



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

DATE: Tuesday, 28th November 2023

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Committee Room - Bootle Town Hall, Trinity Road, Bootle, L20 7AE

Member

Councillor
Cllr. Judy Hardman (Chair)
Cllr. Natasha Carlin (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Danny Burns
Cllr. Clare Carragher
Cllr. Leo Evans
Cllr. Christine Howard
Cllr. Christopher Page
Cllr. Mike Prendergast
Cllr. Carol Richards
Cllr. Tom Spring
Maurice Byrne, Healthwatch
Mrs Sandra Cain, Independent
Advisory Member
Karen Christie, Healthwatch
Stuart Harrison, Diocese
Gemma Armer, PGR
Cheryl Swainbank, PGR

Substitute

Councillor
Cllr. Peter Harvey
Cllr. Paul Tweed
Cllr. Greg Myers
Cllr. Jennifer Corcoran
Cllr. Gareth Lloyd-Johnson
Cllr. Phil Hart
Cllr. John Joseph Kelly
Cllr. Tony Brough
Cllr. Steve McGinnity
Cllr. John Kelly

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Laura Bootland, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.

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 the Previous Meeting

(Pages 5 - 14)

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023

4. Petition - Education and Healthcare Plans for 16-25 year olds

A petition from The Voice of the Families has been submitted containing 35 signatures. The petition states:

The Voice of the Families are petitioning Sefton's Children's Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask for our representative to speak at committee regarding: We ask the Scrutiny Committee to show its commitment to Education and Healthcare Plans(EHCP) for those aged 16 to 25 by making this topic a regular separate and fixed feature on the agenda at each scrutiny committee, to have a designated member of the Scrutiny Committee responsible for this and that the Scrutiny Committee identify and publicise the names and contact details of the three people who are accountable for the provision and implementation of EHCPs for those aged 16 and 25 – these would be the one for social care, the one for health care and one for education. The 16 plus category is still full of vulnerable children who need support, especially considering the failures they have already experienced under Sefton as they were growing up.

A representative of The Voice of the Families will be allowed to address the Scrutiny Committee on the content of the petition for a period of 5 minutes.

5. Petition - Public Speaking at Overview and Scrutiny Committees

A petition from a resident has been submitted containing 195 signatures. The petition states:

I am a resident of Sefton, Liverpool, and a service user who deeply cares about the quality of children's services provided by our council. It is crucial that those who use these services have an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask questions directly to those responsible for providing them.

Currently, we are not given this opportunity. This lack of transparency and dialogue is concerning as it prevents us from fully understanding how decisions about our children's welfare are made.

In 2019/2020, there were 75,420 looked after children in England alone (source: Department for Education). As one of these service users in Sefton, I believe we deserve the right to speak at scrutiny committee meetings where decisions affecting us are made.

By allowing us five minutes to speak at these meetings, Sefton council can demonstrate its commitment towards transparency and inclusivity. This small change will empower service users like myself by giving us a platform to express our views and concerns.

Please sign this petition if you believe in promoting open dialogue between Sefton Council and its service users. Let's ensure that everyone affected by decisions on children's services has a voice in the process.

The lead petitioner or a representative will be allowed to address the Scrutiny Committee on the content of the petition for a period of 5 minutes.

6. Cabinet Member Reports

(Pages 15 - 28)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

7. Children's Services Improvement Programme

To receive a verbal update from the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education.

8. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Joint Commissioning Plan

(Pages 29 - 104)

Joint report of the Executive Director of Children's Social

Care and Education and the Executive Director for Adult
Social Care and Health/NHS Place Director

- 9. Performance and Quality** (Pages 105 - 110)

Report of the Assistant Director Children's Services (Quality Assurance and Safeguarding)
- 10. Education Scorecard** (Pages 111 - 130)

Report of the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education)
- 11. Ofsted Inspections** (To Follow)

Report of the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education)
- 12. Consideration of the Terms of Reference and inclusion of Co-Opted Members on the Committee** (Pages 131 - 136)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer
- 13. Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan** (Pages 137 - 154)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer