



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

DATE: Tuesday 24th September, 2024
TIME: 6.30 pm
VENUE: Birkdale Room - Southport Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1DA

Member

Substitute

Councillor	Councillor
Councillor Hardman (Chair)	Councillor Myers
Councillor Danny Burns (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Corcoran
Councillor Evans	Councillor Pugh
Councillor Harrison	Councillor Williams
Councillor Christopher Page	Councillor Hart
Councillor Parker	Councillor McGinnity
Councillor Porter	Councillor Hinde
Councillor Prendergast	Councillor Brough
Councillor Richards	Councillor Duerden
Councillor Spring	Councillor John Kelly
Maurice Byrne, Healthwatch	
Mrs Sandra Cain, Independent Advisory Member	
Karen Christie, Healthwatch	
Stuart Harrison, Diocese	
Gemma Armer, PGR	
Michelle Ravey, Diocese	
Cheryl Swainbank, PGR	

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Laura Bootland
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 0151 934 2078
E-mail: laura.bootland@sefton.gov.uk

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

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.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(Pages 5 - 12)

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2024.

4. Public Question Time

5. Cabinet Member Reports

(To Follow)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

6. Children's Services Improvement Programme

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

7. Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement

(Pages 13 - 28)

Report of the Assistant Director, Safeguarding, Review and Quality Assurance.

8. Education Scorecard

(To Follow)

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

9. Ofsted Inspections Spring/Summer 2024

(Pages 29 -
44)

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

10. Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan

(Pages 45 -
58)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

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

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON TUESDAY 4TH JUNE, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Hardman (in the Chair)
Councillor Danny Burns (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Evans, Hinde (Substitute Member for
Councillor Porter), Christopher Page, Parker,
Prendergast, Spring and Williams (Substitute
Member for Councillor Harrison)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Roscoe, Cabinet Member – Children,
Schools and Families
Sandra Cain, Independent Advisory Member
Michelle Ravey, Archdiocese Representative

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harrison Kelly, Porter and Richards, Gemma Armer, Maurice Byrne, Karen Christie and Stuart Harrison.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2024, be confirmed as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

5. PETITION - COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Committee considered a petition which had been received by the Council from The Voice of the Families group.

A representative of The Voice of the Families was in attendance to present the petition.

The petition requested that the Committee investigate the complaints procedure that was currently being offered. Parents had raised concerns over the waiting times, questioned the capacity to deliver the promised services and the impact this had on vulnerable families. Each complaint

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was individual but there was no procedure to allow several families to jointly raise concerns.

The Committee responded with the following statement:

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had already identified complaints as an area for exploration during the coming year, as some concerns about the way the process operates had already been raised by parents and carers. We will add the issues raised here to the terms of reference of our scrutiny review.

In relation to the specific issue of joint complaints, our complaints process allows for individuals to raise concerns. If a pattern emerges from multiple complainants raising similar concerns, then it is expected that this will be addressed within the respective service by the appropriate Service Manager.

Notwithstanding the formal complaints process, if several families wish to jointly raise concerns, then they can contact the Service directly. It is encouraged that the matter is dealt with at initial point of contact, or by referring concerns to appropriate managers for action, alongside routinely offering a meeting with relevant staff or managers to provide a more responsive and supportive service to clients, particularly when it relates to on-going care or support.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the petition be noted; and
- (2) Feedback on the complaint's procedure from the Voice of the Families be considered when the Committee carries out its scrutiny review on Complaints.

6. PETITION - RIGHTS OF THE VOICE OF THE FAMILIES

The Committee considered a petition which had been received by the Council from The Voice of the Families group.

A representative of The Voice of the Families was in attendance to present the petition. The petition requested the following:

Please can the scrutiny committee support the right of the voice of the families to hold protests, present petitions, meet groups and individuals concerned and dealing with children's services, raise issues and to do this without being targeted, labelled and being the victim of falsehoods by individual councillors and Sefton personnel.

The Committee responded with the following statement:

The Committee absolutely supports the right of any residents of Sefton to peacefully protest and promotes the right of any family members and other

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individuals who use children's services to raise any issues that they have about those services with this Committee.

Because parents and carers told us that they felt the work of this Committee could be more transparent and that it could be made easier for parents and carers to raise issues directly to the Committee, Members have reviewed the Terms of Reference of this Committee and introduced an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Committee. In addition, a new parents and carers Sub-Committee has been established.

Anybody who believes that they have been treated by an officer or elected Member of this Council in a way that is inappropriate or disrespectful, is free to complain to the Monitoring Officer in the case of elected members and in the case of an officer, to their line manager using the corporate complaints procedure.

RESOLVED: That

the petition be noted

7. PETITION - FASD TRAINING

The Committee considered a petition which had been received by the Council from The Voice of the Families group.

A representative of The Voice of the Families was in attendance to present the petition. The petition requested the following:

Please can the scrutiny committee investigate the issue of the Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) training (that it being provided by Sefton for teaching staff, health and social care staff and families. Families are concerned that there is none. Promises of training that does not take place has increased the pain of the families involved.

The Committee responded with the following statement:

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have already been told by parents and carers about the challenges of bringing up children affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorders and had already added foetal alcohol spectrum disorders to the list of topics that the committee may wish to look at over the coming year.

In relation to the training currently provided to Sefton staff, the Committee has been advised that the SEND board agrees that awareness raising/training around FASD should be provided. However, sourcing the appropriate training has presented some difficulties. Officers have been liaising with the Beyond (Cheshire and Mersey Integrated Care Board) team who have been auditing NICE guidance re FASD in maternity services and looking at training/pathway development opportunities for the

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wider workforce. This training may take time to develop, so the option of running some training locally is being explored.

The Committee agrees that this is an important issue and will be asking for further updates from officers about progress in sourcing and delivering FASD training.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the petition be noted; and
- (2) the Committee to request further updates on the progress made in sourcing and delivering FASD training.

8. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer submitting the most recent update reports from the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families whose portfolio fell within the remit of the Committee.

The Cabinet Member update report was presented as two reports covering Children's Social Care, attached to the report at Appendix A, and Education, attached at Appendix B.

The Cabinet Member update report – Children's Social Care, outlined information on the following:

Childrens Social Care

- Early Help
- Ofsted Monitoring Visit
- Integrated Front Door
- Help and Protection
- Youth Justice Service
- Cared for and Care Experienced Children
- Safeguarding, Review and Quality Assurance
- Practice Improvement

The Cabinet Member update report – Education, outlined information on the following:

Education

- SEND – Education, Health and Care Plans
- Staffing Update
- Graduated Approach
- Partnership Working
- Co-production
- SEND Strategy

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- Sufficiency Planning
- Feedback from Ofsted
- Alternative Provision
- Exclusions and Attendance
- Elective Home Education
- Inclusion
- School Improvement
- 14-19 Participation
- Early Years
- The Virtual School
- School Admissions Update and School Appeals
- Pupil Place Planning
- Education Safeguarding.

Members of the Committee raised the following queries:

- The new CHAT service and when data would be available.
- The progress made as outlined in the recent Ofsted Letter.
- Apprenticeships and how the Council could encourage more businesses to take an apprentice.
- The pace of change in Children's Social Care and when further reductions in inadequate practice might be reported.
- How outcomes for Team Around the School were measured.
- Where the 'Family Justice Plan' could be viewed.
- EHCP's and the current numbers of Plans.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

9. FAMILY HUBS

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the recent changes made to the Front Door and developments in Early Help which had seen a move from Family Wellbeing Centres to three main Family Hubs with a network of smaller hubs.

