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Sefton Council



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

DATE: Tuesday, 5th July 2022

TIME: 6.30 p.m.

VENUE: Town Hall Bootle

Member

Councillor
Cllr. June Burns (Chair)
Cllr. Paula Spencer (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Danny Burns
Cllr. Natasha Carlin
Cllr. Leo Evans
Cllr. Judy Hardman
Cllr. Nina Killen
Cllr. Paula Murphy
Cllr. Mike Prendergast
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. Robert Brennan
Cllr. Christine Howard
Cllr. Greg Myers
Cllr. John Kelly
Cllr. Iain Brodie - Browne
Cllr. Christine Maher
Cllr. Jennifer Corcoran
Cllr. Steve McGinnity
Cllr. Tony Brough
LMAL Vacancy

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Debbie Campbell, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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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A G E N D A

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 5 - 12)

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2022.

4. Ofsted Inspection Reports (Pages 13 - 20)

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

5. Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group - Final Report (Pages 21 - 38)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer.

6. Cabinet Member Reports (Pages 39 - 46)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer.

Appendix B - Cabinet Member - Education - Update Report – To Follow.

7. Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan (Pages 47 - 66)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer.

THIS SET OF MINUTES IS NOT SUBJECT TO “CALL IN”.

**Overview
& Scrutiny**



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

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON TUESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2022**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Burns (in the Chair)
Councillor Spencer (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Blackburne, Dowd, Murphy,
Prendergast, Yvonne Sayers and Webster
- ALSO PRESENT:** Ms. K. Christie, Healthwatch Representative
Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative
Ms. C. McDonough, Parent Governor
Representative
Councillor Roscoe, Cabinet Member - Education

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carlin and Evans; Mrs. S. Cain, Independent Advisory Member; and Councillor Doyle – Cabinet Member – Children’s Social Care.

35. 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 room during the consideration of the item:

Member	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Councillor Dowd	Minute No. 38 – Performance Reports for Key Children’s Services	She is involved in the commissioning of some of the services referred to within the report.

36. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record; and
- (2) the Minutes of the remote informal meeting of the Committee held on 25 January 2022 be noted.

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37. UKRAINE

With the agreement of the Committee and in view of the urgency of the matter, Tracy McKeating Team Manager Locality South, Attendance and Welfare Services, provided a briefing, advising that two children had arrived in the north of the Borough the previous week, following the invasion by Russian troops of Ukraine. The children concerned had started attending Sefton schools and the School Nursing Service was providing support. Although some schools in the Borough were full to capacity, exceptional circumstances were being considered. Department for Education (DfE) guidance on refugees arriving from Ukraine was currently awaited.

A Member of the Committee asked raised an issue on the following:

- In the event that any updates on the matter became necessary, a written report should be provided to Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted and the Team Manager Locality South, Attendance and Welfare Services, be thanked for her briefing.

38. PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR KEY CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Further to Minute No. 34 of 16 March 2021, the Committee considered Integrated Performance Reports for Key Children's Services, submitted by NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG. The Integrated Performance Reports set out information on:

- Alder Hey NHS Foundation Trust 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 - Routine Cases within 4 weeks of referral;
- Waiting times for Routine/Urgent Referrals to Children and Young People's Eating Disorder Services – Urgent Cases within 1 week of referral;
- Children and Young People new Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) 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);

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- Paediatric Children's Contenance Promotion Service; and
- Paediatric Children's Physiotherapy Service.

Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for 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.

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

- CAMHS and increase in referrals. Detailed information would be provided under Minute No. 39 below.

RESOLVED:

That the Integrated Performance Reports be noted.

39. SEFTON COMMUNITY CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) - UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 11 of 10 November 2020, the Committee considered the joint report of the Children and Young People Commissioning Manager, 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 ongoing impact of the pandemic and the challenges this presented. The report also highlighted new services and developing services and initiatives which were contributing to improvements in the mental health offer for the children and young people (CYP) of Sefton, together with developments. System-wide changes as health and social care transitioned into the newly formed Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS) and the implications for mental health on an ICS footprint and for Sefton CYP and families "at place", were also highlighted.

The report set out details of the following:

- CCG Commissioned Services 2021/22;
- Impact of Covid and system-wide response;
- Additional investment;
- Expanding and Developing Services;
- Strengthening of Local Partnerships;
- Strategic Developments;
- CAMHS Services;
- Mental Health Support Teams;
- Kooth;
- Access Targets;
- ASD/ADHD Services; and

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- Engagement and Co-production.

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; and Lisa Cooper, Director of Community and Mental Health Services, 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 national shortage of paediatricians.
- Interventions in place for children seeking refuge from the conflict in Ukraine.
- Early interventions in place and work being undertaken.
- Challenges being faced in encouraging young people to consider a career in the NHS.
- Referrals to ASD services.
- Increases in referrals to CAMHS and triage of referrals.

RESOLVED:

That the report on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) be noted.

