenced within 12 weeks. The historic waiting list is on schedule to be zero by the end of June 2021, as planned. Since the additional investment of the 18 years plus ASD waiting list initiative and pathway, there have been improvements to the waiting times for those between 18 - 25 years, who have been prioritised. All assessments for this cohort are expected to be completed by the end of June 2021.

Since the implementation of the new pathway, there has been continued engagement with parent/carer forums and young people, specifically in the development of new ASD/ADHD referral forms and accessible service information, and in assessing the effectiveness of digital approaches in the assessment and diagnosis process.

2.12 Agreed improvement trajectories and milestones are being met for reduction in waiting times for Dietetics, Speech and Language, Occupational therapy and Physiotherapy. Throughout the pandemic services continued to carry out local risk assessments and prioritise therapy caseloads and new referrals in accordance with risk and needs of the child/young person. Services continue to accept referrals and offer home visits for any high clinical priority patients. All other face to face interventions are offered virtually, by telephone or Attend Anywhere.

The CCGs additional short-term mental health funding to Alder Hey and third sector providers has supported service resilience and an improvement in CAMHS waiting times. Alder Hey has submitted a business case outlining the additional resource required to match the current and projected 30% increase in demand for mental health services predicted over the next two years. Notably the increase in the demand for urgent and complex case appointments and treatment plans.

In response to the business case and national increase in mental health funding, the CCGs are working with local partners to agree the local CAMHS investment plans and the timely release of funds to enable Alder Hey and third sector providers to mobilise extra service capacity as soon as possible.

In response to COVID and increasing waiting times, Alder Hey set up the 'Calm and Collected' virtual support network and in February wrote to all the children and young people and their families open to CAMHS informing them of this support and other support available to them while they wait. A new 'one stop shop'

online mental health information and referral platform was launched in May 2021, to support children, young people, parents and professionals to access information and make referrals into partnership mental health services in Liverpool and Sefton: https://www.seftonliverpoolcamhs.com/

There is a continued development, expansion and promotion of the local mental health service offer, including the training and support to schools to bolster their skills and knowledge in supporting CYP's mental health. This includes the development and implementation of a 'Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit for Schools & Colleges'. As part of the national roll out of Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in schools, Sefton is currently mobilising two MHSTs and has been awarded further funding for a third team, to be implemented in 2022/23:

In response to the increase in demand for mental health support and in response to COVID, the capacity of the online counselling platform Kooth the Council further invested and the age range extended to include 18 -25-year olds. The site is staffed by fully trained and qualified counsellors and is available until 10pm each night, 365 days per year. It is free, safe, confidential and provides a non-stigmatising way for young people to receive counselling, advice and support online, www.kooth.com

The local CAMHS partnership has grown in strength, working collectively to raise awareness of the wider mental health offer and reduce pressure on specialist CAMHS services. This includes the development of a 'COVID-19 CAMHS Bulletin', a partnership led CYP Mental Health Awareness Week campaign in May, and engagement in the national LINK training programme for schools.

2.13 A progress meeting with the Department for Education took place on 22nd June 2021.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 Significant progress has been made in delivering the action plan. All actions are complete and where appropriate embedded into business as usual. The pandemic has impacted on some elements of the plan including collection of educational attainment data, however, governance arrangements and plan activity continued throughout the pandemic
- 3.2 The most important issue to address though is what impact has this had on the lived experience of children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of the changes made mean that they
 - are clearer about the assessment process, quality assurance practices and involved in the production of EHCPs.
 - are part of the review process and all children and young people accessing an appropriate educational placement
 - (Parents and carers) have the opportunity to feedback through surveys and are involved in the co-production of the survey
 - have improved access to and response from SENDIASS

- have access to a NICE compliant neurodevelopmental diagnostic pathway
- experience reduced waiting times for medical appointments
- experience fewer cancelled appointments
- have digital access to clinicians
- have improved access to mental health information and support, and option to self-refer to services.
- have access to Kooth online support for children and young people in Sefton aged 10-25 years old
- have access to 24 hour crisis CAMHS helpline
- 3.3 The most recent parent carer survey in 2021 reports
 - o 61% of respondents felt that their education needs were met quite well or very well and a further 20% felt their needs were being met.
 - o On the monitoring and assessment satisfaction questions for education 71% of respondents gave positive responses compared to 29% negative. Satisfaction was highest for Early Years Providers, Nursery/School/College and the EHCP Review.
 - o feeling listened to in a calm and respectful manner stood out as particularly positive, with education establishments receiving over 91% positive feedback and the SEND Team 85%.
- 3.4 As mentioned earlier in the report there is a commitment to continue with SENDCIB on an ongoing basis to ensure continued improvement.



Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 6 July 2021	
Subject:	Children's Improvement	Children's Improvement Journey		
Report of:	Head of Children's Social Care	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);	
Portfolio:	Children's Social Car	Children's Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No	
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No			

Summary:

In 2016 Sefton Children's Services was graded as Requires Improvement under the ILACs framework. In 2019, a Joint Targeted Area inspection took place and identified 4 areas for priority action. In March 2021 a focused visit took place with a focus on 'key decision making points' within the context of the covid 19 pandemic. This was not a graded judgement, however there were 2 areas for priority action and 3 areas for improvement.

This report provides an overview of the improvement journey and areas of change that will be required for Children's Social Care.

The Ofsted report can be found at the following link: https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80550

Recommendation(s):

- (1) For the contents of the report to be noted
- (2) Further updates on the CSC improvement will be provided.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

N/A

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

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There has been an investment of £7 million in 2021/22 into the improvements required for Children's Social Care and to address demand pressures on the service. However, the full cost of this may not be known until further developments and full consideration of the structure of children's services is undertaken.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

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

There will be implications on our staffing resources and as such other implications will need to be considered including location of the teams and IT

Legal Implications:

none

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Υ
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for	Υ
report authors	

In addition, please provide a short narrative here, or within the main body of the report, setting out the positive, neutral or negative impacts and how any negative impacts will be mitigated where possible.

Contact the Energy and Environmental Management Team when the proposal;

- 1. has a spend above one million pounds; or
- 2. identifies negative impacts which cannot be mitigated; or
- 3. is likely to have a high climate change impact including
 - construction project new build, rebuild, refurbishment, retrofit and demolition proposals
 - proposals which relate to business travel and staff commuting, for example, fleet vehicles and agile working
 - o proposals which involve loss of green space, habitat or flood plain.

For more information contact julia.thorpe@sefton.gov.uk or

stephanie.jukes@sefton.go.uk (tel. 0151 934 4552).	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Children's social care department protects those children who are most vulnerable and require protection through child in need, child protection and looked after. The purpose of this report is to highlight the changes that are required in order to make the necessary improvements to the department.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: we want to provide support to families at the earliest opportunity.

Commission, broker and provide core services: n/a

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.6445/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4646/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

none

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Appendices:

There is one appendix to the report which provides a visual of our improvement plan.

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 In March 2021 a focused inspection took place, whilst this wasn't a graded judgement, there were areas of priority action and areas of improvement identified and these are outlined in the Ofsted Inspection letter:

Areas for priority action

- 1.2 Timely application of the pre-proceedings stage of the Public Law Outline where risks for children are not reducing through child protection planning.
- 1.3 The effectiveness of case supervision and the monitoring of children who are subject to child protection planning, including those children in the pre-proceedings process, to prevent drift and delay.

What needs to improve in this area of social work practice

- 1.4 The quality assurance arrangements and senior management oversight of social work practice.
- 1.5 The strategic and operational focus on achieving change and reducing risk for vulnerable children, including disabled children and care leavers.
- 1.6 The capacity in social work teams and the number of children on social workers' caseloads
- 1.7 The Department for Education (DfE) issued an Improvement Notice in late May 2021, which will last for 12 months and a DfE advisor will be appointed. Sefton are required to constitute an improvement board and take action to improve Children's services. An Independent Chair of the Board has been appointed. Paul Boyce the independent chair is a subject matter expert and well respected for his professional knowledge and experience. The DfE Advisor will report back to the Department of Education on a regular basis about the improvements and capacity to improve in Sefton.
- 1.8 It is clear we have a committed and dedicated workforce who want to get services right for children and their families and therefore it's important that there is true engagement with the workforce to ensure that they become part of the solution and improvement journey.
- 1.9 In order to start a process of engaging with the wider workforce, a series of engagement sessions have been undertaken. In addition, an action plan was submitted to Ofsted on the 10th May which sits alongside the overarching Children's Social Care improvement plan. There are 5 areas identified within the improvement plan which are crucial to improving our service and delivering outstanding practice to children and families:

Priority 1: assessment, planning and review

Priority 2: achieving early permanence

Priority 3: continuous practice development and stable workforce

Priority 4: ensuring good quality supervision and management oversight

Priority 5: Quality Assurance/Performance Framework Delivering Improvements

Within each of the priority areas, a number of actions are recommended and in the process of being formulated.