Members of the Committee raised the following queries on the report:

- How residents are supported to access the centres
- Outreach arrangements for areas further away from a Family Hub
- How capacity is built in to manage calls at busy times.
- Details of any feedback since the changes to the Front Door were introduced.

The Committee noted that there would be an Ofsted Inspection later in June and feedback would be provided to the Committee in due course.

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That the update be noted.

10. CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The Committee received a verbal update from the Executive Director of Children's Services on progress made on the Improvement Programme.

Information was provided on the following:

- The ongoing work on the areas identified for improvement by the Children's Services Commissioner.
- Further recommendations suggested by the Commissioner.
- Re-structure of Children's Services

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

11. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Quality Assurance and Safeguarding) that set out the quality assurance and performance headlines for the period February - April 2024.

The performance Scorecard was circulated which provided data and analysis of the Key Performance Indicators identified as illustrative of 'system health'.

The steady increase in 'good' audits was noted and Members commented that they looked forward to seeing further improvement in the next six months.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

12. SEFTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The Committee considered the annual report 2022-2023 of the Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership Board. The report related to all board activities completed between April 2022 and March 2023.

The purpose of the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board was to safeguard children and work together with a collective aim to better improve the outcomes for children and young people.

RESOLVED:

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That the contents of the report be noted.

13. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CS&S) WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought to:

- seek the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2024/25;
- note the programme of informal meetings attached at appendix B;
- note the topics suggested for in-depth review of Child Poverty, ADHD/ASD services and Health Inequalities in Care Experienced Children;
- note there were no items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee on the latest Key Decision Forward Plan; and
- receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The following appendices were attached to the report:

- Appendix A - Work Programme for 2023/24;
- Appendix B – Programme of Informal Meetings

Members of the Committee raised the following questions/issues:

- That School Meals Provision be added to the work programme for a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft Work Programme for 2023/24, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be agreed, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) the informal briefing sessions as outlined in Appendix B be held, as and when required, rather than the establishment of a traditional working group during 2024/25;
- (3) note the topics of Child Poverty, ADHD/ASD services and Health Inequalities in Care Experienced Children for in-depth review;
- (4) the fact that there were no items relating to Children's Services on the Key Decision Forward Plan for the period 1 July - 31 October be noted; and
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

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**Report Title:
Quality Assurance
and Practice
Improvement**

Date of meeting:	24 th September 2024		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding)		
Report of:	Assistant Director, Safeguarding, Review and Quality Assurance		
Portfolio:	Childrens Services		
Wards affected:	All Wards		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

Summary:

This report will provide an overview of Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement activity during June and July 2024 in Sefton Children’s Social Care. In addition to this, it will set out audit performance over the last 12 months offering a view of direction of travel and areas of focus. Alongside monthly ‘deep dive’ audit activity, focused dip sampling also takes place following lines of enquiry informed by performance data or the need to understand a discreet area of practice.

Recommendation(s):

That the report be noted

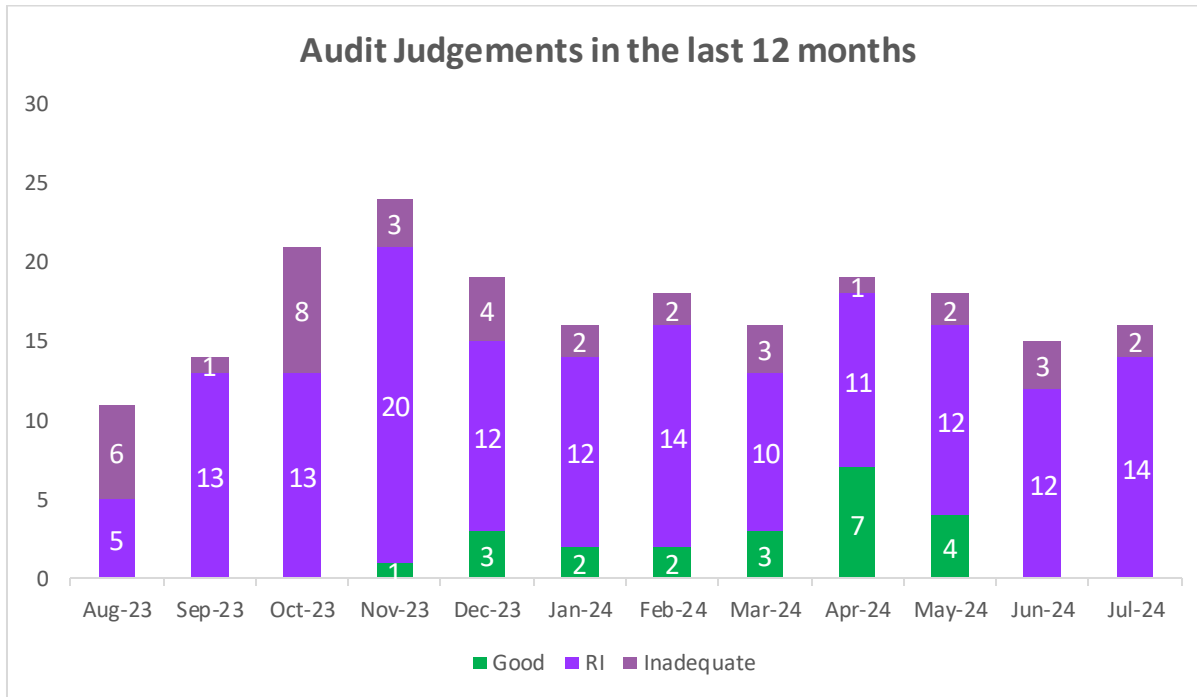
1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

Key highlights and direction of travel

The chart below summarises activity over the last 12 months. **Most work audited across the service continues to be considered ‘Requires Improvement to Be Good.’**

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We began to see good work in November 2023 with a peak in April/May 2024; however, there was an absence of good work identified in June and July. 16 audits were undertaken in August 2024; 2 audits have been judged Good, 13 Requires Improvement to be Good and 1 Inadequate pending moderation.



Detailed information was prepared and presented to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Children’s Commissioner in July 2024. This summarized audit performance over time and drilled down on where inadequate and good practice sits across the service. Most inadequate work was concentrated in teams within the Help and Protect Service

