



## COUNCIL SUMMONS

To Members of the Metropolitan Borough Council

Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to be held on **Thursday 13th July, 2023 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Southport** to transact the business set out on the agenda overleaf.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Campbell", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Chief Executive

Town Hall,  
Southport

Wednesday 5 July 2023

Please contact Debbie Campbell, Democratic Services Manager  
on 0151 934 2254 or e-mail [debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk)

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.

# **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 Previous Meetings**

(Pages 5 - 22)

Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 16 May 2023 and the Adjourned Annual meeting held on 18 May 2023

## **4. Mayor's Communications**

### **Public Session**

## **5. Matters Raised by the Public**

To deal with matters raised by members of the public resident within the Borough, of which notice has been given in accordance with the procedures relating to public questions, motions or petitions set out in Paragraph 36 to 47 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

(Details of any further petitions notified or questions submitted by members of the public will be circulated at the meeting).

### **Council Business Session**

- 6. Questions Raised by Members of the Council**  
To receive and consider questions to Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Spokespersons for any of the Joint Authorities upon any matter within their portfolio/area of responsibility, of which notice has been given by Members of the Council in accordance with Paragraph 49 to 51 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, set out in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.
- 7. Youth Justice Service - Annual Plan** (Pages 23 - 92)  
Report of the Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education
- 8. Millers Bridge Railway Bridge - Investigation Work** (Pages 93 - 98)  
Report of the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)
- 9. Climate Emergency - Annual Progress Report** (Pages 99 - 118)  
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 10. Financial Management 20223/24 to 2025/26 and Framework for Change 2020 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – June Update - Additional Capital Estimates** (Pages 119 - 128)  
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 11. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23** (Pages 129 - 182)  
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 12. Matters dealt with in accordance with Rule 46 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call-In and Urgency) and Rule 29 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Special Urgency) of the Constitution** (Pages 183 - 186)  
Report of the Leader of the Council.
- 13. Membership of Committees 2023/24**  
To consider any changes to the membership of any Committees etc.
- 14. Motion submitted by Councillor Prendergast - Southport Pier** (Pages 187 - 188)  
Copy attached

15. **Motion Submitted by Councillor Roscoe - Extension of Pupil Premium Plus for +16 to all Local Authorities** (Pages 189 - 190)  
Copy attached
16. **Motion Submitted by Councillor Lappin - Local Government Pay: a Fully Funded, Proper Pay Rise for Council and School Workers** (Pages 191 - 192)  
Copy attached
17. **Motion submitted by Councillor Pugh - Southport Pier** (Pages 193 - 194)  
Copy attached
18. **Motion Submitted by Councillor Sir Ron Watson - Constitutional Changes** (Pages 195 - 196)  
Copy attached.
19. **Motion Submitted by Councillor Lloyd Johnson - Andy Man's Club** (Pages 197 - 198)  
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## **COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON TUESDAY 16TH MAY, 2023**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor Carragher) in the Chair  
The Deputy Chair (Councillor June Burns) Vice  
Chair

Councillors Bradshaw, Brough, Danny Burns,  
Byrom, Carlin, Cluskey, Corcoran, Cummins,  
Desmond, Dowd, Doyle, Fairclough, Grace, Hansen,  
Hardman, Hardy, Harrison, Harvey, Howard, Keith,  
John Kelly, John Joseph Kelly, Sonya Kelly, Killen,  
Lappin, Lloyd-Johnson, Lunn-Bates,  
Christine Maher, Ian Maher, McGinnity, McKee,  
Moncur, Morris, Murphy, Myers, O'Brien,  
Catie Page, Christopher Page, Pugh, Richards,  
Riley, Robinson, Roscoe, Spencer, Thomas,  
Anne Thompson, Lynne Thompson, Tweed,  
Veidman, Waterfield, Sir Ron Watson and Webster

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkinson, Brodie-Browne, D'Albuquerque, Dodd, Evans, Halsall, Hart, Keith, Prendergast Roche, Shaw and Wilson.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **3. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2023/24**

It was moved by Councillor Hansen, seconded by Councillor Spencer and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

That June Burns, a Councillor of the Borough, be elected Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Municipal Year and until the acceptance of office by her successor.

**Councillor June Burns took the Chair at this point in the meeting.**

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## **4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR FOR 2023/24**

It was moved by Councillor Ian Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Clare Louise Carragher, a Councillor of the Borough, be elected Deputy Chair of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year and until the acceptance of office by her successor.

## **5. VOTE OF THANKS FOR RETIRING MAYOR**

It was moved by Councillor Ian Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and unanimously

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council do hereby place on record its appreciation of the ability, courtesy and impartiality, shown by Councillor Clare Louise Carragher in her capacity as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the meetings of the Council, during the Municipal Years 2021/22 and 2022/23, and for her attendance at many civic and public functions, both inside and outside of the Borough;
- (2) the Council also desires to extend its thanks to both Mrs Audrey Stanson and Mr Jason Carragher for their support and encouragement given to the Mayor;
- (3) the Council wishes to record its appreciation of the excellent effort and involvement by Councillor Carragher and both Mrs Audrey Stanson and Mr Jason Carragher, in connection with the Mayor of Sefton's Charity Fund;
- (4) the Council further desires to extend its sincere thanks to Councillor Carragher and both Mrs Stanson and Mr Carragher for the hospitality extended to Royal Visits, Overseas Visitors and Civic Dignitaries hosted by this Borough; and
- (5) a copy of these Resolutions be passed under the Corporate Seal and presented to Councillor Carragher.

Councillor Carragher was then presented with a framed copy of the Vote of Thanks as a token of the Council's appreciation of the manner in which she and both Mrs Stanson and Mr Carragher had undertaken their duties in the Office of Mayor during the past twenty-four months.

Councillor Carragher responded to the Vote of Thanks and expressed her appreciation to her Mayoress, Mrs Stanson, Consort, Mr Carragher, the various organisations she had visited and the members of the public she had met and the Council officers who had supported her during her Term

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of Office. Councillor Carragher also referred to some of the highlights of her Term of Office which included meeting the then Princess of Wales and now Queen Camilla and the Princess Royal, the late Queen's Platinum Anniversary Celebrations, reading the Proclamations following the succession of King Charles III, the Freedom of the Borough events and attending the Eurovision Song Contest Final.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was moved by Councillor Ian Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED

That the meeting be adjourned and the Council re-convene on Thursday, 18 May 2023 at 6.30 pm at Bootle Town Hall.

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## COUNCIL

### ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 18TH MAY, 2023

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor June Burns) in the Chair  
The Deputy Chair (Councillor Carragher) Vice Chair

Councillors Bradshaw, Brodie - Browne, Brough, Danny Burns, Carlin, Cluskey, Corcoran, Cummins, D'Albuquerque, Desmond, Dodd, Doyle, Fairclough, Grace, Hansen, Hardman, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Howard, Keith, John Kelly, John Joseph Kelly, Sonya Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Lloyd-Johnson, Christine Maher, Ian Maher, McGinnity, McKee, Moncur, Murphy, Myers, O'Brien, Catie Page, Christopher Page, Prendergast, Pugh, Riley, Robinson, Roche, Roscoe, Shaw, Spencer, Spring, Thomas, Anne Thompson, Lynne Thompson, Tweed, Veidman, Waterfield, Sir Ron Watson, Webster and Wilson

#### 7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkinson, Byrom, Evans, Halsall, Hart, Harvey, Lunn-Bates, Morris and Richards.

#### 8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 9. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2023 be approved as a correct record.

#### 10. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

##### Election of New Councillors

The Mayor congratulated all of the Councillors who were re-elected to office following the Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2023, and extended a warm welcome to the six new Councillors elected to office, namely:

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COUNCIL- THURSDAY 18TH MAY, 2023

- Mike Desmond;
- Janet Harrison
- Phil Hart;
- Peter Harvey;
- Lauren Keith; and
- Christopher Page.

## Councillors Not Re-Elected

The Mayor also placed on record, the gratitude of the Council to the four former Councillors who were not re-elected to office and thanked them for their dedicated service to the people of Sefton, namely: :

- Maria Bennett who served for 5 years;
- David Irving who served for 5 years;
- Patrick McKinley who served for 12 years; and
- John Sayers who served for 8 years.

## Annual Council and Installation Dinner

The Mayor thanked all the Councillors who had attended her Installation Ceremony and Reception on 16 May 2023, and expressed the hope that had all enjoyed themselves.

### **11. ELECTION RESULTS - 4 MAY 2023**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive and Returning Officer on the results of the Council Elections held on 4 May 2023.

It was moved by Councillor Grace, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

### **12. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved by Councillor Grace, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ian Maher be appointed as the Leader of the Council for a four-year term of office until the Adjourned Annual Council Meeting in May 2027 or until such time as his term of office expires.

### **13. CABINET AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council considered the report of the Leader of the Council on the membership of the Cabinet.

It was moved by Councillor Ian Maher, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED: That

- (1) it be noted that Councillor Fairclough has been appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Council for a four-year term of office until the Adjourned Annual Council meeting in May 2027 or until such time as his term of office expires; and
- (2) it be noted that the Cabinet comprising of the Members indicated below will hold office until the Leaders term of office expires, unless removed by the Leader or for any of the reasons set out in Paragraph 4 (a) to (c) of Chapter 5 in the Constitution.

**Cabinet (10)**

Portfolio	Member
Leader of the Council	Councillor Ian Maher
Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care	Councillor Cummins
Cabinet Member - Children's Social Care	Councillor Doyle
Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing	Councillor Hardy
Cabinet Member - Education	Councillor Roscoe
Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing	Councillor Moncur
Cabinet Member - Locality Services (and Deputy Leader)	Councillor Fairclough
Cabinet Member - Planning and Building Control	Councillor Veidman
Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills	Councillor Atkinson
Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services	Councillor Lappin

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## 14. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES 2023/24

The Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer which provided details of the allocation of Committee Places in accordance with the Political Balance Rules and the proposed Membership of the Committees and Working Groups for 2023/24. The report also sought approval to the terms of reference for Committees and Sub-Committees set out in Chapters 6 and 7 of the Council's Constitution.

It was moved by Councillor Ian Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the allocation of Committee Places be noted; and
- (2) the Members, Chairs and Vice Chairs for the Committees and Sub-Committees set out below be appointed for a maximum period of twelve months until the Adjourned Annual Council Meeting to be held in May 2024, subject to any changes political groups may make to memberships of Committees at meetings of the Council.

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH) (10)**

**(Plus 2 Associate Members)**

(Lab 8 / LD&PA 1 / Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Thomas	Cllr. Richards
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Myers	Cllr. Roche
3.	Cllr. Brodie-Browne	Cllr. Pugh
4.	Cllr. Brough	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson
5.	Cllr. Cluskey	Cllr. McKee
6.	Cllr. Halsall	Cllr. Sonya Kelly
7.	Cllr. Hart	Cllr. Webster
8.	Cllr. John Joseph Kelly	Cllr. Tweed
9.	Cllr. Lunn-Bates	Cllr. Desmond
10.	Cllr. Robinson	Cllr. Chris Page

**Associate Members:  
(Non-voting Co-opted Members)**

Mr. Brian Clark and Mrs. Diane Blair (Nominated by Healthwatch, Sefton)



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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) (10)**

**(Plus 4 Education Added Members and 3 Associate Members)**

(Lab 8 / LD&PA 1 / Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Hardman	Cllr. Harvey
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Carlin	Cllr. Tweed
3.	Cllr. Danny Burns	Cllr. Myers
4.	Cllr. Carragher	Cllr. Corcoran
5.	Cllr. Evans	Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson
6.	Cllr. Howard	Cllr. Hart
7.	Cllr. Prendergast	Cllr. Brough
8.	Cllr. Chris Page	Cllr. John Joseph Kelly
9.	Cllr. Richards	Cllr. McGinnity
10.	Cllr. Spring	Cllr. John Kelly

**Education Added Members:  
(Voting Co-opted Members)**

**Church Diocesan Representatives:**

Ms. Joan McCarthy (Archdiocesan Representative) and  
Mr. Stuart Harrison (Diocesan Representative)

**Parent Governor Representatives:**

Ms. Cheryl Swainbank and vacancy - 2-year appointments until May 2024

**Associate Members:  
(Non-voting Co-opted Members)**

Mrs. Sandra Cain  
Ms. Karen Christie and Maurice Byrne  
(Nominated by Healthwatch, Sefton)

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) (10)**

(Lab 8 / LD&PA 1 / Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Dowd	Cllr. Killen
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Howard	Cllr. O’Brien
3.	Cllr. Corcoran	Cllr. Halsall
4.	Cllr. Harvey	Cllr. Waterfield
5.	Cllr. Lloyd-Jonson	Cllr. Dodd
6.	Cllr. Christine Maher	Cllr. Grace
7.	Cllr. McKee	Cllr. Richards
8.	Cllr. Catie Page	Cllr. Thomas
9.	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson	Cllr. Prendergast
10.	Cllr. Webster	Cllr. Anne Thompson

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## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGULATORY, COMPLIANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES) (10)**

(Lab 7 / LD&PA 2 / Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Bradshaw	Cllr. Harrison
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Byrom	Cllr. Carragher
3.	Cllr. D'Albuquerque	Cllr. Shaw
4.	Cllr. Evans	Cllr. Shaw
5.	Cllr. Grace	Cllr. Catie Page
6.	Cllr. Killen	Cllr. Myers
7.	Cllr. McGinnity	Cllr. Thomas
8.	Cllr. McKee	Cllr. Roche
9.	Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Christine Maher
10.	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson	Cllr. Prendergast

## **(B) REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Members of the Council (other than Cabinet Members) to form a Panel from which 3 Members are selected to form a politically balanced Committee. (Lab 2 / LD&PA 1 /Con 0)

### **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (10)**

(Lab 8 / LD&PA 2 / Con 0)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Robinson	Cllr. Bradshaw
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Murphy
3.	Cllr John Joseph Kelly	Cllr. Howard
4.	Cllr. Catie Page	Cllr. Lunn-Bates
5.	Cllr. Pugh	Cllr. Brodie-Browne
6.	Cllr. Shaw	Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson
7.	Cllr. Spring	Cllr. Halsall
8.	Cllr. Thomas	Cllr. Hansen
9.	Cllr. Anne Thompson	Cllr. Spencer
10.	Cllr. Webster	Cllr. Hardman

**Independent Non-Voting Member – Ms Rachel Oakes**

### **HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

All Members of the Audit and Governance Committee will form a Panel from which 3 Members will be selected to form a Sub-Committee.

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

All Members of the Audit and Governance Committee will form a Panel from which 3 Members will be selected to form a Sub-Committee.

**REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

All Members of the Audit and Governance Committee to form a Panel from which 3 Members will be selected to form a Sub-Committee.

**Co-opted Voting Members of Audit and Governance Standards Sub-Committees**

If any complaints are submitted in respect of the conduct of any Parish Councillor in the Borough, one of the Parish Councillors from the nominated panel, will be selected to form part of the 3 Member Panel on the Sub-Committees set out above.

Details of the nominated panel of Parish Councillors to be confirmed.

**INDEPENDENT PERSONS (STANDARDS ISSUES)**

(4 members)

Ed Davies, Joanne Hadley, Isobel McDonald-Davies and Andrew Pearson (2-year term to May 2024)

**EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

Members of the Council to form a panel from which a minimum of 3 Members are selected to form a politically balanced Committee (Lab 2 / LD&PA 1 /Con 0). At least one Member of the Cabinet to be included on the Committee.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

Members appointed by the Leader of the Council	Councillor Moncur (Chair) Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing
	Councillor Cummins Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care
	Councillor Doyle Cabinet Member – Children’s Social Care
Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Place Director	Deborah Butcher
Director of Public Health	Margaret Jones
Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education	To be confirmed

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Representative of the Council's Adult Social Care Service.	Sara Aldis
Place Clinical Director	Dr Rob Caudwell
Representative of Healthwatch, Sefton	John Turner
Representatives of the NHS Acute Provider Sector	Anne-Marie Stretch Neil Holland
Representative from the Every Child Matters Forum	Janine Hyland
Representative from the Health and Social Care Forum	Andrew Booth
Representative from Merseyside Police	Superintendent Dawn McNally
Representative from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service	Mark Thomas
Representative from Alder Hey Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Adrian Hughes
Representative from the Voluntary Community Faith Sector (representative to be agreed through Sefton CVS as the umbrella organisation for the voluntary community and faith sector)	Angela White
Independent Chair of the Programme Delivery Group (part of the Sefton Partnership Governance)	Anita Marsland

The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 made under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 provide that the Board shall be a committee of the Council. The requirement for political balance does not apply to the Board and the Act requires that the Councillor Membership is nominated by the Executive Leader (Leader of the Council).

## **LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE (15)**

(Lab 12 / LD&PA 2 / Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. John Kelly
2.	Vice-Chair Cllr. Waterfield
3.	Cllr. Bradshaw
4.	Cllr. Carragher
5.	Cllr. Corcoran
6.	Cllr. Hardman
7.	Cllr. Harrison
8.	Cllr. Sonya Kelly
9.	Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson
10.	Cllr. Morris
11.	Cllr. O'Brien
12.	Cllr. Spencer

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13.	Cllr. Thomas
14.	Cllr. Anne Thompson
15.	Cllr. Lynne Thompson

## **LICENSING AND REGULATORY (URGENT REFERRALS) COMMITTEE (3)**

(Lab 2 / LD&PA 1 /Con 0)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. John Kelly	Cllr. Bradshaw
2.	Cllr. Lynne Thomson	Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson
3.	Cllr. Waterfield	Cllr. Sonya Kelly

## **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee to form a Panel from which 3 Members are selected to form a Sub-Committee.

## **LICENSING (SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES) SUB-COMMITTEE**

Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee to form a Panel from which 3 Members are selected to form a Sub-Committee.

## **PAY AND GRADING COMMITTEE (7)**

(Lab 5 / LD&PA 1 / Con 1) – Including Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services

	<b><u>Member</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Lappin
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Spring
3.	Cllr. Lunn-Bates
4.	Cllr. Prendergast
5.	Cllr. Shaw
6.	Cllr. Anne Thompson
7.	Cllr. Tweed

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE (15)**

(Lab 12 / LD&PA 2 /Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Viedman	Cllr. Byrom
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. O'Brien	Cllr. Grace
3.	Cllr. Desmond	Cllr. Anne Thompson
4.	Cllr. Dodd	Cllr. D'Albuquerque
5.	Cllr. Hansen	Cllr. Lunn-Bates
6.	Cllr. John Kelly	Cllr. Bradshaw

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7.	Cllr. Sonya Kelly	Cllr. Robinson
8.	Cllr. McGinnity	Cllr. McKee
9.	Cllr. Richards	Cllr. Cluskey
10.	Cllr. Riley	Cllr. Morris
11.	Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Dowd
12.	Cllr. Spencer	Cllr. Danny Burns
13.	Cllr. Lynne Thompson	Cllr. D'Albuquerque
14.	Cllr. Tweed	Cllr. Harrison
15.	Cllr. Waterfield	Cllr. Spring

## **PLANNING (URGENT REFERRALS) COMMITTEE (3)**

(Lab 2 / LD&PA 1 / Con 0)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Viedman	Cllr. Tweed
2.	Cllr. John Kelly	Cllr. Roche
3.	Cllr. Lynne Thompson	Cllr. Dodd

## **PLANNING VISITING PANEL (15)**

The Panel comprises of the Members of the Planning Committee.

## **(C) CONSULTATIVE BODIES**

### **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

(6 members)

Ed Davies, Joanne Hadley, Tony Hussey, Susan Lowe, Isobel McDonald-Davies and Susan Murphy (2-year term to May 2024)

(To advise and make recommendations to the Authority about the allowances to be paid to Elected Members).

### **JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFFS**

**(9 Council Members plus 9 Teacher representatives)**

(Lab 7 / LD&PA 1 / Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Cllr. Bradshaw	Cllr. O'Brien
2.	Cllr. Brodie-Browne	Cllr. Pugh
3.	Cllr. Corcoran	Cllr. Dowd
4.	Cllr. Harrison	Cllr. Robinson
5.	Cllr. Howard	Cllr. Sonya Kelly
6.	Cllr. John Joseph Kelly	Cllr. Lunn-Bates
7.	Cllr. Richards	Cllr. Danny Burns
8.	Cllr. Waterfield	Cllr. McGinnity

9.	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson	Cllr. Prendergast
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**LOCAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**(12 Council Members plus 12 Trade Union Representatives)**

(Lab 9 / LD&PA 2 / Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Cllr. Bradshaw	Cllr. Christine Maher
2.	Cllr. Brodie-Browne	Cllr. Shaw
3.	Cllr. Carlin	Cllr. Hart
4.	Cllr. Halsall	Cllr. Harvey
5.	Cllr. Lappin	Cllr. Cluskey
6.	Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Chris Page
7.	Cllr. O'Brien	Cllr. Desmond
8.	Cllr. Catie Page	Cllr. Corcoran
9.	Cllr. Pugh	Cllr. Shaw
10.	Cllr. Riley	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson
11.	Cllr. Spencer	Cllr. Killen
12.	Cllr. Webster	Cllr. Hansen

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION PANEL (4)**

(Lab 3 / LD&PA 1 /Con 0)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Substitute</u></b>
1.	Chair: Cabinet Member (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) - Cllr. Lappin	Cllr. John Kelly
2.	Cllr. Byrom	Cllr. Myers
3.	Cllr. Dowd	Cllr. Murphy
4.	Cllr. Shaw	Cllr. Brodie-Browne

**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP (6)**

(Lab 4 / LD&PA 1 /Con 1)

	<b><u>Member</u></b>
1.	Chair: (Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) - Cllr. Lappin
2.	Cllr. Brough
3.	Cllr. Carlin
4.	Cllr. Corcoran
5.	Cllr. Dowd
6.	Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 18TH MAY, 2023

## 15. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MERSEYSIDE JOINT AUTHORITY BODIES 2023/24

The Council considered a schedule of the proposed representation on the Merseyside Joint Authority Bodies for 2023/24.

It was moved by Councillor Ian Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED:

That the following Members be appointed to serve on the following Joint Authority Bodies in 2023/24:

### Joint Authority

### Representatives

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)  
Substitute Member – Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Fairclough)

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Desmond (Lab), Hart (Lab) and Howard (Lab) (Scrutiny Link)

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee

Councillors Carragher (Lab), Dodd (LD&AP), Halsall (Lab) and Hansen (Lab)

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillors Byrom (Lab), Grace (Lab), Lynne Thompson (LD&AP) and Tweed (Lab)

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

Councillors Carlin (Lab) and Catie Page (Lab)

Merseyside Police and Crime Panel (Nominations only – The appointments are agreed on a Pan-Merseyside basis)

Councillors Corcoran (Lab) and Harvey (Lab)

## 16. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023/24

It was moved by Councillor Ian Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that the Council meetings scheduled to be held during the Municipal Year 2023/24 are as follows:

- 13 July 2023



COUNCIL- THURSDAY 18TH MAY, 2023

- 14 September 2023
- 16 November 2023
- 18 January 2024
- 29 February 2024 (Budget Meeting)
- 18 April 2024

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# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 July 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Youth Justice Service - Annual Plan 2023/24		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

Each year, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) requires local Youth Justice Services to produce an Annual Plan to satisfy the grant allocation and to ensure that the YJB is kept abreast of local business and performance. This year, the YJB have recommended that each Youth Justice Service adhere to a template for consistency and that the plan is signed off by the Chair of the local Youth Justice Partnership (formerly the YOT Management Board).

Sefton's Youth Justice Annual Plan has been produced in accordance with the YJB requirements and has been shared with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Head of Communities, Head of Children Social Care, Executive Director for People and the Executive Director for Children's Services. The Chair of the Youth Justice Service Partnership, Graeme Robson, Supt. Local Policing, Merseyside Police has signed the Plan.

## Recommendation(s):

That

- (1) the Council approves the Youth Justice Service - Annual Plan 2023/24; and
- (2) in the event of subsequent comments by the Youth Justice Board, delegated approval be granted to the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care, to finalise the Youth Justice Service Annual Plan.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Council's Constitution provides that the Annual Youth Justice Plan is part of the Policy Framework approved by Full Council.

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

N/A

# Agenda Item 7

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

N/A

### (B) Capital Costs

N/A

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> The grant allocation from the Youth Justice Board will be received following submission of the Plan.								
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None								
<b>Equality Implications:</b>  There are no equality implications.								
<b>Impact on Children and Young People:</b> Yes The work of the Youth Justice Service sets out to support vulnerable children, address the root causes of their offending behaviour and prevent them from reoffending.								
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>  The recommendations within this report will <table border="1"><tr><td>Have a positive impact</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Have a neutral impact</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Have a negative impact</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td><td>Yes</td></tr></table> The contents of the report have no climate emergency implications.	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
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							

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The work of the Youth Justice Service sets out to support vulnerable children, address the root causes of their offending behaviour and prevent them from re-offending.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The work of the Youth Justice Service aims to protect the public and support safer communities.
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: 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 (FD7277) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5477) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

Statutory Board Partners were consulted on the plan and were requested to contribute. They included representatives from Merseyside Police, the Probation Service, Merseycare, Sefton Council and Venus.

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ros Stanley
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 288 6118
Email Address:	rosanna.stanley@sefton.gov.uk

### Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

The Sefton Youth Justice Annual Plan 2023/24

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 7

## 1. Introduction/Background

As mentioned above, each year, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) requires local Youth Justice Services to produce an Annual Plan to satisfy the grant allocation and to ensure that the YJB is kept abreast of local business and performance. This year, the YJB have recommended that each Youth Justice Service adhere to a template for consistency and that the plan is signed off by the Chair of the local Youth Justice Partnership (formerly the YOT Management Board).

Sefton's Youth Justice Annual Plan has been produced in accordance with the YJB requirements and has been shared with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Head of Communities, Head of Children Social Care, Executive Director for People and the Executive Director for Children's Services. The Chair of the Youth Justice Service Partnership, Dawn McNally, Supt. Local Policing, Merseyside Police has signed the Plan.

This year's plan highlights a strength in governance arrangements through the statutory Youth Justice Partnership. We have agreed a partnership vision and a suite of local priorities that are reported on quarterly. The Partnership has supported operational delivery and seconded mental health practitioners and an education attendance officer which is gratefully appreciated. We have utilised the cohort profiles and case mapping audits to raise concerns relating to children's mental health which has resulted in the Community Youth Connector project, delivering emotional support to girls in school settings. We have embraced the Ministry of Justice Turnaround Project which also delivers much needed early intervention and diversion services.

The plan highlights a stable year of performance and we have built upon our child first approaches. We have maintained a Service Development Plan and made good progress against many of the actions. This demonstrates that we understand our gaps and risks so as to deliver quality services and maintain inspection readiness.

## Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan 2023 / 24

<b>Service</b>	Sefton Youth Justice Partnership
<b>Service Manager</b>	Ros Stanley, Service Manager
<b>Chair of Youth Justice Partnership</b>	Dawn McNally, Supt. Local Policing, Sefton

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## Foreword by Chair of Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership

Having been Chair of the Sefton's Youth Justice for a year now, I am pleased to see greater partnership contributions to the Youth Justice Service (YJS). Our Cohort Profiles and audits have prompted in depth discussion and subsequent action by the Partnership. Education and Health Services in particular have created additional capacity within YJS to support vulnerable children and we will review the impact that this will make. We have strengthened our connections across the Partnership focusing on child voice and how we can promote this through the support of Sefton Community and Voluntary Services. The YJS move into wider Children's Services was welcomed by the YJS and partners, providing a greater level of assurance that Children's Service are aligned and well presented at the Partnership.

As a Partnership we remain concerned about the level of complexity across the cohort. We know from several audits and case studies that many children have had access to a number of services prior to entering the Criminal Justice System. We welcome the opportunities that the Ministry of Justice Turnaround Project will bring and look forward to the evaluations that will evidence what works to protect children from an early stage. We are grateful to the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership for the funding that has enabled the YJS to develop the Community Youth Connectors Project, which supports girl's emotional wellbeing having identified particular issues relating to girls within a case mapping exercise. This evidences our partnership response to youth justice case mapping and audit findings.

As a Partnership we are committed to delivering prevention work equipped with the knowledge of the impact of wider contextual safeguarding concerns such as domestic abuse, mental health and child criminal exploitation may have within the family unit. We understand the impact this has on children and siblings and have escalated our concerns to Local Authority senior leaders to influence current developments within the early intervention and prevention agenda. We are joined up with other partnership groups such as the Early Help Partnership, Sefton Safer Together and the Contextual Safeguarding Group to represent our Partnership and maximise opportunities to horizon scan and benchmark good practice. We also share our learning that we have achieved through our case mapping and audits.

Our performance against the National Indicators is pleasing although we recognise that some serious offences have been committed for which children have been remanded and sentenced to custody. Keeping children and our communities safe remains our priority. We welcome the new suite of Key Performance Indicators and how understanding our performance against these will enable us to make further improvements across the Partnership. We are committed to improvement and where necessary we will escalate barriers to platforms such as the Children's Improvement Board and Sefton's Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

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The new Oversight Framework will provide external scrutiny which will further strengthen our overall awareness although I am confident that the YJS is aware of its strengths and areas to develop, which are articulated through the Service Development Plan shared with the Partnership. We further welcome the contributions from Jon Bradnum, the allocated YJB lead for the Oversight Framework. I am equally confident about the level of commitment and dedication by the whole Partnership to keep children safe, improve their outcomes and develop the Partnership further.

*Dawn McNally,  
Superintendent Local Policing  
Sefton, Merseyside Police*

## 1. Introduction, Vision and Strategy

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires each Local Authority to complete a Youth Justice Plan that sets out how local Youth Justice Services (YJS) will be delivered within the available resources. Sefton's Youth Justice Plan illustrates our ambition, plans and priorities for 2023 / 24. This plan will highlight achievements from last year and areas of work in development.

In April 2023, the YJS transitioned from the Communities Department into Children's Services. This transition is welcomed and has impacted on the team positively. We are now located in a new office within a main council building alongside Children Social Care Teams and Education. This has enabled the Team to forge stronger relationships with Children's Services colleagues and to be back in one team location. We recognise the benefits of agile and hybrid working, therefore there is flexibility for colleagues to work from home and other office locations, however office based working is the norm. This has supported team identity, learning and management support as colleagues are based together. We welcome senior manager support from Children's Services and we are led by the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, who has a children social care background. The Service Manager is part of the Senior Management Team and involved in the Children's Service improvement journey as well as reporting to the elected members for Children's Services and Education.

Our performance has remained stable across the last year. However, in March a child was convicted of a serious offence and was awarded a custodial sentence. This is the first time a child received a custodial sentence since early 2019.

Sefton YJS is committed to service improvement and we have delivered an Annual Audit Plan which has illuminated some good practice and areas to improve that have been escalated to the Youth Justice Partnership Board (the Board). The thematic audits have provided a much greater level of insight for partners and have also supported a funding bid for the Community Youth Connectors project which was put forward by the QA and Audit Officer, with manager's support. This followed concerns about girls emotional health and wellbeing and the new project offers early intervention for girls by connecting them with local offers and delivering emotional wellbeing support. The primary referrer is schools, and more is written about this at later in the plan (p16).

The Board is well attended by senior leaders from partnership agencies, who have received an induction so as to understand their responsibilities as board members. The Partnership is chaired by Dawn McNally, Superintendent of Local Policing for Sefton, Merseyside Police, who is a highly experienced officer with a strong understanding of Sefton as a borough and a wider partnership. Supt McNally brings welcomed robust challenge to the Board in addition to support for the Youth Justice agenda.

Sefton YJS has experienced some challenges across 2022 to 2023. We have experienced some unplanned absence in the team which has had a direct impact. Like wider Children's Services, we have experienced difficulty in recruiting qualified and suitably experienced staff, however we have welcomed two new case managers and have successfully appointed a new Operational Manager. After some months without a seconded Probation Officer we have welcomed a new officer for 0.5FTE.

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## 1.1 Vision

The Partnership recognises the importance of having a vision that is ambitious and clearly identifies where our focus is. This Vision and Strategic Priorities were set in 2021 and were revised late 2022. Both remain relevant for our Partnership.

*“Sefton Youth Justice Partnership is committed to working together to help children in Sefton thrive and to keep them safe. We will focus on preventing children from entering the criminal justice system, but when they do, we will strive to help them learn, make positive changes and build a more promising future.*

*Ensuring that we see children as children above anything else, we will listen to them and understand their individual needs and we will provide them with the best opportunity to succeed by drawing upon the full resources of our local partnership.*

*We also recognise that at times our children need robust support and supervision, and we will ensure we deliver a proportionate response to offending that helps keep our local communities safe and delivers justice to victims.”*

## 1.2 Strategic Priorities

Our Partnership has collectively determined the Strategic Priorities that we work towards in our respective agencies and roles. These link to our vision and our operational planning and delivery should be influenced by these priorities.