40. SHAPING CARE TOGETHER PROGRAMME - MARCH 2022 ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee considered information and a presentation on the Shaping Care Together Programme, that sought to "futureproof" NHS services by looking at new ways of working and new ways of delivering services across Southport, West Lancashire and Formby. The presentation outlined the following:

- Engagement and consultation;
- Timeline of activity;
- Headline engagement to date;
- Headline themes to date; and
- Next steps.

Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, was in attendance to present the information and presentation and to respond to questions/issues raised by Members of the Committee.

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

- A&E waiting area at Southport Hospital.

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- The impact of the survey for the Programme.
- Emergency children's care during the night and reimbursement of costs for urgent cases – additional information could be provided.
- The future of the Hospital site.
- The evaluation of the options for the Programme.
- The range of options available for residents to contribute towards the survey on the matter.
- The number of responses on the survey received to date.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the information and presentation on the Shaping Care Together Programme be noted; and
- (2) the Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG be requested to obtain and provide information on emergency children's care during the night.

41. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education that provided an update on Ofsted Inspection Reports and the work of the School Improvement Team. The report set out the background to the matter; details of support provided by the School Improvement Team; and the schools that had been inspected and an Ofsted report received, during the Autumn Term of 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

42. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer submitting the most recent update reports from the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care, and the Cabinet Member – Education, whose portfolios fell within the remit of the Committee.

The Cabinet Member update report – Children's Social Care, attached to the report at Appendix A, outlined information on the following:

- Ofsted update;
- Recruitment;
- Social work week; and
- Leeds Family values model of practice.

The Cabinet Member update report – Education, attached to the report at Appendix B, outlined information on the following:

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- Education Excellence:
 - Schools;
 - St. Teressa's;
 - Sacred Heart;
 - Holy Spirit;
 - Savio;
 - Exams and Tests;
 - Covid;
 - Attendance;
 - ILACS; and
 - SEND.

Councillor Roscoe attended the meeting to present her report and to respond to any questions or issues raised by Members of the Committee.

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

- In respect of St Teresa's, concerns were raised regarding two children out of school since December. This would be addressed.
- The situation at Savio High School and the role the Council could play in the matter.
- An apparent shortage of teachers and teaching assistants. The Cabinet Member would raise the matter.
- National difficulties in recruiting teaching assistants.
- The Improvement Board, in relation to the Children's Services Improvement Journey. A request for regular reports to be provided to the Committee was made and this could be addressed under Minute No. 43 below.

RESOLVED:

That the update reports from the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care and the Cabinet Member – Education be noted.

43. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer reviewing the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of 2021/22; reporting on progress of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group; identifying any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan; and receiving an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Work Programme for 2021/22 was set out at Appendix A to the report, to be considered along with any additional items to be included and agreed.

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

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

- A request was made for a full report on the Improvement Board in regard to the Children's Social Care Improvement Journey to be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 5 July 2022 and regular reports submitted to the Committee thereafter during 2022/23.
- A request for the Key Decision on the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025 to be deferred to the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 28 July 2022 was made, to enable this Committee to pre-scrutinise the matter at its meeting scheduled for 5 July 2022.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted;

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

the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education be requested to submit a full report on the Improvement Board in regard to the Children's Social Care Improvement Journey to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 5 July 2022, and regular reports on the matter be submitted to the Committee thereafter during 2022/23;

(3) progress of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group be noted;

(4) a request be made for the Key Decision on the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025 to be deferred to the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 28 July 2022, to enable this Committee to pre-scrutinise the matter at its meeting scheduled for 5 July 2022, and for the item to be included in the work programme for 2022/23; and

(5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

44. FIONA TAYLOR

The Chair reported that this would be the last meeting of the Committee attended by Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical

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Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG and congratulated her on 40 years of service.

RESOLVED:

That the best wishes and thanks of the Committee be extended to Fiona Taylor.

Agenda Item 4

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	5 July 2022
Subject:	Ofsted Inspection Reports		
Report of:	Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	Wards Affected:	(All Wards)
Cabinet Portfolio:	Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) on Ofsted Inspection Reports and the work of the School Improvement Team.

Recommendation(s):

That the report be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To appraise the Committee of developments.

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

Not applicable.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Not applicable.

(B) Capital Costs

Not applicable.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None directly.

Legal Implications:

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School Inspection Handbook, the Education Act 2005	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no climate emergency implications as a direct result of this report.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The School Improvement Team offers support to all schools receiving an Ofsted inspection.
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: 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 of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 6849/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5049/22) 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.

Contact Officer:	Tricia Davies/Jacqui Patterson
Telephone Number:	07813544809
Email Address:	Tricia.Davies@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Ofsted Summary of Outcomes and Support Spring 2022 – Published results for the schools outlined

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Schools can be inspected under the Education Act 2005 Section 5 or Section 8 guidance.
- 1.2 Under the education inspection framework section 5 inspections, inspectors will make the following judgements about schools: overall effectiveness; quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development and leadership and management. If the school offers early years provision and sixth-form provision, inspectors will also make judgements on these areas.
- 1.3 Under the education inspection framework section 8 inspections may be carried out for a range of reasons: schools judged to be good or outstanding at their most recent section 5 inspection; monitoring inspections of schools judged as requires improvement; monitoring inspections of schools judged to have serious weaknesses; monitoring inspections of schools judged to require special measures; any inspection that is carried out in other circumstances where the inspection has no specific designation, known as 'section 8 no formal designation inspection' and unannounced behaviour inspections.
- 1.4 The usual interval for section 5 inspections as within 5 school years from the end of the school year in which the last section 5 or relevant section 8 inspection took place.