Priority 1: assessment, planning and review

- Work with partners on Threshold understanding
- ➤ Children's voice is captured in all assessments. Social workers and family support workers have the capacity to undertake direct work with children and intervention is timely and meaningful.
- > All assessments are updated regularly and in line with practice standards.
- ➤ Children's plans are reviewed regularly and there is effective engagement and support from professionals working with that family to drive the plan. Training and support will be offered across the partnership including dissemination of 'meeting agreements' that are to be used.
- ➤ Develop and implement a Practice Framework and model across the children's workforce which works with an outcome's framework. This will improve practice quality, consistency in service delivery and ability to articulate progress and meeting children's needs.

Priority 2: achieving early permanence

- Clear process for cases to 'step up' and 'step down' between Early Help and Children's Social Care.
- Create a difference between prevention, support services and targeted early help. This means having a separate children's social care resource for supervised contact and for parenting and direct work where no internal referral is required, and no waiting lists exist.
- ➤ Review of our Public Law process (PLO) and procedures. Review all those children who are subject to public law outline and increase our capacity within legal services.
- ➤ Develop family group conferencing model. Working with families at an earlier stage to support family arrangements and contingency planning as soon as a family become known.

Priority 3: continuous practice development and stable workforce

- ➤ Review of our structure within Children's Social Care to ensure practitioners can deliver good quality practice to children and families. This involves growing our establishment and increasing the number of posts across all levels including social workers, family support workers, personal advisors and managers.
- ➤ Reinstate positions within the service including assistant team managers and more administrative support.
- ➤ Development of a Workforce strategy including a competitive retention and recruitment package, improved external digital presence and advertising of Sefton including a brand, co-production with staff including staff engagement and participation. Ensuring through several mechanisms that staff views are heard and considered.

- Development of a social work Academy with partnership with an academic partner, introduction of step up to social work and post qualification routes for staff
- ➤ Development of a *grow our own strategy* for social workers and the wider children's workforce. The development of succession planning is important including a review of routes for promotion and career change whilst continuing to work for Sefton. This is related to the change in structure.
- A clear direction and Vision that resonates with the staff. A communication strategy internally with staff. Keeping staff informed becoming part of the process.
- Appropriate office space that enables practitioners to be based in an office with their peers and managers, whilst ensuring covid compliance.

Priority 4: ensuring good quality supervision and management oversight

- ➤ Team managers have the capacity and ability to supervise social workers. The introduction of assistant team managers will support in the development of social workers, especially those who are newly qualified.
- Supervision documents and forms which are used for recording are reviewed and
- ➤ Effective supervision monitoring tool to identify when supervision has taken place for all children With effective and regular welfare supervision for staff.

Priority 5: Quality Assurance/Performance Framework and Delivering Improvements

- > Performance is embedded within the culture of the service from social workers to the Director of Childrens's Services.
- ➤ Implement an end-to-end review of liquid logic ICS/EHM. Through a diagnostic there will be systems change and rebuild so that the recording is easy for the end user, workflows are statutorily compliant, data is accurate, and children's records are safely viewed. Data cleanse the system. A partner in practice diagnostic is booked.
- ➤ Develop accurate and accessible data sets which are coherent with accurate quality assurance evidence and mechanisms.
- Introduce Tri-x for compliance with policies and procedures.
- ➤ Review and quality assure the Strategic Safeguarding Arrangements based upon the 2017 Social Work Act and changes to Working Together 2018. The Woods report (June 2021) has recommended now that Ofsted inspect these arrangements and a review needs to occur this summer.

Conclusion:

It is important to recognise the impact covid 19 has had on the workforce and the rising numbers of children who are open to Children's Social Care over the years, has created more demand on an already stretched system. However, we must acknowledge the improvements that are required which have clearly been articulated in the Ofsted focused visit. The department must work at pace to

ensure plans are in place to implement them. Some changes will be more immediate, whilst others will need to be carefully thought through and executed.

The re structure of Children's services a number of years ago has not had the desired impact we hoped for. It is important we reflect on areas that have worked and not worked as effectively and actively seek the views of our workforce, children and families. It is clear that operationally, many social workers are working hard to support children and families but for many, caseloads are too high. The priority around our workforce, is therefore perhaps one of the more important aspects of our improvement journey, in order to create the right environment for good social work to flourish.

The improvement notice has signalled a clear indication from the Dfe that our service needs to improve and this will be overseen through an improvement board which will ensure these changes happen correctly and at the pace that is required. It will therefore be important that Overview and scrutiny will continue to receive regular updates on the improvements within children's social care and have a clear defined data set in order to evidence these improvements.