- **Preventing offending & reoffending** - delivery of high quality, strength-based interventions across our partnership.
- **Listening to our children so we understand their individual needs.**
- **Continually reviewing and improving our services** - to ensure they meet the needs of our children and local communities.
- **Reducing inequality** and minimising the impact of custody and the wider criminal justice system.
- **Reducing the harm** caused by violent crime, criminal and sexual exploitation and association to gang culture.

At each Board, partners report on their achievements against one or more of these priorities outside of core business. This ensures that partners continue to focus on priorities.

We know that Sefton has issues with Organised Crime Groups who coerce and exploit young people into criminality. We welcome Sefton's new team My SPACE (Sefton Protection Against Child Exploitation) and we have developed a joint working agreement in how children will be managed that are within the youth justice cohort yet are presenting exploitation concerns. This is discussed further at page 23.

Throughout our involvement with the young person and their parents / carers, we ensure that they are at the heart of all plans and decision making and that they have a voice that is heard

and understood. We have adjusted our plans to ensure that they are child friendly and that the children co-produce their plans. Their voice is evident throughout the plans that support the young people to overcome barriers and enable them to achieve their full potential. We have met challenge regarding children's participation however have developed a survey to gain the views of children across the cohort and are working with our partners to develop ideas as to how to develop this area of work.

## 1.3 Local Context

Sefton is a metropolitan borough of Merseyside and its local authority is Sefton Council. The Borough consists of a coastal strip of land on the Irish Sea and extends from the primarily industrial area of Bootle in the south to the traditional seaside resort of Southport in the north. In the south-east it extends inland to Maghull. Sefton has an approximate area of some 155km<sup>2</sup>.

Sefton has a population of approximately 275,899, with 24% of Sefton's population being 65 years old or over (65,463) and one in five being aged under 18 (54,098). Sefton is ranked 24th out of 309 local authorities for the number of residents aged 65 or over. Further detail is captured within Sefton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapters which are accessible via this link [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment).

The most current population data we have is from Census 2021, which shows Sefton having:

- 71, 404 – Children & YP Aged: 0-24
- 27,017 – Children & YP Aged: 10-18
- 279,239 – Total residents

## 1.4 Cohort Profiles

Sefton Youth Justice Service have undertaken two cohort profiles during 22/23. The purpose of the analysis is to identify wider cohort themes and share with the Youth Justice Partnership to promote a shared response to the needs in the cohort. The cohort analysis completed in November showed an increase in Out of Court disposals with a total of 61% of the cohort, this reduced in the March profile with and increase in 5% increase in statutory orders.

Violence against a person remains the highest offence type across the cohort, a slight increase was seen in March cohort with 41% of the cohort having committed a violence offence. The May cohort highlighted knife crime as a concern, this has prompted further partnership consideration and has been raised through the Community Safety Partnership. The March 22/23 profile consisted of an older cohort with 54% aged 16 & 17, the younger cohort have more offences for violent behaviour compared to the 16 to 18 year olds who have more drug-related offences.

The cohort across the year shows over 50% of the cohort are living in the top 30% of the most deprived areas nationally. Over 30% live in the top 10%, this remains consistent across the cohort and highlights the wider familial needs. The level of need in the cohorts is representative of the number of children being supported through children social care plans, there has been an increase in cared for children and child in need plans. In comparison, the number of children and their families being supported through early intervention is low.

The prevalence of mental health concerns within the cohort across the year remains a focus of the Youth Justice Service and wider partnership. An average of 50% are currently experiencing

# Agenda Item 7

difficulties with their mental health, including attempt suicides and self-harm. In turn, this correlates with the number of children assessed as having high or very high safety and wellbeing in the Youth Justice Service.

Contextual safeguarding remains a priority for the Youth Justice Partnership, children at risk of exploitation and identified as having been referred through the National Referral Mechanism represents 25% of the cohort. There is ongoing partnership work through the contextual safeguarding sub-group to ensure multi-agency support awareness and support is being provided for children at risk.

The cohort profile raises awareness of the adverse childhood experiences of the children in the youth justice cohort, the cohort is presented to the youth justice partnership with the intention to provoke a partnership response to the cohort's wider needs. In respect of ACES, there continues to be an increasing incidence of domestic abuse and family relationship breakdown in the cohorts. There is wider awareness required to understand this further and the impact of domestic abuse and family dynamics on the children.

The latest cohort profile produced in March 2023 raised increased trends in children attending alternative provision and not engaged in the statutory offer of education. The cohort highlighted an increase in children aged 12-15 having a reduced offer of education and average attendance in mainstream being 47%. The profile also highlighted Maths and English educational attainment for 16 and 17-year-olds is a concern.

## 2. Child First

Sefton YJS has adopted a child first approach and will continue to evaluate whether the services we offer are child first and desistance focused.

The four child first principles and how we meet them are set out below:

1. **See children as children:** Our staff are trauma informed trained and evidence this within their assessments. We recognise that children have often experienced trauma that impacts on their wellbeing and behaviour. All of our work is child-focused and developmentally informed.
2. **Develop pro-social identity for positive child outcomes:** Our work focuses on the child's strengths and we actively seek to support the child in areas of interest for them. We recognise that education is a strong protective factor and work in collaboration with Education colleagues to ensure that children access their full education offer.
3. **Collaboration with children:** We encourage children's active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. The child's voice is evidenced through the child's record and we are working hard to gain the wider voice to inform service decisions.
4. **Promote diversion:** We actively seek diversion opportunities and we welcome the opportunities that Turnaround brings in the context of understanding what works. We look forward to the evaluation of the Turnaround Project. We are developing our prevention functions and have received additional resources from Local Policing to support this. We have also bid to the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to fund a prevention project to support an overrepresented group, which we identified through our cohort profiles.

All of our engagement and interventions focus on supporting children to fulfil their potential and overcome barriers that they face. We undertake assessments to understand unmet need and utilise the strength of our partnership to deliver tailored interventions to support children. For example, our interventions focus on emotional regulation which will be further strengthened through our therapeutic offers. Due to exploitation concerns, we support children to understand what constitutes healthy relationship, what exploitation looks like and we deliver direct work relating to drug misuse. We raise the aspirations for children by focusing on their strengths and interests. We have excellent relationships with Sefton@work and Career Connect and make every effort to engage children in further education and skills development to promote their aspirations and pro social behaviour. We remain committed to Operation Inclusion to prevent children entering the criminal justice system and we are proud of our Out of Court Panel who review each child to ensure they get the right support. We have excellent links with Active Sefton and support children into positive activities through this service who also offer 1-2-1 support.

There is also a greater focus on exit strategies for children when they come to the end of their order or 'out of court' work. These strategies are well evidenced in children's records and include signposting and further offers of support,

### 3.Voice of the child

Sefton Youth Justice Service and the partnership have identified this as a key priority for 2023/24. The voice of individual children is captured well within their case records and throughout the child's plans. On an individual level, colleagues feel that the service captures the child's voice well, however it is more challenging to achieve this cohort wide or through their active participation in shaping our plans for the future. We are currently engaging with our voluntary sector to develop a plan for engagement, and the Service Manager has become a member of the Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group.

A key priority for YJS is to develop the level of children's participation. We have adjusted our plans and co-produce a child friendly version with the child so that they understand the plan. Children now receive a child friendly version of their plan so that they understand where they are up to and what to expect next. Across 2022, efforts were made to recruit a group of children to become consultees although we recognise that children can enter and exit the youth justice system relatively quickly and therefore a static group of consultees may not be appropriate. We sought advice from the Corporate Parenting Board's Making a Difference Group and reached out to young adults who were previous children with YJS. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful.

As the staffing strengths stabilise with newly recruited colleagues, a worker has been dedicated to developing youth voice and participation as a theme. We have developed an electronic survey however responses have been fairly low. We recognise that whilst a young person is within the service reflecting on their experience may be difficult. With this in mind a survey has been developed to gain feedback from young people who have transitioned to National Probation Service, this will enable a level of reflection once their involvement with YJS is complete.



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## 4. Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

### 4.1 Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership

The Partnership is chaired by Sefton's Superintendent of Local Policing, Merseyside Police and provides governance for Sefton's youth justice arrangements. It links directly with other strategic boards including:

- Sefton Safeguarding Children Board
- Sefton Safer Together
- Children and Young People's Board
- Children's Improvement Board
- Corporate Parenting Board

The Board emphasises the significance of engagement and cooperation in the delivery of youth justice services. Partners represent a wide range of statutory and non-statutory organisations. The Board Terms of Reference and Membership are at Appendix A. The Board holds the YJS and partners to account by reviewing performance and service standards on a quarterly basis. Performance against the national indicators is reported to the Board and scrutinised by the Partnership. Progress against the YJS Service Development Plan is also reported at each board.

The Board has consistent attendance and membership. Education attendance and support has strengthened alongside Health input and support. Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Education are invitees who have offered support and provided welcomed challenge. Board members have been inducted so that they understand their responsibilities and the Inspection Framework. Partners are expected to understand the Strategic Priorities and provide examples as to how they achieve one or more of these, outside of their core business at each board. The operational staffing is shown at Resources and Services and the financial contributions are shown at Appendix B.

Since April 2023, the YJS is now located within Children's Services and is the responsibility of the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. A Service Manager operationally leads the service who has been in place for several years. The current remit of the Service Manager is currently changing due to the move to Children's Services as previously they operationally led other services in addition to YJS.

YJS also reports to the Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Education on a quarterly basis. At a regional level, the Sefton YJS is a member of the Merseyside Criminal Justice Board, the Youth Performance Improvement Group and the Merseyside Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel. Additionally, Sefton YJS is represented on the Merseyside Reducing Re-offending Subgroup, Merseyside Domestic Violence Strategy Subgroup, Hate Crime Subgroup, and the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Strategic Management Board. YJS also supports the Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel.

YJS supports Sefton's local priorities for young people captured in the Children's and Young People Plan and through the work of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. YJS supports and contributes to the following thematic work streams which meet the objectives of the local priorities.



- Child Exploitation / Missing and Early Help Subgroups
- Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup
- Practice Review Panel
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Information Management and Governance Group
- Multi-agency Response to Threat Harm and Risk (MARTHUR)
- Children at Risk Multi Agency Conference
- Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Conference

## 4.2 Board Development

The Board has developed an understanding of the cohort as a result of our twice yearly Cohort Profile. This has encouraged partners to request further investigation of emerging trends or to explore concerns. The Board support the Annual Audit Plan which provides a thematic overview and assurance to the Partnership. Areas to develop are highlighted and included in the Service Development Plan, which is updated and reported quarterly. Performance reports and thematic audits enable the Partnership to monitor quality and effectiveness of the YJS partnership. Audits and case studies are reported at alternate partnership meetings with the Cohort Profile being a feature of the others. The case studies and audits that have been delivered over the last 12 months are:

- Female Cohort Mapping
- Out of Court Disposals (2 x quarterly audits, to continue to 4)
- Risk of Serious Harm and Safety and Wellbeing
- Serious Violence
- Violent Offences
- Transitions
- Victims
- Youth Justice Supporting Education
- Quality of Interventions (underway)
- Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System (underway)

The audits have developed the Board's insight and understanding of the cohorts needs which has enabled partners to act. As discussed at p16, the Female Cohort Mapping supported a Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership funding bid to commence the Community Youth Connectors which is proving to be a success and much needed project to support girl's emotional wellbeing.

The first quarterly Out of Court Disposal (Oct 22) audit highlighted some areas of concern that were addressed and performance improvement was evident in the second quarter (Feb 23). Workshops were held with the team to go through the audits so that all colleagues could learn from the findings.

The audits around Risk of Serious Harm and Violence sparked concern when it was identified that there were common characteristics across the cohort of children reviewed. An Extraordinary Board meeting was held on 19th April to review the findings in greater depth, so as to identify what was within the partners sphere of control, what was a barrier and what the agreed actions were to address barriers. Partners developed some short, mid and long term

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ambitions which will be reported to the Board and the Safeguarding Children's Board. The presentation and case study were also shared with the Operational Partnership Group and practitioners views were captured in the report.

A report was submitted via the Partnership Chair to the Safeguarding Children's Board, Senior Leaders and Cabinet Members to raise questions to address systemic issues relating to the wider partnership's ability to intervene early and make a positive difference. At the time of writing, wider service reviews are ongoing within Children's Services.

To address concerns raised in the cohort profiles, Education colleagues engage in monthly discussions around each child receiving less than the 25hrs offer. In addition, Education has provided an Education Attendance officer 1 day per week to support the team as well as funding to recruit a full time Education Co-ordinator. Likewise, raising concerns around children's mental health at the Partnership has supported YJS to secure funding for a Mental Health Nurse two days per week in addition to a senior health colleague to offer consultation and direct work, one day per week. The YJS is grateful for the support from the Partnership.

For the year ahead, we will deliver Board development sessions. The first is booked for 5<sup>th</sup> July which will focus on the YJB Oversight Framework. We will also deliver sessions on the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System and revisit Child First Principles. The YJB lead for the North has kindly offered to support the Board to understand their key responsibilities.

## 4.3 Merseyside Youth Justice Services

Within Merseyside, there are six boroughs, and each has a YJS. Each YJS lead along with the lead for Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington YJS form the Greater Merseyside Youth Justice Strategic Leads Collaboration.

The YJS Leads meet every 8-12 - weeks and aim to:

- Promote value in all YJS functions and resource management
- Use strategic intelligence to develop an informed and collaborative approach to improve effectiveness and practice across Greater Merseyside
- Promote effectiveness regarding safeguarding and public protection across Greater Merseyside.

This group along with the Youth Performance Improvement Group (YPIG) are key forums for collaboratively driving forward developments in youth justice practice with our partners.

## 5. Progress on Previous Plan

Despite the challenges that YJS have experienced across the last year, we have achieved the following:

- Strengthened relationships across the Partnership and in particular with Education and Health Colleagues
- Engaged with Health through a Steering Group and supported recruitment relating to the Enhanced Case Management model due to commence in Sefton in June for YJS and MySPACE

- Continued to deliver quality services despite being under resources through unplanned absence and recruitment barriers across the last year
- Successfully transitioned into Children's Services under new leadership and co-located into new office space
- Managed some highly vulnerable, complex children and developed our learning around specialist areas including Counter Terrorism
- Received excellent feedback from the Courts relating to the quality of our Pre Sentence Reports
- Two colleagues received a Police Commendation as a result of their commitment and hard work relating to two separate vulnerable child who committed serious offences
- Successfully mobilised the Turnaround Project and was requested by the MOJ to support another Local Authority having demonstrated good practice in the mobilisation phase
- Recruited to and mobilised the Community Youth Connector Project which is proving highly successful
- Developed Partnership insight into the YJ cohort
- Delivered a series of case studies to the Partnership and other settings (Operational Partnership Board, Children and Young People Board, Suicide Prevention Group)
- Delivered training to CSC colleagues including the Newly Qualified Social Work Academy relating to YJS as a service but also findings from our case studies
- We have welcomed a 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Officer into our team to support with Prevention and Diversion
- We have prepared ourselves to report against the new KPI's including supported staff with Data Recording Workshops to ensure that we are ready to report against the new KPI's
- We have improved performance across Out of Court Disposals and will be tracking this across the next year
- Contributed to the mental health support snapshot produced by Public Health and delivered a dramatised training session to promote children's mental health awareness across the partnership
- Utilised our knowledge of the cohort to support funding bids to secure additional resources and encourage partnership support, in particular 1x day per week Education Attendance officer, 3.5 x days per week of Mental Health support.
- Welcomed a Volunteer Mentor into the service

## 6. Resources and Services

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The YJS sits within Children's Services (since April 23) and utilises the Youth Justice Board Core Grant and partnership financial contributions to deliver core youth justice services. The grant and contributions including those from the PCC are solely used by the YJS in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The PCC grant supports the delivery of community resolutions to divert children away from the Criminal Justice System and contribute to safer communities. The YJB grant also supports staff development including contributions to the Collaborative Training Group which produces a plan signed off by Merseyside Youth Justice Services.

We use our grant, partnership resources and available resources to deliver youth justice services to reduce reoffending, prevent offending and reduce first time entrants, prevent children from custodial sentences and increase children's safety and wellbeing, In addition, the work that we deliver encourages children to access education, engage in further education, training and employment and support good health outcomes both physically and mentally. We continue to strive for improvement and review our services and performance throughout the year, primarily through performance data and service reviews through audits. We transparently report our performance to the Partnership as well as deliver workshops with the wider team. We work closely with our partners to identify areas to improve who support our wider performance.

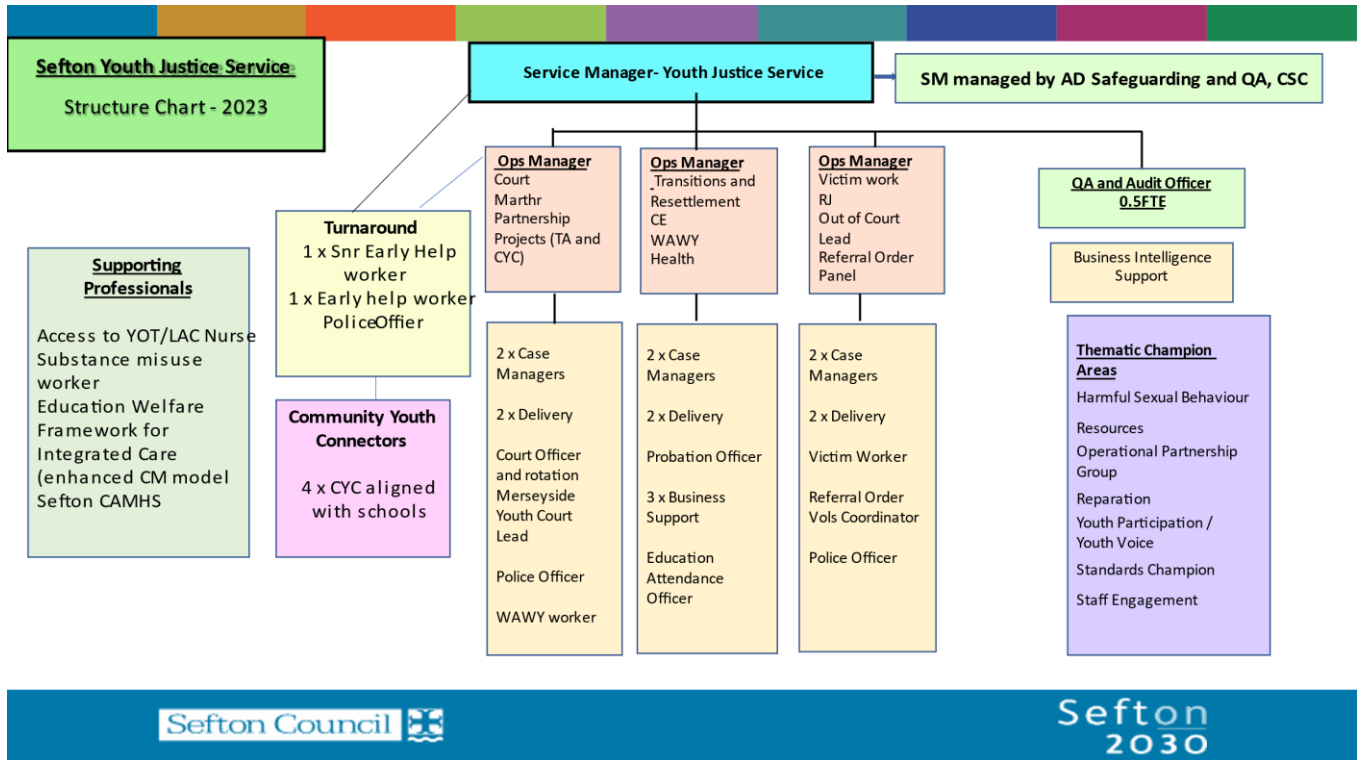
Our performance is detailed in the next section.

The Youth Justice Budget is shown at Appendix B.

The YJS Service Manager has statutory responsibility to lead the YJS and review budgets, service delivery, quality and performance. There is a continued commitment to service improvement which is mirrored by the YJS whole team. The wider team includes partners as highlighted in the Team Structure (below) demonstrating compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act.

The YJS structure (core grant YJS structure plus externally funded Turnaround and Community Youth Connectors projects) is illustrated at Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Structure Chart



The YJS management team comprising of a Service Manager and three Operational Managers has been stable with managers remaining in posts for a considerable time. One manager had long term sickness and is sadly no longer with us, therefore that work was absorbed across the management team during most of 2022. A step up opportunity was considered in October 2022 however there were existing Case Manager vacancies and recruiting to those was proving difficult, therefore the decision was not to offer the short term position to prevent destabilising the team further.

We have 6 Case Managers (including 3 social workers) and have welcomed two new colleagues in April and May of this year. We have 6 Delivery Staff with one colleague who has had long term sickness. We are in the process of recruiting a Victim and Restorative Justice Worker after a long term post holder retired in June 23. We have 0.5FTE QA and Audit Officer and access to support from the centralised Business Intelligence Team.

We have access to a Dedicated Cared For and YJS Nurse Service and drop in appointment sessions are convened across the borough, easily accessible for children. We have had six months without a seconded Probation Officer which was resolved in May 23 when we welcomed a new Probation colleague. We have good relationships with Career Connect and Sefton@work who support children into further education, training and employment and they are represented at the Partnership.

We have two Police Officers embedded within the team one is funded through Supporting Families. We have welcomed a third Police Officer who will support the developing prevention offer through the Turnaround and Community Youth Connectors projects and will support children accessing MySPACE. We have three Business Support colleagues with only one person joining us after another colleague left after many years of service.

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We have access to substance misuse workers (Change Grow Live, previously We are With You) and during the latter part of 2022 We are With You were prepared to second a member of staff to our team, however, were unable to successfully recruit. We also work alongside Venus who are a local charity offering Youth Justice therapeutic support which has been popular. In addition, the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership has provided some funding for therapeutic support which has enabled Alderhey to second a member of staff for two days a week. This member of staff will deliver consultation for staff, assessment and direct work for children.

We also welcome an Education Attendance worker (provided from Education Excellence) who will provide support to YJS, this arrangement commenced in May 23.

We have very recently recruited a new volunteer to be a Mentor for children, they are a trained Learning Coach and are committed to supporting children to fulfil their potential. This volunteer is in addition to the Referral Order Panel who we are grateful to for their time and dedication.

## 6.1 Turnaround

In December 2022 we successfully mobilised the Turnaround Project, which is a Ministry of Justice funded project designed deliver early intervention and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. This has enabled Sefton YJS to work with a cohort of children not currently on our statutory caseload or supported through our Out of Court process. The link to the guidance which contains all information relating to the programme and eligibility is here [Turnaround Programme Guidance](#) .

Sefton YJS does not already have a bespoke prevention service within the team therefore there was a requirement to quickly create posts, recruit and secure all the necessary strategic and operational support to mobilise the project and deliver services to a target number of children within the first quarter. We achieved this and developed pathways to quickly identify children that met the eligibility criteria for the project. We have worked with external providers to deliver creative and innovative services that are new offers for the YJS.

We have further strengthened partnership arrangements with Police and Children Social Work colleagues in developing the referral pathways into Turnaround. Whilst the cohort sits outside the core YJS cohort, the vulnerabilities mirror those that children on statutory orders experience. This has prompted conversations with senior leaders relating to the current early intervention and prevention offer for 10-18 years old and how this can be strengthened to meet this cohort's needs.

## 6.2 Community Youth Connectors

In 2022, we successfully bid for £145k funding from the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to deliver a service to girls who experience emotional wellbeing concerns and are at risk of offending and other risks such as exploitation. This bid was produced in response to concerns that were raised following a case mapping audit of girls in the YJS cohort. We found that a number of girls, particularly from the Southport Area had self-harm and emotional wellbeing concerns and this was shared with the Partnership.

The funding enabled the recruitment of 4 Community Youth Connectors, resources and an Awareness Raising Event for children with emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns. The Event was delivered in March 23. The Connectors are in place and aligned with schools in

the north and south of the borough that were identified as those schools were girls with concerns were attending as well as linking to the demographics for areas of deprivation.

The project has been welcomed by schools and the Connectors are actively involved with a number of girls (approx. 40 at the time of writing) and their families who are benefitting from support around wellbeing, self-care and coping strategies. It has been noted early on that the transition into Secondary School is a particularly worrying time for girls and the Connectors have been able to offer support at transition stage and accompany girls on visits. Girls knowing that the Connectors are also working in their soon to be Secondary School is a comfort for them, knowing support is available with a trusted professional.

The intention for the year ahead is to present a further bid to extend the offer to schools in the central part of the Borough and to include boys too.

### **6.3 Resource Risk**

Sefton YJS does have some gaps, particularly with embedded partners although we do have access to partner's service as already noted. We do not have a Business and Performance Manager although the 0.5FTE QA and Audit Officer and access to support from the centralised Business Intelligence Team enables some of those functions to take place.

There are further risks relating to the capacity within the Educational Psychologist team to support YJS despite us having access to funding. Capacity issues are widespread across many sectors including Educational Psychologists who have also experienced difficulties in recruitment. Venus has also experienced capacity issues and from March 23 were unable to accept referrals until the end of May. This was mitigated through triage arrangements where the most urgent referrals were accepted during this time.

Our substance misuse work was previously delivered by We Are With You. For approximately 1 year, we had no dedicated worker despite attempts to recruit. The contract has now changed to Change Grow Live and they have just recruited a worker who will be dedicated to our team.

## **7. Performance**

This section covers our performance which has been stable across the last year. We are aiming to maintain stability and perform well across the new Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). This section also provides a narrative relating to the new KPI's.

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## First Time Entrants Actual Numbers Oct 21 to Sept 22

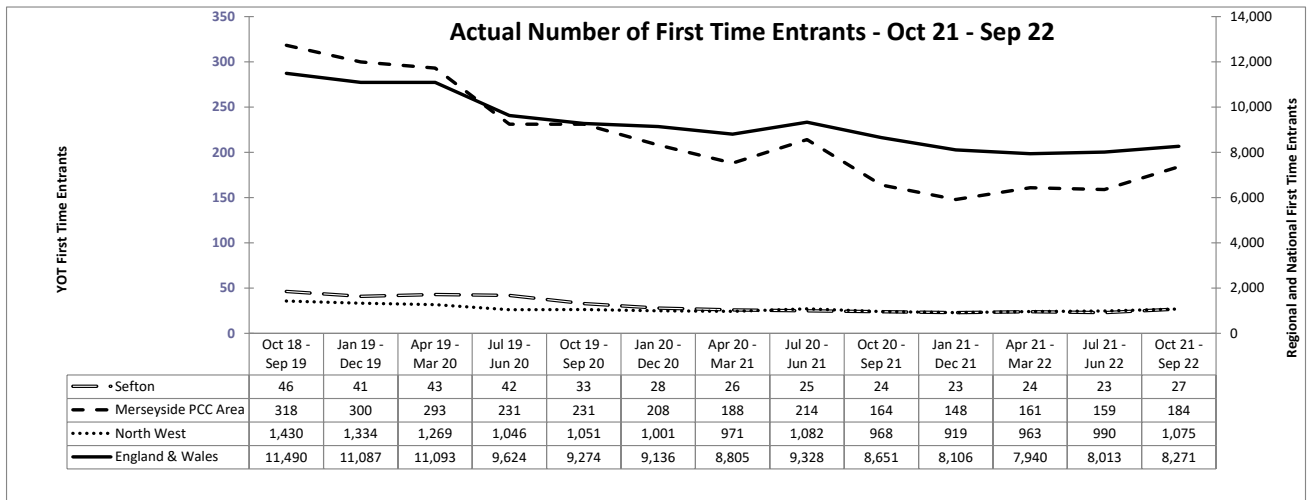


Chart 1.

Chart 1 shows a decrease in the number of FTE's. During the period of Oct 21 – Sept 22 there were 27 FTE's compared with 24 during Oct 20 – Sept 21 a reduction of three.

## Custody Rate (per 1,000) – January 22 to December 22

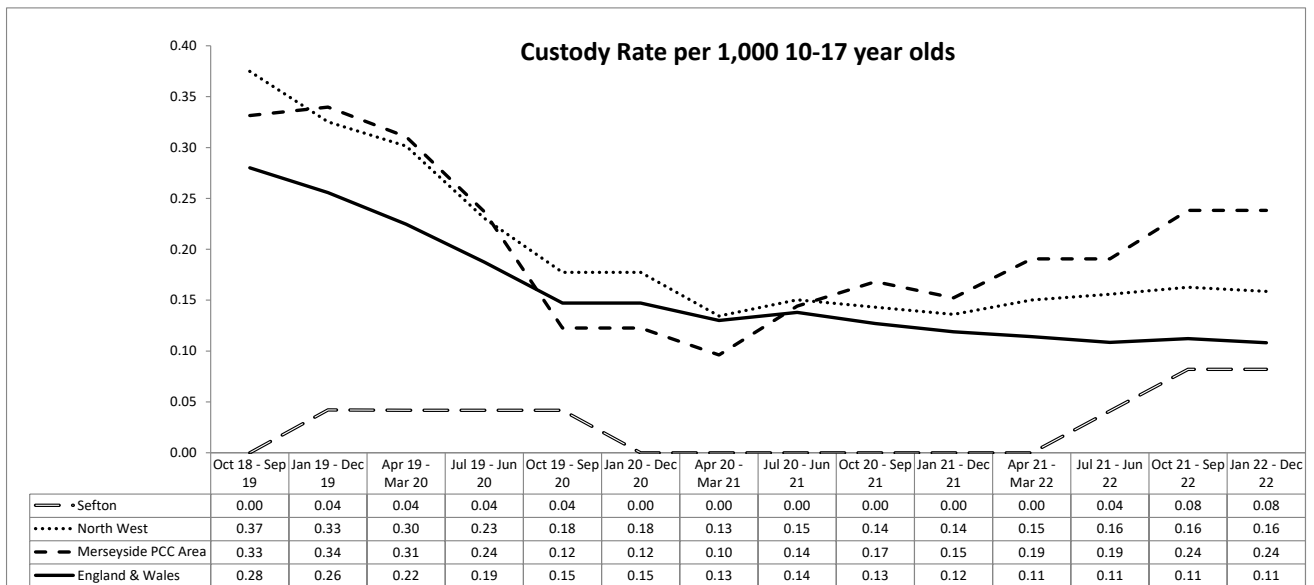


Chart 2.

Chart 2 shows during January 22 to December 22 there were 0.08 young people sentenced to custody, an increase of 0.08 compared with the same period during the previous year.



## Reoffending Rate – April 20 to March 21

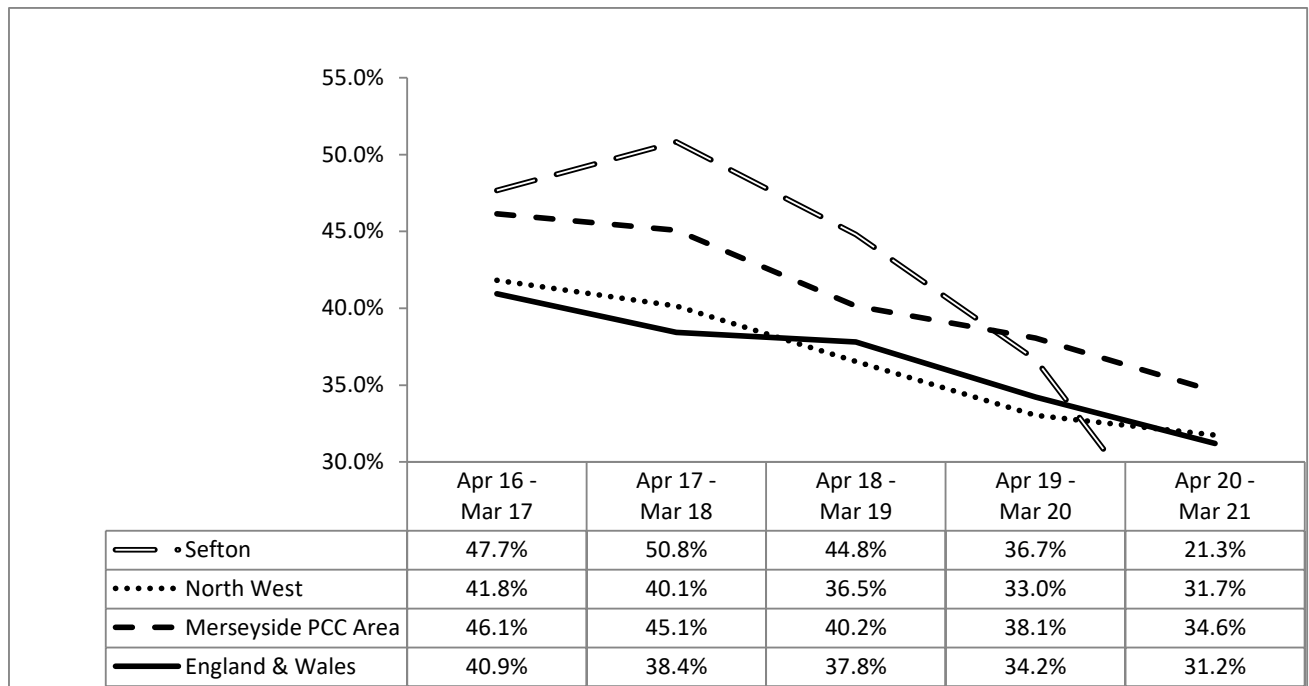


Chart 3.