2. Support from School Improvement Team:

- 2.1 All schools currently judged Requires Improvement or Inadequate receive support and challenge from the School Improvement Team. In addition, the team also broker support.
- 2.2 All schools currently judged Good or Outstanding are able to access a health check when in the Ofsted window. This enables the school to identify any areas that they need support with. The team will then provide or broker support if required.

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- 2.3 Once the school receives the call a member of the team will contact them to check if any support is required and keep in contact throughout the inspection.
- 2.4 The Service Manager for School Improvement or the Head of Education Excellence meet with the lead inspector during the inspection and attend the final feedback.
- 2.5 Following the inspection report being released the team will again provide or broker support as appropriate.

3. Inspections – Spring term 2022

- 3.1 The following schools outlined within the attached appendix have been inspected and reports received:

- 1. Litherland High School
- 2. Waterloo Primary School
- 3. Bedford Primary School
- 4. Maghull High School
- 5. Woodlands Primary School
- 6. Range High School
- 7. Our Lady of Walsingham


- 3.2 At the termly meeting with the senior HMI he commented on the improvements made in relationships between OFSTED, schools and the LA and how that was having a positive impact on inspections. He also commented on the positive impact that teams within Education Excellence were having on the schools.

OFSTED Summary of Outcomes and Support Spring 2022 (Pt 1)

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
Litherland High School	25 & 26 January 2022	Alyson Middlemass	<u>Requires Improvement</u> Ofsted Litherland High School	16 April 2018 – Requires Improvement		Limited engagement in secondary research project
Waterloo Primary School	22 & 23 Feb 2022	Iain Sim	<u>GOOD</u> Ofsted Waterloo Primary School	15 December 2015 - Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop subject leadership so teachers develop and take on the responsibility rather than reliance on SL's 	Engage well with LA and SIG Welcomed health checks- SEND, EYFS, early reading
Bedford Primary School	2 & 3 March 2022	Ian Dixon	<u>GOOD</u> Ofsted Bedford Primary School	27 February 2017 - Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the foundation subjects in a timely manner as some still being developed 	Engage well with LA EYFS health check welcomed Seek advice when needed DFE South Sefton attendance project
Maghull High School	25 January 2022	Ahmed Marikar	<u>GOOD</u> Ofsted Maghull High School	25 April 2018 – Requires Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth form need to use assessment effectively Subject 	Engages with secondary research project

					Leaders should ensure all teachers are trained in correct approaches to deliver curriculum well	
Woodlands Primary Formby	10 & 11 March 2022	Liz Kelly	<u>GOOD</u> Ofsted Woodlands Primary School	29 January 2016 - Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop new phonics scheme to ensure consistency of language used • Pupils need to make links with prior learning and trips • Pupils need to understand chronology 	LA Y6 Moderator Attend LA briefings and engage well with JP SI Health checks welcomed prior to inspection
Range High School	22 & 23 March 2022		<u>GOOD</u> Ofsted Range High School	18 December 2018 – Requires Improvement		Academy Engages with Secondary Research Project

OFSTED Summary of Outcomes and Support Spring 2022 (Pt two)

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
Our Lady of Walsingham	26/4/22 27/4/22	Jeanette Walker HMI	<u>Requires Improvement</u>	19/06/2019 – Good  10212219 Our Lady of Walsingham PS 13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum subject leadership • Literacy • EYFS • Personal development • Leadership and management 	School known to LA through previous support work on literacy development. LA engagement with union issues LA and Archdiocese will work together on future support package with new HT

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Agenda Item 5

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	5 July 2022 28 July 2022 15 September 2022
Subject:	Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group - Final Report		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To present formally the final report of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) That, once data is available, the Head of Education Excellence be requested to submit a monitoring report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), on primary school performance, to include school attendance and any available information on SATs results, and other performance indicators, in order to draw comparisons with 2019 performance and also with regional and national performance.
- (2) That the Council be requested to agree in writing to all Headteachers of schools throughout the Borough, to thank teaching staff for their on-going input throughout the pandemic and to raise the following matters:
 - (a) to remind schools of the continued support available from the Council.
 - (b) to remind schools of the various options available for securing additional teaching staff, such as:
 - the graduate teaching apprenticeship scheme
 - School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)
 - Teach First
 - Degree course in Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and
 - a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

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- (c) to remind schools of the availability of mental health support, including the Young People’s Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit that can be accessed via the following link:

[Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk/mental-health-emotional-wellbeing)

- (d) to encourage schools to try to re-engage with families as a source of support in schools **where possible and where practical**, particularly given covid concerns.
- (3) That the Mayor of Sefton be requested to consider hosting an event for representatives of all schools throughout the Borough, to thank them for their on-going input throughout the pandemic.
 - (4) That the Council be requested to agree to writing to the Department for Education in the strongest terms, to request additional resources for Sefton schools, particularly in view of forthcoming literacy and numeracy expectations on primary schools by 2030.
 - (5) 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 Recommendation(s):

- 1. 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.
- 2. Chapter 6 – Overview and Scrutiny – of the Council’s Constitution states that
 - “7. All Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports should be reported to Cabinet and full Council for final approval.”