Appendix 1:

Priority 1: Assessment, Planning and Review	 Develop partner's understanding of Threshold Capture Children's voice in all assessments, direct work with children, timely and meaningful intervention. Update all assessments in line with practice standards. Review Children's plans regularly, engagement with family to drive plan. Training and support across partnership including 'meeting agreements'. Develop and implement Practice Framework and model linked to outcome's framework. Improve practice quality, consistency in service delivery, ability to articulate progress on meeting children's needs.
Priority 2: Achieving Early Permanence	 □ Communicate clear process to 'step up' and 'step down' cases □ Create a distinction between prevention, support services and targeted early help. □ Review of Public Law process (PLO), procedures and children. Increase capacity within legal services. □ Develop family group conferencing model. Work with families earlier.
Priority 3: Continuous Practice Development and Stable Workforce	 □ Review current structure for deliverer of good quality practice. Grow establishment and increase posts. □ Reinstate positions including assistant team managers and additional administrative support. □ Development of a Workforce strategy including a competitive retention and recruitment package, improved external digital presence and advertising of Sefton. Co-production and engagement with staff. □ Development of a social work Academy in partnership with an academic partner. Introduction of Step up to Social Work and post qualification routes for staff. □ Development of a Grow our Own Strategy for social workers and the wider children's workforce. Succession planning, career change and promotion routes to be considered. □ Develop a clear direction and vision with staff. Creation of an internal communication strategy with staff.
Priority 4: Ensuring Good Quality Supervision and Management Oversight	 □ Determine appropriate office space, whilst ensuring covid compliance. □ Ensure Team managers have capacity and ability to supervise social workers. Introduction of assistant team managers to support the development of social workers, especially those newly qualified. □ Review of Supervision documents and forms used for recording □ Introduce supervision monitoring tool to identify when supervision has taken place for all children. Ensure effective and regular welfare supervision for staff.
Priority 5: Quality Assurance/Per formance Framework and Delivering Improvements	 □ Embed performance within the culture of the service across entire Service area. □ Implement an end-to-end review of liquid logic ICS/EHM. Complete a diagnostic assessment for systems change and rebuild for ease of use and ensuring statutory compliant. Data cleansing of system to ensure accuracy. □ Develop accurate and accessible data sets which are coherent with accurate quality assurance evidence and mechanisms. □ Introduce Tri-x for compliance with policies and procedures.

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	6 July 2021
Subject:	Work Programme 20 Decision Forward Pla	21/22, Scrutiny Revie	w Topics and Key
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children's Social Car Education	e	
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2021/22; to report on progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment 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 2021/22, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) the progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group be noted, and the Committee be requested to appoint two replacement Members to serve on it.
- (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 C 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.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2021/22; 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:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None				
Legal Implications: None				
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications. Climate Emergency Implications:				
The recommendations within this report will				
Have a positive impact	No			
Have a neutral impact	Yes			
Have a negative impact No				
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors				

There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. 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.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix A Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme for 2021/22:
- Appendix B Terms of Reference for the Committee (extract from the Constitution);
- Appendix C 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 2021/22

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2021/22 is set out 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 The Work Programme for the remaining meetings has been produced based on the major priority items included in last year's Programme.
- 1.3 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 (set out at **Appendix B**). The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2021/22 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.4 The Committee is requested to approve the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix A to the report, and note that additional items may be added to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC(S) 2020/21 - SECONDARY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND ATTAINMENT WORKING GROUP

- 2.1 It is usual practise for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 Currently, the Committee has one on-going Working Group. At the meeting of the Committee held on 26 January 2021, the Committee agreed that (Minute No. 30 refers):
 - "(4) a working group be established to review the topic of secondary school performance and attainment, and the following Members be appointed to serve on the working group:
 - Councillors Carragher, Keith and Murphy;"
- 2.3 The first meeting of the Committee was held on 15 March 2021 and Councillor Murphy was appointed as the Lead Member. The Working Group scoped the review and agreed that the review would take place in two stages, the first stage to focus on historical performance and attainment. The second stage to focus on current performance and attainment, and to commence in September 2022.
- 2.4 A further meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for 10 June 2021, for information gathering. However, the meeting was cancelled as Councillor Carragher is unable to continue serving on the Working Group as she has been appointed as Mayor for the Council. In addition, former Councillor Keith lost her seat at the Local Elections held in May 2021.
- 2.5 At least two Members of the Committee will need to be appointed to serve on the Working Group in order for it to continue.

2.6 The Committee is requested to note the progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group and to appoint two replacement Members to serve on it.

3. HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE WORKING GROUP

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Committee held on 10 November 2020, the former 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 former Chair of the Committee, Councillor Murphy, 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.
- 3.4 The last meeting of the Working Group was held on 23 April 2021 and Members interviewed witnesses from the Home Office and their contractor Serco, to undertake obligations under the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract (AASC) to provide housing and support to Asylum Seekers in Sefton.
- 3.5 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 28 May 2021 is attached at **Appendix C** 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 At the time of drafting this report, a further Forward Plan is due to be published on 30 June 2021. Any additional items that fall under the remit of the Committee will be provided in due course.
- 4.7 The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix C 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 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 Hansen, Howard and Waterfield. Councillor Howard is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

Councillor Patrick Moloney is the representative of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Committee. The Conservative Group nomination is still awaited by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

5.6 Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. The Chair will be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee on 14 July 2021.

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?Cld=365&Year=0

Latest Meeting - 10 March 2021

The latest meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 10 March 2021.

Matters considered at the meeting related to:

- Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram's Update
- Race Equality Declaration of Intent
- Adult Education Budget Programme Update

Mersey Tidal Project Update

At the time of drafting this report, the next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will be held on 30 June 2021 and will take the form of a work planning session.

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.

DRAFT APPENDIX A

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

WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

Date of Meeting	6 JULY 21 Bootle	28 SEPTEMBER 21	16 NOVEMBER 21	25 JANUARY 22	15 MARCH 22
Regular Reports:					
Cabinet Member Update Reports (Julie Campbell-Stenhouse/Debbie Campbell)	Х	Х	X	X	Х
Work Programme Update (Debbie Campbell)	Х	X	X	Х	X
Performance Report (Data) (Lisa Lyons)		Х	Х	X	Х
Service Operational Reports:					
General Update on Covid-19 In Schools (Verbal Update) (Tricia Davies)	X				
SEND Continuous Improvement Plan Update (Jan McMahon)	X		X		X
Children's Improvement Journey (Laura Knights)	X		Х		X
Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group – Six Month Review of Recommendations (Tricia Davies)		Х			

Date of Meeting	6 JULY 21 Bootle	28 SEPTEMBER 21	16 NOVEMBER 21	25 JANUARY 22	15 MARCH 22
Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board - Annual Report (Deb Hughes/Lisa Lyons)		Х			
Fostering Service Annual Report (Lisa Lyons)		Х			
Adoption Annual Report (Lisa Lyons)		Х			
Corporate Parenting Board (Annual Report) (Karen Gray)		X			
Regulation Services (Lisa Lyons)		Х			
Update on Children's Improvement Board (Laura Knights)			Х		
Provisional Indications for School Results (Trisha Davies)			Х		
School Attendance (Trisha Davies)			Х		
NEETs (Trisha Davies)			Х		
Virtual School Report (Trish Davies)			Х		

APPENDIX A

Date of Meeting	6 JULY 21 Bootle	28 SEPTEMBER 21	16 NOVEMBER 21	25 JANUARY 22	15 MARCH 22
NHS Updates					
Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Across Sefton – Update Report (CCGs)			X		
Review of Health Services for Children Looked After & Safeguarding in Sefton – Update on Actions Being Undertaken (CCGs)				Х	
Performance Reports for Key Children's Services (To include reps of Alder Hey & Mersey Care) (CCGs)					Х
Review of Looked After Children and Safeguarding) (CCGs)					Х

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Agenda Item 8

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MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING

MEMBERSHIP

10 Councillors, 4 voting church and parent governor representatives.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To fulfil all the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to Children's Services and Safeguarding and to review and make recommendations for improvement in relation to the following functions:

- School Improvement
- Children's Centres
- Special Educational Needs
- Early Years
- Early help schools
- Statutory LEA functions
- Education Welfare
- Safeguarding
- Children with disabilities
- Looked after Children
- Fostering and Adoptions
- Family Support Pathway
- Troubled Families



SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN



FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 JULY 2021 - 30 OCTOBER 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

- 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 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		
Emotional Health and Wellbeing	Eleanor Moulton eleanor.moulton@sefton.gov.uk		
Strategy			

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy A report to present to Cabinet the Sefton Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Children and Young People, 2021- 2026.				
Decision Maker	Cabinet				
Decision Expected	29 Jul 2021				
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	Officers; Elected Members; Service User Groups.			roups.	
Method(s) of Consultation	The Strategy has been discussed at Overview and Scrutiny and Health and Wellbeing Board. The Startegy has been developed by the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership.				
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy				
Contact Officer(s) details	Eleanor Moulton eleanor.moulton@sefton.gov.uk				