Overview of Key Findings - June and July 2024

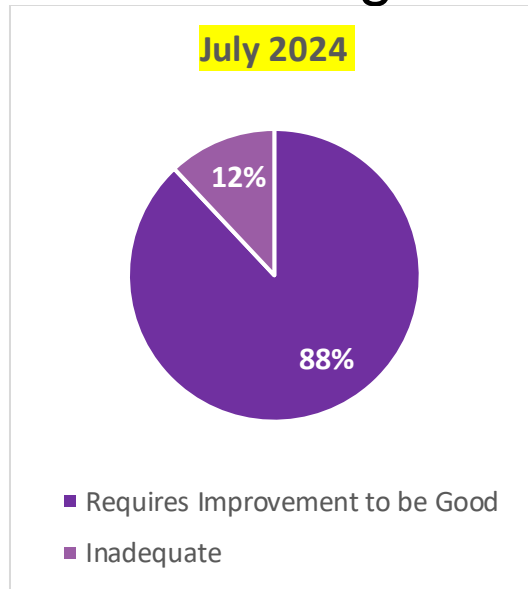
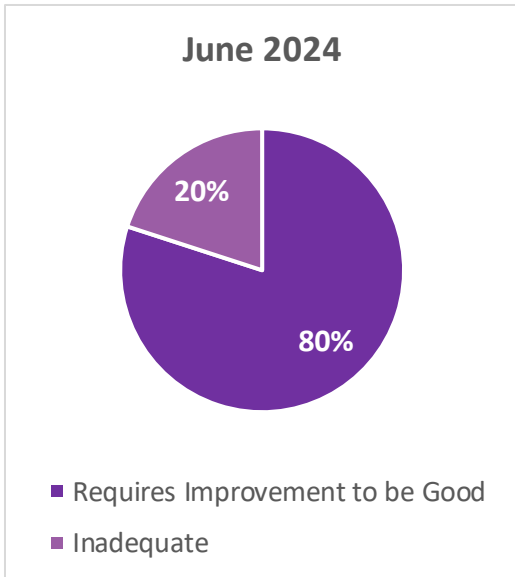
Relationship based practice remains a strength in Sefton and this is echoed in feedback from children and families who report positive and meaningful relationships with professionals and collaborative working to progress plans.

Some children and families wait too long for identified support and permanence. Sefton Children’s Services has a clear vision which promotes high support and high challenge, “tricky conversations” and escalation when drift and delay is observed. A key finding in this audit period is that this is not happening as often as it should be. (CP Chairs/IROS and Managers in supervision.)

Children and families would benefit from plans and visits that have a clear purpose and actions with timescales and ownership so progress can be measured.

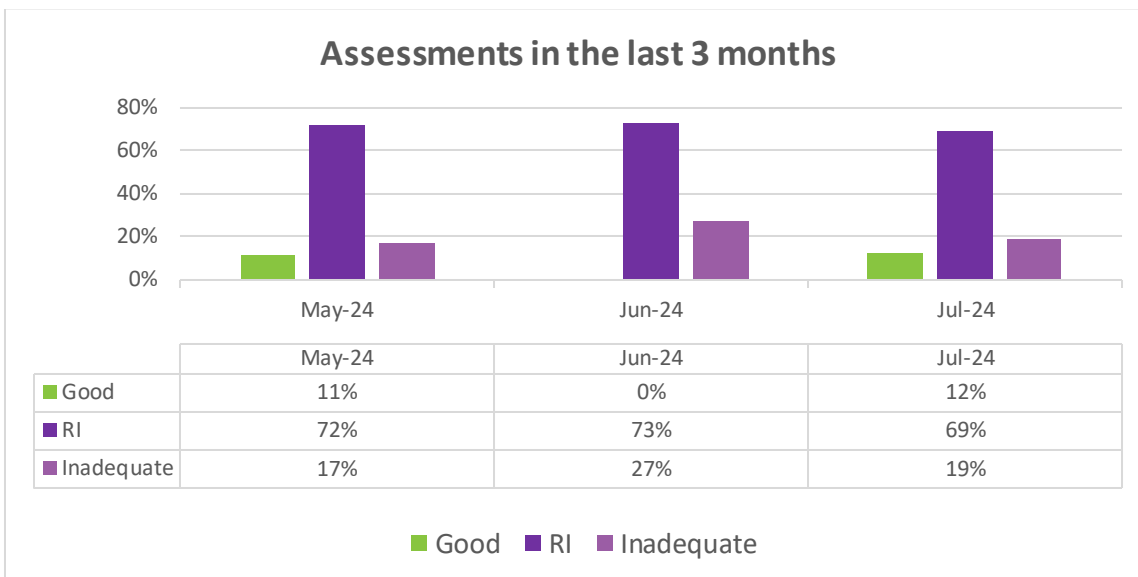
Audit Activity – June and July 2024

31 deep dive audits have been completed across Children’s Social Care in June and July 2024. 13 of these audits were moderated (42%) which resulted in 4 audits being downgraded - 2 from ‘Requires Improvement to be Good’ to ‘Inadequate’ and 2 from “Good” to “Requires Improvement to be Good”.



Audit findings linked to the 5 practice priorities

1. Assessment



What do we know?

- Most children and families benefit from timely C&F assessments but other assessments such as parenting assessments are often subject to drift and delay.
- In the assessments judged 'Good,' there was no delay in the family receiving intervention and support following the assessment and there was safety planning in place prior to the ICPC.
- For children and families where assessments have been graded inadequate, vulnerabilities and risks for the child were recognised but the timeliness of our response was too slow and safety planning was not clear or evident on the child's record. For other families, there are significant delays in risks being assessed or assessments being updated following significant events to inform safety planning.
- Both Mothers and Fathers who hold PR were not consulted during the assessment period.
- Some assessments lack rich detail from the child/young person and their family to fully understand their wishes, feelings and lived experience.

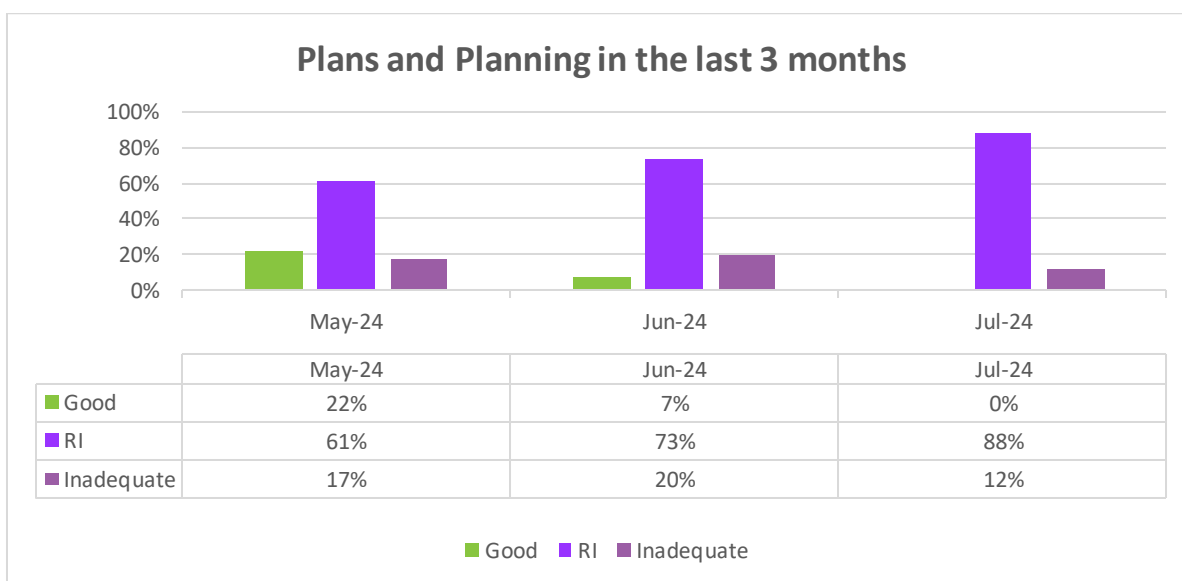
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- More understanding is needed of parents with mental health issues and how this impacts their parenting capacity and child’s lived experience.