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 the impact of covid 19 on the primary curriculum and the Working Group has performed this task.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The proposed Mayoral event referred to within the recommendations will have some limited associated costs. These can be contained within the Mayoral hospitality budget.

(B) Capital Costs

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

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None	
Legal Implications: Chapter 6 – Overview and Scrutiny – of the Council’s Constitution states that “7. All Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports should be reported to Cabinet and full Council for final approval.”	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The recommendations seek to support schools and teaching staff within schools. They also seek to provide recognition and support towards the duties associated with teaching and for the emotional wellbeing of teaching staff. This in turn, will contribute towards greater support and better learning outcomes for pupils within schools.
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: Not applicable.
Greater income for social investment:

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Not applicable.

Cleaner Greener: Not applicable.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Development Manager, Health and Wellbeing, was consulted during the course of the Working Group review.

The Head of Education and Service Manager, School Improvement, have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 6851/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5051/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Consultations and discussions took place with the following during the course of the Working Group review:

- Headteacher, St. Nicholas' Primary School
- Headteacher, Netherton Moss Primary School
- Deputy Headteacher, Netherton Moss Primary School
- Chair of Sefton Association of Primary Headteachers
- Children and Families Development Officer, Sefton CVS

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	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 Mental Health Issues Working Group

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 7 September 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) established a working group on the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum. (Minute No. 22 (4) refers). The following Members of the Committee were appointed to the Working Group:
- Councillor Spencer (Lead Member)
 - Former Councillor Yvonne Sayers
 - Mrs. S. Cain, Independent Advisory Member
 - Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative
- 1.2 The Working Group agreed the following terms of reference and objectives for the review:
- To consider the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum, to include the consideration of the impact of lockdown and remote learning.
- 1.3 The Final Report of the Working Group is attached for consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding); the Cabinet; and the Council are requested to support the contents of the Working Group Final Report and to approve the recommendations contained therein.

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



**IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON PRIMARY CURRICULUM
WORKING GROUP**

**FINAL REPORT
JULY 2022**

Overview
& Scrutiny



Overview & Scrutiny



**'Valuing
Improvement'**

www.sefton.gov.uk
scrutiny@sefton.gov.uk

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LEAD MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION

I am very pleased to introduce this Overview and Scrutiny Report on the impact of covid 19 on the primary curriculum.

The Working Group was set up to look at the impact of education for our primary school children in Sefton against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have all endured lockdowns and restrictions to our day-to-day living during the last few months, and concerns were held for our younger children who had missed the full educational experience through no fault of their own.

This has also been a particularly challenging time for our teachers and everyone within the education system.

The Working Group has sought the views of headteachers, mental health experts and the voluntary sector establishing the main issues that have arisen in primary schools in particular, following successive lockdowns.

We also considered possible measures to support our teaching staff which in turn, we hope will impact on the support our teachers are able to offer to the children of Sefton and help reduce some of the issues that have arisen since the pandemic.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in interviews and submitted information that helped inform the Working Group. I am grateful to the Working Group Members for their commitment and efforts in looking at this issue. Finally, I would like to thank our support officers for their assistance and professional support provided to the Working Group and for producing this final report on behalf of Members.



Councillor Paula Spencer
Lead Member of the Mental Health Issues Working Group

Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Children's Services and Safeguarding)

BACKGROUND TO REVIEW

1. At its meeting held on 7 September 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) considered the establishment of a working group on the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum. The Committee:

"RESOLVED: That

(4) a working group on the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum be established, to include the consideration of the impact of lockdown and home schooling, comprised of the following Members of the Committee:"

(Minute No. 22 (4) of 28 September 2021 refers).

MEMBERSHIP OF WORKING GROUP

The following Members were appointed to the Working Group by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) at its meeting held on 28 September 2020:

- Councillor Spencer
- Councillor Yvonne Sayers
- Mrs. S. Cain, Independent Advisory Member
- Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative

LEAD MEMBER

Councillor Spencer was appointed as the Lead Member for the Working Group and it is anticipated that she will present the final report to the Committee; to the Cabinet and to the Council.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OBJECTIVES

The Terms of Reference and Objectives for the review were as follows:

- To consider the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum, to include the consideration of the impact of lockdown and remote learning.