Chart 3 shows during April 20 to March 21 Sefton's reoffending rate was 21.3% the lowest rate of the over the last five years.

## New Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24

From April 2023 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) requires YJS's to record and report upon a set of additional KPI's. Due to delays in system upgrades the first submission of additional KPI's to the YJB has been postponed until August 2023.

## Suitable Accommodation

Recording suitability of accommodation has greatly improved, however, a few cases are being recorded as Unknown. To assist with consistent and accurate recording a KPI recording checklist including recording instructions has been circulated to staff and monthly KPI data quality reports are supplied to managers. Case managers and delivery staff will require guidance from managers in deciding if accommodation is suitable or unsuitable and ensuring any new staff members are trained on Child View.

Education Training & Employment

## Sefton Local Tracking 2021/22 to 2022/23

## First Time Entrants (FTE's)

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First time entrants to the criminal justice are classified as offenders, who receive their first reprimand, warning, caution or conviction. Figures 1 and 2 show during 2021/22 and 2022/23 there were 17 FTE's. In 2021/22, 13 FTE's received a statutory outcome and 4 received a non-statutory outcome compared to 2022/23 where 15 FTE's received a statutory outcome and 2 received a non-statutory outcome.

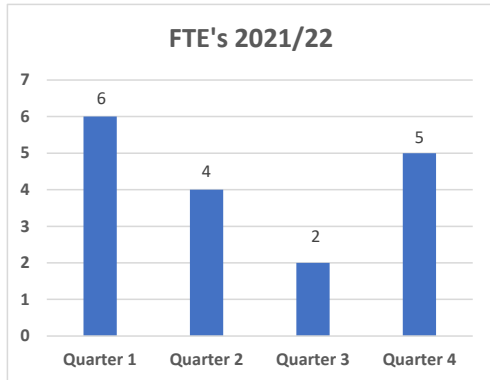


Figure 1.

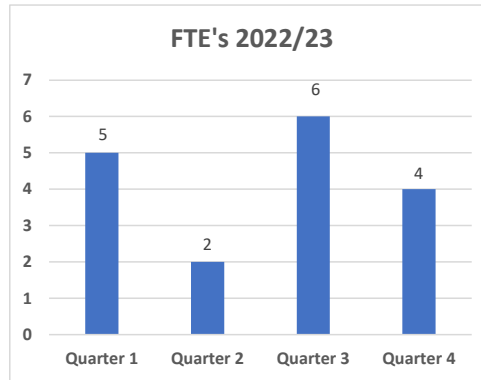


Figure 2.

Offence Types	No. Offence Types 2021/22	% Offence Types 2021/22	No. Offence Types 2022/23	% Offence Types 2022/23	% Increase / Decrease
Assault	5	29%	7	41%	12%
Murder	0	0%	1	6%	6%
Possess knife / offensive weapon in a public place	4	24%	3	18%	-6%
Motoring Offence	4	24%	1	6%	-18%
Robbery 6	2	12%	1	6%	-6%
Possess a controlled drug of Class B - Cannabis / Cannabis Resin 2	2	12%	2	12%	0%
Use threatening / abusive / insulting words / behaviour with intent to cause fear of / provoke unlawful violence 2	0	0%	1	6%	6%
Send by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter 2	0	0%	1	6%	6%
<b>Total No. of FTE's</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>17</b>		

Figure 3.

Figure 3. above lists offence types committed by FTE's during 2021/22 and 2022/23.

During 2021/22 five (29%) FTE's committed an offence involving assault, compared with seven (41%) during 2022/23, a 12% increase. One FTE during 2022/23 committed murder, this FTE was not previously known to Sefton YJS.

During 2021/22 four (24%) FTE's committed an offence involving a knife/offensive weapon compared with three (18%) during 2022/23, a 6% reduction.

## Custody Rates

Custody Rate is the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence. During 2021/22 there were no children sentenced to custody. Figure 4. shows during 2022/23 there were two children sentenced to custody, one during Q1 2022/23, this child was from another local authority and has been entered due to statistical accuracy. The child in Q4 was the responsibility of Sefton, previously unknown to Sefton YJS and sentenced to 8 years for murder.

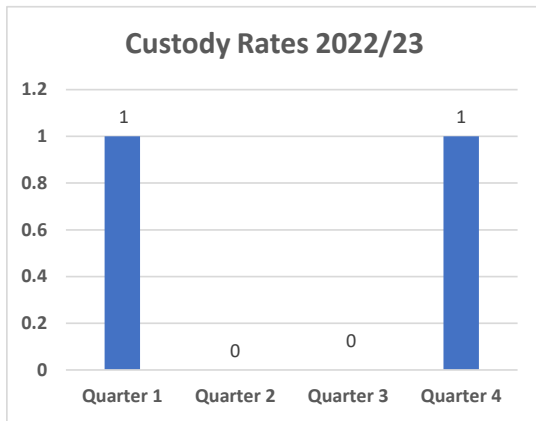


Figure 4.  
Re-offending Rates

Re-offending is defined as the percentage of those young people who have re-offended from an identified cohort of first offenders. Figure 5. identifies cohorts from January to March of the previous financial year and monitors those young people at three monthly intervals.

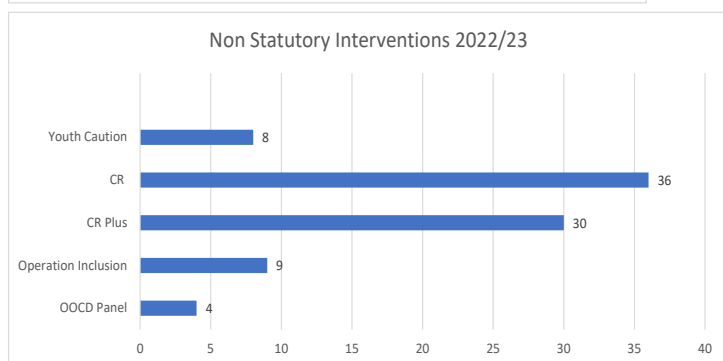
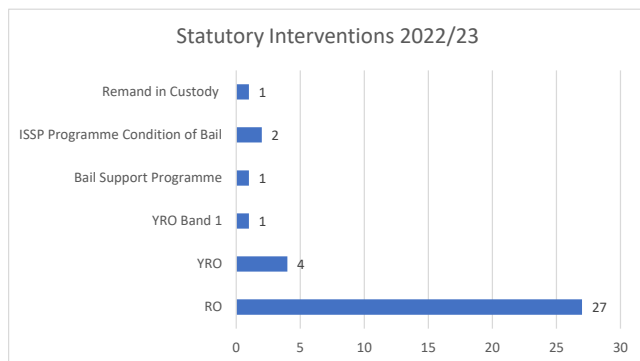
<b>January to March Informal Actions / Outcome 21</b>	<b>2017/18 Cumulative Year</b>	<b>2018/19 Cumulative Year</b>	<b>2019/20 Cumulative Year</b>	<b>2020/21 Cumulative Year</b>	<b>2021/22 Cumulative Year</b>
COHORT (Triage entrants Jan-Mar previous fin-year)	50	45	49	0	17
Number of offenders at 3 months - Apr to Jun Percentage	5 10.0%	2 4.4%	1 2.0%	0 N/A	0 N/A
Number of offenders at 6 months - Apr to Sep Percentage	8 16.0%	5 11.1%	6 12.2%	0 N/A	1 5.9%
Number of offenders at 9 months - Apr to Dec Percentage	9 18.0%	5 11.1%	8 16.3%	0 N/A	0 N/A
Number offenders at 12 months - Apr to Mar Percentage	10 20.0%	6 13.3%	9 18.4%	0 N/A	1 5.9%

Figure 5.

2020/21 saw the introduction of Outcome 21's, there were none recorded on Child View for the period January to March 2020/21. During January to March 2021/22, 17 Outcome 21's were recorded and tracked at three monthly intervals. During Q1 2021/22 (at 3 months) none of the young people had reoffended, during Q2 2021/22 (at 6 months) one young person reoffended, during Q3 2021/22 (at 9 months) none of the young people had reoffended and during Q4 2021/22 one young person reoffended. A cohort of 13 triage entrants have been identified from January to March 2022/23 and will be tracked over the following 3, 6, 9 and 12 months.

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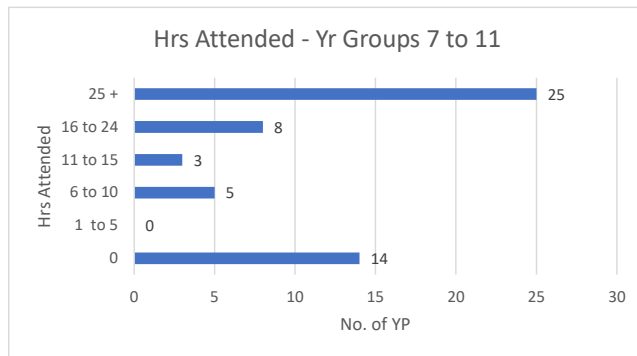
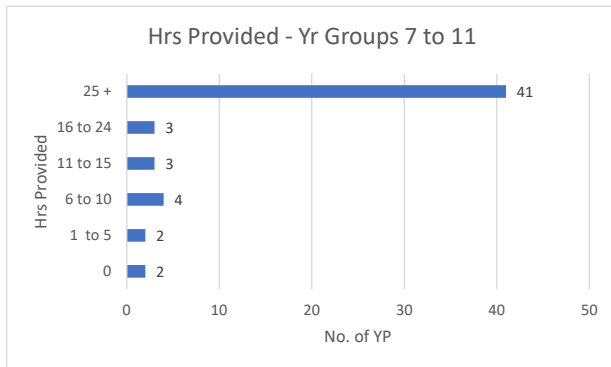
## Interventions 2022/23



During 2022/23 there were 126 open interventions with Sefton YJS. The majority of statutory interventions were RO's with 27 (75%), the majority of non-statutory interventions were made up of CR Plus and CR's with 66 (73%). There were four young people who were referred to panel but did not engage, therefore they are showing non-statutory intervention chart as O OCD Panel. The age range of young people engaged with Sefton YJS during 2022/23 were between 12 and 19 years old. The largest ages ranges were 15 year olds with 26 (21%), 16 year olds with 25 (20%) and 17 year olds with 39 (31%). The yearly cohort of Sefton YJS during 2022/23 were predominantly white-British males.

Sefton YJS have utilized the Outcome 22 for a diversionary intervention to substance misuse services. During 2022/23 89 children have been referred to We Are With You.

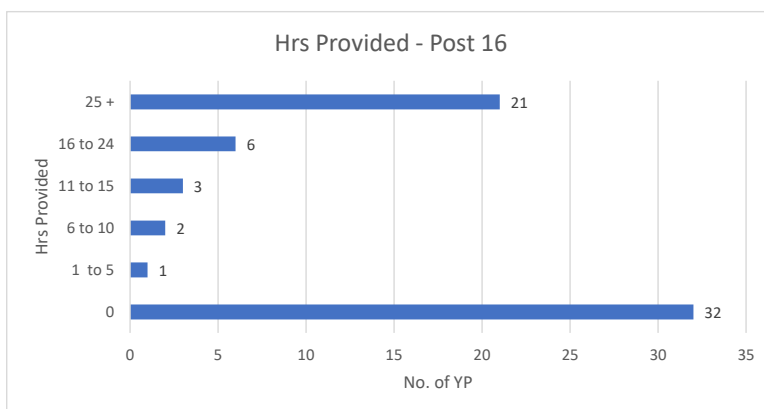
## Education



During 2022/23 61 (48%) of the cohort were in school year groups seven to eleven. 2 (3%) were provided zero hours, 12 (20%) were provided one to twenty four hours, 41 (67%) were provided 25 plus hours. In total 53 (87%) were provided between 1 and 25 plus hours. Data for 6 (10%) of young people was unavailable due to them being out of borough or home educated.

During 2022/23 61 (48%) of the cohort were in school year groups seven to eleven. 14 (23%) (3%) attended zero hours, 16 (26%) attended between one to twenty four hours, 25 (41%) attended 25 plus hours. In total 41 (67%) attended between 1 and 25 plus hours. Data for 6 (10%) of young people was unavailable due to being out of borough or home educated.

## Post 16



During 2022/23 65 (52%) of the cohort were Post 16. 32 (49%) were recorded as having zero hours recorded, 12 (18%) were provided between 1 and 24 hours and 21 (32%) were provided 25 plus hours.

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Post 19	No. of YP 2022/23	% of YP 2022/23
Employed	7	11%
Apprenticeship	2	3%
Training Course	5	8%
Further Education	34	52%
NEET	15	23%
Data Unavailable	2	3%

During 2022/23 65 (52%) of the cohort that were Post 16, the above table shows identifies their ETE types. 7 (11%) were employed, 2 (3%) were on an apprenticeship, 5 (8%) were attending training courses, 34 (52%) were in further education, 15 (23%) were NEET and 2 (2%) their data was unavailable.

## SEN Levels

SEN Level	No. of YP 2022/23	% of YP 2022/23
EHCP	32	25%
SEN Support	6	5%

During 2022/23 32 (25%) of the cohort had a current EHCP in place and 6 (5%) were receiving SEN Support in school.

## CSC Status

SEN Level	No. of YP 2022/23	% of YP 2022/23
Child In Need	24	19%
Child Protection Plan	8	6%
Child in Care	12	10%
Early Help Plan	18	14%

During 2022/23 24 (19%) of the cohort were Child in Need, 8 (6%) had a Child Protection Plan, 12 (10%) Child in Care and 18 (14%) had a current Early Help Plan.

## 8. Priorities

**8.1 Disproportionality - Ethnicity** - Sefton has a predominantly white British cohort which for some areas would be a disproportionate representation. Sefton has previously been a borough with low ethnic minority populations which is reflected in the cohort with 90% white British.

### 8.2 Mental Health Concerns

Sefton YJS has recognised the disproportionality in relation to females experiencing mental and emotional wellbeing difficulties. Identifying this has led to a successful bid for the Community Youth Connector project as already discussed.

In addition, YJS coordinated additional funding for the SWAN Counselling Service in the north of the borough for girls. We are grateful to our health colleagues for this funding which support girls from YJS and Early Help referrals.

Having escalated our concerns around children's mental health, we have secured Violence Reduction Partnership funding for a secondee from Alderhey to deliver a therapeutic offer 2.5 days a week. In addition a senior health colleague will deliver 1 day weekly drop in sessions for staff to seek support for individual children that they are working with.

We will also access the Enhanced Case Management model through the Framework for Integrated care provision for YJS and MySPACE. This is a new area of work for Sefton and is still very much at the early stages with a referral pathway and eligibility criteria being determined.

We have strengthened the feedback loops with Health so that we can understand subsequent health actions and referrals and can integrate any learning from their engagement with the child into our practice.

### **8.3 Prevention and Diversion**

The YJS delivers preventative interventions within all statutory and non-statutory plans in the context of preventing reoffending, reducing the risk of harm to self and others and developing the child's strengths. The prevention offer includes bespoke assessments to address specific need including AIM3, AIM Technology Assisted and Under 12 assessments and interventions which YJS have been trained to undertake and Education Psychologist assessments to inform a tailored plan. This will be enhanced further when the Clinical Psychologist offer is in place through the Framework for Integrated Care. All plans focus on diverting children away from criminal activities and influences.

Until the Turnaround and Community Youth Connectors projects commenced there was no separate prevention team within YJS. We welcomed the Turnaround funding from the MOJ and can already see the value that this strong prevention offer brings. The value of this offer has been raised with senior leaders as there is potential to develop a wider youth offer to prevent outcomes such as entering the youth justice system. We have made links with local policing teams to engage in their prevention activity. Local Policing have provided us with a 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Officer who will support our prevention focus. They will support Turnaround cases and also children who are accessing MySPACE from a prevention perspective, delivering direct work and engaging children into diversionary activities.

The Local Policing Strategy called Evolve designed to tackle gangs was developed by Merseyside Police was launched Sefton in early April, with a particular focus on an estate in the central area of the Borough. The principles of Evolve are Clear, Hold, Build with the intention to protect the community from crime, violence and exploitation. Partners are leading the way to improve the look of the area as well as targeting adults who are committing offences and exploiting children. Evolve includes a full range of partners and residents. Their focus is to improve the living, working and recreational environment for residents, opportunities for young people, help with employment, assistance to access funding, health issues, crime prevention and security advice. Residents will be active in saying what improvements they would like to see and where.

The wider council offer an Early Help service which has also transitioned into Children's

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Services. The Service Manager for YJS sits on the Early help Partnership and the Service Manager for Early Help has agreed to sit on the Youth Justice Partnership. Given the anticipated changes as a result of transitioning into Children's Services there is scope to develop the Youth Offer incorporating Early Help, Youth Services and Youth Justice. These conversations have commenced and more change is expected over the coming year to enhance the youth offer.

## 8.3.1 Youth Service

Sefton has a Youth Service which sits within the Communities Department. The below highlights the Youth Service offer which is shared with children who engage with YJS.

**Outreach** - Staff go to local hotspots and engage with young people in the areas, signpost to local activities/Youth Centres.

**Youth Bus** - Staff go into local areas and work with children and families, they can also deliver projects in local areas. Projects include Street Cooking, Forest School Projects. Diversionary Activities at specific points in the year (Halloween/Bonfire etc). The team deliver some Exploitation Awareness and have access to the video screen on the bus to show informal educational videos. Staff deliver Stay Safe work to regular attendees. Staff understand and will make MASH referrals where there are concerns.

**New Beginnings** – this referral based service officers 1x Night per week in Bootle. 1x School Session Meols Cop. The sessions deliver a safe space for young LGBTQIA + young people. The team provide a youth work setting covering topics such as sexual health, healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol awareness, exploitation as well as delivering project work such as working with partners at The Open Eye Gallery and The Atkinson. Young People also take part in Liverpool City Region Pride and are always involved in Youth Voice Activities and consultation. This service also provides support for parents/carers in the past as a holistic approach.

**Sexual Health** (Inclusive Program) This programme can be delivered in schools over a number of weeks as well as Family Wellbeing Centre. The age group of from 13yrs plus due to nature of subject matter.

**ASB Awareness Project** (Project delivered in schools) This is a project that has been co-produced with children, the aim of this is to raise children's awareness of ASB and reduce it in the community.

**Youth Voice/Consultation Activities** (across all sessions) Children's views are requested to inform decision making and improve services for children so that we understand their needs.

**Open Access Sessions** - These sessions are available to anyone age 11-19 (age appropriate groups) We also have a Junior session (8-11). These sessions are aimed at engaging children in projects and activities where they are guided on topics including Exploitation, ASB, Drugs/Alcohol Awareness, Healthy Relationships and Healthy Lifestyles. Junior sessions are aimed at supporting children through transition from primary school to secondary school as well as some of the other activities listed above.



**Mental Health Awareness** - While we are not mental health trained professionals, we do across all sessions have awareness on how to support and talk positively about mental health. We are able to support children using resource books to discuss topics such as self-harm, body image, self-esteem and can use activities to help promote positive mental health. All staff are aware of the mental health support that is available to children and can signpost to Kooth.

**Street Doctors** – We have worked Merseyside Violence Reduction Unit to obtain login access to Street Doctors which will allow us to educate children using these resources online as well as delivering face to face sessions.

### **8.3.2 Police Prevention Project**

Our police colleagues have been successfully running a DJ course since May 2022. The children identified for the course were recognised as being at risk of exploitation and were not engaging with their education offer. Ten children attended a weekly course and engaged in two hour training sessions. The children have shown dedication week in week out with regular attendance including during half term school breaks for a full day funded session. The behaviour and attitude of the children during the sessions has been excellent and they received positive feedback from the college regarding their attitudes, behaviour and commitment to learning. As part of the funding the children are provided with money for public transport as well and an evening meal.

The project's hair and makeup course commenced January 2023, the course was 13 weeks long and included a full day tuition during half term. This course was targeted at girls at risk of sexual exploitation and partners were able to nominate children to participate. Again the success of the course has been remarkable with fantastic attendance, behaviour and engagement from the students. Two of the girls nominated were not attending school yet they attended every week and fully participated with the course. The college also took the course on an excursion to Harvey Nichols in Liverpool City Centre where they were given a make-up master class and received a goody bag of products. A number of the girls completing the course are now looking to start with the College in September as full time apprentices. Part of the funding allowed the College to purchase hair and makeup kits for every child which they were presented with at the showcase.

Both courses were aimed at our higher risk children who are traditionally come with additional needs and poor behaviour. The courses show that with the right activity children will engage well, behave and show commitment. The fact that all the children have had to use public transport every week and make their own way to the course is a credit to the commitment and dedication they have all shown.

### **“She Inspires” Chief Constable & Police and Crime Commissioner 2023-24 Football Festival.**

A select number of local schools from across Merseyside will be invited to participate in the award-winning “She Inspires” Chief Constable & Police and Crime Commissioner Football Programme.

Funded by the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner and delivered by Liverpool FA, Liverpool FC Foundation and Everton in the Community, the initiative will offer inactive and hard to reach female pupils in Years 8&9 (2023-24 Academic Year), the

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opportunity to receive weekly coaching sessions, complete FA Qualifications and receive bespoke CPD Workshops designed to boost self-esteem, enhance leadership skills, confidence, self-worth and teamwork. The programme, which is completely free of charge, will begin in the new academic year.

At the Festival there will be opportunities for pupils to engage with various departments of the Police, Fire Service and NHS, along with Mode Training, Everton in the Community, LFC Foundation and Liverpool FA, all of whom will have activities for the girls to get involved in.

## 8.3.4 Virtual School

The Virtual School works in partnership with the Youth Justice Team to champion the education, employment and training of our young people. Cared For young people who are known to the service have a Personal Education Plan as part of their care planning. For other young people, we have focused on assessment of need, including commissioning Educational Psychology assessments to ensure that education needs are known and can then be provided for. Moving forward, there will be increased resource allocated to working with schools and EET providers to ensure that young people who are known to the YJS have the right support to access services and prepare for an adulthood in which they can be fulfilled, economically independent and contribute to society.

## 8.4 Education

To support children and young people to achieve positive outcomes, the work Sefton Youth Justice Service undertakes with schools, academies pupil referral units, alternative provision and colleges is key. Our links with the School Support Service has been strengthened along with work to support inclusion, increased tracking of data has enabled this to be recognised as a partnership response. Monthly Education Review meetings have been established during 2022/2023, providing a forum to discuss support for children who are not in receipt of the statutory offer. The case mapping and cohort profiling completed by the YJS during 2022/23 has promoted healthy challenge and encouraged partnership working through increased scrutiny of the educational offer for children and young people in the YJS. During 2023/24 there will be a significant focus on children with special educational needs disabilities (SEND), especially for those with education, health and care plans (EHCPs), and those who are cared for by the Local Authority. The support of the virtual schools and education support officer will enable additional advocacy and challenge to ensure children and young people are being supported to achieve their educational outcomes and aspirations.

The role of the school attendance support worker within the Youth Justice Service includes:

- tracking school attendance, suspensions and exclusions and those young people who have reduced education provision.
- Providing information to young people and their parents about schools and the education service.
- Being a point of contact between the education services and the Youth Justice Service and assisting staff to liaise with the individuals in schools and Services within Education Excellence Services.

The Education representatives on the partnership board will provide strategic oversight of the quality of Education provision for the Youth Justice cohort of young people.

## 8.5 Victims and Restorative Approaches

Sefton has a dedicated victim worker and an operational manager has thematic responsibility. We place emphasis on supporting victims and each victim is contacted and offered support. An independent volunteer contacts victims at the end of their involvement with YJS to obtain feedback on their experience of the support they have received from the YJS. All feedback received has been positive, some examples are shown below. The Victim Worker attends the Out of Court Panel to support decision making and Risk and Welfare Management Meetings relating to children, to ensure that victims needs and wishes are shared.

Here is some information relating to victim work 2022 – 23:

- Statutory Orders 34 Non-Statutory 62
- 26 are corporate victims
- 70 individual victims
- One face to face restorative meeting took place
- Victims who wanted further contact - 22 statutory & 39 non-statutory
- Further support has been offered on 11 statutory & 10 OOC.
- There are 5 victims who have been subject to an offence committed by more than one offender.

Victim Feedback Snapshot

- “Great all round”
- “Very good service and informative”
- “Informative, I am rooting for the young person to do well” [Corporate victim](#)
- “Kept informed and the outcome was good”
- “Very satisfied at the speed it was dealt with” [Corporate victim](#)

Further support is offered for additional safety and well-being support, during 2022/23 there has been no request for additional support from other agencies. It is apparent from the involvement with victims that wider agency involvement in some instances is already in place and victims make the worker aware of this.

During 2022/23 11 letters were written to victims by children and the caseworkers supported the children to complete for the victim worker to hand deliver the letters. The offer of the face to face restorative justice has been made for all cases, although only one face to face has been completed. This is an area that requires further development to encourage engagement in restorative justice processes, for both children and victims. We value the importance of this and understand the impact it can have for both parties.

## 8.6 Serious Youth Violence

Sefton YJS completes a full cohort profile twice yearly. Violence tends to be the top offence closely followed by drug related offences. The Partnership has oversight of the cohort and has specifically requested audits to enhance the Partnership’s understanding.

In January 2023, a case study relating to a snapshot of children with a high or very high rating for Risk of Serious Harm and those involved in violence offences was delivered to the Partnership. This focused on the characteristics of the children and their lived experience. In April 23 an Extraordinary Board was held to discuss the findings in greater depth and the case

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study was shared with the Operational Partnership Group in May which has already been discussed

**Serious Violence Duty** - The YJS is working in partnership with Community Safety to ensure that Sefton complies with the Serious Violence Duty. The Violence Reduction Partnership is in the process of completing a Strategic Needs Assessment for the Merseyside region which will include the voices and views of children, across each of the 5 boroughs. Crest Advisory were commissioned to assess readiness for Merseyside and produced a rating of ready and engaged, moving towards maturity. The development of the Serious Violence Strategy will take place throughout 2023. Merseyside Police have arranged workshops during Summer to develop this agenda further.

## 8.7 Exploitation

Child exploitation remains a concern for Sefton. In 2021, as part of the Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements the Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup commenced and in January 2023 the YJS Service Manager agreed to be the Vice Chair. The purpose of the group is to ensure effective multi-agency action is taken to address the exploitation of children and those who go missing. Partners have a responsibility to develop an approach to contextual safeguarding and provide assurance to the safeguarding partners about the effectiveness of those arrangements.

### 8.7.1 MY SPACE (Sefton Protection Against Child Exploitation) and links with YJS

My SPACE is a wraparound exploitation service for Sefton young people who are at risk of significant harm through sexual and criminal exploitation. The new team provides an intensive intervention service to young people focusing on:

- Educating children around the risk of exploitation and grooming
- Diverting children into positive activities and opportunities.
- Disrupting exploitative relationships and CE locations and hotspots.
- Support prosecutions for any perpetrators of child exploitation.

My SPACE team also works in close partnership with colleagues from other organisations including Merseyside Police, Sefton's YJS, Alderhey Framework for Integrated care team for emotional and mental health support and PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation). The team will focus on children going missing and will complete interviews upon their return. In addition, the YJS have agreed for one of the Team Police Officers to support MySPACE to deliver prevention interventions.

## 8.8 NRM Referrals

Sefton YJS monitors and records National Referral Mechanism (NRM's) through the recording system. NRM's are included within the cohort profiles to enable the partnership to identify and respond to trends showing within the profile linking NRM's with CE and wider intelligence through MySPACE. MySPACE team will ensure that for children they are working with that do not access YJS will be flagged as being referred to the NRM.

## 8.9 Safer Knives Scheme

Sefton has worked with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to develop the Safer Knives Scheme. This is a knife replacement scheme for families to receive rounded end knives in return for pointed knives, which will reduce the potential to cause harm by stabbing. Sefton YJS in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership will propose that partners utilise the Serious Youth Violence Toolkit to develop learning and improve practice across the partnership.

## 8.10 Prevent

Following a benchmark exercise carried out by the Regional Home Office Advisor, Sefton's benchmarking performance has improved significantly over the last 12 months. The benchmark exercise has highlighted the following areas in which the prevent sub-group will focus on for the next 12 months.

- Focus their work for 2023/24 on training, awareness raising and communications. The Communications Team have been invited to assist Community Safety Team colleagues in the creation of a communications strategy that accompanies the SST Strategy. Comms and awareness raising around Prevent will form part of this communications strategy.
- With regards to training a building block approach is proposed. Firstly, an e-learning package, provided by the Home Office, which will be mandatory for all staff to take annually. This course takes approximately 30 minutes and provides a very general overview of the Prevent duty and what everyone's responsibilities are. Secondly a more in depth, focussed, classroom-based session for frontline staff that visit residents in their own homes. This is envisaged to cover all Childrens and Adults Social Care staff and any other discipline that carry out home visits.
- there is a small amount of assurance work to be done with regards to IT systems and that suitable system flags appear should a member of staff be carrying out inappropriate searches around radicalisation. We also need to be clear on what support we would offer a member of staff found to be carrying out such searches.

## 8.11 Released Under Investigation

Up until recently, Sefton YJS did not intervene with children who are Released Under Investigation (RUI) however through the Turnaround Project, RUI children can be referred for support and this is an area to develop in the context of wider youth prevention. We have tracked data relating to Sefton's RUI's and are currently analysing which of those children access a service. This is to understand the number of children who do not have any access to services. In the meantime we have contacted the Ministry of Justice to request addition funding to expand the Turnaround Project and exceed our current target,

## 8.12 Detention in Police Custody

Detentions that extend beyond 15hrs are monitored via a pan Merseyside scrutiny group which is attended by the Emergency Duty Team who links in with the YJS Service Manager and shares information relating to any such detentions. The Local Policing lead shares information

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relating to the trend of >15 hrs detentions across Merseyside to highlight emerging issues. During office hours, YJS can attend police custody setting to be an Appropriate Adult (AA) and likewise the Emergency Duty Team for out of hours. Sefton also has a volunteer who is AA trained and can attend where available for out of hours work. Sefton does not have an emergency bed arrangement.

## 8.13 Remands

Sefton has had very few children remanded to a Secure Children's Home or a Youth Offenders Institute. In 2022, there were two children from Sefton remanded, one child was subsequently convicted to custody and the other after a short period on remand returned to the community and successfully transitioned to Probation services in early 2023. Sefton currently (May 23) has one child (17.5yrs) remanded at Wetherby awaiting trial for a serious offence.

Sefton YJS has had some excellent feedback from the court relating to the quality of our Pre Sentence Reports (PSR's). We are proud of this and know that children previously expected to be sentenced to custody have been sentenced to a community order due to the depth and quality of our PSR's.

## 8.14 Use of Custody

Since 2019, Sefton has not had a child serve a custodial sentence until March 2023. We have also maintained very low remand numbers. In March this year, a child was convicted of murder and was previously not known to the Youth Justice Service although was involved with Children Social Care. It was agreed at May's Partnership Board that this child would be subject to a multi-agency review to understand the child's needs in greater depth and points in time that services could have prevented a poor outcome. It was further agreed at the Practice Review Group (subgroup of the Safeguarding Partnership) in May 23 that there would be merit in conducting a review and at the time of writing considerations are being made to commission and external provider, jointly funded by the Safeguarding Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership.