Impact of any practice improvement or learning activity

- Good assessment training was rolled out to relevant teams last year with recent refresher sessions provided to all managers to promote consistency. The impact of this training is evident, but application is not consistent. Good assessment training will continue to be included in our core offer and the impact of training will continue to be monitored through ongoing quality assurance and feedback from children and families.
- 2 mandatory sessions on safety planning took place in August 2024 with 140 people in attendance. A further session is planned in September 2024. Following this, safety planning training will become part of our core offer for all new staff. The impact of this can be measured through future quality assurance work.
- Child Protection Conference Chairs have received a separate briefing in respect of ensuring steps are taken during strategy meetings to reduce risk and create safety (while the S47 investigation is ongoing and prior to ICPC) and their role in review of this. Safety planning was also discussed at the Practice and Performance meeting in July 2024 and will be revisited in the October meeting.
- An Analysis Activity Book was created and launched in July 2024 with follow up sessions planned across the service to embed critical thinking and analytical recording to improve assessment, plans, recording and oversight. This work is being supported by a Practice Improvement Manager.
- Practice month (October 2024) will focus on Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse - core safeguarding which is one of Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership priorities. An extensive programme of learning events has been created with input from the partnership to encourage multi agency learning, working together and shared responsibility.

Plans and Planning



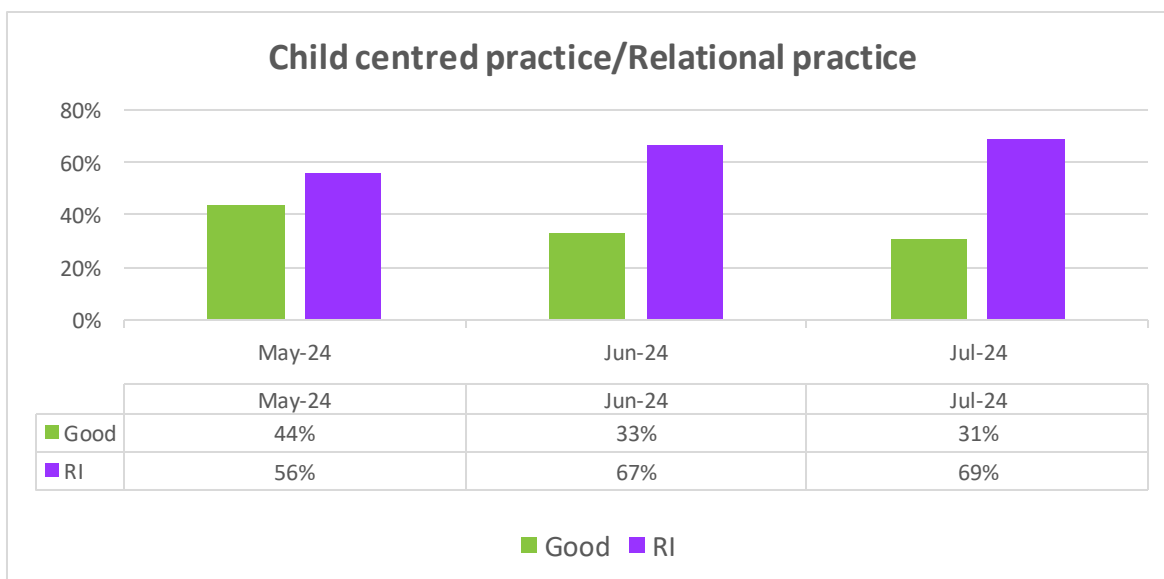
What do we know?

- Positively, more parents are attending planning meetings and co-producing their child’s plan and there was evidence of young people attending their reviews to give their views or their views being sought in advance.
- Most families are benefitting from multi-agency meetings taking place on a regular basis with good multi-agency attendance, but for some families, this doesn’t always result in progress being made on the child’s plan. In this audit period, delays were identified in EHCP planning and plans agreed at Family Group Conferences not being progressed.
- The main reason for plans being judged ‘inadequate’ was children and families experiencing significant drift and delay which sometimes contributed to concerns escalating.
- Children and families would benefit from tighter review of actions within plans with clear ownership to enable progress to be measured and minimise delay.
- Stronger review and oversight are required from Team Manager/IRO/CP Chair to identify and address gaps in planning and escalate drift and delay.
- Some young adults experience delays in their Pathway Plan commencing which can delay access to the support they are entitled to, and some Pathway Plans do not address how they will achieve their long-term goals and aspirations.

Impact of any practice improvement or learning activity

- Improvement activity has continued to focus on plans and planning for children and families and analytical recording and thinking skills. The analysis activity book also references plans and the importance of review.
- Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership training sessions on plans and planning were delivered in in July 2024 to 31 partners with a further session planned for October during Practice month.
- Continued focus over the coming months will be on “steps to reduce risk and create safety” as stated above.

Child Centred Practice/Relationship Based Practice



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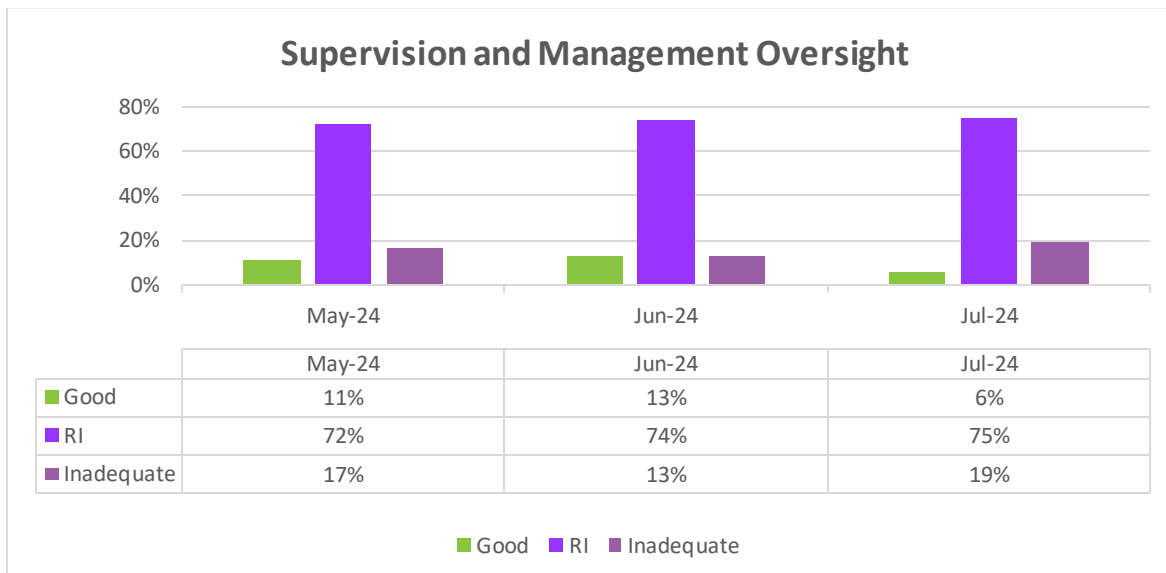
What do we know?