METHODS OF ENQUIRY

1. Consideration of documents.
2. The interviewing of service providers.



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3. Site visits.
4. Consideration of documents.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP HELD

Details of Working Group meetings are as follows:

Meeting Date	Activity
9 November 2021	Appointment of lead Member and scoping of the review.
2 December 2021	Discussion with headteachers.
19 January 2022	Discussion on the Mental Health Toolkit for schools.
8 February 2022	Discussion with the Chair of the Sefton Association of Primary Headteachers.
28 March 2022	Consideration of Conclusions and Identification of Possible Recommendations

SITE VISITS

Plans were made for Working Group Members to visit St. Nicholas' Primary School, Blundellsands on 25 January 2022. Unfortunately, the visit had to be cancelled due to the prevalence of the Omicron variant at the time.

Details of the site visit undertaken by Working Group Members are as follows:

Date of Site Visit	Venue Visited
23 March 2022	Site Visit to Netherton Moss Primary School to meet with members of staff and pupils, to hear about the impact of Covid on the primary curriculum. A tour of the School was also undertaken.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The following links to articles were provided to Working Group Members during the course of the review:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027745/COVID-19_Snapshot_Report.pdf

https://nfer.ac.uk/media/4435/the_impact_of_covid_19_on_schools_in_england.pdf

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/nfer-impact-of-school-closures-and-subsequent-support-strategies-on-attainment-and-socioemotional-wellbeing-in-key-stage-1?search_term=impact%20of

<https://www.oecd.org/education/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-education-insights-education-at-a-glance-2020.pdf>

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/guidance-for-teachers/covid-19-resources/best-evidence-on-impact-of-covid-19-on-pupil-attainment>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/infographic-covid19-coronavirus-impact-global-education-health-schools/>

https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/4119/schools_responses_to_covid_19_the_challenges_facing_schools_and_pupils_in_september_2020.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-23-march-2020-to-25-november-2021>

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/what-has-been-the-impact-of-covid-19-across-the-uk-countries>

<https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/project/impact-of-covid-19-mainstream-schools-england>

KEY WITNESSES

Working Group Members met with a number of key witnesses, including the following:

Meeting Date	Witness(es)
2 December 2022	Headteachers – Interviews regarding their experiences during lockdowns and the current situation in schools.
19 January 2022	Development Manager, Health and Wellbeing Children and Families Development Officer, Sefton CVS – Discussion on the mental health toolkit for schools.
8 February 2021	Discussions with the Chair of Sefton Association of Primary



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	Headteachers, to hear about her experiences and the challenges being faced in schools.
--	--

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE WORKING GROUP REVIEW

Ordinarily, Working Group Members would have undertaken further site visits to relevant premises/locations during the course of the review, but this was not possible due to the on-going pandemic throughout the duration of the Working Group.

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The Head of Education has advised that there is no data available on primary school performance, including SATS results and outcomes of any testing at Key Stages 1 and 1, as data has not been published due to the pandemic. This has resulted in difficulties in monitoring performance, particularly in primary schools. Working Group Members considered that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) would wish to receive data which would assist in , in drawing comparisons with 2019 pre-pandemic performance and also with regional and national performance. This would illustrate Sefton primary school performance.
2. Working Group Members considered that it was very important for the Council to recognise the hard work schools faced during successive lockdowns. Not only did teachers have to provide on-line learning, a very difficult achievement with young children, they also had to provide learning for children of key workers who were physically attending school whilst their parents provided vital services.

By writing to schools to thank them for their efforts during the pandemic, Working Group Members also considered that this would provide an opportunity to remind schools of the continued support available from the Council; of the various options available for securing additional teaching staff; and the availability of mental health support, including the Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit.

Many supply teachers left their positions during lockdown as they were not provided with furlough payments. This has been problematic since children returned to school as there has been a shortage of supply teachers to help cover when teaching staff have succumbed to covid and long-term covid symptoms. Working Group Members felt that it might be beneficial to remind schools of the opportunities to secure additional teaching staff.

Working Group Members found that the very beneficial activities provided at family centres pre-covid have been slow to resume following the pandemic and they considered that schools should be encouraged to resume this

mutual support **where possible and where practical**, particularly given any on-going covid concerns.

3. Following the initial lockdown, Council workers were awarded an additional day's leave for their birthday during 2021, in recognition of their hard work and the continued provision of services by the Council.

On 15 July 2021, the Council agreed to grant the Freedom of the Borough to Aintree and Liverpool NHS Foundation Trust, Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, Alder Hey Children's NHS Trust and Mersey Care NHS Trust and for representatives of those bodies to be invited to an Extra-ordinary Council meeting and civic reception in due course, in recognition of their hard work and dedication during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Teaching staff have not been recognised in the same way for their hard work and dedication during the pandemic and Working Group Members wish to celebrate the achievement of teaching staff in Sefton.