## 8.15 Constructive Resettlement

Sefton YJS has a Resettlement Policy in place that clearly outlines timescales and responsibilities of all professionals involved in supporting a young person in custody and planning a smooth, effective and robust resettlement plan upon release. Sefton YJS strives to keep young people out of custody as such as possible, and consequently we have very low custody rates, which translate to very low numbers requiring resettlement plans. One person was sentenced to custody in March 23 and their release is not expected in the immediate future. This policy remains untested as it has not been implemented. However, we have had one child who was remanded during 2022 and the Case Manager assessed the Resettlement Policy when the child left the secure estate, however this was limited as the child was cared for by the local authority and all relevant plans were in place in accordance with National Standards. The Resettlement Policy has been reviewed and remains in place.

## 9. Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System

In 2020, Sefton YJS completed a self-assessment for standards for children in youth justice in line with the implementation of the new standards. We will undertake assessment work



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throughout 2023 and as part of our commitment to improve practice we are already auditing out of court work quarterly. We currently audit 12 cases and will increase this to 20 cases per quarter and review the standards for this area too.

In addition, we have planned the At Court standard to be reviewed this year. We are in the process of creating champions for each standard, which will include statutory Board members overseeing and scrutinising the particular standard and linking in with the Operational Manager and Practitioner champions. The Board Chair has already agreed to champion In the Community and the Probation Board Member will champion Transition and Resettlement.

## 10. Workforce Development

Sefton with other Merseyside YJSs is part of the Collaborative Training Group where we pool resources to deliver cost effective training. Each year, YJS managers agree an annual training plan for staff. This enables Sefton YJS to identify gaps in knowledge based on our cohort profile and plan to enhance the team's skills. Staff are expected to undertake Sefton's mandatory training which is corporately scrutinised. Staff were consulted when developing the training plan so that they were integral in producing the training plan. Ad Hoc training occurs throughout the year where those opportunities arise.

Introduction to Restorative Practice	Equality and Diversity	Drugs and Alcohol Awareness	Safeguarding Adults Awareness	Using GPS in the Youth Justice system
Health and Safety	Safeguarding CYP	Information Compliance, Sharing and Guarding	Online Safety	LGBT+ training by CAMHS
Climate Change	SALT	MAPPA awareness	SAVRY Workshop	Triple P Online Programme
Neglect Awareness	Working with Change Training	Identifying & Managing Risk of HSB & Peer on Peer Abuse	Sexuality and Gender Identity Awareness	Pornography, Sexting and Online Safety for children
Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Awareness	Domestic Abuse (Engaging with CYP) Child Sexual Abuse & Sexual Offending Training	Graded Care Profile 2	Hear My Voice Training	Cyber Risks (Safeguarding Children)
Contextual safeguarding	Building Positive Relationships'- RPC (Reducing Parental Conflict)	Afta Thought – Power of the Partnership	AIM 3 technology assisted HSB	Afta Thought Children Mental Health Awareness
Next Steps Intervention	MHFA level 3	Understanding the role of the rainbow Centre and SARC	Disrupting exploitation	Rockpool ACES
“the million pieces experience” delivered by lads like us	Protecting all young people: equity and inclusion in prevention	Sefton's direct work tools	Early Help Module	Mental Health First Aid

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YJS staff will have access to a wider training offer as are part of Children's Services which is implementing a suite of actions to develop services which includes workforce training. There is a wide range of training available including the below which YJS staff access, examples below show access over the last year:

In addition to the training offer, we deliver YJS Team development sessions. For example, after each Out Of Court Audit was share the findings engage in discuss regarding the findings. The Team is briefed on the Cohort Profiles so that they understand the emerging issues and can contribute to service developments in response to children's needs.

Sefton's Corporate Learning Centre are in the process of defining a specific training offer for each role including mandatory training. The YJS Service Manager is part of the Training Steering Group that meets Quarterly. Service Managers for children's services have had a full planning day to map out essential and desirable training.

In addition to the training offer, the workforce has engaged with the following:

- Out of Court workshops
- Data Recording sessions
- Monthly Full Team Meetings – including guests such as Elected Members, Senior Leaders, SEND Inclusion
- Operational Partnership Group
- Consultation – Steve Bore
- Safeguarding Partnership 7 minute briefings and SWAY briefings

## 10.1 Staff Welfare

Some staff are trained in Mental Health First Aid which supports the children we work with. In addition, it supports us all in the workplace. At the request from staff, we have introduced Staff Welfare monthly bulletins and snapshots of individuals so that we can understand each other as people which is particularly relevant with having several new starters including case managers, new project members and partners. We have given each other permission to have check ins to see how colleagues are feeling. The whole team embraces this approach which develops our supportive and forward thinking culture.

## 11. Evidence Based Practice and Innovation

### 11.1 Evidence of Improvement

- We have reassessed the OOC assessment tool on two occasions involving the whole team. Revisions were made to ensure the assessment was comprehensive and consistently used to understand the child, the risks that surround them and analysis. We continue to audit the quality of OOC disposal work.
- Our OOC processes are more consistent including how share information with children and parents and how we address non-compliance.



- We have embedded QA and Audit processes which has enabled us to deliver a greater depth of insight to the team, Board and Partners, identify areas of improvement and additional support for the team.
- Audits have revealed good quality analysis and workshops have been undertaken with the team to ensure colleagues understand the requirements and differences between information and analysis. Managers oversee the quality of analysis within their monthly supervisions and a separate audit on analysis has been undertaken.
- We are reviewing our interventions in line with the Youth Endowment Fund toolkit.
- We are obtaining feedback from children and families within individual cases yet need to do more relating to consulting children and families on service improvement.
- Our Risk Management and Policy Document is reviewed annually.
- Our Joint Working with CSC Policy has been reviewed in line with our move into Children's Services and joint working agreement are being developed with new teams (My SPACE)
- We have negotiated with Partners to increase the specialist resources within the team, with particular regard to Education and Mental Health
- We have a strengthened Court process and have a dedicated Court lead to advocate for Sefton at the Merseyside Centralised Youth Court
- We produce a bi-annual Cohort Profile which is shared with the Partnership. Emerging issues are explored through further audit and shared with the Partnership, Operational Partnership Group and the team.
- QA and Audit identifies good practice and areas for concern, these inform our Service Development Plan

## 11.2 Cohort Profile and Audit

The team are briefed on the Cohort Profile (highlighted at p7) so as to understand the wider issues across the cohort as well as the specific concerns within their own caseload. There are two representatives on the Operational Partnership Group that enables leaders to include the voice and views of the wider operational workforce when addressing cohort concerns. Likewise, the workforce is made aware of the thematic audits that take place which enhances their understanding of that analysis.

## 11.3 Staff Dedication to Child First Principles

Two Youth Justice Staff (an Operational Manager and Case Manager) were awarded a Chief Superintendents Commendation in November 2022 as a result of their tireless efforts with two particular children with increased levels of complexity. Those colleagues went above and beyond with wider partners to implement the child first principles. One child was convicted of terrorist related offences yet was managed within the community as a result of the robust offer from YJS, rather than be sentenced to custody. The officers had managed a lengthy bail package prior to conviction, and managed and supported the child and their family throughout. The child has successfully completed their Referral Order.

The commendation also included the same officers efforts with an exploited child and their wider family which was highlighted by the Partnership as best practice. The partnership, coordinated by YJS officers successful supported the family to move away from the area and engaged the child back into education. The child has not re-entered the criminal justice system.

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## 11.4 Evidence of Excellent Partnership Work

The Inspector overseeing the YJS Police Officers for Merseyside delivered a presentation at the YJ Partnership Board and the Early Help Partnership Board. This highlighted the effective collaboration and problem solving approach when supporting a child who had entered the youth justice system however was exploited which impacted on the whole family. The partnership collaboration produced a highly child centred and protective plan for child and family, which led to overall safety and no further offending.

## 11.5 Good Practice Analysis

We value the expertise and knowledge that the YJS Team holds and recognise the necessity to explore good practice to support less experienced colleagues develop. As such, the team have commenced Good Practice Analysis. This essentially means that when a good outcome has been achieved, we will review this to determine what was good i.e:

- Was it the approach of the worker / integrated approach of partners?
- Was it the specific intervention implemented?
- Were we bystanders and the outcome would have been achieved anyway?

We will share and embed the learning particular where there is new practice that can be replicated.

In addition, we share good practice examples at the team meeting, recent examples highlighted a heartfelt letter of apology that a Delivery Worker supported a child to write himself following an assault. Another example was a child friendly end plan update for an out of court piece of work, which highlighted how well the child engaged with the worker after initial reluctance. This was discussed at the team meeting to raise the Case Managers creativity in working with the wider family in order to engage the child.

## 11.6 Community Youth Connectors and Turnaround

This is a strong example of innovative practice in direct response to analysis of the YJS Cohort (p7). We are monitoring the cases and practice of the team and raising this with Senior Leaders, particularly as Children's Services has renewed focus on prevention and transformation. We are using the evidence from the project to bid for further funding to extend the project right across the borough and include boys in the offer.

The Turnaround project has in its early stages highlighted a cohort of children that are not open to assessment and tailored offers. We are sharing the learning from this cohort as leverage for a greater youth prevention offer as the wider council reviews Early Intervention and Prevention. We are building a strong evidence base to support suggestions that would prevent children meeting poor outcomes and end up in the youth justice system. This includes joint work relating to response to Domestic Abuse in partnership with Children Social Care colleagues to understand the 'all age pathway' as domestic abuse is prevalent across the cohort and the individuals' historic and current traumatic experiences.

## 11.7 Mental Health First Aid Pilot – Turnaround

In partnership with an external provider, Turnaround staff are piloting Mental Health First Aid training for children in Secondary School who can be Mental Health Advocate for their school peers. Primary age children will receive 'Mini Medics' training and will be wellbeing advocates for their peers too.

## 11.8 Interventions Audit

How we embed learning from our audits has focused attention of YJS on early engagement with children at the point of allocation and how this supported continued engagement for child and family. We deliver increased scrutiny of out of court work (quarterly) as part of our prevention offer and include this in our performance management and monthly tracking system.

## 11.9 Operational Partnership Group (OPG)

The OPG includes representatives from the organisations who are members of the YJS Partnership. A Senior Probation Officer chairs this group.

The purpose of the group is:

- To improve outcomes for young people who have entered or are at risk of entering the youth justice system.
- Collectively develop services to support young people.
- Develop a set of shared objectives across the partnership.
- Share learning, challenge and innovate and problem solve.

There is a vast pool of expertise across the partnership therefore bringing operational partners together moves away from the traditional top-down approach, to developing ideas with colleagues who understand the practicalities of front-line delivery. We recognise the to work together better to effective use of resources, challenge practice and innovate to promote changes where we need to. Partnership business is shared at the group, and we have canvassed opinion and thoughts on wicked problems to optimise the talents of the group. Discussion has galvanised operational partners and enabled good working relationships to flourish. The Partnership recognises that where complex issues require a greater degree of analysis and thought, the OPG is the ideal venue to develop insight.

## 12. Service Development Plan

Our Service Development is at Appendix C. The updated plan identifies the achievements of the service and some outstanding issues from across the last year. A key aim for us going forward is to complete the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System self-assessment. We have completed the Out of Court (OOC) Standard and identified some good practice and actions to be delivered. OOC work is scrutinised on a quarterly basis. Our plan also incorporates local targets that relate to audit findings and local priorities. A key area of focus for the coming year is Child Participation and wider Child Voice. This links directly with the YJB Strategic Plan (2021-24). We are also utilising audit findings and cohort profiles to advocate for strengthened youth prevention services to offer early intervention to children before they come to the attention of the criminal justice system.

## 13. Challenges and Risks

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The risks (and opportunities) that Sefton are currently considering are reported as follows:

## **13.1 Move into Children Services**

YJS is now part of Children's Services which means the service is part of the overall improvement journey. This overall is an opportunity. The Service Manager is now part of Children's Services Senior Management Team. Leadership is delivered by the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and ultimately responsibility rests with the Executive Director of Children's Services. From an early state there is a clear integration with Children Service colleagues as we are located within the same area of the building which has created seamless working relationships. One particular challenge relates to the location of the team as the corporate building is less ideal for delivering interventions with children and has a strong corporate image which could inhibit engagement. However the team has access to a number of locations across the borough and will see children in the own community.

## **13.2 Budget Pressures**

Continued budget pressure across the partnership creates risk to YJS should funding reduce which could influence staffing. Any further reductions in staffing would reduce YJS ability to meet the needs of the cohort and impact compliance with National Standards and Inspection Frameworks.

## **13.3 Recruitment**

It has taken considerable time to recruit to suitably skilled and qualified Case Manager vacancies within the team. After nearly six months we have successfully recruited to two vacancies, although the vacancies themselves create additional pressure to existing colleagues.

## **13.4 Legislative Changes**

Recent changes in ISS legislation could present a risk in working with the most vulnerable children. Whilst the changes adopt a child friendly approach with a greater degree of flexibility for YJS's, it remains a means to strengthen a community sentence to reduce the risk of custody. The removal of a minimum of contact hours for example could indicate a relaxation of the scheme and therefore have less impact on the child's learning having committed a serious offence.

## **13.5 Increase in Key Performance Indicators**

YJS's have commenced data collection to report against the new KPI's, the first report being due in August. However, systems providers were not able to support data collection and have seeming been placed in a position to quickly amend systems to enable YJS's to fulfil the new reporting requirements. This has created increased testing for new system versions which has impacted on the capacity of the team. Further upgrades are expected which will again impact on capacity which could impact on performance, albeit relatively short term.

## **13.6 Children's Mental Health**

Sefton has previously reported that many children with YJS experience mental health issues, in particular we have identified a number of children who have at some point in their lives attempted suicide. Whilst we have utilised this information to secure additional funding for a prevention service, this is limited and therefore more is required to deliver a wider prevention service. Current health provision does not meet demand therefore Sefton YJS has sought support using MVRP funding from Sefton CAMHS to have workers within the team.

To raise awareness of children's mental health concerns across the partnership, the Community Youth Connectors coordinated a training session utilising a AFTA Thought (training delivered through drama). They have also raised awareness of their service through the Early Help Partnership and Every Child Matters Forum.

## 13.7 Inspection Readiness

YJS features in not only HMIP inspections but Ofsted Inspections of Children's Services and also Joint Targeted Area Inspections too. YJS also acknowledges the findings of other HMIP inspections and will discuss these from a 'true for us' perspective although capacity impacts our ability to continually practice this. The new Assistant Director has been briefed relating to HMIP Inspection Frameworks and the Children's Services Senior Leadership Team are well versed in inspection frameworks and preparedness. The Chief Executive has received a report from the YJS Service Manager relating to the framework, feedback from the YJB and where we see ourselves in the context of strengths and areas to develop.

The YJS Service Manager attends the Northwest Heads of Service briefings to receive further information and link with colleagues to support Sefton's preparedness as well as look at other Local Authorities inspection findings to develop ideas and make comparisons. We will continue to reflect on the Standards to ensure compliance and monitor our performance against the Service Development Plan. The YJS Service Manager attend the Northwest Head of Service meeting to maintain connections with youth justice colleagues; at this meeting HMIP are periodically invited to share information.

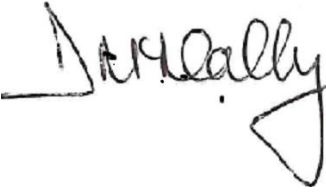
## 13.8 Immediate Justice

At the time of writing, the specification for Immediate Justice has just been published. Sefton YJS including the relevant Assistant Directors has highlighted concerns relating to the punitive nature of the proposal. Our concerns have been raised with the Board Chair. Sefton suggest that the specification does not sit well with trauma informed, child first principles and regard the approach as a risk to engaging the child in restorative and developmental work. This is not to suggest that Sefton YJS does not value reparation, as Community Reparation is something we are committed to developing. Instead, Sefton YJS suggest that reparation should be beneficial to the community, support the child's learning and be empowering for children to do a piece of work that they can be proud of.

## 14. Sign off, submission and approval

<b>Chair of YJS Board</b>	Dawn McNally (Supt. Local Policing Sefton)
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<b>Signature:</b>	 A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Healy', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.
<b>Date:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023

## Appendices

Appendix A - YJB Terms of Reference

Appendix B – Financial Contributions

Appendix C – Service Development Plan

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## Appendix A - Youth Justice Partnership Terms of Reference

### Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Terms of Reference

#### **Role and Purpose**

The Sefton Youth Justice Partnership brings together the statutory partner agencies as identified in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and non-statutory partners who make a significant contribution to:

- the effective delivery of youth justice services in Sefton and
- the achievement of the right outcomes for young people

The purpose of the board is to ensure that the Youth Justice Service and the collective and individual efforts of partnership organisations:

- reduces offending, re-offending and the use of custody in line with the national objectives of the Youth Justice Board
- deliver key functions effectively with children and young people on the edge of or within the criminal justice system including:
  - Engagement in education, training and employment
  - access to suitable accommodation provision
  - access to substance misuse services
  - access to health services

#### **The role of the Partnership is to:**

- Work effectively as a partnership to ensure that the delivery of youth justice services reduces offending, re-offending and the use of custody and positive outcomes are delivered.
- Support, challenge and hold the Locality Service Manager, the Youth Justice Service and partner organisations to account for the delivery of agreed outcomes and plans.
- Consider the needs of the children and young people within the service and represent the needs of the YJS to their respective organisations to ensure co-ordination and value for money.
- Oversee Performance against key outcome indicators.
- Provide a strategic overview of the work of the YJS and promote positive outcomes in the context of the youth justice system and Children's and Young People Plan
- Provide support and guidance to YJS to ensure it engages with local and national priorities, promotes equality and maintains diversity.



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- Improve outcomes for Children, Young People and the Community
- Promote the work of the YJS and advocate this work through their own services.
- Ensure that Children and Young People who receive Youth Justice Services are Safeguarded.
- Flag up risks or blockages to the delivery of youth justice prevention priorities.
- Ensure children and young people involved in the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services delivered by partners and other key agencies.

## **Objectives**

- Agree, and monitor the implementation of the annual Youth Justice Plan ensuring that it complements the council and partners youth justice objectives.
- Agree an annual budget including in kind contributions and to provide support for additional targeted funding to meet identified and agreed need.
- Oversee the performance of the YJS, providing strategic guidance and challenge, and hold the service and partners to account when necessary.
- Agree the protocols, contracts and service level agreements between YJS and partner agencies.
- Provide a forum for the discussion of community issues which impact upon or are affected by the work of YJS.
- To be a forum for the exchange of youth justice information between partners and YJS to promote a pro-active approach to partnership working.
- Listen to and consider the views of service users, victims of crime, sentencers and wider community.
- To ensure that the YJS is contributing to the thematic outcomes within the Sefton Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Promote a culture of learning and lessons from community safeguarding & public protection incidents that meet the YJB serious community Incident criteria, including inspection findings and internal/ external reviews of cases.

## **Membership of the Partnership**

The Board shall comprise:

- a representative from each of the statutory partners
- a representative from any other partner providing resources.
- co-opted members

The Partnership may co-opt representatives of agencies involved in criminal justice, representatives of the community, representatives of the voluntary sector involved in youth offending work and any other individual who in the view of the Board would have a contribution

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to make to the effective operation of the Youth Offending Service. Co-options shall normally be for a minimum of two years.

## Conduct of meetings

- Meetings will be held quarterly.
- A quorum shall be 3 statutory partners plus a representative of Chief Executive of Sefton Council.
- Any subgroups established by the Partnership will be reviewed annually to ensure that the role and purpose of the group is still relevant.
- Partners may nominate substitutes.
- Chair will be Sefton's Area Commander Dawn McNally, Merseyside Police from August 2022.
- Agenda papers to be forwarded to the Administrator 1 week prior to the meeting for consideration by the Chair.
- The meetings will last no longer than 3 hours.
- All members will commit to reading the papers prior to the meeting to enable them to challenge and ask questions about the information/issues raised.
- Progress and Performance Reports presented to the Board will be sent to the Chair of Sefton Safeguarding Children's Board

## Standing Agenda Items and Reports

Standing items on the agenda to include key strategies, performance and budget decisions and safeguarding.

## Youth Justice Partnership (Revised August 2022)

Organisation	Role	Name
Merseyside Police	Chair	Dawn McNally
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Children Social Care	Joe Banham
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Communities	Simon Burnett
Sefton Council	YJS Service Manager	Rosanna Stanley
Sefton Council	YJS Operational Manager	Adele Maddocks Moir Adams
Probation Service	Head of Liverpool and Sefton Probation Senior Probation Officer	Janet Marlow Martin Gay

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Sefton Council	Assistant Director Children's Social Care	Joe Banham
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Education Excellence Virtual School Head	Tricia Davies Deps – Tracy McKeating Mary Palin
Sefton Council	QA and Audit Officer Business Intelligence	Amie Clarke Suzie Mossman
Merseycare	Director of Operations	Maria Sumner
Sefton@Work	Employment & Skills Manager	Claire Maguire
Sefton Council	Administrator	YJS Business Support
Sefton Council for Voluntary Services	Deputy Chief Executive	Nigel Bellamy
Change Live Grow	Agency Lead	tbc
Secondary Schools	Head of Chesterfield High	Kevin Sexton
Alder Hey	Head of Camhs	Vicky Killen
Venus	Agency Lead	tbc

Appendix B - YJS Financial Contributions for 2022/23 (incl. Variance with 2021/22)

Agency/Funding Stream	Payment in kind 2022/23	Cash Contribution 2022/23	Payment in kind 2021/22	Cash Contribution 2021/22	Variance 2022/23 to 2021/22
Youth Justice Grant – Good Practice Grant		375,752	0	375,752	0
Merseyside Police Crime Commissioner	0	65,000	0	65,000	0
Merseyside Police	1 fte Police Officers (42,893)	0	1 fte Police Officer (42,893)	0	0
Merseyside Probation Trust	0.5 Probation Officers' (26,712)	5,000	0.5 Probation Officers' (26,712)	5,000	0
Health – Clinical Commissioning (North & South Sefton)	1.6 Band 6 (63,115)	25,371	1.6 Band 6 (63,115)	25,371	0
Sefton Council		£1,218,123		£1,198,613	£19,510
<b>Total</b>	<b>£132,720</b>	<b>£1,689,246</b>	<b>£132,720</b>	<b>£1,669,736</b>	<b>£19,510</b>

# Sefton Youth Justice Service Development Plan January 2023 (updated June 23)



## Foreword

This plan provides one framework to be clear on how we will ensure outcomes for children and young people in Sefton continue to improve, and we achieve our aspiration for children and young people. The plan aligns with the Youth Partnerships Vision and Priorities whilst acknowledging and responding to development areas identified over the last year.

This plan is focused on setting the direction and strategy of the youth justice service and setting out how improvements will be made in performance indicators, in particular:

### National

- Reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reducing re-offending rates
- Reducing the use of custody

### Local

- **Preventing offending & reoffending** through delivery of high quality, strength-based interventions across our partnership
- **Listening to our children so we understand their individual needs.**
- **Continually reviewing and improving our services** to ensure they meet the needs of our children and local communities.
- **Reducing inequality**, and minimising the impact of custody and the wider CJS
- **Reducing the harm** caused by violent crime, criminal and sexual exploitation and association to gang culture.

The plan builds on the developments and strengths of the Youth Justice Service during 2021/22, a greater emphasis on data and quality assurance has enabled the team and wider partnership to understand the complexities and needs of the children and young people. The partnership has been an asset, with the Operational Partnership Group providing additionality to the Youth Justice Partnership Board to drive practice, bring challenge and accountability.

## Governance

The governance of the service development plan is through the Youth Justice Partnership, the plan will be reviewed within YOT Management meetings. Barriers to progress or delivery will be identified through management meetings and highlighted to the Youth Justice Partnership, this will be reported on a quarterly basis.

All actions will be RAG rated to demonstrate progress of outcomes and impact:

Progress Status	
<i>Red</i>	<i>No progress towards completion. Needs evidence of action being taken &amp; consideration of timescale.</i>
<i>Amber</i>	<i>Delayed, with evidence of plan to get back on track</i>
<i>Green</i>	<i>Progressing to time, clear evidence of progress</i>
<i>Blue</i>	<i>Completed</i>

Youth Justice Standards 2022/23					
Aim 1: Reduce the Number of First Time Entrants					
How will we know?	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target completion	Comments and progress
FTE figures will reduce, children will not re-enter Criminal justice system.  There will be an increase in children accessing Early Help Services and a reduction in Children open	To work in partnership with agencies to divert children away from the criminal justice system. Through quality assessments, appropriate interventions will be implemented to identify the right service to support the young person and their family require.	Assessment-To ensure children are adequately assessed the OOCB assessment has been revised, this will be reviewed in January 2022 to consider the impact on practice.	Teams Manager and staff within the Youth Justice Service.	April 2022	Completed

<p>to Children Social Care.</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">Page 76</p>	<p>Assessments will provide a greater level of analysis, this will consider the previous trauma, keep child and others safe and support desistance.</p> <p>Work with agencies using the Out of Court Policy to utilise out of court interventions, this will include Operation inclusion.</p>	<p>Interventions- audit the Interventions to ensure an appropriate to areas of need identified in the assessment, individualised for each child and the local offer is shared with young people.</p>	<p>Teams Manager and staff within the Youth Justice Service.</p>	<p>Q4 and scheduled in the audit plan</p>	<p>May 2023 update- This remains outstanding, to be completed June 2023</p>
		<p>Partners- Where children are identified as high risk they are managed through risk management meetings.</p>	<p>Teams Manager and staff within the Youth Justice Service.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>May 2023-High risk case mapping completed and presented to YJPB. Partnership meeting held to complete reflective practice review and consider partnership response to findings.</p>
		<p>Exit Strategy- Where there are unmet needs a MASH referral will be made for consideration of further support through Early Help.</p>	<p>Teams Manager and staff within the Youth Justice Service.</p>	<p>Nov 2022</p>	<p>May 2023- Strengthening of YJS prevention offer through turnaround is being reviewed</p>
		<p>Quality Assurance- A dip sample of five OOC cases to be completed monthly. Manager QA processes to be reviewed to ensure effective management oversight of out of court cases.</p>	<p>Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke</p> <p>Team Managers</p>	<p>Quarterly Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 2022</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing auditing per month</p>
		<p>Provide quarterly Operation Inclusion data within the</p>	<p>Business Analyst Suzie Mossman</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Completed</p>



		performance report and monitor performance within the Youth Justice Management Board.			
		Undertake a review of assessment and monitoring process for Out of Court Disposals (comparing with regional/family of YJS where information is available).	Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke  Team Managers	Ongoing	

**Aim 2: Reduce rates of reoffending**

How will we know?	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target completion	Comments and progress
Performance data will show a reduction in re-offending in Sefton.	Young People receive a high-quality service in YOT. Assessments and Plans are of a high quality, identifying and responding to the individual needs of the Young person.	Cohort profile completed quarterly, shared with the board and team. Data to be utilised to identify themes and specific areas and young people who are entrenched in offending behaviour.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	Ongoing	May 2023 update- Cohort profile presented to YJPB May 2023 highlighted concerns in relation to educational offer & engagement in the cohort.
		Safeguarding & risk characteristics- Local High-risk case mapping for young people known to YOT, CSC and partner agencies.	Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke	Feb 2022	Completed

		Risk Management- Template to be revised to reflect best practice in other YOT's. Escalation process of non-attendance to be formalised.	Service Manager Ros Stanley & Team Managers	March 2023	May 2023 update- Remains outstanding due to capacity. Escalation of non-attendance is ongoing. Deadline extended to reflect capacity  UPDATE: other YJS risk templates were reviewed and Sefton's captured more detail. Further risk templates to be reviewed
		Recruitment of referral order panel members to reflect the training.	Team Manager Moira Adams	Complete	Completed
		Further development of the reoffending live tracker to enable a responsive approach when CYP have reoffended.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman & Quality Assurance & Audit Officer Amie Clarke	Ongoing	Ongoing-four reoffending tracking reports have been completed to provide oversight.