- Positively, there are no 'inadequate' grades within this domain.
- Children/young people and care experienced young adults have a positive and meaningful relationship with their social worker/PA and some commented that they would contact their worker if they were worried or needed support.
- Children and young people are benefiting from regular visits with more examples of child centred recordings that show purposeful visits linked to their plan.
- There were some examples of young people benefiting from good transitions when workers changed to reduce impact for the family.
- During feedback conversations, young people, parents and carers spoke highly of practitioners and the support they had received which has supported progression of plans. In 1 instance, had the audit focussed on current social work practice (rather than the last 6 months), this domain would have been graded 'outstanding.'
- Some visits to the child/young person still require improvement as although they are timely, the quality of recording is variable, can be repetitive and some lack purpose and analysis of observations/child's voice. This is sometimes impacted upon by duty workers completing visits.
- Children and young people would benefit from increased use of direct work tools to understand their lived experience and planned life story work to help them understand their early life experiences and why decisions were made.

Impact of any practice improvement or learning activity

- Many Sefton Children's Services staff and partner agencies have attended Trauma Informed Training provided by Merseyside Violence Reduction Programme. There are plans for further sessions for Trauma informed approaches during Practice month 2024.
- Recent training in good assessment and plans and planning plans has reinforced messaging around relational practice and co-production.
- New practice standards have been co-produced with input from the Think ACES Create PACES group who we hope will support the launch of the new standards in October 2024.
- A bespoke session was delivered by Research and Practice to 17 practitioners from across Children's Services - 'Working effectively with Fathers'. This will be rolled out further via a Practice Improvement Manager and a Learning and Development Partner.

Management Oversight and Supervision



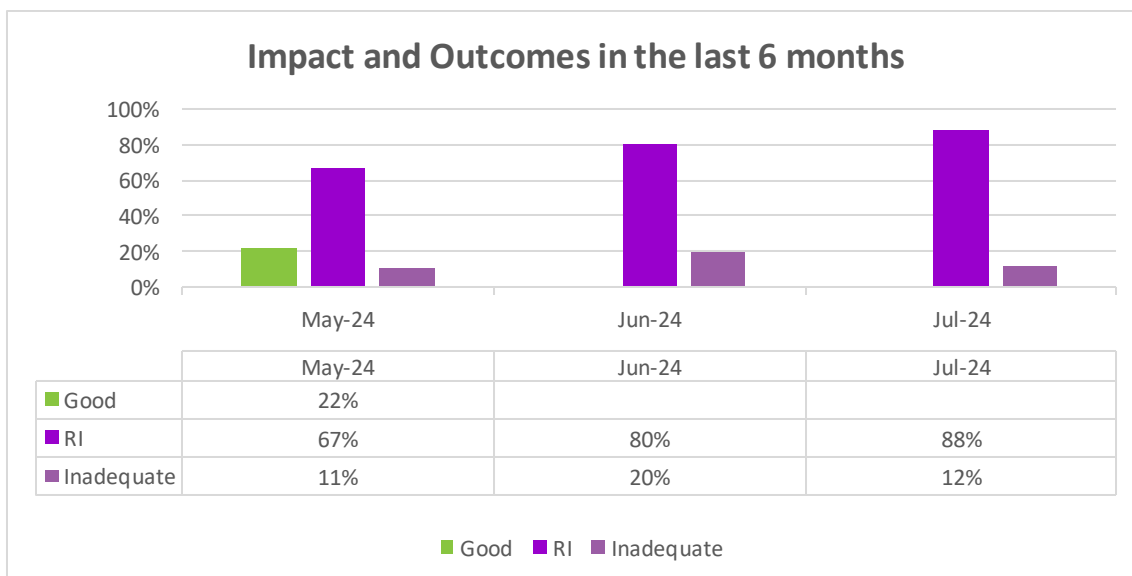
What do we know?

- Supervision of practitioners is most often taking place regularly and largely within expected timescales. In good examples, regular review of the safety plan was evident in supervision and layered management oversight from the IRO, service manager and assistant director drive planning forward for the family and kept the children safe. When this is not so, the absence of regular supervision is contributing to delays for children and families. It is acknowledged that the audit period covers the holiday period which may result in some supervisions going out of timescales.
- Although, most families benefit from their plan being regularly reviewed in the worker’s supervision, there is not always evidence of reflection with the Team Manager regarding the effectiveness of the plan. Records can be too descriptive in nature and don’t evidence tracking of actions to drive plan forward and avoid delay.
- The main reason for judgements of ‘inadequate’ is that children and families are experiencing significant delays in receiving support or achieving permanence and this is not always addressed or challenged by the Team Manager/IRO/CP Chair.

Impact of any practice improvement or learning activity

- Positively, most managers are engaged in audit and complete audits in a timely way usually to a good standard. Managers tell us that by doing audits themselves and reviewing the work of colleagues; this allows them to reflect upon and improve their own oversight. Audit training for new managers/new auditors is scheduled to take place in September 2024 as is a further management oversight and supervision action learning set.
- Reflective supervisions are being undertaken when work is considered ‘inadequate’ allowing all to consider what contributed to the grade and impact on the child and family; addressing any issues raised and required future oversight.

Impact and Outcomes (Creating stability and achieving Permanence)



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What do we know?

- Families are benefiting from more collaborative working with Children's Social Care which has resulted in a family led plan to reduce risk and improve outcomes for the child.
- Children and young people are afforded stability with those who are caring for them but for some, delays in legal permanence being achieved means there is still uncertainty about their future (including progressing SGO).
- Despite assessment and plans being in place to support the child and family, delay has been a feature, and the child and family has not yet received the identified support.
- Stronger review and oversight are required from Team Manager/IRO/CP Chair to address gaps in planning and address/escalate drift and delay.
- More robust safety planning and assessment is needed to secure long- term safety and stability, including a greater understanding of the family network.
- Care experienced young adults need more forward planning in their Pathway Plans to meet their needs (including mental health needs) and achieve their long-term goal and aspirations.

Impact of any practice improvement or learning activity

- Practice & Performance quarterly meetings bring practitioners and managers together.
- Ads undertake monthly moderation of audits to ensure good line of sight.
- Response to inadequate audits has been tightened. When work is graded inadequate; audits are moderated swiftly; if the inadequate grade is maintained a reflective conversation is facilitated by the relevant Service Manager to unpick learning and ensure any remedial identified actions are followed up to improve the child and families' lives.

What children and their families are telling us

Auditors spoke to **1** care experienced young adult and **6** children/ young people in June and July 2024. This is a noticeable increase in communication with young people and shows determination to hear their voice with evidence of 2 auditors responding to a child's request to visit them in their homes. Auditors also spoke to **22** parents and carers during the audit period to gain their views on their experience with Children's Social Care and also triangulate with audit findings. They told us:

I like my social worker; she is kind and helpful. I feel heard and know my plan is to live with my foster carers

(feedback from young person)

Since my new social worker has been involved, I have had good communication and support has been put in place. Prior to this, nothing was happening.

People have taken the time to get to know me, have a laugh and do fun things. I have been very involved in my assessments and plan.

(feedback from young person)

I have been very involved in my child's assessments and plans as I wanted help. I have had copies of everything, and I feel like I have support from a team.

I am happy with the way things have gone and the plan is progressing well. I was consulted during the assessment but in the early stages felt like I was blamed for the domestic abuse and not the victim.

Changes in workers are difficult when you have already told your story. I can sometimes forget things because of my ADHD.

I wasn't contacted by Children's Services when they were doing the assessment, but I have since been involved in CIN meetings.

(feedback from a dad)

I am not sure I have a plan; I have not seen it. I asked for help with work uniform, but it has been weeks and it's still not sorted.