4. By the conclusion of the Working Group, Members were concerned to hear of the forthcoming literacy and numeracy expectations on primary schools by 2030, particularly as most schools are already going "above and beyond" in terms of the teaching hours they offer to pupils. Schools are at a loss to know how they can deliver additional learning without additional resources.
5. The usual six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the Working Group recommendations, would be required in due course. Relevant officers would be required to liaise in order to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) received the monitoring report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

In producing this report on mental health issues, acknowledgements and thanks are attributed to the following individuals for their time and input:-

- *Service Manager, School Improvement*
- *Head of Education*
- *Senior Democratic Services Officer, Corporate Services*
- *Headteacher, St. Nicholas' Primary School*
- *Headteacher, Netherton Moss Primary School*
- *Deputy Headteacher, Netherton Moss Primary School*
- *Development Manager, Health and Wellbeing*



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- *Children and Families Development Officer, Sefton CVS*
- *Chair of Sefton Association of Primary Headteachers*
- *Pupils of Netherton Moss Primary School*

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 Paula
Spencer
(Lead Member)***

***Former Councillor
Yvonne Sayers***

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

***Ms. Machalla McDermott
Parent Governor Representative***



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, once data is available, the Head of Education Excellence be requested to submit a monitoring report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), on primary school performance, to include school attendance and any available information on SATs results, and other performance indicators, in order to draw comparisons with 2019 performance and also with regional and national performance.
2. That the Council be requested to agree in writing to all Headteachers of schools throughout the Borough, to thank teaching staff for their on-going input throughout the pandemic and to raise the following matters:
 - (a) to remind schools of the continued support available from the Council.
 - (b) to remind schools of the various options available for securing additional teaching staff, such as:
 - the graduate teaching apprenticeship scheme
 - School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)
 - Teach First
 - Degree course in Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and
 - a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
 - (c) to remind schools of the availability of mental health support, including the Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit that can be accessed via the following link:

[Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk/mental-health-emotional-wellbeing)
 - (d) to encourage schools to try to re-engage with families as a source of support in schools **where possible and where practical**, particularly given covid concerns.
3. That the Mayor of Sefton be requested to consider hosting an event for representatives of all schools throughout the Borough, to thank them for their on-going input throughout the pandemic.
4. That the Council be requested to agree to writing to the Department for Education in the strongest terms, to request additional resources for Sefton schools, particularly in view of forthcoming literacy and numeracy expectations on primary schools by 2030.
5. 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:-

Debbie Campbell

Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Sefton Council 



Agenda Item 6

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	5 July 2022
Subject:	Cabinet Member Reports – April - June 2022		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children's Social Care Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

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

Recommendation:

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

Reasons for the Recommendation:

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

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

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

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

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

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(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

Implications of the Proposals:

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

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

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

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

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

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2254
Email Address:	debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

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

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

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

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 July 2022

<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>PERIOD OF REPORT</i>
Mhairi Doyle	Children's Social Care	June 2022

Children's Social Care

- The permanent director for Children's Services and the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance have come into post.
- All staff within Children's Services (including Education) are in the process of moving into one building (Magdalene house), which will provide a greater line of sight and support to staff within the service
- Recruitment across all areas of the service is ongoing. However, we have successfully recruited into 5 vacant Service Manager posts within the last 4 weeks and a further 3 are currently out for advert
- A diagnostic by Sunderland 'Together for Children' was completed on the MASH. The report and associated recommendations has been provided and is in the process of being developed into an action plan. Further diagnostic is planned to look at Liquid Logic system and how it can better support staff who are using it.
- The Children's Services improvement plan is being completed and will be provided to Ofsted in August. Service plans across all parts of the service are also currently being devised with the support of strategic support.
- Additional resource and capacity has been put in to parts of the service including, MASH, Family Support and Safeguarding Teams (overseeing child in need, child protection and care proceedings) and Care Experienced Children.
- Currently receiving support and training through an experienced Department of Education (Dfe) consultant, on our support and offer to care experienced children and those who are transitioning into adulthood.
- A review of cases within the service including; children with a disability, children subject to section 20, children who are in external placements.
- Refresh and launch of the quality assurance framework
- Launch of the Social Work Academy, which is supported by the Dfe. The Social Work academy will have approximately 30 newly qualified Social Workers who will be supported in their first year of employment. This will support the ongoing recruitment and retention of a staffing group that has been difficult to recruit to.
- Working with a company on international recruitment of Social Workers. We hope to achieve 20 experienced qualified Social Workers to come into post from Africa at the beginning of 2023.

- Appointment of a Service Manager who will be responsible for developing and opening more Children's Homes within Sefton

Youth Justice Service

Sefton Youth Justice Service produces a biannual Cohort Profile, which highlights the following:

- Custody- Sefton's custody rate remains at zero. There were two cases heard at court within the last week in April and first week in May which could have resulted in custodial sentencing due to their serious nature. Youth Justice staff completed robust pre-sentence assessments and associate reports that supported the Judge's decision to award community sentences and prevent two vulnerable young people from entering custody.
- The percentage of young people living in areas of deprivation has increased. 42% of the cohort live in South Sefton.
- Possession of weapons has increased as an offence reason and features in the top 3 offences for the first time.
- 52% of the cohort are being supported by Children Social Care.
- 24% have been referred to Early Help in the last 12 months.
- The cohort shows an increase in high-risk safety and wellbeing and risk of re-offending.
- NEET figures have increased within the cohort.
- It is positive to see 7 of the young people are in employment
- Mental health needs across the cohort remain a concern

There are developments to support children with mental health concerns. The Youth Justice Service Manager is working with health colleagues to develop the Framework for Integrated Care Vanguard, which will deliver clinically formulated plans with tailored mental health interventions, to the most vulnerable children.