**Aim 3: Reduce the use of custody**

How will we know?	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target completion	Comments and progress
<p>Sefton will maintain their performance in this area.</p> <p>Tracking of bail packages will enable deep dive audit into partnership response</p>	<p>Sefton YJS will work with Courts and Partners to offer an alternative to Custody if the risk to others seems that an alternative to Custody can be used.</p>	Practice review to be held to review practice on two remand cases and two bail support.	Team Managers & all staff	Feb 2023	Completed
		Resettlement Policy to be signed off by YJPB.	YJPB members	April 2023	May 2023  Resettlement plan reviewed – sign off by board required

**Sefton YJS Local Priorities 2022/23**

	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions Owner</b>	<b>Target Completion</b>	<b>Comments and progress</b>
<p><b>1. Contextual Safeguarding</b></p>	<p>Children are protected and responded to as professionals have a deeper understanding of needs and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Partners work together to identify and provide the support required.</p> <p>We learn from young people's journeys, this informs service delivery and approaches to how young people are supported. This prevents further risk and harm.</p>	<p>Use of the Modern Slavery Legislation and referral mechanism (NRM) for CYP for involvement in gangs, CE and their treatment as victims. NRM data to be included in quarterly data.</p>	<p>All YJS staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Feb 2022</p>	<p>Children's services are currently reviewing processes for tracking NRM's.</p> <p>YJS represented by Service Manager at the Contextual Safeguarding subgroup (YJS SM is Dep Chair)</p>
		<p>Annual survey to be implemented to provide assurance all staff have sound knowledge of policies, procedures and transfer this to practice.</p>	<p>Quality Assurance &amp; Audit Officer Amie Clarke</p>	<p>April 2023</p>	<p>May 2023 update-S11 completed and relevant actions reflected in service plan for 2023/24.</p>
		<p>Staff to undertake Intervention Planning workshops to ensure that they are up to date with what is needed and most relevant to work with young people and their families.</p>	<p>All YJS staff</p>	<p>Oct 2022</p>	<p>Completed</p>
		<p>High risk management meetings are chaired by YOT Managers &amp; Very</p>	<p>Team Managers Service Manager Ros Stanley</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Completed</p>

	<p>High Risk Management meetings are chaired by Service Manager, escalation is followed where non-attendance is a feature.</p>			
	<p>Quarterly reporting on referrals to CSC where safeguarding concerns have been raised for the young person.</p>	<p>Business Analyst Suzie Mossman</p>	<p>Ongoing quarterly</p>	<p>Quarterly reporting ongoing- including information from referral page with outcome of the referral.</p>
	<p>Representation and contribution to multi-agency meetings to create joined up working (MACE, vulnerable persons group, high risk case mapping, MARSOC)</p>	<p>Team Managers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>May 2023 update- Child exploitation processes are currently under review in Children's Services. Further information needs to be gained. YJS attend daily missing and intelligence meeting with Sefton's multi-agency exploitation team</p>
	<p>CSC/YJS joint working protocol is updated to reflect implementation of new practices i.e daily missing/CE updates, NRM and risk management arrangements.</p>	<p>Service Manager Ros Stanley</p>	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>May 2023 update- There has been a delay in YJS transitioning to Children's Services. Until structures are agreed the updates will not be completed, this will enable current practice and structures to be relevant and up to date.</p>

**2. Improving practice and performance through Quality Assurance**

Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and progress
<p>Quality Assurance is effective in ensuring management oversight has an impact on case management and practice.</p> <p>All Quality Assurance is supported through a framework intended to be responsive, identify strengths and development areas with children at the forefront of practice.</p> <p>Performance improves as a result of effective quality assurance and develops a culture of learning and reflection.</p>	Full Cohort profile to be reported to the board bi-annually and reviewed at team meetings.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	Ongoing	Completed
	Quality Assurance workshops to be delivered quarterly	Quality Assurance and Audit officer & Business Analyst	Ongoing	Completed
	12 month auditing schedule is implemented	Quality Assurance and Audit officer Amie Clarke	Oct 2022	Completed
	Learning from CLR's to specifically cover management oversight and boarder learning workshop with YOT team.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	Feb 2022	Completed
	QA framework to be revised to reflect additionality of case mapping, cohort profile & Child First approach. Quarterly QA process to continue.	Quality Assurance and Audit officer Amie Clarke	April 2023	May 2023 update-QA framework will be reviewed to consider quality assurance processes and additionality of auditing through management. Transition to Children's Service will be considered in the approach taken to enable alignment where this is appropriate.
	The breakdown of YJS data held within Childview is analysed to account for CYP age, sex, ethnicity and other relevant factors,	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	April 2022	Completed

		to identify disparities that have the most impact across all aspects of CYP lives.			
		Youth Justice Partnership Group induction to be held for new members.	YJP Chair Service Manager Ros Stanley	April 2022	Completed
3. Ensuring all children have an appropriate education offer	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions Owner</b>	<b>Target Completion</b>	<b>Comments and progress</b>
	<p>All children have an appropriate Education, training or employment offer. They are supported to access opportunities and achieve positive outcomes.</p> <p>Through data, the YJPG are able to recognise themes and trends that are triggers for poor educational outcomes. YJPG are responsive to what the data is showing us.</p>	<p>Implementation of referral process to Education Service Manager to strengthen a young person's attendance at school.</p> <p>Monthly education review meetings to be held with education service Manager and YJS</p>	<p>Service Manager Ros Stanley</p> <p>Service Manager Tracy McKeating</p>	August 2022	<p>May 2023 update- Education officer will manage and track any children with EHCP &amp; less than statutory school offer.</p> <p><b>June 23 – Education Coordinator funding agreed – post yet to be recruited</b></p>
		<p>Education &amp; Post 16 audit to be completed.</p>	<p>Service Manager Tracy McKeating</p> <p>Career Connect Sarah Vaughn</p>	April 2023	<p>May 2023 update- Planned for Qtr2 audit</p>
		<p>Continue access to Career Connect advisors to support young people at risk of NEET.</p>	<p>All Case Managers</p> <p>Service Manager Sarah Vaughn</p>	Ongoing	<p>May 2023 update- Monthly meetings for post 16 offer have not been established -this remains outstanding. YJS Operational Manager attends Career Connect NEET conference on a monthly basis</p>
		<p>Review of children in alternative provision to ensure they have an adequate offer.</p>	<p>Service Manager Ros Stanley</p> <p>Service Manager Tracy McKeating</p>	Dec 2022	<p>May 2023 update-An education officer now supports YJS 5 hours per week and funding</p>

					has been agreed for additional resource.
		Cohort analysis to include ETE, education offer and attendance figures.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	April 2022	Complete & ongoing twice a year
		Secured attendance and contribution at the Board.	YJP Chair Service Manager Ros Stanley HOS Education Excellence Tricia Davies	Ongoing	Tracy Mc Keating and Mary Palin from Education Excellence now board members. Data is being shared between services to enable increased communication for children identified as not receiving appropriate education offers.
		Education Excellence Service Manager to attend YJS team meeting to share attendance support pathways.	Service Manager Ros Stanley Service Manager Tracy McKeating	March 2022	Completed
4. Improving the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions Owner</b>	<b>Target Completion</b>	<b>Comments and Progress</b>
	All children and young people have access to services that support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.  Professionals adopt a trauma informed approach to understand adverse childhood experiences which may impact on the child.	Secure a dedicated mental health specialist within YJS.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	July 2022 Extended to March 23	May 2023 update-YJS have secured support from an advanced clinical practitioner 1 day a week and mental health nurse two days per week for MDT approach.
		Consideration for additional funding to support ongoing services from Educational	Service Manager Ros Stanley	October 2022	Funding has been secured on a short-term basis to enable

	Pathways and partnership working are well established to support engagement and removed potential barriers to access.	Psychologist and Clinical Psychologist.			EP support. This is only available until March 2023, longer term solutions need to be considered.
		Referrals to mental health support agencies to be reported on quarterly, where CYP do not meet the criteria an explanation of this and alternative will be evidenced.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman YJS staff	Completed April 2023	Monthly performance reports are produced to track referrals. Thrive framework is being utilised in KPI's- Integrated Care Team.
		Board development day planned to focus on the emotional health and wellbeing offer for young people in Sefton.	YJP Chair Service Manager Ros Stanley	Feb 2022	Completed
		Mental Health Case Mapping exercise to be completed and reported to board.	Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke	Jan 2022	Completed
<b>5. Provide effective parenting support to promote positive relationships</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions Owner</b>	<b>Target Completion</b>	<b>Comments and progress</b>
	Exit strategy via MASH/Early Help to ensure that young people remain linked into the local community with corresponding support to maintain motivation to desist.  Children and their families know how to access additional support, this reduces the escalation of risk and number of young people open to Children Social Care.	Parenting offer to be increased within the YJS.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	April 2023	May 2023 update: Additional staff have been trained in ACES and good practice from turnaround is being reviewed to increase group activities.
		Funding to be utilised for access to teen triple p.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	Completed-April 2022	
		Understand the extent of child on parent violence within the YJS cohort and develop links with SWACA	Case Managers, Team Managers & Quality Assurance & Audit Officer	April 2023	COPVA pathway in place to support this area. System monitoring



		service.  Audit to be undertaken to consider prevalence of COPVA in cohort & YJS response to this.			needs to be implemented to have oversight of the number of referrals and how we are responding to this.  May 2023 update: Audit delayed to be include in Q2 23/24
<p>6. Promote the health and wellbeing of young people</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 85</p>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions Owner</b>	<b>Target Completion</b>	<b>Comments and progress</b>
	Children’s attendance at appointments improves and they access the support they require.	Health performance report to be presented quarterly around number of YP seen, timeliness and outcomes.	Team Manager Adele Maddocks	Quarterly due June Board	Health report being provided to quarterly board
	Children can access support in a timely manner and engage to improve health outcomes.	Monthly drop in sessions in each locality to be implemented to support timeliness of appointments.	Team Manager Adele Maddocks	Ongoing	Drop ins have been established, monitoring of this is required to understand the impact for young people Monthly report will be requested on drop in attendance and impact.
		Monthly performance meetings with We are With You and YJS Team Meeting.	Team Manager Adele Maddocks WAWY Manager	Ongoing	Interviews took place without appointment RS has escalated to review next steps May 2023- Service procurement has been renewed to a new provided and the CLG have recruited to a new post who will be dedicated to YJS
7. Ensure the	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and



Child First approach.				included children who identified they would like to be further engagement in consultation and service development
	Engage with Sefton's Making A difference group to initiate initial engagement group led by young people.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	March 2022	May 2023- Youth voice was raised in May YJPB, subsequently YJS Service Manager has engaged with Youth Ambassadors through CVS to progress this
	Young Peoples survey to be embedded in practice within the YJS.	All YJS team	Ongoing	Completed-Electronic survey has been reviewed-QR code has been developed to improve accessibility and take up. The process for collating this information requires review. Leaflets and posters for two new prevention projects will enable greater feedback.
	Co-production of a YJS branding designed with a group of young people.	Comms & YJS team	March 2023	May 2023 Children engaged in a digital group will support with branding and graphics development
	Development of a YJS webpage on Sefton Councils website.	Quality Assurance & Audit Officer & Sefton Comms	March 2023	May 2023 update: Support from comms and a digital officer

					has been agreed. Plans are in place for a webpage and digital offer
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Document Ownership	
<b>Owned by:</b>	Ros Stanley: Service Manager Youth Justice Service Sefton Council
<b>Policy written by:</b>	Ros Stanley: Service Manager Youth Justice Service Sefton Council
<b>Date written:</b>	January 2023 (updated version April 2023)
<b>Review</b>	Live document: Management review and YJP

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## Common youth justice terms

Please add any locally used terminology

<b>ACE</b>	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
<b>AIM 2 and 3</b>	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
<b>ASB</b>	Anti social behaviour
<b>AssetPlus</b>	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and adolescent mental health services
<b>CCE</b>	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
<b>Children</b>	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
<b>Child First</b>	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
<b>Child looked-after</b>	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
<b>CME</b>	Child Missing Education
<b>Constructive resettlement</b>	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
<b>Contextual safeguarding</b>	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
<b>Community resolution</b>	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has

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	been an admission of guilt
<b>EHCP</b>	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
<b>ETE</b>	Education, training or employment
<b>EHE</b>	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
<b>EOTAS</b>	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
<b>FTE</b>	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
<b>HMIP</b>	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
<b>HSB</b>	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
<b>JAC</b>	Junior Attendance Centre
<b>MAPPA</b>	Multi agency public protection arrangements
<b>MFH</b>	Missing from Home
<b>NRM</b>	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
<b>OOCD</b>	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
<b>Outcome 22/21</b>	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
<b>Over-represented children</b>	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
<b>RHI</b>	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
<b>SLCN</b>	Speech, Language and communication needs
<b>STC</b>	Secure training centre

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<b>SCH</b>	Secure children's home
<b>Young adult</b>	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
<b>YJS</b>	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
<b>YOI</b>	Young offender institution

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# Agenda Item 8

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	25 May 2023 13 July 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Millers Bridge Railway Bridge - Investigation work		
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Linacre;
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Locality Services - Deputy Leader		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

The Department for Transport has provided £2m to the Council to complete investigatory works on the road bridge over the railway on the A5058, Millers Bridge. This is to ensure that the bridge is capable of carrying loads including abnormal loads to the Port of Liverpool. This report recommends the addition of this funding into the Council's Transport Capital Programme.

## Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet:

- (1) Recommend to Council, approval of the inclusion of a supplementary capital estimate for £2m, for the Millers Bridge scheme, into the Council's Transport Capital Programme.
- (2) Note the progress on the necessary investigatory work.

That Council:

- (1) Approve the inclusion of a supplementary capital estimate for £2m, for the Millers Bridge scheme, in the Council's Transport Capital Programme.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The additional funding needs Cabinet approval to be added to the Capital Programme. Approval is needed to enable the commissioning of the necessary technical support work and the track possessions needed to facilitate the investigation.

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

None

# Agenda Item 8

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

None

### (B) Capital Costs

Any works associated with the commission would be funded by the £2m received from the Department for Transport.

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> Staff time from Highways and Protection will be funded from the additional resource.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> Technical expertise will be undertaken using the Transport Technical Services Supply contract for which a formal contract applies. Any strengthen work will be subject to a construction contract to be reported separately.	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Impact on Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People:</b> No	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	Y
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
The necessary investigatory work and technical support is likely to have minimal impact on Carbon consumption. The strengthening work that is likely to be identified following the investigation is likely to involve construction work which is likely to have a negative impact on the carbon footprint.	

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Any strengthening work will help ensure

that Millers Bridge remains capable of accommodating the loads generated through the Port of Liverpool.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable.
Place – leadership and influencer: The bridge on the A5058 over the railway is a critical element of the infrastructure.
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Any strengthening work will ensure that the Port of Liverpool can receive all loads and therefore remain competitive.
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 7212/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5412/23.) 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 Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrew Dunsmore
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2766
Email Address:	Andrew.Dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk

**Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report.

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 8

## 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The A5058 is a critical route within Sefton's highway network, providing, amongst other functions, the abnormal load route to the Port of Liverpool. It is also designated as a Heavy Load Route and has previously accommodated heavy, abnormal loads from the Port onto the wider highway network. A bridge carries the section of the A5058, known as Millers Bridge, over the railway.
- 1.2 National Highways have expressed concern previously over the perceived weight capacity of the structure and its continuing ability to accommodate such loads. Network Rail, as owners of the structure have indicated that they have no immediate plans to complete an upgrade.
- 1.3 The Council has corresponded with Network Rail over a period to time to try and determine as much information as possible over the bridge capacity and its current condition. Initially, with little information forthcoming, a funding proposal for some investigation and possible strengthening work was submitted by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to the Department for Transport, under the Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund. Initially the bid wasn't successful, and no funding was identified in the settlement to LCR.
- 1.4 However, in 2022, the Council received direct correspondence from the DfT to indicate that an extraordinary payment of grant of £2 million would be made under the Local Transport Capital Block Funding Specific Grant Determination of Millers Bridge Repair on the A5058. The letter confirmed that the 'DfT does not ordinarily have money available to fund schemes on an emergency or ad hoc basis; however, we can provide funding in this extraordinary case subject to appropriate assurance being provided'. The funding has been received and grant letter received and reviewed. Whilst the funding was identified for 22/23 there has been no set criteria identified for when the funding should be spent.
- 1.5 This report seeks authority for the funding to be included within the Transport Capital Programme.

## 2. Investigatory Work at Millers Bridge

- 2.1 A number of meetings have been held with Network Rail. Information on the load carrying capacity and construction of the bridge was requested to enable any further investigation work to be scoped.
- 2.2 Network Rail confirmed that there had been an assessment demonstrating the ability of the structure to accommodate 40 tonne loading some time ago. There had also been an evaluation to give an indicative capacity to deliver abnormal loads. They confirmed that another assessment is 'likely due soon' as there are cast iron elements within the construction and these require particular consideration.
- 2.3 It was agreed that the DfT funding should be used to complete this further assessment as soon as possible and the scope of the investigatory work has been agreed. As NR don't currently have capacity for completing the work, it has been

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agreed that Sefton will lead on the investigation using the Transport Technical Services Supply framework to bring in some resource.

- 2.4 The initial further investigation work will be completed under track possessions which will shortly be booked. Most of the investigatory work is expected to be from track level.
- 2.5 Once the necessary investigation work has been completed and a technical report submitted the scope of any strengthening work will be discussed with Network Rail, a course of action agreed and a cost established.
- 2.6 The Council will continue to liaise with the DfT over the progress of the scheme.

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# Agenda Item 9

<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 July 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Annual Progress Report Climate Emergency		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No Rule 27 Procedure used
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

Sefton Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Following that declaration work has progressed within the council and a climate emergency strategy and associated action plan created.

Annual reporting on progress made is required as part of the governance approach to the programme. Members are asked to note the progress made on achieving net zero carbon by 2030 and the programme of works supporting the Council's transition to low carbon working.

## Recommendation(s):

Council are recommended to :-

- (1) Note the progress made on the targets in the Sefton climate emergency strategy and action plan.
- (2) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because of the need to publish the report at the same time each year.

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## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To support the delivery of the council motion that declared a climate emergency and ensure the council is aligning with future regional area and national net zero targets.

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

Not acting would increase the risks to Sefton in future years, on the themes of energy cost & security, and climate change resilience (increased incidence of extreme weather events, sea level rise etc.). Sefton will also be subject to regional (2040) and national targets (2050) around achieving net zero, beyond the current scope of work, which will require additional action. Therefore, ensuring net zero emissions for Sefton Council operations is the first stage of this wider body of work.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue implications arising directly from this report in terms of providing an update on progress.

Any revenue budgetary provision required for the progression of phase 2 works will be considered separately as part of the development of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan

### (B) Capital Costs

Although there are no capital implications arising directly from this report in terms of providing an update on progress.

Any capital budgetary provision required for the progression of phase 2 works will be considered separately as part of the development of the Council's Capital Programme

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
There are no resource implications arising from this report
<b>Legal Implications:</b>
There are no legal implications arising from this report
<b>Equality Implications:</b>
There are no equality implications.
<b>Impact on Children and Young People:</b> Yes Positive impact on future resilience to the causes and impacts of climate change. Reduction in emissions will have a positive long term effect. Children and Young people are a key part of the Council's communication and engagement strategy.
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>



The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

The report directly addresses the climate emergency with a strategy in place to achieve the targets required.

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

Protect the most vulnerable: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events and encouraging energy security measures
Commission, broker and provide core services: By training staff to consider climate impacts as part of service delivery
Place – leadership and influencer: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Drivers of change and reform: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events.
Greater income for social investment: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Cleaner Greener By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions

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

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7249/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5449/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**(B) External Consultations**

N/A

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## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephanie Jukes
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4552
Email Address:	stephanie.jukes@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2022-23

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Sefton Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Following that declaration, work has progressed within the council and a climate emergency strategy and associated action plan was created.
- 1.2 The period 2020 -2030 was split into three phases of action in order to align with financial reporting cycles. This report covers the final year in phase 1, where the focus has been about laying the foundations for future work and building networks. The progress made on the delivery of the strategy was been impacted by the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, however, efforts have been made this year to address this.
- 1.3 2022-23 has also seen the most volatile period ever recorded for gas and electricity prices. This has had a significant impact on budgets required for day to day operations. Although this increase has increased focus on reduction of energy use, there is also then less available budget within the council for investment purposes.
- 1.4 Both the strategy and action plan have seven key principles to guide work in this area – guided by the acronym C.L.I.M.A.T.E
  - Carbon Reduction
  - Leadership
  - Innovation
  - Mobilisation
  - Adaptation
  - Transformation
  - Engagement

As such, the Annual Report is structured around reporting against each of the above principles.

## 2. Progress during 2022/23

- 2.1 The work carried out over the past year is reflected in the attached document 'Climate Change Annual Report 2022/23' Appendix 1. A summary of the carbon footprint and some highlights of the progress made, is presented below.
- 2.2 **Carbon Footprint** – during 2022-23 the Council have reduced overall emissions by 7%. The fall is in line with the planned reductions in the Council's net zero trajectory. This has been driven by the move to agile working, the LED ongoing street lighting roll out and improvements to the national energy mix.

**Some of the projects and work to support the move to low carbon working, undertaken over the last 12 months, are listed below.**

- 2.3 **Street Lighting** – In 2020 the Council approved a £12.750m invest to save project, the Street Lighting Asset Project, for the roll out of more energy efficient LED street lighting across the borough. The project continues to be delivered and will take four years to complete. To date the team has installed 11,337 new lanterns and 2,643 new column and lantern replacements. The work to date has reduced carbon emissions by over 700 tonnes.

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2.4 **Solar Together** LCR project – Across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) residents were offered the chance to have solar PV surveys carried out with a quote for work if they were suitable. The programme was administered by the LCR to support reaching the ambitious target to be Net Zero by 2040 or sooner. 1,857 residents in Sefton registered interest (7,962 residents across the LCR) and so far over 200 homes in the borough have been fitted with energy-saving solar panels and battery storage, enabling residents to cut their energy costs while also reducing carbon emissions.

2.5 **Transport** - In 2022 the Energy Saving Trust began a Fleet Review which will guide the Council and support the move to low carbon vehicles, while setting out the financial support required to do it. The report is currently being reviewed with a response to the report expected in Autumn 2023.

The Strategic Transport Planning and Investment Team (STPI) are also in the process of developing a Low Carbon Transport Strategy (LCTS) and have identified the key areas of actions the Strategy would include. A public consultation is planned for later this year.

The strategy will support the Council to deliver its net zero target by 2030, by influencing areas such as fleet, business and staff commuting. In addition, it will go further in addressing and influencing transport across the Borough, by helping to provide accessible infrastructure and influence transport choices for residents, community organisations, businesses and visitors.

2.6 **Climate Change Communications Strategy** Sefton Council conducted a Climate Consultation in Summer/Autumn 2022. The feedback received has been used to form a Climate Emergency Plan containing 9 key actions, one of them being the creation of dynamic Climate Communications Strategy. Work has begun to rebrand the Council's Climate Change campaign with a strong focus on behavioural change, supporting staff, residents and businesses to better understand the environmental and financial benefits of a low carbon society. This work is ongoing and will continue in 2023-24.

2.7 **Adapting to the effects of Climate Change** - This year Green Sefton have progressed many key activities, these include: Planting over 1600 trees (6,243 since 2019-20); Assessing its operational risks e.g. the risk of equipment not working in extreme weather events i.e. high temperatures; Revising maps for surface water flood risk with the latest data, to ensure the Council and communities understand the risks.

2.9 **Education** – This is an area where the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority believe Sefton are leading. Their 'Pathway to Net Zero Report' sets out that "Sefton Council are leading on engagement with younger people, led by the innovative Eco Centre, with specialist resources for climate education." In 2022 as well as offering educational sessions at the Eco Centre and dedicated "Eco Savers" school support, a new immersive room was launched at the centre offering schools and community new and interesting ways to learn.

## 3 **Priorities for 2023/24**

3.1 Work will continue to deliver the climate emergency action plan and in 2023-24 there are a number of key projects officers will focus on. These include;

- Increased engagement with the community on climate change through implementing the new Climate Communications and Engagement Plan.
- Developing strategies and plans to address transport emissions (Low Carbon Transport Strategy and Fleet Review).
- Roll out of adaptation workshops and producing operational risk registers for all service areas.
- Working with the Liverpool City Region to secure funding for decarbonisation projects (buildings and transport).

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In Summer/Autumn 2022, the Council undertook a public climate consultation, the feedback from this has helped form a Climate Engagement Plan which will be updated regularly and reviewed annually up to 2030.

Further highlights this year include:

- A Council Fleet Review and development of a Low Carbon Transport Strategy.
- Publication of the LCR Pathway to Net Zero Document and ongoing development of the LCR Climate Action Plan, with support from key officers.
- Submission of two funding bids to the Low Carbon Skills Fund (awaiting decision).
- A successful funding application via the LCR Community Environment Fund for The Atkinson in Southport.
- Installation of energy-saving solar panels and battery storage to over 200 homes in the Borough via the LCR Solar Together Project.
- Delivery of several domestic retrofit programmes across the Borough, increasing energy efficiency of local homes.
- Continued roll out of the Climate Change e-learning and report authors training.
- Progression of Adaptation work via Green Sefton and officer workshops which have been launched to produce departmental risk registers.
- Continued educational support at the Eco Centre and across all schools in the Borough.

Whilst the Council is making good progress to reduce operational emissions (18% reduction to date), it is clear that there is a long way to go to reach net zero.

As an authority we will continue to map out the projects required to reach our target. However, it is clear a significant amount of financial support will be required, to meet these challenging targets.

Although Sefton Council operations only account for around 1% of the Sefton area carbon emissions, the council will seek to influence partners and encourage action through our role as a local leader.

## **Introduction**

In July 2019 Sefton Council declared a Climate Emergency. A commitment was made to reduce operational emissions and reach net zero by 2030.

This Annual Report provides an overview of the progress made, in line with the Climate Emergency strategy and action plan and outlines the sources of carbon emissions linked to Sefton Council's estate and operations.

All activity described in the report relates to the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 (Phase 1, Year 3 of the action plan).

## **Carbon Footprint**

The Government has identified 3 types of emissions:

Scope 1 - Emissions from activities that are owned or controlled by the Council and are released straight into the atmosphere for example, from Council owned gas/oil boilers and diesel/petrol vehicles.

Scope 2 - Emissions released due to electricity use.



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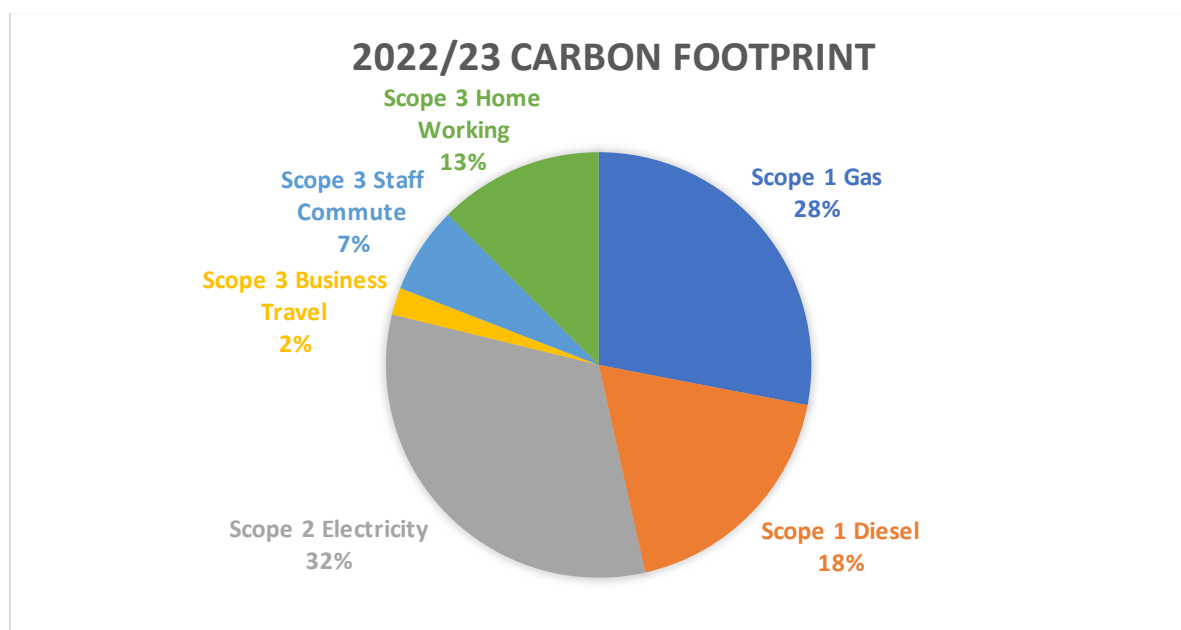
Scope 3 - Emissions from equipment or vehicles that don't belong to the Council but are used to deliver Council functions for example, officers using their own diesel/petrol cars for Council business.

Data from the following activities was used when measuring the Council's carbon footprint:

- Scope 1 – Council Buildings (Gas)
- Scope 1 – Operational Fleet (Diesel)
- Scope 2 - Council Buildings (Electricity)
- Scope 2 - Street Lighting (Electricity)
- Scope 3 - Business Travel
- Scope 3 - Staff Commute
- Scope 3 - Home Working

Sefton Council started to track its carbon emissions in 2019-20. Since then there has been a 2,036 tonne-reduction in total emissions, which represents an 18% decrease (7% reduction this year).

The chart below shows the Council's operational carbon footprint for 2022-23.



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A significant proportion of emissions in 2022-23 came from electricity and gas use (60%), followed by emissions associated with the operational fleet (18%), home working (13%), staff commute (7%) and business travel (2%).

## **Electricity and Gas (Scope 1 and 2)**

Energy use has continued to decline. Gas emissions have reduced by 17% since 2019-20 and electricity by 32%.

Reduced energy use has been driven by the large-scale LED Street lighting roll out, changes to building use during/post Covid pandemic and the decarbonisation of the national grid.

Decarbonisation projects are by nature long-term projects. The LED Street lighting replacement programme is expected to be completed in 2024 and the full impact of this work will be seen in 2025.

Also, in April 2023 the Council moved to a Green/Renewable Electricity tariff (REGO). Altogether, there are 183 individual electricity supply points on this tariff (139 sites and Street Lighting). This is a key action in the response to reach net zero by 2030.

These two projects will see a 50% reduction moving forward in the Council's carbon footprint against the baseline.

## **Operational Fleet (Scope 1)**

The Council's third largest emissions source is from transport (operational fleet) which has increased by 15% since 2019-20.

It is clear moving forward we need to transition to a transport system which produces fewer emissions.

Work has already started in this area; the Energy Saving Trust are currently completing a fleet review which is expected to be concluded this year.

## **Staff Travel and Home Working (Scope 3)**

During 2022-23 emissions from staff commute increased by 37% (on the previous year) as people started to return to the office (post Covid pandemic). This equates to an increase in CO2 emissions of 227 tonnes. However, emissions have decreased from homeworking (28%) and business travel (53%) by 666 tonnes in total.

The Council promotes agile working and it is encouraging to see a working pattern which overall continues to support a reduction in emissions.

## **Climate Change Action Plan**

We said, We did

In last year's annual report, we set out four key priorities for the year 2022-23. Progress has been made in all areas, as set out below.

### **1. Public Engagement**

Sefton Council undertook a Climate Consultation in Summer 2022 for a period of 10 weeks.

The consultation included an online form as well as face to face drop in sessions across the borough, with additional information sent out to targeted youth groups to ensure their opinions were included.

There were 5 key takeaways from the Consultation, which has been used to form a Climate Engagement Plan due to be delivered in 2023. These are:

- There is a need for the Council to provide more information on how individuals can reduce their carbon footprint.
- A demand for more information particularly relating to what the Council is doing, how to save energy at home and current consultations which may impact our climate.
- There is a desire for people to work with the Council on this important agenda.
- Support for the Council to create a Climate Change Community Engagement Group/Assembly.
- An aspiration for the following areas to be covered particularly in the engagement group/assembly - renewable energy, waste, transport, clean air and reducing pollution and quality of public space.

## **2. Green Electricity**

Electricity use is the biggest part of the Council's carbon footprint and the original climate emergency declaration required the Council to achieve 100% clean energy by 2030.

In order to reduce our ongoing emissions, it was agreed to switch to green electricity in phase 2 (2023-2026). As part of the procurement of a new electricity supplier from 1 April 2023, it was agreed to purchase REGO (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) approved energy, which ensures Sefton are supplied from UK renewable energy sources.

This is a key action in the response to reach net zero by 2030, which will result in a reduction in carbon emissions of approx. 37% next year.

## **3. Adaptation and Climate Risk**

In September 2021, the Audit and Governance Committee agreed for Climate Change Risk to be on the Corporate Risk Register for the first time.

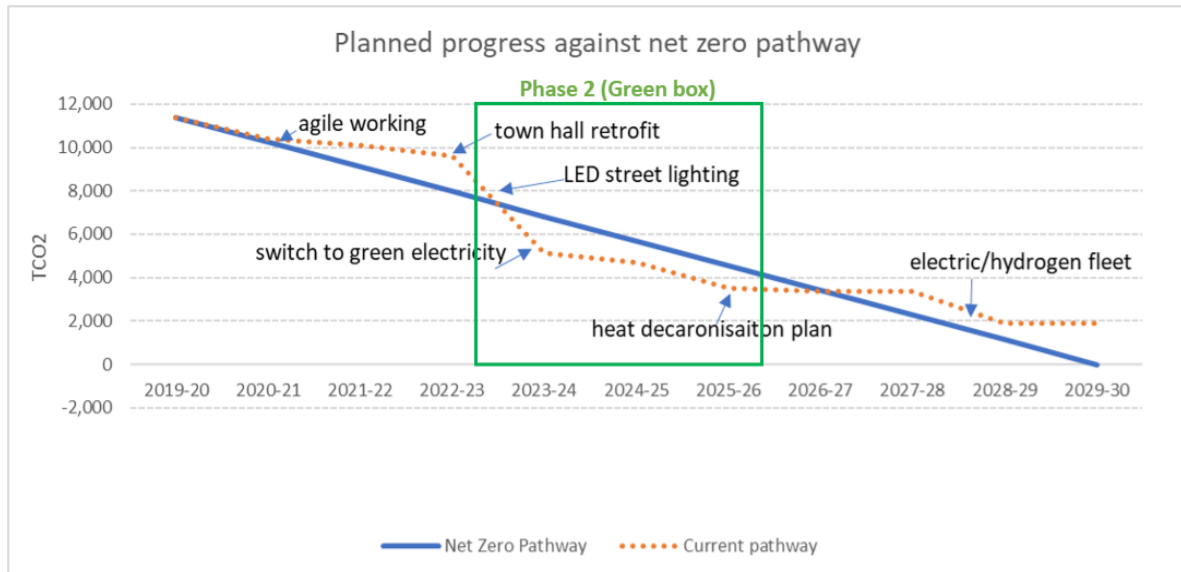
More recently a Climate DMT\* officer group has been formed to support this agenda, to act as a conduit for information and activity across all Council departments. One of the first activities is to assess the risks and adaptation measures needed for service areas to adapt to already known/ locked in climate change events such as heat stress, flooding and storm events. This work is ongoing and will continue in 2023-24. \*Departmental Management Teams

## **4. Phase 2 Implementation Plan**

This year the Climate action plan has been reviewed and amended in preparation for Phase 2.

The graph below shows the linear pathway to net zero by 2030 (blue line) and also maps the current pathway (red dotted line), with a focus on the key actions for phase 2 (green box).

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The strategy for phase 2 focuses on the huge challenges ahead but also the opportunities available.

It sets out:

- The work carried out to date and progress made.
- The key pieces of work required to meet the current 2030 net zero target.
- The challenges to achieving the target particularly around cost. e.g. decarbonation of buildings and reduction in emissions from fleet.

## Other Projects

In addition to the four achievements above, there are also a number of other projects in 2022-23 which helped contribute towards achieving the aims of our strategy and action plan and the wider LCR target.

The strategy and action plan have seven key principles which make up a CLIMATE acronym.

**C**arbon Reduction  
**L**eadership  
**I**nnovation  
**M**obilisation  
**A**daptation  
**T**ransformation  
**E**ngagement

The principles guide our work in this area.

## Carbon Reduction

**Street Lighting Project** – In 2020 the Council approved a £12.750m invest to save project, the Street Lighting Asset Project, for the roll out of more energy efficient LED street lighting across the borough. The project continues to be delivered and will take four years to complete. To date the team has installed 11,337 new lanterns and 2,643 new column and lantern replacements. The work to date has reduced carbon emissions by over 700 tonnes

**Solar Together LCR Project** – Across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) residents were offered the chance to have solar PV surveys carried out with a quote for work if they were suitable. The programme was administered by the LCR to support reaching the ambitious target to be Net Zero by 2040 or sooner. 1,857 residents in Sefton registered interest (7,962 residents across the LCR) and so far over 200 homes in the borough have been fitted with energy-saving solar panels and battery storage, enabling residents to cut their energy costs while also reducing carbon emissions.

**Transport** - In 2022 the Energy Saving Trust began a Fleet Review which will guide the Council and support the move to low carbon vehicles, while setting out the financial support required to do it. The report is currently being reviewed with a response to the report expected in Autumn 2023.

The Strategic Transport Planning and Investment Team (STPI) are also in the process of developing a Low Carbon Transport Strategy (LCTS) and have identified the key areas of actions the Strategy would include. A public consultation is planned for later this year.

The strategy will support the Council to deliver its net zero target by 2030, by influencing areas such as fleet, business and staff commuting. In addition, it will go further in addressing and influencing transport across the Borough, by helping to provide accessible infrastructure and influence transport choices for residents, community organisations, businesses and visitors.

The aim of the LCTS is to help to deliver reduction in emissions from transport both for the Council and to influence travel across the Borough. The strategy will support the Council to deliver its Net Zero target by 2030, by influencing areas such as fleet, business and staff commuting. In addition, it will go further in addressing and influencing transport across the Borough, by helping to provide accessible infrastructure and influence transport choices for residents, community organisations, businesses and visitors.

## **Bootle and Southport Town Halls**

This year work was completed at Bootle and Southport Town Halls to reduce emissions by improving glazing and loft insulation. The work was supported by the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (phase 1). First year carbon savings are predicted to be around 59 tonnes per year.

## **Leadership**

### **LCR Pathway to Net Zero Document and Climate Action Plan**

All six authorities in the LCR have declared a Climate Emergency and are taking targeted action, sharing good practice and working towards reaching the ambitious target to be Net Zero by 2040 or sooner.

Earlier this year the LCR Combined Authority published the 'Pathway to Net Zero' strategy which outlines an ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions across the entire LCR. More recently the focus has turned to the 5-year LCR Climate Action Plan which is currently being prepared and Sefton officers have contributed to.

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Actions will be needed across all sectors including business & industry, domestic properties, transport. Some of the key actions include:

- Retrofit of housing stock (domestic emissions account for a third of LCR emissions).
- Delivery of the Mersey tidal electricity generation project.
- Delivery of the Hynet hydrogen and carbon capture network.

The plan will be published later this year.

## **LCR Community Environment Fund**

This year the Council successfully obtained LCR Community Environment Fund funds to install honey bees onto the roof of The Atkinson in Southport. It also involved sharing knowledge about protecting solitary bees, improving pollinator habits around The Atkinson, hosting two public events, training a pool of staff and volunteers to become beekeepers and creating social media content. The project is progressing well and will continue into 2023-24

## **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

Last year saw the introduction of a new requirement for all Cabinet and Council decision papers to include an assessment of the potential Climate Change impacts, to date 52 officers have completed the training. Further training sessions will be held in 2023-24.

## **Innovation**

### **Climate Communications Strategy**

Sefton Council conducted a Climate Consultation in Summer/Autumn 2022. The feedback received has been used to form a Climate Emergency Plan containing 9 key actions, one of them being the creation of dynamic Climate Communications Strategy. Work has begun to rebrand the Council's Climate Change campaign with a strong focus on behavioural change, supporting staff, residents and businesses to better understand the environmental and financial benefits of a low carbon society.

There will also be a focus on key themes which cross cut the Climate Change agenda such as transport, energy and waste and recycling. Specific campaigns will be developed but will link in with national events e.g. World Environment Day and Recycle Week.

This work is ongoing and will continue in 2023-24.

## **Mobilisation**

### **Funding Applications**

The Council's second largest emissions source is from gas (28%), which is primarily used to provide space heating and hot water to offices, leisure centres and civic buildings.

Unlike electricity, there is currently no alternative low carbon option to replace gas on a like for like basis. To reduce gas usage, the building needs to be better insulated and any gas or oil powered heating system replaced with a low carbon alternative.

To 'decarbonise' the buildings and remove the gas usage, Sefton have made two funding bids to the Low Carbon Skills Fund (round 4) to provide Sefton with detailed plans of how we 'decarbonise' each building. Successful applicants will be notified in Summer 2023 and if successful work would be undertaken during 2023-24.

Work will continue in 2023-24 to secure external funding. The next application window for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, (which is funding to carry out the work suggested by the decarbonisation plans) is expected to open in Autumn 2023.

## **Climate Training**

In 2021 the Energy and Environmental Management Team developed a Climate Change e-learning module which to date has been rolled out to 2074 members of staff.

## **Adaptation**

Natural environment is an important aspect of Sefton's decarbonisation journey, not only because our natural environment absorbs and stores carbon dioxide but also because of the co-benefits it has, these include better air quality and a reduction in flood risk.

This year Green Sefton have progressed in a number of key areas, these include:

- Planting over 1600 trees (6,243 since 2019-20).
- Assessing its operational risks because of the predicted Climate Change impacts and continuing to identify mitigation and adaptation opportunities.
- Updating service plans with Climate Change embedded as one of the key drivers for the service.
- Revising maps for surface water flood risk with the latest data, to ensure the Council and communities understand the risks.

## **Transformation**

Domestic retrofit programmes offer an opportunity to increase the energy efficiency in some of the most poorly insulated homes in the borough. Activities can range from fitting energy-efficient light bulbs, to installing solar panels.

During 2022-23 the council improved 222 properties (230 energy saving measures) via the Government's Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme, which fully funded work including external wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, solar PV and window replacement.

Phase 2 of this funding was completed in September 2022, with Phase 3 continuing into 2023.

## **Engagement and Education**

### **Eco Centre**

The Council run a dedicated environmental Eco Centre which offers learning opportunities for Sefton residents and school children from across the city region.

This is an area where the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority believe Sefton are leading. Their 'Pathway to Net Zero Report' sets out that "Sefton Council are leading on engagement with younger people, led by the innovative Eco Centre, with specialist resources for climate education."

This year the teaching staff have delivered climate related education to over 3,000 school children. They have also continued to develop [www.cleanaircrew.co.uk](http://www.cleanaircrew.co.uk) - a curriculum linked resource to raise awareness of air quality issues and promote positive action and behavioural change.

# Agenda Item 9

In 2022 a new Immersive room was launched at the centre and has opened up wider opportunities for more direct community engagement.

## **School Engagement**

All schools across the borough are provided with advice and support. This year through the council's ECO Saver programme schools have the following support:

- Energy & water reduction audits with signposting to information and support on wide range of issues including Climate.
- Assemblies on energy and water use in schools linking back to climate change.
- Support for 30 schools in partnership with United Utilities and the Department for Education to look at water issues on site. Work carried out is saving over 40,000 litres of water a day.
- Governor training on Utility saving, also linking to the climate emergency and how they can play their part in this.
- Providing regular updates of consumption of electricity and gas use on site and how to reduce.
- Promotion of and support for Switch off Fortnight (November 2022).

## **Challenges**

Whilst the Council is making good progress to reduce emissions, it is clear, there are challenges ahead.

As an authority we can map out the projects we need to complete to reach our net zero target. However, significant financial support will be required, in particular the initial capital cost, which given the current cost of living crisis, can be challenging to secure.

Government funding, such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) is critical. However, funding such as this tends to be short term in nature, with limited scope and time to deliver. These funding streams may also require matched funding and staff to deliver the work.

In terms of tackling emissions across the entire borough, the Council do not have direct control of emissions outside of our operations. Therefore, the council will continue to work with partners across the Borough to adopt net zero strategies and support the LCR 2040 net zero target.

It is vital that moving forward we have a robust plan of meaningful engagement with our community that moves beyond traditional communications into a more tailored and focussed approach.

## **Priorities for 2023-24**

We have made progress in many areas over recent years, in line with the Climate Emergency strategy and action plan.

The focus for 2023-24 will be:

- Increased engagement with the community on climate change through implementing the new Climate Engagement Plan.
- Developing strategies and plans to address transport emissions (Low Carbon Transport Strategy and Fleet Review).



- Roll out of adaptation workshops and producing operational risk registers for all service areas.
- Working with the Liverpool City Region to secure funding for decarbonisation projects (buildings and transport).

## **Conclusions**

Sefton Council is committed to protecting the environment and a considerable amount work has been undertaken to date, as highlighted in this report.

This update reaffirms the pledge made by the Council in July 2019, to reduce operational emissions and reach net zero by 2030 (18% reduction to date). The Council remain on track to meet its net zero target, however, the coming phases of work will be very challenging.

The Council are also looking ahead and beginning to plan for the regional 2040 net zero target as well as the legally binding national 2050 net zero target.

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# Agenda Item 10

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 June 2023 13 July 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Financial Management 20223/24 to 2025/26 and Framework for Change 2020 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – June Update - Additional Capital Estimates		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

This report sets out supplementary capital and revenue estimates for approval in the Council's Capital Programme and revenue budget and an update on revised allocations of grant from central government and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

## Recommendation(s):

**Cabinet** is recommended to:

- 1) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £3.000m for Disabled Facilities Grants core programme in 2023/24 funded by the Better Care Fund.
- 2) Note the revised funding allocations for Schools Condition Grant and Devolved Formula Capital 2023/24.
- 3) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £1.350 for the scheme at St Teresa's funded by High Needs Capital Grant.
- 4) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £1.583m for inclusion in the capital programme for the sporting betterment of local schools funded by capital receipts.
- 5) Note the distribution of the Capital Receipt to the proposed list of schools as shown in paragraph 4.7 following the approval by Council of the supplementary capital estimate detailed above.
- 6) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £2.941m for inclusion in the capital programme for the A59 Key Route Network grant from the City Region Combined Authority.
- 7) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.400m for Key Route Network – Maintenance grant from the City Region Combined Authority.
- 8) Approve a supplementary estimate of £0.340m for Active Travel Tranche 4, comprising £0.326m capital and £0.014 revenue grant from the City Region

# Agenda Item 10

Combined Authority.

- 9) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £1.500m for inclusion in the capital programme for the Crosby Town Centre scheme funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority.
- 10) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £3.42m for inclusion in the capital programme for the A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements scheme funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority, developer's contributions, and Council resources.
- 11) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £3.300m for inclusion in the capital programme for the Carriageway Resurfacing Programme funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority.

**Council** is recommended to:

- 1) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3.000m for Disabled Facilities Grants core programme in 2023/24 funded by the Better Care Fund.
- 2) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £1.350m for the scheme at St Teresa's funded by High Needs Capital Grant.
- 3) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £1.583m for inclusion in the capital programme for the sporting betterment of local schools funded by capital receipts.
- 4) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.240m for the enabling works at Crown Buildings funded by capital receipts.
- 5) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £2.941m for inclusion in the capital programme for the A59 Key Route Network grant from the City Region Combined Authority.
- 6) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £1.500m for inclusion in the capital programme for the Crosby Town Centre scheme funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority.
- 7) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3.42m for inclusion in the capital programme for the A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements scheme funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority, developer's contributions, and Council resources.
- 8) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3.300m for inclusion in the capital programme for the Carriageway Resurfacing Programme funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority.

## **Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

To approve updates to the capital programme and revenue budget so that they can be applied to schemes in the delivery of the Council's overall financial strategy.

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

N/A

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

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

None

## (B) Capital Costs

The estimated cost of Disabled Facilities Grants in 2023/24 is £3.000m funded by grant allocated to the Council from the Better Care Fund.

The scheme at St Teresa’s is estimated to cost £1.350m funded by the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation grant 2023/24 from the Department of Education.

The cost of sporting betterments funded by the capital receipt from the sale of St Wilfrid’s school site is £1.483m.

Enabling works at Crown Buildings will cost £0.240m funded by capital receipts.

The Crosby Town Centre scheme is estimated to cost £1.500m funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority.

The A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements scheme is estimated to cost £3.420m funded by £2.850m of grant from the City Region Combined Authority, £0.470m developer’s contributions, and £0.100m of capital receipts.

The Carriageway Resurfacing Programme is estimated to cost £3.300m funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority.

### Implications of the Proposals:

<p><b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None – the schemes outlined in this report will be funded from external grants and existing resources.</p>									
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b> None</p>									
<p><b>Equality Implications:</b>  There are no equality implications.</p>									
<p><b>Impact on Children and Young People: Yes</b>  The allocations of funding outlined in this report relating to Education Excellence will have a positive impact on Children and Young People through the provision of additional capacity / facilities at schools throughout the Borough.</p>									
<p><b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>  The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Have a positive impact</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Have a neutral impact</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Have a negative impact</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </table>		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	No
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	No								

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The allocations of funding outlined in this report may be spent on projects that will have a high climate change impact as they could relate to new build, rebuild, refurbishment, retrofit and demolition proposals. Environmental consideration will be taken into account when specific projects are designed and tendered – which will help to mitigate negative impacts.

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

Effective Financial Management and the development and delivery of sustainable annual budgets support each theme of the Councils Core Purpose.

<b><u>Protect the most vulnerable:</u></b> See comment above.
<b><u>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</u></b> See comment above.
<b><u>Commission, broker and provide core services:</u></b> See comment above.
<b><u>Place – leadership and influencer:</u></b> See comment above.
<b><u>Drivers of change and reform:</u></b> See comment above.
<b><u>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</u></b> See comment above.
<b><u>Greater income for social investment:</u></b> See comment above.
<b><u>Cleaner Greener:</u></b> See comment above.

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

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

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7262/23.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5462/23.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

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

N/A

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Reilly
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4106
Email Address:	paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report.

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 10

## 1. Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grants

- 1.1. Expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants has been increasing steadily since 2021/22 and will continue to do so with development of the Adult Social Care online Portal, development of extended warranties and revised means testing for applicants. The Council's core programme for Disabled Facilities Grants in 2023/24 will therefore be £3m, an increase on the target of £2m set in 2022/23's capital programme and £1.4m set in the 2021/22 programme. This will be fully funded from the block allocation of the Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant.
- 1.2. Cabinet is therefore requested to recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate for the core DFG programme of £3m in 2023/24.
- 1.3. Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care has delegated authority to approve budgets up to a value of £1m for the Wider Social Care Programme and Community Equipment Stores funded from the Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). The list of schemes for the wider programme for 2022/23 has been fully developed and will be presented to Cabinet Member for approval.

## 2. Schools Funding

- 2.1. Council on 3 March 2023 approved indicative grant allocations for capital grants to be applied to the Education Excellence capital programme 2023/24. Following publication of the provisional capital allocations for 2023/24 by the Department of Education in late March, a reduced amount funding will be received as set out in the table below.

Capital Grant	Block Allocation	
	Provisional Estimate 2023/24 £	Revised Estimate 2023/24 £
<b>Education Excellence</b>		
Devolved Formula Capital (direct school allocation)	363,104	338,520
Schools Condition Allocation	2,426,403	2,207,934

- 2.2. Cabinet is asked to note the revised estimates shown above. Authority has been delegated to Cabinet Member – Education to assign funding to individual capital schemes for the schools' block allocation reported above. The list of schemes for 2022/23 will be fully developed and will be presented to Cabinet Member for approval.

## 3. High Needs Programme – St Teresa's School

- 3.1. Cabinet Member – Education has previously agreed to the use of over £3.9m out of the £4.9m 2-year High Needs capital funding provided by the Government to support ongoing Special Educational Needs (SEN) demand pressures. The funding has been prioritised and used to make alterations to existing school accommodation and provide additional capacity in Sefton through the creation of



new in-house Specialist SEN places at Sefton establishments as part of the 2022-2024 High Needs capital programme.

- 3.2. A scheme within the High Needs capital programme to convert St Teresa's School to support a new KS1/KS2 Newfield Special School provision has been agreed previously for £0.5m. However, following full investigation of the buildings works, including electrical and mechanical and heating plant, to bring the building up to required specifications, it is now anticipated that the cost has increased to £1.35m which is above the Cabinet Member's delegated authority. Cabinet is therefore requested to recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £1.35m for the scheme at St Teresa's funded by the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation grant.

#### **4. Distribution of Capital Monies from St Wilfrid's**

- 4.1. The Council received Section 77 approval in June 2020 from the Department for Education to complete the disposal of the former St Wilfrid's site. The capital receipt received from the disposal was ring fenced for expenditure on sporting betterment to schools local to the St Wilfrid's site.
- 4.2. The disposal of the land to Bellway Homes was delayed until 2021 to afford the release of a restrictive land covenant. This generated a capital receipt of £1,775,769, which following a deduction of £192,554 to release the covenant, meant the sum of £1,583,215 was available to local schools.
- 4.3. As per DfE guidance those Primary schools within a ½ mile radius of the St Wilfrid's site and Secondary schools with a mile radius were contacted in November 2019 and February 2020 to established that they didn't require access to the site.
- 4.4. In July 2021 schools were informed of the current situation and made aware that following the commencement of the new academic year they would be asked to detail their proposed indoor projects / outdoor facility requirements.
- 4.5. In February 2022 a report was submitted to Cabinet Member – Education, which identified the deficit of playing field area, the estimated cost of both indoor/outdoor projects and the proposed proportion of the allocation for nine schools.
- 4.6. Since that report, several factors have changed, one school has converted to an Academy and individual school requirements have altered and estimated costs have increased. As a result of this, Head Teachers were contacted in February /March 2023 to discuss their current requirements and asked to seek indicative costs.
- 4.7. The following table provides details of the proposed changes in sporting facilities at each local school and the proposed support being allocated from the capital receipts received from the Council owned land at the former St Wilfrid's School site:

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School	Scheme	Proposed Contribution 2023 £
English Martyrs Catholic Primary	Junior Playground - physical development scheme / Infant Playground - resurfacing	100,000
St. Philip's CE Primary	Install MUGA, additional Junior & Infant equipment	136,850
Lander Road Primary	Provision of changing facility, development of MUGA	150,890
St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary	Sand & seal floor, groundworks to yard, installation of Astro turf, installation of new hard standing	112,731
St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary	Resurface/drainage to playground	90,000
King's Leadership Academy	Installation of Astro turf facility	281,083
Litherland High School	Upgrade existing facilities, repurpose the hardstanding play space into sporting provision	400,000
Salesian Academy of St. John Bosco	Installation of full size 3G football facility	191,650
Rowan Park	Upgrade outside equipment, including sensory play	20,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,483,204</b>

- 4.8. A further report will be provided in the autumn term for the Cabinet Member to approve following consultations with individual schools regarding the use of the remaining £0.100m still available to support improvements to, or the creation of, new sporting facilities in local schools.

## 5. Crown Buildings and the Enterprise Arcade Project

- 5.1. The Enterprise Arcade is part of the Southport Town Investment Plan and has been identified as one of the projects to be delivered using part of the Towns Deal funding, with £1.500m being earmarked for this project. Refurbishment costs of £1.315m were estimated at the outline business case stage along with fees and other projects costs in the region of £0.185m.
- 5.2. Enabling works that fall outside of the Town Deal funded contract have now been identified in the region of £0.240m. The enabling works are required to maintain the envelope of the building and the associated realignment of shared services and ICT infrastructure with the adjacent Atkinson building. An update on the project was reported to Cabinet on 25 May 2023 and a recommendation was made to Council to approve a supplementary capital estimate for the enabling works at Crown Buildings of £0.240m funded by capital receipts.

## 6. Highways Programme

- 6.1. Council on 3 March 2023 approved an indicative grant allocation for the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) to be included in the Highways capital programme 2023/24. Following this approval, the City Region Combined Authority have since confirmed further allocations of capital and revenue grant as outlined in the table below.

Grant Allocation	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Projects to be funded
A59 Key Route Network	1,139,500	1,479,500	322,000	A59 Northway, pedestrian/cycle improvements
Key Route Network – Maintenance	400,000	-	-	Allocation for resurfacing the Key Route Network
Active Travel Tranche 4 (capital)	326,186	-	-	Development of future projects within Southport, along the A565, Formby Bypass and in Crosby.
Active Travel Tranche 4 (revenue)	13,814	-	-	(as above)

- 6.2. Cabinet is requested to approve supplementary estimates for the Key Route Network – Maintenance and Active Travel allocations and recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate for the A59 Key Route Network allocation for inclusion in the capital programme.
- 6.3. Cabinet Member – Locality Services has delegated authority to approve schemes up to a value of £1m funded from the block allocations of grant approved by Cabinet and Council. A full list of Highways schemes for 2023/24 will be developed and presented to Cabinet Member for approval. The following schemes are above Cabinet Member’s delegated limit and are presented for approval by Council following recommendation from Cabinet:

### Crosby Town Centre

- 6.4. A £1.50m project will be completed funded through the 2023/24 CRSTS settlement for the introduction of new signal-controlled junction at Coronation Road/ Islington together with improved pedestrian crossing facilities and associated Public Realm improvements.

### A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements

- 6.5. A £3.42m project funded through £1.20m of Key Route Network funding, £0.25m DfT Signals Fund, £1.40m Active Travel Funds, £0.47m of Developer Contributions (to be claimed pending completion of the design phase) and £0.10m of Council resources (capital receipts), to deliver a new signal-controlled junction at the A59/Kenyons Lane with full pedestrian/cycle facilities, along with 2.6km of unidirectional cycle lanes alongside the A59 between Dodds Lane and the borough boundary.

# Agenda Item 10

## Carriageway Resurfacing Programme

- 6.6. The programme of carriageway resurfacing across the borough in 2023/24 will be £3.3m funded by the 2023/24 CRSTS settlement.

# Agenda Item 11

<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 July 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Adult Social Care Children's Social Care Communities and Housing Education Health and Wellbeing Locality Services Planning and Building Control Regeneration and Skills Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To present formally the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2022/23.

## Recommendation:

That the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees introduce their Annual Reports for 2022/23.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with the Local Government Act 2000 and the formal reporting mechanism to Council.

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

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report needs to be submitted to Council.

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**(A) Revenue Costs** – see above

# Agenda Item 11

**(B) Capital Costs** – see above

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
None	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
None	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>	
There are no equality implications	
<b>Impact on Children and Young People: No</b>	
There are no direct children and young people implications arising from this report. Any children and young people implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Annual Report will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members during the previous year; or will be contained in future reports during the forthcoming year.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Neutral
Have a neutral impact	Neutral
Have a negative impact	Neutral
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 matters referred to in the Annual Report would have been contained in reports when they were presented to Members during the previous year; or will be contained in future reports during the forthcoming year.	

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly applicable to this report
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

This report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any reports referred to in the Annual Report have been subject to the LD and FD process when they were originally submitted to Committee. Likewise, any reports referred to in the "Year Ahead" section of the Annual Report will be subject to the LD and FD process prior to their submission to Committee during the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Fraser, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2068
Email Address:	paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

### Appendices:

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### Introduction/Background

#### 1. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

- 1.1 Each year the Council receives the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Attached as an Appendix to the report is the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022/23.
- 1.3 The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been requested to introduce their Annual Reports for 2022/23.

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# Overview & Scrutiny



## SEFTON COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



# Overview & Scrutiny



**'Valuing  
Improvement'**

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

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



**Councillor Christine Howard**

*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board  
2022/23*

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2022/23.

Communication has always been a key consideration for the Management Board and the Board has previously agreed that Cabinet Member reports would be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee to contribute towards the relationship between the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Members.

Members have welcomed the Cabinet Member update reports and attendance of relevant Cabinet Members at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings; and this process will remain in place during 2023/24.

The Management Board met four times during 2022/23 and considered the following issues:

- Terms of Reference for the Management Board
- Executive / Scrutiny Protocol
- Overview and Scrutiny Member Training Event - "Scrutiny Essentials & Questioning Skills"
- Health and Care Act
- Centre for Governance and Scrutiny – Newsletters
- Updates on Working Groups
- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Council
- 2021/22 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies
- Liverpool City Region Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Scrutiny Link - Councillor Howard
- Strategic Scrutiny in Practice Network
- Member Development Survey
- Scrutiny of Children's Services

More detailed information about some of the issues considered can be found below.



# Agenda Item 11

## Executive/Scrutiny Protocol

As Members may be aware from last year's Annual Report, the Management Board responded to a request from the Cabinet to develop an Executive/Scrutiny protocol for use in Sefton.

The Management Board was happy to undertake this task as the Annual Survey of the Centre for Public Scrutiny found that the presence of an Executive/Scrutiny protocol made a difference to the quality of the scrutiny/executive relationship; and it was also considered that the protocol could be utilised as a training tool, particularly for new Members.

An [Executive/Scrutiny Protocol](#) was subsequently developed and was approved by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet.

## Centre for Governance and Scrutiny

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) is a national centre of expertise on governance and scrutiny. The Management Board considered a number of newsletters from CfGS providing information on the following topics:

- Scrutiny Improvement Reviews
- Training and Development Opportunities: Induction and Support for New Members
- Levelling up and Regeneration Bill
- Health and Social Care Act 2022
- Fire and Rescue Governance Offer Launched
- Upcoming CfGS Publications
- CEO update from Ed Hammond
- Call out for case studies
- Blog on the cost of living
- New publication: Learning from the pandemic
- Blog: How to write effective survey and research questions
- Blog: Into the horizon
- Call-in roundtable for members
- 'A spotlight on scrutiny' Ed's recent article in the Municipal Journal
- Levelling up
- Recent publications
- Blogs: debriefing from the pandemic, reviewing council constitutions, carrying out electoral reviews and a reminder of our "governance risk and resilience framework"
- Forthcoming events: call-in, and support for new scrutiny officers
- Ongoing work on health scrutiny
- A Chief Exec update from Ed Hammond.



- Sign up for our webinar with Guy Clifton, from Grant Thornton, about financial scrutiny.
- Our latest blog about scrutiny and the cost of living crisis.
- Ed's article in Local Government Lawyer about why it is important for councils to review their constitutions.
- The LGA hosting a webinar on devolution, 'Making a success of governance, accountability, and scrutiny'
- Health and Care Act: discussion paper
- Council size changes: learning lessons from the submissions and implementation – publication as a result of research commissioned by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) Conference.
- Scrutiny and Work Programming Publication.
- Health Scrutiny Guidance Roundtable, in collaboration with DHSC.
- Financial Scrutiny Webinar.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion blog.
- Statutorily the same? – the CfGS had written a blog which reflects upon the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny, published in 2019.
- Look after yourselves people - blog explores how colleagues within Scrutiny are exposed to particular stresses.
- Improving Scrutiny: Working with our members - The team at Essex County Council have written a blog which looks at reviewing the scrutiny function.
- Evaluating Innovation and Risk – article which examines the value of scrutinising councils' financial innovation and commercial opportunities.
- Update from Interim CEO, Ed Hammond (including info on the Annual Conference 2023)
- Briefing note from the recent Financial Scrutiny Webinar, in collaboration with Guy Clifton (from the auditor, Grant Thornton).
- Article in the Local Government Chronicle 'Councils should use electoral reviews to examine councillors' role', detailing the work undertaken alongside the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- Cost-of-Living information digest from Researcher, Megan Ingle.
- New publication - 'A Scrutineers Guide'.
- Blog from guest practitioner, Gennie Holmes (Scrutiny Co-Ordinator, Coventry City Council) 'One Coventry Response to Supporting Our Communities with the Cost-of-Living Crisis – Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee'.
- Blog from guest practitioner, Charlotte Cameron, Democratic Services Officer, Peterborough City Council, 'Improving Scrutiny: From the perspective of a new Democratic Services Officer'.
- Case Study from Cllr Maxine Clark (Chair of the Children and Family Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at Stoke-on-Trent City Council) on Scrutiny and Children's Services.
- Case Study from Knowsley Council's Scrutiny Team on how Scrutiny is engaging with the Cost-of-Living crisis.



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- Article from The MJ on the recent governance review at Southampton City Council.
- Details on Notwestminister, of which CfG&S would be one of the sponsors.
- CfGS website update, which now had a page that outlines all the details of the Regional Scrutiny Networks in England.
- the Annual Conference 2023: Governance and scrutiny fit for the future'.
- The Annual Survey; and a link to the survey was attached to the update
- The latest Chief Executive update from Ed Hammond.
- 2023 marking the 20th Anniversary of CfGS! And a piece written by the Chief Executive 'The past and future of CfGS' outlining plans and how CfGS wanted to hear from local authorities
- BLOG: 'Time to think about member induction!
- Two new blogs from CfGS Associates Mark Egan and Kieran Timmins, 'Tackling the big stuff- tips for helping scrutiny make a meaningful contribution to the most complex political debates' and 'Managing Finances in a Crazy World'.

The CfGS annual survey provided an opportunity to see how the Scrutiny world was functioning; and any responses to the survey would help CfGS to understand the pressures being faced by the sector and inform their conversations with stakeholders and to shape the CfGS offer to scrutiny practitioners. Accordingly, the Management Board agreed that the link to the CfGS Annual Survey be circulated to all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members and Substitute Members to provide them with an opportunity to express their views.

## **North-West Employers' Network Events**

The Management Board was kept abreast of business conducted at North-West Employers' Network Events, including the Strategic Scrutiny in Practice Network, and updates were provided on the following matters:

- key findings from the 21/22 annual scrutiny survey
- the launch of the Regional Networks page on the CfGS website
- Contingency Planning through the scrutiny lens
- Scrutiny and budgets
- Rogue landlords
- Network stocktake – end of year reflections and forward plan

Email addresses of the Management Board Members have been shared with the North-West Employers' organisation so that they can be invited to digital events.

## **Update on Working Groups/Informal Meetings**

The Management Board received updates at each meeting on the current position of on-going Working Groups established by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees.



Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2022/23 also established a new way of undertaking short reviews of services at informal meetings of the Committees. The new proposal obviated the need to establish Working Groups as short reviews of services could be undertaken by all Members at the informal meetings.

Details of Working Groups and informal meetings can be found in the individual Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Reports contained within this document.

## **Preparations for Municipal Year 2023/24**

The Management Board kept an overview of the preparations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the Municipal Year 2023/24; particularly the production of Work Programmes and the operation of Working Groups/informal meetings as referred to above. Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to hold physical meetings in 2023/24 in accordance with Government advice.

## **Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCA O&S)**

I was appointed as Sefton's Scrutiny Link to the LCRCA O&S for 2022/23 and I provided updates on the work of the LCRCA O&S to each Management Board meeting. Sefton's other representatives on the LCRCA O&S were Councillors Hansen and Waterfield. Councillor Hansen was subsequently replaced on the Committee by Councillor O'Brien. The Chair of the Committee cannot be from the majority group and Councillor Steve Radford, a serving Liverpool City Councillor representing the Liberal Party and Independent Group, was Chair of the Committee during 2022/23.

The Committee continues to have problems being quorate. The quorum for meetings of the LCRCA O&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.

## **Overview and Scrutiny Training**

A training event for Overview and Scrutiny Members, "Scrutiny Essentials and Questioning Skills" was held on 26 May 2022 and attended by 20 Members. The event was facilitated by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and presented by Lisa Smart, an elected Member of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. Documentation associated with the event has been circulated to all Overview and Scrutiny Members and Substitute Members.

The Management Board considered problems experienced in Children's Social Care which culminated in discussions being held with the Local Government Association (LGA) on the provision of a programme of support for Members of the Council on Overview and Scrutiny issues. The Management Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) approved that the following support be provided by the LGA:



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- Dedicated support for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)
- Mentor Support for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)
- All Member Corporate Parenting Briefing
- Support for Members of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- Support for all Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs

On 14 March 2023 a dedicated training event, facilitated by LGA representatives, Su Turner, Cllr Victoria Cusworth, and Linda Clegg was held and attended by 7 Committee Members, 2 Substitute Members and 2 Co-opted Members.

The purpose of the session was to support the Committee to identify strengths and areas for development using an established LGA self-assessment tool. From this, dedicated support and resources will be used in a tailored way, to the needs of the Committee helping to enhance the ability and confidence of the Committee, around the following themes:

- Knowledge of Children's Services
- The role of children's scrutiny
- Work programming and planning
- Demonstrating value and influence
- Engagement and working with others
- Creating a strong organisational culture

Arising from the self-assessment it was agreed by attendees that Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Members, Substitutes and Co-opted Members should receive the full programme of development on the six themes in 2023-2024. Accordingly, in the first instance three sessions will be provided in 2023 commencing with the first session being held on 30 May 2023.

## **The Year Ahead**

Given the scale of the financial and service challenges facing the Council, the year ahead will be extremely busy for the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Management Board. A key role of Members will be to scrutinise such challenges, including how they impact on the Council's statutory requirement to remain financially sustainable, provide a wide range of services and the desire to deliver Sefton's 2030 Vision and Core Purpose.

Further updates on the work of the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny are anticipated including the full results of the 2022 Annual Survey.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers of the Democratic Services Team for all their hard work during the year; and to thank the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and my colleagues serving on the Sefton's Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their on-going input into the work of the Management Board.