(feedback from Care experienced young adult)

The say they have called me when they haven't, they don't tell me the reason for the visit. The CP plan has been open for 2 years, I don't get invited to meetings and I don't feel we have got anywhere.

(feedback from a dad)

Thematic dip sample audits completed:

- Impact of Safer Families Practice Hub - 23 families reviewed

Actions were identified following this dip sample which will tracked by the Practice Improvement Manager.

Work has also been ongoing with the Fostering Service to create a bespoke audit tool which will be incorporated into our monthly audit schedule from September 2024 and there has been an evaluation of the Family Group Conference Service with dip sampling planned to track progress.

2. Financial Implications

Not applicable

3. Legal Implications

None directly

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4. Corporate Risk Implications

None directly

5 Staffing HR Implications

None directly

6 Conclusion

Not Applicable

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not Applicable

Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.
Impact on Children and Young People: Not applicable
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will have a Negative impact.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Services & Commercial (FD.7781/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5881/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not Applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee

Contact Officer:	Joe Banham
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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Children's Social Care Performance Scorecard

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

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Data as at end of August 2024

The top ten indicators are measures being monitored in the DfE Commissioner's report and where possible, a rolling 12 month and 6 month figure is used to show recent progress.

Indicators 11-26 compares the latest 6 month data from July 2024 to 6 month data 12 months ago, as taken from the ChAT report.

The scorecard also shows the direction of travel and comparisons made to published statistics (2022-23)

No	Indicator	LA rolling 12m (Sep23 - Aug24)	LA rolling 6m (Mar24 - Aug24)	Direction of travel (RAG rated where low/high is stated)	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q1 Sefton	2023-24 RIG NW	Latest published statistics (2022-23)				Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis
									LA	SN	NW	Eng		
1	Referrals received (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	730.6	883.0	↑	580	-	671	517.1	823	630	530	545	Higher	The 12 month rolling rate continues to rise and has increased for the fifth consecutive period from 632 in March to 773 in July. There has been a 44% increase in the number of referrals between April to August compared to the same period last year. 6 months and 12 month rolling rate is above target and benchmarking groups.
2	Referrals to social care that were within 12 months of a previous referral	24.2%	20.0%	↓	21%	Low	24.0%	21.5%	27	24	22	22	Higher	The 12 month rolling rate for re-referrals has remained relatively consistent for the last six reporting periods - stabilising around 23-25%. For the last two reporting periods, 6m rate has been lower than 12m rate, indicating progress in the right direction. The current 6 month rate of 20% is higher than target and benchmarking neighbours.
3	Assessments completed (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	780.2	836	↑	622	-	777	588.4	919	667	597	557	Higher	After an upturn in the 12m rate of assessments per 10k in April (804), the rate has fallen and the summer months sees the rate settle around 780-785 assessments per 10k. However, the 6 month figure (836) shows that numbers are on the rise due to increase in referrals and the rate is well above from the revised target of 622. Sefton has a higher rate compared to the benchmarking group.
4	Assessments completed within 45 working days (%)*	86.5%	83.0%	↓	89%	High	82.8%	83.7%	74	84	79	82	Lower	The rolling 12 month rate of assessments completed within 45 days has been on the whole on the up and is above 80% compared to June last year, where the rate was at 65%. 6 month rolling figure of 83% shows that improvement has slightly fallen in the last 6 months compared to earlier in the year. 12 month rate is on par with benchmarking groups. Q1 figures shows Sefton to be 7th highest out of 24 LAs in the North West.
5	Children subject to section 47 enquiries (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	272.1	295	↑	207	-	258	197.6	378	222	210	192	Higher	Direction of travel for the 12 month rolling rate of s47 enquiries has been on a largely downward trend since April 2023, however, a larger than average number of s47s were completed between May and July, resulting in the trend now heading in the opposite direction. Sefton higher than benchmarking neighbours.
6	Percentage of agency social workers (%) in workforce**	30% (Jan24)	28% (Aug24)	↓	20%	Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Target is to reduce the percentage of agency staff from 50% to 20% and the latest figure from August 2024 of 28% is a slight increase from 26% recorded in June.
7	Percentage of CIN Visits (non CWCN) completed within timescales	79.0%	81.8%	↑	90%	High	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Monthly performance data shows that progress has been made in terms of CIN visit timeliness in the last 6 months. 6 month rate is at 81.8% compared to the 12 month rolling rate of 79%, demonstrating progress in recent months.

Key indicator. Targets have been set for all key indicators.

Key indicator. Targets have been set for all key indicators.		Latest published statistics (2022-23)											Analysis	
No	Indicator	LA rolling 12m (Sep23 - Aug24)	LA rolling 6m (Mar24 - Aug24)	Direction of travel (RAG rated where low/high is stated)	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q1 Sefton	2023-24 RIG NW	LA	SN	NW	Eng		Compared to mid-50% LA
8	Percentage of Assessments completed within 45 working days by Corporate Parenting	67.3%	76.3%	↑	85%	High	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Although Corporate Parenting only complete an average of 27 assessments per month, completion rates in timescale has been previously poor. However, assessments completed within 45 days has seen rates increase from 59% last year to 6m rate of 76.3%. Monthly performance shows rates as high as 90% in May, but fallen since then.
9	Percentage of CP Visits completed within timescales	86.6%	88.2%	↑	90%	High	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Progress has been made with CP visits has shown by 6 month rolling average of 88.2%, compared to 86% for the rolling 12 months - due to improved performance compared to a poorer summer. Currently shy of meeting target.
10	Percentage of Cfc Visits completed within timescales	82.5%	83.3%	↑	90%	High	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Monthly analysis shows that the percentage of Cfc visits completed on time sit at 84% for the last three months. Edging towards target.