Reframe – a New Intervention

Sefton Youth Justice Service are taking part in a pilot project with the Police, and We Are With You (WAWY) to support young people in possession of drugs. Sefton Youth Justice Service was selected based on good pre-existing relationships with both WAWY and Merseyside Police. Three other areas are taking part in the trial in Cornwall, Kent and Lancashire. Merseyside Police are central to the success of the project, being the gatekeeper to referrals.

The three-year project 'Re-Frame' is funded by The Youth Endowment Fund and aims to reduce the criminalisation of children (aged 10-17) by diverting them from the criminal justice system. When a young person comes to the attention of the police for possession of a Class B or C substance, they can meet with a trained WAWY worker to access a diversion scheme. If they consent the young people diverted will have the opportunity to engage in consultation with a researcher from Kent University. The University of Kent will evaluate the project, undertaking a randomised control trial. There is currently a lack of robust evidence in the UK to understand what works when diverting young people from violence and the criminal justice system. The partnership with Re-Frame will help fill this gap.

Specifically, Re-Frame aims to:

- Encourage the view of drug use as a health and social rather than criminal justice issue
- Promote early intervention, to offer support rather than punishment to vulnerable young people

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APPENDIX A

- Connect young people with a trained drug and alcohol worker for restorative sessions. The sessions will help the young people consider the consequences of their actions, reflect so they can make changes in the future and educate about substances.

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Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	5 July 2022
Subject:	Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children's Social Care Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To:

- seek the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2022/23;
- note the progress of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group;
- consider deferring the re-establishing the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group for a further 12 months, to the Autumn of 2023;
- invite Committee Members to participate in informal briefing sessions during 2022/23, rather than establish a traditional 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.

Recommendations:

That:

- (1) the draft Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) progress of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group be noted;
- (3) the re-establishment of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group be deferred for a further 12 months, to the Autumn of 2023;

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- (4) rather than establish a traditional working group during 2022/23, all Members of the Committee be invited to participate in informal briefing sessions;
- (5) items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan which 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
- (6) 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 2022/23; 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	Yes

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

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

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

Contact Officer:	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2254
Email Address:	debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix A - Work Programme for 2021/22;
- Appendix B – Terms of Reference for the Committee (extract from the Council's Constitution); and

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- 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 2022/23

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2022/23 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 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 2022/23 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.3 At the time of drafting this report, there is a possibility that the frequency of the Committee's meetings could be increased during 2022/23 and any further information will be reported at the meeting.
- 1.4 **The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for 2022/23, as appropriate, and note that additional items may be added to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.**

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC 2021/22 – IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM WORKING GROUP

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Committee held on 28 September 2021, the Committee agreed that:

a working group on the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum be established, to include the consideration of the impact of lockdown and home schooling, comprised of the following Members of the Committee:

- Councillor Spencer
- Councillor Yvonne Sayers
- Mrs. S. Cain, Independent Advisory Member
- Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative

(Minute No. 22 (4) refers).

2.2 A number of meetings of the Working Group have taken place and Members have suggested recommendations arising from the review.

2.3 At the time of drafting this report, the Final Report of the Working Group is in course of preparation, and it is anticipated that it will be attached elsewhere on this agenda.

2.4 **The Committee is requested to note the progress of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group.**

3. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC 2021/22 - SECONDARY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND ATTAINMENT WORKING GROUP

3.1 At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) held on 6 July 2021, the progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group was noted, and the Committee agreed that the Working Group be deferred for twelve months, until such time as data is available.

3.2 The Head of Education has confirmed that data is not yet available.

3.3 **The Committee is requested to defer consideration of re-establishing the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group for a further 12 months, to the Autumn of 2023.**

4. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2022/23

4.1 It is good practise for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to appoint a Working Group to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.

4.2 Rather than establish a traditional working group during 2022/23, it is suggested that all Members of the Committee could be invited to participate in informal briefings on the work of Children's Services and Safeguarding, where the information could be deemed useful. An informal briefing took place on 25 May 2022.

4.3 **The Committee is requested to agree to hold informal briefing sessions, rather than establish a traditional working group during 2022/23.**

5. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

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- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 The latest Forward Plan, published on 31 May 2022 and covering the period 1 July – 31 October 2022, 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 At the time of drafting this report, the Forward Plan to be published on 30 June 2022, covering the period 1 August – 1 November 2022, is in course of preparation and any items that fall under the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be shared with Members prior to the meeting.
- 5.7 **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, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.**

6. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.
- 6.4 **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.

6.5 **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 Howard, Hansen and Waterfield (Scrutiny Link).

Representatives of the Liberal Democrat Group and Conservative group on the Committee will be reported to Members at the next meeting.

6.6 **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 13 July 2022.

6.7 **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.