**Councillor Christine Howard**  
**July 2023**



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During 2022/23 the following Members served on the Committees indicated-

## Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

Councillor Howard (Chair)  
Councillor Dowd (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Bradshaw  
Councillor June Burns  
Councillor Byrom  
Councillor Myers  
Councillor Spencer  
Councillor Thomas

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)

Chair: Cllr. Thomas  
Vice-Chair: Cllr. Myers  
Cllr. Brodie-Browne  
Cllr. Brough  
Cllr. Cluskey  
Cllr. Halsall  
Cllr. J. J. Kelly  
Cllr. Killen  
Cllr. Lunn-Bates  
Cllr. Pugh

Mrs. D. Blair, Healthwatch Representative  
Mr. B. Clark, Healthwatch Representative



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

Chair: Cllr. J. Burns  
Vice-Chair: Cllr. Spencer  
Cllr. D. Burns  
Cllr. Carlin  
Cllr. Evans (subsequently replaced by Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson)  
Cllr. Hardman  
Cllr. C. Maher (subsequently replaced by Cllr. McKee)  
Cllr. Murphy  
Cllr. Prendergast  
Cllr. Wilson

Mr. M. Byrne, Healthwatch Representative  
Ms. K. Christie, Healthwatch Representative  
Mrs. S. Cain, Advisory Member  
Mr. S. Harrison, Church Diocesan Representative  
Father D. Seddon, Church Archdiocesan Representative  
Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative  
(subsequently replaced by Ms. C. Swainbank)  
Ms. C. McDonough, Parent Governor Representative

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

Councillor Dowd (Chair)  
Councillor Howard (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Corcoran  
Councillor Hansen  
Councillor Chris Maher  
Councillor Myers  
Councillor Catie Page  
Former Councillor Sathiy (subsequently replaced by Councillor Dodd)  
Councillor Sir Ron Watson  
Councillor Webster

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## Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)

Councillor Bradshaw (Chair)  
Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)  
Former Councillor Bennett  
Former Councillor Brennan (subsequently replaced by Councillor McGinnity)  
Councillor Carlin  
Councillor D'Albuquerque  
Councillor Grace  
Councillor Killen  
Councillor Robinson  
Councillor Shaw



## Adult Social Care and Health



**Councillor Carla Thomas**  
*Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee*  
**(Adult Social Care and Health)**

**It is my pleasure to introduce the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health).**

### **Introduction**

This is my second Annual Report as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health). 2022/23 saw a return to more “normal” ways of working as we moved away from remote meetings towards traditional physical meetings.

I believe that the Committee has built on the existing good working relationships it has with many of our health partners. The trust that has been established has meant that we are recognised in our role of “critical friend”; we are listened to and have been able to have a positive influence on the development of health and adult social care services within Sefton. This Annual Report is presented to the Council and a wider audience beyond in the hope that the information it contains will contribute to the debate and discussion about the provision of health and adult social care services for Sefton residents and their development, improvement and access.

The Committee held five formal scheduled meetings during 2022/23 and details of agendas/Minutes of meetings held during can be obtained using the following link: [Sefton Home](#) Two informal meetings of Members of the Committee also took place, one remotely and one in person. Details of all the items considered at meetings are set out in the paragraphs below.

### **Draft Quality Accounts**

Early in the Municipal Year my Vice-Chair and I met with the Healthwatch representatives on the Committee to consider the draft Quality Accounts from Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LUFT) and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust. Draft Quality Accounts are reports published annually about the quality of services offered by NHS healthcare providers. They provide a way of illustrating improvements in the services they deliver to local communities and stakeholders. There is also an opportunity for local Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Healthwatch organisations to comment on the draft and we met



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remotely to discuss the documents submitted by the two Trusts and to provide our feedback on them.

## **NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton)**

The merger of Clinical Commissioning Groups across Cheshire and Merseyside and the Integrated Care System means that NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton) is now responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services for the local area. During 2022/23 various representatives reported to the Committee on a range of activities designed to promote health and wellbeing amongst residents. I believe that excellent relationships exist between Committee Members and officers of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton), particularly Deborah Butcher in her Director of Place for Sefton capacity, who has attended virtually every Committee meeting and has always been willing to take up issues raised by Members and explain aspects of the services provided.

Throughout 2022/23 the Committee received regular update reports from that NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton) and the updates allow Members to raise questions and scrutinise aspects of the services provided.

Throughout the year NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton) has also submitted statistics to the Committee on Health Provider Performance which has enabled us to scrutinise the key performance areas of our local NHS Hospital Trusts, including the Friends and Family Test and A&E monitoring for both Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. These statistics have been useful, particularly in scrutinising services during winter pressures and we also receive information on ambulance performance. I look forward to receiving regular updates on the performance of our local NHS providers.

We also received separate reports from NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton) on the following matters set out in the paragraphs below.

## **Sefton Partnership Development Update**

The Committee received a report that updated on the on the establishment of a Sefton Partnership. This was as a result of the Royal assent given to the Health and Care Act 2022 in April of this year. The Act introduces significant reforms to the organisation and delivery of health and care services in England. The Committee was requested to receive the report and to engage on further work on the requirements within the policy document.

## **National GP Access Survey**

The Committee considered the report of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton) that presented the findings of the GP General Access engagement that had been carried out to gather feedback from residents on their GP practice and the findings were outlined within the report. Committee Members raised a range of queries/matters and agreed to note the report.



I would like to place on record my thanks to Deborah Butcher, in her capacity as Director of Place for Sefton, and her staff, for their input into the work of the Committee and their attendance at Committee meetings.

## **NHS Trusts / Partners**

Throughout 2022/23 the Committee has received reports and presentations on work and activities undertaken by certain NHS organisations. Details of attendance at meetings by senior NHS representatives are set out within the following paragraphs and this attendance has enabled Committee Members to scrutinise NHS performance in the areas concerned.

### **Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust - Update**

The Committee received a presentation from Dr. Clare Morgan, Director of Strategy, Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, on recent developments at the Trust. Committee Members raised a range of queries/matters.

It was agreed that:

- (1) the update on developments at Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust be noted and Dr. Morgan be thanked for her attendance; and
- (2) Dr. Morgan be requested to provide further information on transport links between the hospital sites to the Senior Democratic Services Officer, for circulation to Members of the Committee.

### **Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust**

Anne-Marie Stretch, Managing Director, Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, attended to give a presentation that outlined information on services provided, and pressures faced, by the Trust, together with progress on the Shaping Care Together programme. Committee Members raised a range of queries/matters.

It was agreed that:

- (1) Anne-Marie Stretch, Managing Director, be thanked for her attendance;
- (2) the presentation be noted; and
- (3) the Managing Director be requested to provide additional information on stroke service provision and clinical cover provided at Southport Hospital, in due course.

### **Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust - Next Steps in Proposed Partnership**

Anne-Marie Stretch, Managing Director, Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, and Ann Marr, Chief Executive at Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS



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Trust and St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust, attended the meeting and made a presentation that updated on the next steps in the proposed partnership between Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust. The Committee raised a range of queries/matters.

It was agreed that the information provided on the next steps in the proposed partnership between Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust, be noted.

## **Paediatric Radiotherapy Services**

Andrea Doherty, Head of North West Women and Children's Transformation, North West Acute Strategy & Transformation (Specialised Commissioning), NHS England, attended the meeting to present a report on the Proposed Cheshire & Merseyside Paediatric Radiotherapy Service Transfer. Ms. Doherty also gave a presentation that outlined the following:

- Radiotherapy
- Background Information and Current Service Challenges
- Planned Future Service Arrangements
- Limiting the potential impact for patients and their families

Members of the Committee raised a range of queries/matters. It was agreed that:

- (1) Andrea Doherty be thanked for her attendance;
- (2) the report and presentation be noted and it be agreed that the proposals for Paediatric Radiotherapy Services for Cheshire and Merseyside do not represent a substantial variation and that the approach taken to engage with patients to inform the proposal is commensurate with the scale of the proposed change; and
- (3) NHS England be requested to provide further feedback on the impact of travel in due course, once the clinical pathway has been completed.

## **Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance**

The Committee considered the report of the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance that provided an overview of the activities of Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance in Sefton and was submitted for information and discussion. The report highlighted the work of the Alliance with particular reference to improving cancer outcomes for the population of Sefton.

Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance was an NHS organisation that brought healthcare providers, commissioners, patients, cancer research institutions and voluntary and charitable sector partners together to improve cancer outcomes for the local population.

The Alliance was responsible for:





- Delivering the NHS Long Term Plan objectives for cancer, including the ambition that, by 2028, 75% of cancers would be diagnosed at stages 1 and 2.
- Reducing unwarranted variation in care, access, patient experience and outcomes.
- Improving performance against cancer waiting times standards.
- Supporting innovation and safeguarding the long-term sustainability of cancer services.

The Alliance was funded by, and accountable to, the national cancer programme within NHS England and the Alliance was hosted by The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust.

Jon Hayes, Managing Director, Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance, attended the meeting to present information and to respond to any questions or issues raised by Members of the Committee.

Members of the Committee raised a range of queries/matters. It was agreed that:

- (1) the report and the information provided be noted; and
- (2) a further update on the activities of Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance in Sefton be provided to the Committee in 6 to 9 months' time.

## **Safeguarding Update**

Michelle Creed, the independent Chair and Joan Coupe, Board Business Manager, of the Sefton Adult Safeguarding Board (SSAPB), attended the meeting to give a presentation on the work of the Board. Members of the Committee raised a range of queries/matters.

It was agreed that the presentation and information provided be noted.

## **Liverpool Clinical Services Review - Stakeholder Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer submitting a stakeholder update that provided information on the Liverpool Clinical Services Review commissioned by NHS England that had identified recommendations for greater collaboration between Liverpool's acute and specialised hospital trusts. The three priorities identified to be taken forward were:

- 1) Solving the clinical sustainability challenges affecting women's health in Liverpool.
- 2) Improving outcomes and access to emergency care, making optimal use of existing co-adjacencies at the Aintree, Broadgreen and Royal Liverpool Hospital sites.
- 3) Significant opportunities to achieve economies of scale in corporate services.

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Committee Members raised a range of queries/matters. It was agreed that:

- (1) the report and the stakeholder briefing be noted; and
  - (2) the Committee's concerns be noted about the review and therefore further clarifications on the proposals contained in the report be submitted to the first meeting of the Committee in the new Municipal Year 2023/24.
- NHS representatives that have attended Committee meetings during 2022/23.

## Adult Social Care

During the year, the Committee received a range of reports on various aspects of the Council's Adult Social Care function and details are set out within the paragraphs below.

## Safeguarding Update

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health that sought to provide an update on current safeguarding activity across the Sefton Borough and to provide assurance on the actions being taken to mitigate risk and investigate safeguarding concerns. The report provided a particular focus on safeguarding across the care home market.

The report set out safeguarding activity during the last twelve months; timeliness and making safeguarding personal; types of abuse and location; care homes and safeguarding; the role of the quality assurance team; additional support to care providers; and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

The report also requested the Committee to consider:

- whether a further focused report on safeguarding people with care and support needs should be presented to the next Committee; and
- whether it would wish to receive a more detailed update on the work of the Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board and specifically the role of the subgroups.

Committee Members raised a range of queries/matters. It was agreed that:

- (1) the contents of the report be received and noted; and
- (2) a further report on safeguarding people with care and support needs be presented to the next Committee meeting, to include a more detailed update on the work of the Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board and specifically the role of the subgroups.

## Sefton New Directions



The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health / Place Director the aim of which was to allow Members to carry out effective scrutiny of the Council company Sefton New Directions to provide a level of assurance that both the Council's interests and the services or products provided by the company to our residents, were safe and well managed and offered good value for money.

The report provided information on the aims of the Sefton New Directions Annual Report; expected outcomes; the Council's objectives for the company; the Council's governance arrangements including the governance arrangements in place for the company in 2021/22; the key objectives for the Company as per the Business Plan in 2021/22; a review of performance for 2021/22; key areas of risk during the year; evaluation of performance in 2021/22 compared to Council objectives for setting up the company and the approved Business Plan for the year; and the Delivery and Improvement Plans for 2022/23.

The Committee was requested to:

- consider the content of the report in respect of Sefton New Directions;
- provide feedback on key issues arising from the report and to advise on further information that would support the scrutiny review in future years;
- provide feedback on current performance (operational and financial) and how this supported the Council's strategic aims and ambitions and aligned with the objectives and reasons for setting up the companies; and
- seek clarification or additional information from officers in order to carry out the scrutiny function.

It was agreed that the report on Sefton New Directions 2021/22 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies be noted.

## **Adult Social Care Performance Update**

The Committee considered the report submitted by the Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health that provided an update on progress within Adult Social Care against key performance metrics.

The report set out the background to the matter, together with information on Key Performance Updates; Contacts and Activity; Assessments and Reviews; Support Services; Safeguarding; and the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF), including Employment, Housing, and Self-directed support and direct payments.

It was agreed that the contents of the report and assurances on the actions being taken in any area requiring increased focus, be noted.

## **Winter Plan**



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A report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health provided an overview of the activity to plan additional services and prepare for Winter 2022/23 and the expected increased demand and challenge to service delivery this may bring. The report indicated that there had been a delay in allocating additional monies to Health and Social Care which had led to a delay in developing new services and bolstering existing ones. Members raised a range of queries/matters.

It was agreed that the information contained within the report be received and noted.

## **Adult Social Care Local Government Association Peer Review**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health that presented the findings of the recent Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review into Adult Social Care in Sefton. For assurance, it also provided details of the actions being taken following the review.

The report set out the background to the matter, indicating that the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, with the approval from the relevant Cabinet Member and Chief Executive, invited the LGA to complete a review of the service ahead of the arrival of the Care Quality Commission's assurance inspections which could be as early as 2023. The Peer Review was conducted in July 2022 by colleagues from the LGA, Northwest Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (NW ADASS) with senior officers from other participating local authorities. The Peer Review team was led by the Director of Adult Social Services from Leeds City Council and consisted of colleagues from Lancashire, Leeds, Tameside, Waltham Forest, and Wigan Councils. Representatives from the LGA also formed part of the challenge team. The Peer Review mirrored the scope of the new assurance approach which would be implemented by the Care Quality Commission into all Councils with Adult Social Care responsibilities. Following the review, a detailed improvement plan had been developed to address the areas identified for strengthening by the Peer Review Team and this was detailed within Appendix 1 of the report. It was proposed that progress against the plan should be provided to Committee on a regular basis, with ongoing monitoring being undertaken by the Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care and the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health. Committee Members raised a range of queries/matters.

It was agreed that:

- (1) the content of the report and the full LGA Peer Review be noted;
- (2) the improvement plan and feedback provided be noted;
- (3) the proposal for on-going monitoring of the plan through this Committee, the Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care and the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health, be confirmed; and
- (4) updates to the Committee on progress within the improvement plan, to enable robust assurance on progress, be provided as and when deemed necessary.



## **Update on Implementation of Mental Health Services Working Group Recommendations**

The Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health submitted a report that presented the progress on implementation of the findings and implementation of the recommendations of the former Mental Health Services Working Group. The findings and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny are being taken forward as part of the Sefton Mental Health Programme Task and Finish Group which consists of key representatives from Sefton Council, Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups, Mersey Care NHS Foundation, Sefton CVS and the wider Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector. The report set out progress updates against each of the recommendations made by the Working Group.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

Adult Social Care faces a range of challenges, not least in meeting demand and I am very grateful to Deborah Butcher in her capacity as Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health, and her Teams for their input and their attendance at Committee meetings. I hope the Committee will retain its focus on Adult Social Care in the forthcoming year and I look forward to receiving Deborah's reports in the future.

## **Public Health**

Public Health became an extremely important function throughout the covid pandemic and during 2022/23 the Committee received reports on a range of aspects of the Council's Public Health function. Details are set out within the paragraphs below.

## **Public Health Outcomes Framework**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health that provided an update on the Public Health Outcomes Framework and a briefing previously received by the Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing was attached to the report. Committee Members raised a range of queries/matters.

The Committee agreed that the report be received.

## **Cost Of Living Crisis**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health that sought to provide an update on current Cost of Living interventions across Sefton and assurance on the actions being taken to mitigate risks to the health and wellbeing of residents. Members of the Committee raised a range of queries/matters.

It was agreed that:

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



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- (2) the Director of Public Health and the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and the Sefton Place Director, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, be requested to provide additional information to the Senior Democratic Services Officer for circulation to Members of the Committee on:
- increases to costs associated with swimming pools and other high maintenance leisure facilities;
  - monitoring of pay and pensions associated with the care sector;
  - payment of any employer contributions when contracts are commissioned;
  - increases in respiratory conditions, as a result of inadequate housing conditions; and
  - how venues for Warm Spaces are communicated to the wider public.

I am very grateful to Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health, and her Team for keeping the Committee informed of Public Health developments during the year.

## Other Items

In addition to Adult Social Care and Public Health, reports were received from other areas of the Council during 2022/23 and details are set out in the paragraphs below.

## Domestic Abuse Update

During the year we received a report by the Head of Communities updating on Sefton's strategic approach to tackling domestic abuse, including an overview of the Domestic Abuse Act and work of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to date. The report set out the background to the matter; an overview of the Domestic Abuse Act; local authority statutory duties within the Act; the roles and responsibilities of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board; links to other national/statutory guidance; and cross-partnership collaboration. The Terms of Reference for the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board were attached to the report. Committee Members raised a range of queries/matters.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

## Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (Hyper-Acute Stroke Services)

Work on a joint review of the proposal for a Comprehensive Stroke Centre to be established to serve the populations of Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and West Lancashire had commenced prior to 2022/23 and the Committee was kept informed of developments. Councillor Brodie-Browne and I represented Sefton Council on the Joint Health Committee and the proposals were agreed. At the Sefton level the Committee continues to keep a watching brief on the delivery of stroke services, with a particular brief for services for residents in the north of the Borough.



## **Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – Liverpool University Hospitals University Foundation Trust (LUFT)**

In January 2022, the Committee had held a Special Meeting to consider the proposed integration of a number of Liverpool University Hospitals clinical services, as follows:

- General surgery
- Vascular services
- Urology services
- Nephrology services
- Breast services

The Committee agreed that the each of the proposals detailed in the report constituted a substantial development / variation in services delivered by Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, for Sefton residents. Knowsley, Liverpool, and Sefton Councils formed a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and were asked to review the process undertaken by the NHS in developing these proposals and the public consultation. Councillors Tony Brough, Greg Myers and I represented Sefton and the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee agreed to the proposals in respect of the services.

Sefton's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) was kept informed of developments regarding the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

### **Informal Meetings of Committee Members**

Two informal meetings of Members of the Committee took place during 2022/23 and details of items considered at meetings are set out in the paragraphs below.

### **Primary Care**

During the summer months, concerns were raised by Ward Members on the temporary closures of Crosby Village Surgery, Litherland Practice and Netherton Practice. The Vice-Chair and I, Councillor Myers, organised an informal briefing for Ward Members which was delivered by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, Sefton (formerly the CCGs).

In September 2022 we held a remote informal meeting of Committee Members to receive information on PC24 practices and temporary closures of premises in South Sefton. This matter had caused some concerns for Ward Members and local residents alike, and we were able to gather information concerning the reasons for the temporary closures, together with plans in place to allow the re-opening of the practices concerned.

### **Public Health Outcomes & Performance and Framework Indicators**

During November 2022 we held an in-person workshop style session for Committee Members which allowed a “deep-dive” on the Public Health Outcomes Framework





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and we were particularly concerned about the growing trend in vaping amongst young people, together with vaping products being marketed towards this group. As a result of the workshop, the following recommendations were subsequently submitted and agreed by the Committee:

- (1) the Public Health Director be requested to submit the Public Health Outcomes Framework to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) on a six-monthly basis, for information; and
- (2) the Public Health Director be requested to investigate the possibility of obtaining information on sales of vaping products, with a view to identifying possible trends.

I look forward to receiving regular reports from the Director of Public Health on the Public Health Outcomes Framework during 2023/24.

## Site Visits

In the past Committee Members have occasionally been provided with opportunities to visit NHS Trust premises to view the provision of services and such visits allow Members to ask questions and make observations. Unfortunately, this practice ceased during the pandemic and I hope that opportunities will arise for Committee Members to resume physical visits during 2023/24.

## Pre-Scrutiny and the Key Decision Forward Plan

As ever, the Key Decision Forward Plan provided the Committee with an opportunity to pre-scrutinise Key Decision items from the Council's Forward Plans, as each of the latest Forward Plans are submitted to the Committee as part of its Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by allowing Overview and Scrutiny Committees to examine issues beforehand and make recommendations prior to a determination being made by the Executive.

## Cabinet Member Reports

The regular attendance at Committee meetings of both Councillor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care, and Councillor Ian Moncur, Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing, has been very much appreciated by Members of the Committee. Throughout the year all the relevant Cabinet Member Update Reports have been included on agendas and I feel that it is particularly important to include regular updates on major areas of the Council's activities, particularly as budgets have become increasingly under pressure. The Cabinet Member Update Reports have included a wealth of valuable information on aspects of the services and the Cabinet Members' attendance, together with the presence of senior officers from both the Council's Adult Social Care and Public Health service areas, has been very useful, providing Members with an opportunity to raise question and scrutinise developments within those Council Portfolio areas. I hope that scrutiny of those areas will continue into the next Municipal Year.





## Sefton Healthwatch

In 2014/15 the Committee was fortunate in securing the services of two Advisory Members from Healthwatch Sefton who bring additional experience and expertise to the table, and this good practice has continued into 2022/23.

My Vice-Chair and I have met informally with the Healthwatch representatives on occasions and these informal meetings have proved to be very useful, enabling us to discuss a wide range of issues, to exchange information, and to strengthen the excellent working relationship between Healthwatch Sefton and the Committee.

I am very grateful to both our Healthwatch co-opted Members for their valuable input into the work of the Committee and their attendance at Committee meetings. We have been very fortunate in securing the services of the Healthwatch Manager, Diane Blair, as a co-opted Member on the Committee, together with Brian Clark, our other Healthwatch co-opted member and I look forward to continuing to work with both Diane and Brian on the Committee. I also appreciate receiving the Healthwatch Sefton update that is submitted to each meeting of the Committee.

## Contributions Made During 2022/23

The attendance of representatives of organisations and partners, including senior officers of NHS Trusts, has been much appreciated and I would like to thank all our partners for their openness and their responses to our requests and suggestions.

I am grateful to all the Members of the Committee for their support and for the enthusiastic way that they have contributed to our work. I would specifically like to thank my Vice-Chair during 2022/23, Councillor Greg Myers, for his help and assistance with the work of the Committee. His attention to detail and his ability to spot potential risks and issues have been invaluable. Greg has also attended informal meetings with Healthwatch representatives with me, and this has assisted in strengthening the excellent working relationship between Healthwatch Sefton and the Committee.

My particular appreciation goes to our Democratic Services Officers for their commitment, advice and support. Specific thanks go to the officer who supports the Committee, Debbie Campbell, Senior Democratic Services Officer, for all her hard work and knowledge of the Health Scrutiny process.

## The Year Ahead – 2023/24

Looking ahead to 2023/24, it is anticipated that informal meetings of Committee Members / workshops may be held during 2023/24 to consider the following items in greater detail:

- Informal on-line session with representatives of the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) on GP access
- Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)



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With on-going pressures on social care and health services whilst expectations from the public remain high, I am aware that the Committee faces fresh challenges at the beginning of each new Municipal Year and 2023/24 could see exceptional challenges. Despite these challenges, I am confident that the Committee will rise to meet the expectations on it and that Members will be kept fully informed and continue to play an active role on the Committee.

**Councillor Carla Thomas**  
**July 2023**



## Children's Services and Safeguarding



**Councillor June Burns**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
(Children's Services and Safeguarding)*

I am very pleased to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Annual Report 2022/23 to the Council.

### Introduction

2022/23 has been a challenging year for Children's Services following the Ofsted report and the Committee increased the number of formal meetings held in order to closely scrutinise the work of services, meeting formally on six occasions. Details of the meetings and the items considered are outlined here: [Sefton Home](#) We also met informally on four occasions in order to receive information and to consider matters relating to the Improvement Programme. Further information is set out within the paragraphs below.

### Children's Services Improvement Journey

The Committee received reports and information at each meeting that updated on progress made and set out priorities for the next quarter. During 2022/23, the Committee was advised of the draft of the Improvement Plan for Phase 2. that would continue to be comprised of the four themes of improvement, namely:

- Quality - Ensuring the right staff are in the right place at the right time to deliver a consistent standard of good quality safeguarding services to children and families.
- Improving Implementation of Learning - Using what we know and learn to continuously improve and enhance the services we deliver for children and families.
- Improving Tools - Ensuring we have the right tools to enable the workforce to deliver good quality services for children and families.
- Improving Strategic Partnerships - Effective partnership working to enable the delivery of common goals and a high-quality multi-agency response for children and families.

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The draft Improvement Plan also identified four key areas that would be strengthened through the actions included, namely:

- Corporate Leadership
- Governance and Partnerships
- Practice
- Enablers and Resources

The draft Improvement Plan also included milestones and measures for the four themes that would be monitored and reported on. The Improvement Plan was a live document that would be updated on a regular basis; and Committee Members were requested to consider and comment on the draft Improvement Plan at each meeting.

The regular reports enabled Members of the Committee to ask questions and raised matters on a wide range of issues regarding the Improvement Plan at each meeting.

## **Children's Services Commissioner**

During 2022/23 the Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Social Care and Education that outlined the role of the Children's Services Commissioner for Sefton and the final report of the Commissioner. The report set out the background to the matter; key issues; and recommendations made to the Council. A copy of the Commissioner's report was attached and outlined the role of the Commissioner; an executive summary and recommendations to the Secretary of State for Education; the local authority area: Sefton; the challenges as described by Ofsted; methodology used key issues; and recommendations to the Council.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on a number of issues it was agreed that the content of the report be noted.

## **Attendance of Paul Boyce, Improvement Board Chair**

Further to Minute No. 34 (3) of 20 December 2022, Paul Boyce, the independent Improvement Board Chair, attended the meeting and outlined his experience in the Children's Services field; interventions taken by the Department for Education for delivering improvements, following the Inadequate inspection grading by Ofsted, and possible future interventions in the event that improvements were not sufficient; the appointment of the Children's Services Commissioner for Sefton; the role and responsibilities of the Improvement Board Chair; the reporting mechanisms and timescales undertaken by him to report to the Secretary of State for Education on Sefton's performance in Children's Services; the role of the Improvement Board in Sefton; oversight of the Children's Services Improvement Programme; and issues perceived regarding the requirement of the Committee for transparency and good quality information from Council Officers.

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on a number of issues.

Mr. Boyce stressed the importance of safeguarding children in Sefton; that his responsibility was to the Secretary of State for Education; the role of the Committee in exhibiting political leadership; and that assurances on the quality of social work practice and the role of partners could be sought.

It was agreed that the information provided be noted.

## **Children's Social Care**

The Local Authority has duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need. Details of reports received in relation to children's social care during 2022/23 are set out within the paragraphs below.

## **Early Help Services**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education that provided an update on the work to review Early Help Services and set out an approach to present to Members of the Committee. The report detailed the background and current position.

## **Performance Dashboard**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Social Care and Education that provided an overview of the September performance dashboard. A copy of the dashboard was attached to the report.

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on the item it was agreed that:

- (1) the performance dashboard be noted;
- (2) the intention to share education data at the next meeting be noted;
- (3) in relation to the cycle of performance reporting, a rotation of Children's Social Care, Education and Health performance be agreed.

## **Referrals and Thresholds**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education setting out the current process around referrals into Sefton's Integrated Front Door (IFD). The report outlined key functions of the IFD; how contact was made to Sefton's Children's Services; the IFD process; child contact outcomes; and an overview of the key working practices in the Sefton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The new Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership Level of Need Guidance was attached to the report.

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on the item and it



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was agreed that the report be noted.

## **Sefton Corporate Parenting Board – Annual Report 2022**

The Committee considered the report of the Cabinet Member – Children’s Social Care presenting the Annual Report of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board for 2022. The Sefton Corporate Parenting Board - Annual Report 2022 was attached to the report and set out information on the following:

- Purpose of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Board
- Review and Restructure 2021
- Sefton Corporate Parenting Strategy
- Five Key Priority Areas
- Ofsted Inspection of Sefton Children’s Services 21 February to 4 March 2022
- Children and Young People’s Participation
- Achievements
- Sefton Corporate Parenting Board – Terms of Reference

The Committee was requested to comment on the Annual Report and to note it.

## **Recruitment and Support for Newly Qualified Social Workers**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education that set out Sefton’s response to the recruitment and support for newly qualified social workers (NQSW’s). The report detailed the difficulties that existed on a national and local level and the impact on the local authority, the newly qualified social worker and most importantly, the families that the Council worked with.

The report detailed Sefton’s response, outlined progress of the new Social Work Academy and set out the Academy working model and the impact it was hoped would be achieved, together with some of the early signs of impact. The report concluded that the Academy could continue to support Sefton’s Children Services and the wider Council.

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on the matter and it was agreed that the report be noted.

## **Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Annual Report 2021-2022**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Children’s Services (Quality Assurance and Safeguarding) on the Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Annual Report 2021-22. Detailed within the Sefton SCP annual report 2021-22 was the work undertaken by the Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership, whose purpose was to safeguard children and work together with a collective aim to better improve the outcomes for children and young people.

The Sefton SCP Annual Report 2021-22 was attached to the report and outlined the following:

- Introduction
- Covid 19
- Voice of the Independent Chair/Scrutineer
- Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)
- Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)
- Multi-Agency Quality Assurance and Audit Activities
- Multi-Agency Training and Development
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- Conclusion

Members of the Committee raised a number of questions and issues on the matter.

It was agreed that:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) representatives of the Police and other Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team members be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Quality, Assurance and Safeguarding) be requested to submit the report presented to the Improvement Board on training and development to a future meeting of the Committee.

## Education

Local Authorities have a responsibility to ensure a sufficient supply of school places and to support vulnerable and disadvantaged children with their educational requirements. Details of the reports submitted to the Committee on education matters during 2022/23 are set out within the paragraphs below.

### Ofsted Inspection Reports

Throughout 2022/23 the Committee considered received three reports from the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education) that updated on recent Ofsted Inspection Reports and the work of the School Improvement Team. The reports set out details of schools that had been inspected and reports received during each of the school terms. A Summary of Ofsted Outcomes and Support during each term was attached to each report.

Committee Members were able to raise any issues and to note the information received.



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## **Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-2027**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director Children's Services (Education) that presented the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2022-2027. The development of the Strategy, together with the proposed next steps in terms of programme development were also set out. The report was also considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 6 October 2022. The Strategy was received and noted.

## **Summer 2022 Data**

The Committee considered a report that updated on summer 2022 test and examination data. The report set out the background to the matter and referred to the current position and next steps with regard to the possibility of re-establishing the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group.

It was agreed that:

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Executive Director of Social Care and Education be requested to submit a further report to the next meeting of the Committee providing information on the up-to-date test and examination data.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Annual Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education that updated the Committee on the progress made in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within the Education Portfolio and with reference to the SEND Continuous Improvement Plan. The report set out the background to the matter; issues regarding the SEND Team and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans), together with actions taken to address those issues; Sefton's High Needs Funding/Budget position 2022/23; delivering the Better Values Programme; the new Ofsted Local Area SEND Inspection Framework; and monitoring and review of the SEND Improvement Plan.

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on a number of issues.

It was agreed that:

- (1) it be noted that the SEND Continuous Improvement Board will continue to provide robust governance of further developments in this area with oversight provided by the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- (2) the current position in relation to the SEND Team and the linkages with the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments and compliance, be noted;





- (3) the fact that the Council will be engaging with the Delivering Better Value Programme delivered with the support of the Department for Education and financial advisors in order to address the long-term financial sustainability of the High Needs Funding Budget, be noted; and
- (4) the Assistant Director Education be requested to submit an update report to the next meeting of the Committee on 6 March 2023, on progress regarding compliance with statutory timescales to complete Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments and to produce a final EHC Plan, to include figures for the appeals process where parental preferences were unable to be met.

## Education Scorecard

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education presenting the Education Scorecard.

The Education Scorecard was attached to the report and set out statistics on:

- Pupil absence
- Pupil exclusions
- Education, Health and Care Plans
- Early Years Foundations Profile
- Phonics
- Key Stage 1
- Key Stage 2
- Key Stage 4

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on related issues.

It was agreed that:

- (1) the data contained in the Education Scorecard be noted;
- (2) the Assistant Director Education be requested to consider the possibility of including a category of English as a second language in future Education Scorecards; and
- (3) the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to circulate a revised version of the Education Scorecard to Committee Members.