No	Indicator	LA Aug23 ChAT	LA Aug24 ChAT	Direction of travel	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q1 Sefton	2023-24 RIG NW	Latest published statistics (2022-23)				Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis
									LA	SN	NW	Eng		
11	Children subject of an initial child protection conference (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	63	76	↑	-	-	79	65.3	99	72	69	63	Higher	The 6mth rate of children per 10k who were subject of an ICPC has increased for the third consecutive period from 55 (May) to 76 (August). Number of ICPCs have more than doubled in the last three months compared to the previous three. Monthly analysis shows a large number of ICPCs started in June and July. Despite the recent increase, the 12m rate is still below statistical neighbours and NW.
12	Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days of the start of the section 47 enquiry (%)	72%	87%	↑	-	High	86%	80.5%	91	80	80	78	Higher	ICPC timeliness rate has increased in recent months, as reflected in the 6m rate of 87% compared to the 12m rate of 72%. Three months out of the last six show the rate above 85%. August data shows 100% of ICPC completed in time.
13	Children in need (snapshot rate per 10,000 children) **	460	483	↑	-	-	468	366.9	517	390	387	343	Higher	The rate of children in need has increased slightly compared to last reporting month (477 v 483), due to an increase in referral numbers. Current rate is lower than Sefton 2022-23 data, but higher than benchmarking group.
14	Children who are the subject of a child protection plan (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	59	59	↔	-	-	53	49.7	63	50	49	43	Higher	After a large fall in the rate of CP children per 10k from 67 in May 2023 to 47 in Mar 2024, the CP has started to creep up in recent months to 59 per 10k. After seven months of CP numbers below 300, CP has risen to 315 in August (fourth monthly increase). The current rate is slightly higher than statistical neighbours and North West.
15	Children who became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time	24%	25%	↑	-	Low	22.4%	23.8%	18	23	24	24	Lower	Similar to the rate of CP, the 6 month rolling rate of children becoming on a CP for a subsequent time has already started to creep up from 18% (May) to 25% (August). As a result, Sefton's rate is now on par with benchmarking groups, previously below.
16	Children who ceased to be on a CP plan whose plan lasted 2 years or more	2%	5%	↑	-	Low	-	2.4%	4	4	5	4	In range	Similar to the two previous CP indicators, the percentage of children who ceased to be on a CP plan for 2 years or more has increased too. The rate has always been low and is on par with benchmarking groups.
17	Children who are looked after (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	114	106	↓	-	-	106	95.7	114	93	97	71	Higher	The number of Cared for Children has remained under 600 for the eighth consecutive month (567) and is the lowest number since March 2020 (566). The rate per 10k is still higher than statistical neighbours and national. Recent North West analysis shows Sefton to be 7th highest in the group.
18	Children looked after who had a missing incident in the period (%)	10	11	↑	-	-	-	-	10	12	12	11	In range	Rate remains static over 12 month period and inline with statistical neighbours and national.
19	Children looked after who were away without authorisation in the period (%)	1%	0%	↓	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	2	Lower	Rate remains static over 12 month period and low compared with statistical neighbours and national.
20	Children looked after who had their teeth checked by a dentist in the last 12 months (%)	75%	92%	↑	-	High	-	-	87	74	77	76	Higher	Percentage rate has increased since this time last year and is currently above benchmarking groups. This rate usually increases throughout the year and is expected to be above benchmarking group by the end of the reporting year.
21	Children looked after who had their annual health assessment (%)	94%	98%	↑	-	High	-	-	98	90	92	89	Higher	Percentage rate has remained stable compared to this time last year. Above benchmarking groups.

No	Indicator	LA Aug23 ChAT	LA Aug24 ChAT	Direction of travel	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q1 Sefton	2023-24 RIG NW	Latest published statistics (2022-23)				Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis
									LA	SN	NW	Eng		
22	Children who ceased to be looked after in the period who were adopted (%)	3%	8%	↑	-	-	-	-	<1%	10	9	9	In range	Adoption rate has increased in the last 6 months and on par with benchmarking groups.
23	Children who ceased to be looked after in the period due to a Special Guardianship Order (%)	15%	28%	↑	-	-	-	-	21	-	15	12	Higher	Percentage rate has increased since the same period last year. Above last year's figure and above benchmarking group.
24	Children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday (%)	89%	73%	↓	-	High	-	-	100	91	81	79	Higher	Percentage rate has decreased since the same period last year and is currently below NW and England, but below stat neighbours.
25	Care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation (%) - Latest snapshot **	86%	98%	↑	-	High	-	-	91	88	90	88	In range	The rate of care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation has increased compared to same period last year. Above benchmarking groups.
26	Care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment, or training (%) - Latest snapshot **	45%	54%	↑	-	High	-	-	47	53	54	56	Lower	Young people in employment, education or training (EET) has increased slightly when comparing to the same period 12 months ago. This rate is on par with benchmarking groups.

* rolling 12 months data. All others figures are taken from the ChAT 12 months ago

** snapshot at end of August 2023, August 2024

Report Title: Ofsted Inspections Spring and Summer Term 2024

Date of meeting:	24 September 2024		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Childrens Services and Safeguarding)		
Report of:	Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education		
Portfolio:	Children, Schools and Families		
Wards affected:	All		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

Summary:

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

Recommendation(s):

- (1) That the report be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To appraise the Committee of developments.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Schools can be inspected under Section 5 or Section 8 guidance.
- 1.2 Under the education inspection framework section 5 inspections, inspectors will make the following judgements about schools: overall effectiveness; quality of education; behaviour

Agenda Item 9

and attitudes; personal development and leadership and management. If the school offers early years provision and sixth-form provision, inspectors will also make judgements on these areas.

- 1.3 Under the education inspection framework section 8 inspections may be carried out for a range of reasons: schools judged to be good or outstanding at their most recent section 5 inspection; monitoring inspections of schools judged as requires improvement; monitoring inspections of schools judged to have serious weaknesses; monitoring inspections of schools judged to require special measures; any inspection that is carried out in other circumstances where the inspection has no specific designation, known as 'section 8 no formal designation inspection' and unannounced behaviour inspections.
- 1.4 The usual interval for section 5 inspections is within 5 school years from the end of the school year in which the last section 5 or relevant section 8 inspection took place.

2. Support from School Improvement Team:

- 2.1 All schools currently judged Requires Improvement or Inadequate receive support and challenge from the School Improvement Team. In addition, the team also broker support. Schools with two RI judgements or judged inadequate receive support from the DFE including a National Leader of Education working with the school and the Local Authority on a school improvement programme.
- 2.2 All schools currently judged Good or Outstanding have access to a health check when in the Ofsted window. This enables the school to identify any areas that they need support with. The team will then provide or broker support if required.
- 2.3 Once the school receives the call a member of the team will contact them to check if any support is required and keep in contact throughout the inspection.
- 2.4 The Service Manager for School Improvement or the Assistant Director of Education Excellence meets with the lead inspector during the inspection and attend the final feedback.
- 2.5 Following the inspection report being released the team will again provide or broker support as appropriate.
- 2.6 The Local Authority are held to account by the DFE and the Senior HMI for school performance. The main focus of discussions is regarding all schools judged as Requiring Improvement or Inadequate, the capacity to improve and the impact of support provided.

3. Inspections – Spring and Summer Term 2024

- 3.1 The following schools outlined within the attached appendix have been inspected and reports received since the last meeting:
 1. St Mary's Catholic Primary School
 2. Crosby High School
 3. Farnborough Road Junior School

4. Springwell Park Primary School
5. Litherland High School
6. IMPACT PRU
7. St William of York Catholic Primary School
8. St Nicholas CE Primary School
9. St Luke's CE Primary School
10. Greenacre Nursery
11. St Luke's Primary Halsall
12. Birkdale Primary School
13. St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
14. Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
15. Trinity St Peter's CE Primary School
16. Ursuline Catholic Primary School
17. Crossens Nursery
18. Freshfield Primary School
19. St Thomas CE Primary School
20. Holy Family Catholic Primary School
21. Lydiate Primary School
22. St Michael's CE High School
23. St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary

4. Financial Implications

Not applicable

5. Legal Implications

School Inspection Handbook, Education Act 2005

6. Risk Implications

Not applicable

7. Staffing HR Implications

Not applicable

8. Conclusion

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That members note the report

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable

Equality Implications: There are no equality implications
Impact on Children and Young People: The School Improvement Team offers support to all schools receiving an Ofsted inspection.
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will have a neutral impact

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Services & Commercial (FD.7780/24.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5880/24.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

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Appendices:



The following appendices are attached to this report:



Ofsted Summary of Outcomes and Support Spring and Summer 2024 – Published results for the schools outlined.