6.8 **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>

6.9 **Latest Meeting - 12 April 2022**

The latest meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 12 April 2022.

Matters considered at the meeting related to:

Agenda Item 7

- Metro Mayor S Rotheram's Update
- Apprenticeship Task and Finish Group - Final Report
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Self-Assessment

The next meeting of the LCRCOA&S will be held on 13 July 2022. Matters discussed at this meeting will be reported to Members at the next meeting of the Committee.

Details of all meetings can be obtained using the link referred to above

6.10 *The Committee is requested to note the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.*

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

WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Date of Meeting	5 JULY 2022 Bootle	28 SEPTEMBER 2022 Southport	15 NOVEMBER 2022 Bootle	24 January 2023 Southport	14 March 2023 Bootle
Regular Reports:					
Cabinet Member Update Reports (Amy Riley/Debbie Campbell)	X	X	X	X	X
Work Programme Update (Debbie Campbell)	X	X	X	X	X
Ofsted Inspection Reports (Termly Basis) (Tricia Davies)	X	X			X
Service Operational Reports:					
Final Report of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group (Debbie Campbell)	X				
Update on Ofsted Report and Improvement Plan (Martin Birch)		X	X	X	X
Children’s Social Care Improvement Journey (Laura Knights)		X			

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APPENDIX A

Item	5 JULY 2022 Bootle	28 SEPTEMBER 2022 Southport	15 NOVEMBER 2022 Bootle	24 January 2023 Southport	14 March 2023 Bootle
Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025 – Presentation of Strategy (Nicola Robson/Tricia Davies)		X			
Domestic Abuse (Janette Maxwell/Simon Burnett)		X			
SEND Annual Update (Tricia Davies)			X		
Exam/Test Data (Tricia Davies)				X	
Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board - Annual Update (Joe Banham/Deb Hughes)				X	
Integrated Care System Update and Start Well Overview (Eleanor Moulton)			X		
Corporate Parenting Board - Annual Update – Invite Cr. Doyle (Laura Knights)			X		
Fostering Service - Annual Update (Laura Knights)				X	
Adoption Service - Annual Update (Laura Knights)				X	

NHS Updates					
Sefton Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) - Update (CE of CCGs/Alder Hey Rep)		X			

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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
- Targeted Family Support
- Youth Offending Team
- Post 14 Education

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**SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 JULY 2022 - 31 OCTOBER 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item 7

APPENDIX C

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

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

NOTE:

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

Dwayne Johnson
Chief Executive

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
High Needs Funding 2022-23 Quarterly Monitoring Update	Tricia Davies tricia.davies@sefton.gov.uk
Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025	Nicola Robson nicola.robson@sefton.gov.uk
Summerhill Primary School - S106 Contributions and Proposal for Expansion	Marie Stevenson marie.stevenson@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3427

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	High Needs Funding 2022-23 Quarterly Monitoring Update Financial update of High Needs Spending Plans for 2022/23			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	28 Jul 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 23/06/2022 to 28/07/2022. Reason: Work is ongoing on the financial update			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Schools Forum, Schools, Officers, Parents / Carers, Elected Members, Education & Skills Funding Agency			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails, briefings, meetings, phone calls			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	High Needs Funding 2022-23 Quarterly Monitoring Update			
Contact Officer(s) details	Tricia Davies tricia.davies@sefton.gov.uk			

**SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Details of Decision to be taken	Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025 The strategy sets out how all children and young people in Sefton will receive an education, which enables them to reach their individual potential, have a clear pathway to further education, employment and engage positively with others in their community. The strategy demonstrates the Council's role in system leadership, facilitating school leaders to lead school improvement and school to school support and sets out the clear priorities which will address the key themes and measure the progress towards the key actions.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	28 Jul 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 26/05/2022 to 28/07/2022. Reason: the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Social Care and Safeguarding) has requested deferral of the item, in order for the item to be pre-scrutinised by the Committee at its meeting on 5th July			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Parents and carers; children and young people; school governing bodies; and key stake holder groups.			
Method(s) of Consultation	online survey; face to face small group meetings; easy read surveys; creative consultation activities; meetings; presentations; emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025			
Contact Officer(s) details	Nicola Robson nicola.robson@sefton.gov.uk			

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p>Summerhill Primary School - S106 Contributions and Proposal for Expansion</p> <p>Cabinet is requested to approve the publication of the statutory proposal to enlarge the premises of the school. Council is requested to approve the expenditure of the S106 contributions on this project.</p>			
Decision Maker	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Council</p>			
Decision Expected	<p>28 Jul 2022</p> <p>15 Sep 2022</p> <p>Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 26/05/2022 to 28/07/2022. Reason: Additional financial information is being sought</p>			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Park; Sudell			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Governors, Staff, Parents of pupils at the school, Head teachers of Sefton schools.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Extensive public consultation was carried out as part of Sefton's Local Plan. More recent consultation has also been carried out by letter.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Summerhill Primary School - S106 contributions and proposal for expansion			
Contact Officer(s) details	Marie Stevenson marie.stevenson@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3427			