## Education, Health and Care Plans

The Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education) reported verbally on children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), including the following:

**Nursery to reception** - achieved by 15 February 2023 deadline, 47 children, 45 placed for September 2023, 41 named in line with parental preference (2 children continued placement not impacted by deadline).



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**Year 6 to Year 7** - achieved by 15th February 2023 deadline, 141 children, 102 placed for September 2023, 91 named in line with parental preference (39 continuation of placement not impacted by deadline).

**Year 11 to Year 12** - no data yet as deadline would be 31 March 2023.

**Number of assessments completed in February 2023** - 87 plans were finalised in February, which was the highest number of plans completed in a single month since the Performance Indicator tracker was created in 2019.

**Outstanding assessments** - decreased from 186 to 93.

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on the matter.

It was agreed that the information provided on Education, Health and Care Plans be noted.

## Health Related Matters - NHS Trusts / Partners

Throughout 2022/23 the Committee has received reports and presentations from senior NHS representatives of certain NHS organisations, on the work and activities undertaken to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people. This attendance has enabled Committee Members to scrutinise NHS performance in the areas concerned and details are set out within the following paragraphs.

## Integrated Care Systems and Start Well Update

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health that provided a brief overview of the Integrated Care System development through the Sefton Partnership and provided specific detail on the Start Well Plan and its delivery. The report set out the background to the matter; an overview of the Start Well Plan; next steps, and key updates. Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on the matter.

It was agreed that:

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) ongoing support for the delivery of the Start Well Plan be agreed and further updates and reports be received in due course and that such reports include updates on the issues above raised by Members.

## Maternity Service Briefing

The Committee considered the report and presentation submitted by Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton). Kate Clark, Executive Medical Director and Dawn Meredith, Maternity Services, Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, and Kerrie France, Associate Director of Quality and Safety Improvements, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton), attended to present information on Maternity Services for women and babies and an overview of maternity provision by Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust. The presentation outlined the following:



- Maternity Services
- Geographical area covered by Southport and Ormskirk
- The areas and population served
- Population Demographics 2020-21
- Maternity Services offered across the two Hospital sites
- Activity 2021/22, in terms of booking and deliveries
- Additional Specialist Clinics
- Community Midwifery
- Action Plan following 2015 Quality Assurance (QA) Visit
- Headlines
- Reding the Signs – overview of East Kent services led by Kirkup (October 2022)
- Implementation System learning

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on the matter.

It was agreed that:

- (1) Kate Clark, Dawn Meredith and Kerrie France be thanked for their attendance;
- (2) the report and the presentation be noted; and
- (3) additional information be requested on stillbirth rates, neonatal death and brain injury.

## **Children and Young People Commissioned Health Services Update**

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, Sefton Place. The report provided an overview of the performance of children and young people commissioned health services delivered by Alder Hey Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, including:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessment and diagnostic service
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)
- Other therapy services: Continence, Dietetics, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy

It was anticipated that a detailed CAMHS/mental health update would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Peter Wong, Children and Young People Commissioning Lead, Sefton, gave a presentation that outlined the following:

- Children and Young People: Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)



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- Children and Young People: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Specialist CAMHS
- Therapies

Members of the Committee raised a number of questions and issues on the matter.

It was agreed that the children and young people commissioned health services performance update be noted and accepted.

## Other Items

In addition to Childrens Social Care; Education; and health related matters, reports have been received from other areas of the Council during 2022/23, details of which are set out within the following paragraphs.

### Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group

In September 2021, the Committee agreed that a working group would be established to consider the impact of Covid 19 on the primary curriculum to be comprised of the following Members:

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

Details of the outcome are set out within the paragraph below.

### Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group - Final Report

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer presenting formally the final report of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group and Councillor Spencer, Lead Member of the Working Group, introduced the Final Report. Amongst other things, the Working Group had found that many teachers and support staff felt unappreciated and that there were recruitment issues with teaching. As a result of the findings, the Council agreed to formally write to all Headteachers to thank teaching staff for their on-going input throughout the pandemic; to remind schools of the various options available for securing additional teaching staff; and to remind schools of the availability of mental health support, including the Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit. Later in the Municipal Year the Mayor of Sefton hosted an event for representatives of all schools throughout the Borough, to thank them for their ongoing input throughout the pandemic.

### Domestic Abuse Update

The Committee received a report of the Assistant Director of People (Communities) updating on Sefton's strategic approach to tackling domestic abuse, including an overview of the Domestic Abuse Act and work of the Sefton Domestic Abuse



Partnership Board to date. The report set out the background to the matter; an overview of the Domestic Abuse Act; local authority statutory duties within the Act; the roles and responsibilities of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board; links to other national/statutory guidance; and cross-partnership collaboration. The Terms of Reference for the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board were also attached to the report.

## **LGA Training Proposals and Frequency of Meetings**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (Strategic Support) outlining proposals for the Local Government Association (LGA) to provide training for Members of the Committee and for all Members in relation to corporate parenting.

The report also sought approval for the Committee to return to its normal pattern of five meetings per year.

The report outlined information on:

- LGA Proposals
- Dedicated support for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)
- All Member Corporate Parenting Briefing
- Support for Members of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- Support for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)
- Support for all Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs
- Frequency of Meetings during 2023/24

Members of the Committee asked questions and raised matters on a number of issues and it was agreed that:

- (1) the proposals for training by the Local Government Association be endorsed; and
- (2) the Committee return to the normal cycle of 5 meetings per municipal year.

## **Informal Training/Briefing Sessions**

In addition to formal Committee meetings where formal business is conducted and decisions are taken, Members are also able to meet for informal discussions or to undertake an in-depth examination or analysis of a topic that would not be possible in a formal Committee setting. Details of informal sessions held during 2022/23 are set out within the paragraphs below.

## **Informal Briefing Session – Improvement Plan – 17 August 2022**



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A Confidential Informal Briefing Session for Members of the Committee took place on 17 August 2022 when Members were provided with copies of the Children's Improvement Plan and received a presentation on Phase 1 of the Improvement Plan that outlined details of the themes of improvement.

## **Informal Briefing on the Leeds Family Values Model – 21 November 2022**

Committee Members attended a remote meeting on 21 November to receive a presentation on the Leeds Family Values model, Sefton Stronger together that outlined details on the model. This provided an opportunity for Members to raise questions.

## **Site Visit – 23 November 2022**

Members of the Committee met on site at Magdalen House, Bootle and were provided with an overview of the Children's Services function that provided Members with an opportunity to ask a range of questions. Senior Officers provided a tour of Children's Services for Members and follow-up information was requested as a result of the visit.

Covid severely restricted Members from undertaking any site visits to meet with service providers and service users and I hope that opportunities will arise for Committee Members to undertake physical visits during 2023/24.

## **Cabinet Member Reports**

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had previously agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports for to be submitted to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. During 2022/23, the Cabinet Member Update Reports for the Children's Social Care and the Education portfolios have been included on Committee agendas for general information purposes for Members of the Committee. The Cabinet Member update reports have outlined a range of information and have provided an opportunity for Councillors Doyle and Roscoe to attend Committee meetings to present their reports and to respond to any questions or issues raised by Members of the Committee.

The regular attendance at Committee meetings of both Councillor Doyle, Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care, and Councillor Roscoe, Cabinet Member – Education, has been very much appreciated by Members of the Committee and reflects on the value placed by our Cabinet Members on the work of the Committee.

## **Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan**

Throughout 2022/23 the Committee has considered reports seeking the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2022/23; reporting on progress of Working Groups; identifying any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan; and updating on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Pre-Scrutiny and the Key Decision Forward Plan

The Key Decision Forward Plan provides the Committee with an opportunity to pre-scrutinise Key Decision items from the Council's Forward Plan, as the latest Forward Plan is submitted to the Committee as part of its Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members in making effective decisions as it allows Overview and Scrutiny Committees to examine issues and make recommendations prior to the executive decision being made.

The regular Work Programme report presents Committee Members with an on-going opportunity to pre-scrutinise Key Decisions relating to the Children's Social Care and Education Portfolios.

At the meeting on 15 March 2022 the Committee requested to pre-scrutinise the Key Decision on the Education Excellence Strategy for Sefton 2021-2025 and the item was submitted to the meeting on 27 September 2022 for consideration. I hope that the Committee receives further opportunities for pre-scrutiny in the future.

## Co-Opted Members

The Committee has the following representatives as part of its membership:

- 1 Church of England diocese representative;
- 1 Roman Catholic archdiocese representative;
- 2 parent governor representatives;
- 2 advisory members from Healthwatch Sefton; and
- 1 independent advisory member.

Co-opted members regularly attend the Committee to contribute towards debates and bring additional experience and expertise to the table. I would like to thank all our Added Members for their attendance and contributions during 2022/23, as it is very much appreciated.

## Thanks and Acknowledgements

I am particularly appreciative of our Democratic Services Officers for their commitment, advice and support. Our responsible officer is Debbie Campbell, and I am grateful for the contributions she has made during 2022/23 towards running the Committee.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Committee Members, officers and partners for their support, hard work and contributions to our endeavours throughout the year, particularly Laura Knights, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Cared for Children and Care Experienced); and Tricia Davis, Assistant Director Children's Services (Education); and Joe Banham, Assistant Director Children's Services (Safeguarding and Quality).





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Particular thanks must also go to Martin Birch, who was the Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education during 2022/23, and I wish his successor, Risthardh Hare, well in the future.

## **The Year Ahead – 2023/24**

The Committee will be examining a number of key areas during 2023/24 in order to ensure that the services we provide are continually improved to benefit the children and young people of the Borough and to capture “the voice of the child”. The Committee will also play a vital role in monitoring the Improvement Plan for the service and ensuring that it is implemented. I am confident that the Committee will work as a “critical friend” to our Cabinet Members and partners during 2022/23.

**Councillor June Burns**  
**July 2023**





## Regeneration and Skills



**Councillor Liz Dowd**  
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
(Regeneration and Skills)

### **It gives me great pleasure to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) Annual Report 2022/23.**

During the year the Committee met five times formally and twice informally. Reports and presentations considered by the Committee related to:

- Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Pilot
- Domestic Abuse Update
- Winter Maintenance Policy & Operational Plan
- United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund Update
- Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations
- Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations
- Southport Market - 1 Year Review
- Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Annual report to Overview and Scrutiny 2021-2022
- Green Sefton Annual Review 2022
- Digital Inclusion Working Group – Update on Recommendations
- Update on the Progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy – Presentation
- Sandway Homes Limited - 2021/22 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies
- Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited (SHOL) - 2021/22 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies
- Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2022/23
- Data on Weed Control Operations since April 2022

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All agendas and minutes of the Committee can be accessed [here](#)

## **Working Groups/Informal Meetings – New Way of Working**

At the first meeting in the municipal year the Committee agreed a fresh approach to its operation during 2022/23 by arranging additional informal meetings to be held; and that the new proposal obviated the need for the Committee to establish Working Groups as short reviews of services could be undertaken by all Members at the informal meetings. Two informal meetings were held during the year at which reviews were undertaken on the following topics:

- Green Sefton Annual Review 2022
- Weed Control, Street Cleansing Provision and Waste Containment Consultation
- Housing Supply and Demand
- Leasehold House Sales
- Sandway Homes

A further topic for review at an informal meeting has also been agreed in relation to the strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the borough. This informal meeting will be held in 2023/24.

The Committee also received updates on the implementation of recommendations arising from the two Working Groups below:

- Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity
- Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People

In respect of the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group, the Committee was not fully satisfied with responses about how recommendations would be implemented. Accordingly, the Committee made frequent contact with the Cabinet Members for Locality Services and Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services throughout the year. This matter is still ongoing and will roll forward to the 2023/24 municipal year.

## **Cabinet Member Reports**

In keeping with previous years and to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Committee therefore received regular Cabinet Member update reports; and I would like to take the opportunity to thank Councillor Hardy, Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing, Councillor Moncur, Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element), Councillor Veidman, Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control, Councillor Fairclough, Cabinet Member – Locality Services and Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills for their attendance at meetings and their regular and informative update reports.



## Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

At each meeting the Committee considered the reports of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views of the Work Programme for 2022/23, the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee or at informal meetings; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The pre-scrutiny process referred to above can assist the Cabinet to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

### The Year Ahead

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities over the coming year. The list is not exhaustive and other service operational reports as deemed appropriate by the Committee will also be considered.

- Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report
- Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2023/24
- Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan (with a focus on the new Crosby Library project and the Bootle Regeneration Strategy)
- Update on the progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy
- Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services
- Leasehold House Sales
- Green Sefton Annual Review 2023
- Damp, Mould and Condensation in Residential Properties
- Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Pilot
- Domestic Abuse Report
- Southport Market Update
- Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited (SHOL) - 2022/23 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies
- Sandway Homes Limited - 2022/23 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies
- Monitoring reports on the implementation of recommendations arising from Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity and Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group reviews.

The Committee will continue with the arrangement of holding informal meetings to undertake short reviews of services; and that the first review be on the topic of refuse and waste recycling. In connection with this matter the Committee will undertake a visit to the Gillmoor Recycling Discovery Centre.



# Agenda Item 11

As part of the Committee's pre-scrutiny function all Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fall within the remit of the Committee, will be requested to seek the views of the Committee on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it is not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committee to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon.

Given the scale of the financial and service challenges facing the Council the year ahead will be extremely busy for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise such challenges, including how they impact on the Council's statutory requirement to remain financially sustainable and the desire to deliver Sefton's 2030 Vision and Core Purpose.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee, Cabinet Members Councillors Atkinson, Fairclough, Hardy, Moncur and Veidman and all of those officers who have attended meetings for their support to me over the past year and provided the Committee with valuable information.

**Councillor Liz Dowd**  
**July 2023**



## Regulatory, Compliance, and Corporate Services



**Councillor Sue Bradshaw**  
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
(Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)

**On behalf of the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2022/23 Annual Report.**

During the year the Committee has met six times formally and considered matters relating to financial issues and updates associated with the 2022/23 revenue and capital budget and financial management across the Council. As is the usual practice, a Special Meeting of the Committee was held prior to Budget Council to scrutinise budget options and proposals. An informal meeting of the Committee was also held to consider a topic identified for review.

Other reports/presentations considered by the Committee related to:

- Member Development Programme
- New Ways of Working
- Levels of Disciplinary, Grievance, Dignity at Work and Sickness Absence
- Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Reference Group – Updates were submitted to each meeting of the Committee to keep Members abreast of the scale of the problem in Sefton; and the measures being taken to alleviate them
- Disposal of Surplus Council Owned Land/Asset -Management Strategy
- Elections Act 2022
- Digital Inclusion Working Group – Update on Recommendations
- Overview and Security Update Cloud March 22
- Update on the Progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy – Presentation
- Corporate Communications Update – Presentation
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Council Tax Base 2023/24
- Annual ICT Update Report
- Air Quality Update 2022
- Ethical Business Practices Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations

# Agenda Item 11

- Corporate Communications and Covid-19

At each meeting the Committee also received Work Programme and Cabinet Member update reports. This enabled the Committee to add/amend topics to be considered to reflect priorities; and to scrutinise the work being undertaken in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

All agendas and minutes of the Committee can be accessed [here](#)

## Financial Scrutiny

The Committee received regular budgetary update reports during the year and a Special Meeting of the Committee was held on 7 February 2023 prior to the budget meetings of both Cabinet and Council. At this Special Meeting the Committee considered reports relating to: Asset Management Strategy and Asset Disposal Policy 2023/24; Prudential Indicators 2023/24; Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2023/24; Capital Strategy 2023/24 to 2027/28; Robustness of the 2023/24 Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves – Local Government Act 2003 - Section 25; and Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2023/24 – 2025/26 and Council Tax 2023/24.

At this meeting the main report for consideration was the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services that explained that on 9 February 2022 Cabinet would be asked to recommend to Council a Budget Plan for 2023/24; and that on 2 March 2023, the Council would be asked to consider and approve the Budget Plan for 2023/24 – 2025/26 and the level of Council Tax for 2023/24; The report provided the Committee with:

- an assessment of the Council's current financial position and approach to the 2023/24 Budget Plan and preparation for the additional two-year budget period 2024/25 to 2025/26
- an update on the Government's announcement of resources that were available to the Council for 2023/24 and 2024/25
- the Council's current financial position and the assumptions built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan
- the proposed Budget for 2023/24; and
- the proposed Capital Programme for 2023/24

The following appendices were attached to the report:

- individual school budgets 2023/24;
- budget saving proposals;
- draft Council budget summary 2023/24;
- the Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26

Members of the Committee scrutinised the budget proposals and asked questions/commented on the following issues:



- the need for the Social Worker Academy to be successful to reduce the reliance on agency workers; and retention initiatives to ensure staff stayed with Sefton
- concern that neither the Autumn Statement or Settlement mentioned the Public Health Grant and therefore no information was available on the national totals or individual allocations
- was rental income from the Strand Shopping Centre more adversely affected than other similar sectors during the pandemic; and
- the effects of businesses struggling during the pandemic and its impact on Business Rates collection performance; and the consequent increase in Business Rates appeals provision

## **Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan**

At each meeting the Committee considered a report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views of the Work Programme for 2022/23, the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **Working Group/Informal Meeting - Corporate Communications and Covid-19**

The Committee established a Working Group to review the topic of Corporate Communications and Covid-19 to assess the changes instigated by Corporate Communications in communicating with residents during the Covid-19 pandemic; the impact the changes have had; and how such changes could shape the future of the Council communicating with its communities. Unfortunately, problems were encountered arranging meetings of the Working Group and it was agreed that an informal meeting of the Committee be held to allow a short review to be undertaken. This enabled all Members of the Committee to get involved in the review rather than the smaller number who were Members of the Working Group. The informal meeting was held on 3 February 2023 and a host of recommendations were approved for consideration by the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services. The Cabinet Member subsequently approved all the recommendations, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

The Committee also received update reports on the implementation of recommendations on previously approved Final Reports relating to:

- Ethical Business Practices
- Digital Inclusion



# Agenda Item 11

## **Cabinet Member Reports**

In keeping with previous years and to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered the portfolio of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services for her regular attendance at meetings to update Members not only on issues associated with her portfolio but also on the Members Welfare Reform Reference Group.

## **Pre-Scrutiny – The Key Decision Forward Plan**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also been given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise items from the Council's Key Decision Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

## **The Year Ahead**

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities below over the coming year. The list is not exhaustive and other service operational reports as deemed appropriate by the Committee will also be considered.

- Review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- Disposal of Surplus Council Owned Land/Asset -Management Strategy
- Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group – Updates
- Air Quality Monitoring
- Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures and Sickness Absence Monitoring
- Armed Forces Covenant
- Update on Progress of LCR Digital Inclusion Strategy
- Annual ICT Update Report (Performance of Agilisys)
- The consideration of budget proposals in preparation of the Budget Report 2024/25 to 2027/28 and savings and the Medium-Term Financial Plan
- Corporate Communications Update

I envisage the forthcoming year to be extremely busy and challenging for the Committee and the Council due to the difficult budgetary position and financial savings that have to be met in Sefton. The Council has an excellent record





regarding financial management over the last 13 years however, it is now estimated that there will be additional financial pressures between 2024/25 and 2025/26 of at least £18.535m, which may need to be met by implementing additional service delivery options. This shortfall will have to be met on top of the significant budget reductions that have been implemented since 2010. Work has commenced on updating the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan, which will include assessing the requirements of Adult and Children's Social Care, which will also include initial forecasts for 2026/27.

Finally, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee, Councillor Paulette Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services and officers who have attended meetings for their support to me over the past year and provided the Committee with valuable information.

**Councillor Sue Bradshaw**  
**July 2023**

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## **COUNCIL – 13 JULY 2023**

### **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **COUNCIL CONSTITUTION – RULE 46 (WAIVING CALL-IN) PROVISIONS COUNCIL CONSTITUTION – RULE 29 (SPECIAL URGENCY)**

I wish to report that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) gave her consent, under Rule 46 (Waiving Call-In) and Rule 29 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution. The report was in relation to Southport Pier and it was urgent and not subject to call-in on the basis that the decision could not be reasonably deferred because of the urgency and time sensitivity of this important project and the impact of sustained closure on the local economy and local businesses.

#### **CABINET – 29 JUNE 2023**

##### **33. Southport Pier**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director – Place that provided an interim update on the condition of Southport Pier, in advance of receiving the final structural survey reports. The report presented options on the future of the Pier, but recommended pursuit of the significant additional funding required to enable the full refurbishment of the Pier that was required, to enable its safe reopening.

In respect of Decisions 5 and 6 (below), it was noted that Southport Pier had been closed since December 2022 for Health and Safety reasons, and a full structural survey had been undertaken to evaluate the condition of, and required repairs to, this important heritage asset. This detailed process had taken considerable time, and at the time of writing the final survey reports are still awaited, but sufficient feedback had now been received to enable progression of the Cabinet report at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Pier remained closed as Health and Safety remained the top priority for the Council, but its closure was having a significant effect on local businesses and stakeholders. The report was therefore urgent to enable, subject to Cabinet approval, the progression of discussions with key stakeholders and potential funders regarding the potentially significant funding gap to be addressed to enable the required full refurbishment, and subsequent safe reopening, of Southport Pier. It was also urgent that, again subject to Cabinet approval, pre-development works were progressed for the whole refurbishment project, again at the earliest possible opportunity, to enable rapid progression of the project itself once the funding gap was addressed. The Pier was a hugely time sensitive matter in every respect, for all affected, hence the urgency of the report and meeting.

The Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills outlined the background to the matter; issues with pier decking; health and safety concerns; and reaffirmed the Cabinet's commitment to the future of Southport Pier.

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## **Decision(s) Made:** That

- (1) the Cabinet reaffirms its commitment to the future of Southport Pier, and its support for the full refurbishment project required to enable safe reopening;
- (2) the Cabinet agrees to progress and fund the pre-development process for the full refurbishment project while funding sources for the whole refurbishment are pursued, reflecting the Council's aim to commence, and therefore complete, the project as soon as practicable, to enable safe reopening as soon as possible;
- (3) engagement is progressed urgently with external partners and central government departments including Historic England, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Piers Society, the Southport Pier Trust, and other agencies, regarding not only the capital funding gap, but the requirement for ongoing maintenance funding to sustain the future of the newly refurbished asset once completed;
- (4) any further and future funding approvals relating to the full refurbishment project, and procurement processes associated with the full project, will be presented to the Cabinet and Council at the earliest opportunity, and in accordance with the Council's financial procedure rules;

## **Rule 29**

- (5) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but it had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) had given their consent under Rule 29 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution for these decisions to be treated as urgent on the basis that they cannot be reasonable deferred because of the urgency and time sensitivity of this important project and the impact of sustained closure on the local economy and local businesses; and

## **Rule 46**

- (6) it be noted that the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) had given their consent under Rule 46 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules for these decisions to be treated as urgent and not subject to "call in" on the basis that they cannot be reasonably deferred because of the urgency and time sensitivity of this important project and the impact of sustained closure on the local economy and local businesses.

## **Reasons for the Decision(s):**

Southport Pier is a critical visitor attraction that holds significant importance to Sefton's economy and brand. It is also a Grade-II listed structure. As part of the

routine maintenance, it became apparent the pier decking was starting to fail in isolated areas, and therefore several detailed inspections from timber experts have taken place. In September 2022 Council approval was granted to replace the entire decking after the 2022 summer season for a sum of £3m, to ensure the Pier is fit for purpose and remains safe. Due to the accelerated deterioration of the decking a visual inspection (by structural engineers) was carried out in December 2022, after which the Council were then recommended to close the Pier with immediate effect due to health and safety concerns. Shortly after a full structural survey was commissioned.

The final survey report is awaited at the time of writing, but interim verbal feedback has been received and is clear on the scale and urgency of repair work required to timber joists and decking (including strengthening to enable the return of the train to the Pier), and to elements of the steel structure. While repairs to the decking and many of the timber joists are required immediately, it is recommended that a significant amount of further work will be required within 3 to 5 years, including replacement of all timber joists and repair to some elements of the steelwork. Given the impact of the Pier's closure on local businesses and stakeholders, and the urgency of progression towards a funded solution, these recommendations are offered in advance of receipt of the final survey.

The feedback reaffirms that the regrettable decision to close the Pier for Health and Safety reasons was correct, but also that the Pier cannot safely reopen until most of these significant works have been completed.

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

The other options have been considered and rejected:

1. Full replacement over several years – This would result in the pier decking being replaced in phases over 10 to 15 years. This has been rejected particularly due to Health and Safety reasons, but also due to the costs, the impact on the pier concession and wider economy of continued closure.
2. Do nothing – This has been rejected on Health and Safety grounds. “Do nothing” would therefore mean the continued and indefinite closure of Southport Pier. Notwithstanding the funding pressures articulated within the report and its recommendations, this option is not supported given the importance of this heritage asset to the town, and the impact closure would have on local businesses and stakeholders.

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## **COUNCIL MOTION**

**13 July 2023**

**PROPOSED BY:** **Councillor Mike Prendergast**

**SECONDED BY:**

**TITLE:** **Southport Pier**

Southport is fortunate to be blessed with many unique and historic buildings and structures. This benefits local businesses, residents and all those people who visit the Town.

This heritage and history enables Southport to market itself as a unique tourist destination and one of Southport's most iconic structures is the Pier.

At over 160 years old and the second longest in the UK it is synonymous with Southport and its Victorian heritage. People travel from far and wide to visit the Pier and enjoy it.

It is therefore, deeply regrettable that the Pier has had to close. Whilst we all recognise that on occasion works need to be carried out, these should (where possible) be done in a manner that keeps the Pier open and accessible to all.

Therefore, this council resolves:

1. To commit to re-open the Pier as soon as possible.
2. To make every effort to carry out any required repair works in a manner that allows the Pier to remain open whilst works are being undertaken.
3. On the basis of the above provide a firm date when works will commence, provide details of costs and a schedule of works to be undertaken in a report to the Audit & Governance meeting scheduled for 6th September 2023.

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## **SEFTON LABOUR GROUP**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

#### **TO BE PUT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 13 JULY 2023**

Moved by: Councillor Diane Roscoe

Seconded by: Councillor

#### **Extension of Pupil Premium Plus for +16 to all Local Authorities**

This Council notes:

Pupil premium plus is specifically for pupils who are care experienced or leaving local authority care up to year 11 (usually age 16). It is a funding initiative to target disadvantaged pupils, level up the playing field and enable them to reach their full potential at school. It can be used by schools and virtual schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

Evidence shows that pupil premium spending is most effective when used across 3 areas:

1. high-quality teaching, such as staff professional development
2. targeted academic support, such as tutoring
3. wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success in schools, such as attendance, behaviour, and social and emotional support

It is not available to post year 11 students.

That Government piloted the expansion of Pupil Premium Plus for +16 to 19 for 30 local authorities in 2021/22 and then confirmed that it would continue this scheme from September 2022 until July 2023.

An additional 28 local authorities were then added to the scheme making 58 in total.

The original post-16 pupil premium plus pilot ran from October 2021 until the end of March 2022 with an allocation of £900 per pupil which is less than half the £2,345 per pupil for those on the scheme aged up to 16.

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Research carried out by the University of Oxford's Rees Centre was published by the DfE in December 2022<sup>(1)</sup> and found that this pilot scheme strengthened relationships between virtual school heads, colleges and social workers, and resulted in tailored interventions such as work to boost attendance of youngsters and provide enrichment activities to motivate them.

The report recommended the DfE commission a longer-term evaluation of the potential impact of adopting extending the pilot to all local authorities, extending funding beyond the age of 18 for those still in or newly entering education and extending provision beyond further education colleges to include years 12 and 13 in schools and those on apprenticeships or employment programmes.

The House of Commons Education Committee published a report in June 2022<sup>(2)</sup> "Educational poverty: how children in residential care have been let down and what to do about it" which noted:

"That there is a cliff-edge in Pupil Premium Plus funding when a looked-after pupil turns 16 and that the needs of looked-after pupils do not suddenly cease to exist when they turn 16."

It recommended that the Department of Education extend Pupil Premium Plus funding beyond age 16 to ensure looked-after pupils are receiving the support they deserve to succeed throughout their education and that post-16 Pupil Premium Plus funding must be calculated using the same funding formula as for the pre-16 cohort.

This Council proposes

Writing to the Secretary of State for Education to request that he/she extend the Pupil Premium Plus post-16 pilot to all local authorities and furthermore calculate post-16 pupil premium funding using the same formula as for the pre-16 cohort to ensure that ALL care experienced pupils/students are receiving the support that they deserve to succeed throughout their education, employment or training.

(1) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1123287/VSH\\_extension\\_evaluation\\_December\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1123287/VSH_extension_evaluation_December_2022.pdf) accessed May 2023

(2) <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/23006/documents/168514/default/> accessed May 2023

## SEFTON LABOUR GROUP

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### TO BE PUT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 13 JULY 2023

Moved by: Councillor Paulette Lappin

Seconded by: Councillor

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY: A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL WORKERS**

This council notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. New research by UNISON has shown that councils across England, Wales and Scotland are facing a collective funding shortfall of £3bn by the financial year 2023/24 and a cumulative funding gap of £5bn by 2024/25.

Councils led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster. Recent funding announcements from the Government relating to schools did nothing to help.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 10% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

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Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2023 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic. The final offer of £1,925 is a derisory, below inflation offer for all council and school workers – in other words a further pay cut.

This council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of RPI + 2%.
- Call on the newly constituted Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign.
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

## COUNCIL MOTION

13 July 2023

**PROPOSED BY: Councillor Pugh**

**SECONDED BY: Councillor TBC**

### **Southport Pier**

This council recognises the reports and public concern about the state of Southport Pier.

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## **COUNCIL MOTION**

**13 July 2023**

**PROPOSED BY:** **Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE**

**SECONDED BY:** **Councillor Mike Prendergast**

**TITLE:** **Constitutional Changes**

At the last full meeting of the Council a Notice of Motion in relation to Overview & Scrutiny Committees was rejected by the majority party but at the time the Leader of the Council indicated that he considered that matters of this nature should properly be discussed at the Council AGM.

The Council now agrees that in order to ensure both transparency and objectivity chairmanships of all O&S Committees should be held on a proportionate basis by Members who are not of the ruling party.

In addition, the O&S Committees should have full access to any information and documentation that was made available to the Cabinet but which is currently denied to O&S Committees and indeed every other Member of the Council who is not on the Cabinet.

The Council considers that these democratic changes are essential and without them the O&S Committees cannot fulfil their function in full.

The Council also agrees that as part of the same agenda the Leaders of the main political parties be allocated a seat on the Cabinet as ex-officio Members with the ability to access all the information and to ask questions and make comment at the Cabinet meetings but without the ability to vote.

As part of the overall democratic process local Councillors in Southport in particular from all Parties receive constant representations concerning help and assistance with various ward matters and issues affecting the Town in general but where these are not matters of

# Agenda Item 18

strategic interest to Sefton and would therefore benefit from a locally based decision-making process.

This can best be achieved by the early reinstatement of the Southport Area Committee where very few disagree that it served a useful purpose and was often well attended and where members of the public also had the benefit of being able to hear from the Police and other agencies that directly affect the area.

The Council wishes to make clear that in making these changes they have no impact at all on the ability of the majority party to determine policy in every area and to implement within the law whatever they feel to be the appropriate decisions.

The Council also recognises however that ensuring transparency is a key element in respect of public confidence and there is continual anecdotal evidence that this is not at the level it should be within the borough and the changes outlined would therefore play an important part in remedying this deficiency.



## COUNCIL MOTION

13/07/2023

**PROPOSED BY:** Gareth Lloyd-Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** TBC

### **ANDY'S MAN CLUB**

*Andy's Man Club was created in 2016 with the aim to create a talking group, a place for men to come together in a safe environment to talk about issues and problems they have faced or are currently facing. Formed in Halifax, the Club follows the motto, 'it's ok to talk.'*

*In their own words, AMC aim to, "eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health and create a judgment-free, confidential space where men can be open about the storms in their lives. [They] aim to achieve this through weekly, free-to-attend peer-to-peer support groups for men aged over 18."*

*On July 3rd, Andy's Man Club held the first meeting of their newly formed Southport branch.*

*This Council recognises;*

- 1. The excellent work of Andy's Man Club to date and the particular role they play in improving mental health in our communities.*
- 2. That according to the Department for Health, suicide is the biggest cause of death in men under the age of 50 and around three-quarters of deaths from suicides each year are men.*

*This Council resolves to;*

- 1. Welcome Andy's Man Club to Southport and ask the Council's Chief Executive to write to the organisation expressing these sentiments.*
- 2. Explore ways that the Council can work with Andy's Man Club to support their work.*

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