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OFSTED Summary of Outcomes and Support Spring and Summer 2024

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	30 th & 31 st January 2024	David Spruce	Good 50246731 (ofsted.gov.uk)	Inspection date 29 th September 2022 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYFS (RI) - lack of clarity around knowledge pupils should be taught Delivering content for mixed-age classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support school Voluntary academy conversion with Pope Francis MAT
Crosby High School	1 st to 2 nd February 2024	Julie Bather	Good  10294204 - Crosby High School - 104980	Inspection date 11 th September 2018 (short inspection) Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next inspection will be full section 5 Behaviour Staff well-being/workload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support school Excellent engagement
Farnborough Road Junior School	7 th to 8 th February 2024	Claire Cropper	Good 50241678 (ofsted.gov.uk)	Inspection date 22nd January 2019 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment - ensure that checks on pupils' learning enable teachers to address identified gaps in pupils' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good relationship with SI Good relationship with Inclusion Services.

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
					knowledge.	
Springwell Park Primary School	20 th February 2024	David Spruce	Good  10294348 Springwell Park Community Prim	Inspection date October 2018 (short inspection) Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND - delivery and adaptation of the curriculum Monitoring of the quality of education by subject leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good relationship with SI Good engagement (EYs and Inclusion)
Litherland High School	20 th & 21 st February 2024	Eleanor Overland HMI	Good  10314045 - Litherland High Schoc	Inspection date 25 th January 2022 Requires Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment - identify and remedy pupils' gaps in knowledge Curriculum – develop deep body of subject knowledge Monitoring the quality of education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Good relationships with Inclusion team Group funding in place
Impact PRU	21 st February	Rebecca Sharples	Monitoring Visit – Serious	Inspection date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders have made progress to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full support package

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
	2024	HMI	Weaknesses  10318268 - IMPACT - 104849 Final PDF.pc	16 th & 17 th May 2023 Inadequate	improve the school, but more work is necessary for the school to be no longer judged as having serious weaknesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good working relationship • Sponsored academy order in place
St William of York Catholic Primary	12 th March 2024 to 13 th March 2024	Michelle Beard	Good  10313964 - St William of York Cathc	Short inspection 6 th December 2018 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum – deepen pupils' knowledge over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good relationships with Inclusion and accesses most training opportunities. • Good engagement (EYs)
St Nicholas CE Primary	20 th March 2024 to 21 st March 2024	David Spruce	Good 50252301 (ofsted.gov.uk)	23rd to 24th April 2013 Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop curriculum and guidance • Develop communication skills in EYFS • Improve assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent relationship with LA • Group funded model in place • Good engagement (EYs)



Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
					strategies	
St Luke's CE Primary Formby	26 th March to 27 th March 2024	Tim Vaughan	Good 50246729 (ofsted.gov.uk)	11 th April 2018 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum development to ensure pupils know and remember key learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good relationship Planning meeting taken place including SENCO and new head teacher with support and training in place this year.
Greenacre Nursery	26 th March 2024	David Robinson	Good 50246878 (ofsted.gov.uk)	26 th February 2019 short inspection – Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum development to ensure pupils know and remember key learning Assessment – address gaps in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works with LA services Works with EY SEND and Quality team
St Luke's Primary Halsall	26 th March to 27 th March 2024	Frith Murphy	Good 50247652 (ofsted.gov.uk)	5 th to 6 th March 2019 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of foundation subjects Subject leader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good relationship with SI Good


Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
					knowledge	<p>relationship with Inclusion services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good engagement (EYs)


Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
Birkdale Primary School	16 th to 17 th April 2024	Helen Friend	Good 50247112 (ofsted.gov.uk)	Short inspection 16 November 2018 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development to ensure pupils know and remember key learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good relationship with SI • Good relationship with Inclusion Services. • Good engagement (EY SEND and Quality)
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	16 th to 17 th April 2024	Pat Speed	Good 50247563	12 March 2013 Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum – deepen pupils' knowledge over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good relationship with inclusion

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
			(ofsted.gov.uk)		time	services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good engagement (EYs)
Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary	18 th to 19 th April 2024	Liz Kelly	Good 50248000 (ofsted.gov.uk)	Short Inspection 29 th January 2019 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics – consistency of practice • Improve attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support school • New Inclusion Consultant allocated. • Planning meeting completed and support in place for next year. • Good engagement (EYs)
Trinity St Peter's CE Primary School	24 th to 25 th April 2024	Frith Murray	Outstanding 50248127 (ofsted.gov.uk)	9 and 10 February 2023 Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary academy • Good engagement

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
						<p>(EY SEND and Quality)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conversion in progress • Good relationship with the inclusion service. • Group funded models in place.
Ursuline Catholic Primary School	14 th May to 15 th May 2024	James Marsh	Good 27370166 (ursulineprimary.co.uk)	2 nd April 2019 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum – depth of knowledge • Assessment – knowing what has been learned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good relationship • Works closely with the Inclusion service.
Crossens Nursery	8 th May to 9 th May 2024	Victoria Burnside	Good download.asp (crossensnursery.co.uk)	29 th June 2023 Ungraded inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum – depth of knowledge • Assessment – knowing what has been learned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light touch school but works with the EY team

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
Freshfield Primary School	21 st May to 22 nd May 2024	Pat Speed	Outstanding 50250569 (ofsted.gov.uk)	6 th to 7 th June 2013 Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent engagement with LA services Group funded models in mainstream provision.
St Thomas C of E Primary School	6 th to 7 th June 2024	Louise McArdle	Outstanding  10337714 - St Thomas Church of En	monitoring visit 18 November 2020 Ungraded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Light touch school but engages well. Small group funded model
Holy Family Primary School	11 th to 12 th June 2024	Michelle Beard	Good  10321253 Holy Family Catholic Prima	Short inspection 24 th January 2019 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum development to ensure pupils know and remember key learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good relationships with inclusion service. Group funded models in place.
Lydiate	13 th to 14 th	Jackie	Good	15 th to 16 th May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment – knowing what has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New inclusion consultant

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
Primary School	June 2024	Stillings	50252957 (ofsted.gov.uk)	Good	been learned	<p>allocated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New SENCO (experienced but does not know Sefton systems) • Planning meeting completed and support in place for this year. • Good engagement (EYs)
St Michael's C of E High School	19 th to 20 th June 2024	Jackie Stillings	<p>Inadequate</p>  <p>10348311 - St Michael's Church of E</p>	<p>Monitoring visit</p> <p>22nd November 2023</p> <p>Insufficient progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing staff expertise • Improve delivery of curriculum • Improve reading • Improve provision for SEND • Improve personal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academy • Works closely with the Inclusion team-weekly sessions with the inclusion coordinator.

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
					development	
St Robert Bellarmine	2 & 3 July 2024	Pat Speed	Outstanding  10294203 - St Robert Bellarmine Cat	March 2012 Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent engagement

Report Title: Work Programme 2024/25, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

Date of meeting:	24 September 2024		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny (Childrens Services and Safeguarding)		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer		
Portfolio:	Children, Schools and Families		
Wards affected:	All		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2024/25, identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by informal meetings of the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation(s):

That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2024/25, as set out at Appendix B be noted;
- (3) It be noted that the topics of ASD/ADHD Services, Child Poverty and Health Inequalities in Care Experienced Children are being considered for in-depth scrutiny by Members of the Committee during 2024/25 and relevant activities are included in the schedule of the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2024/25, as set out at Appendix B; and
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;

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(5) To formally note the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) following their review of the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers:

(1) the approach agreed at the Strategic Housing Partnership - Housing for Care Experienced Young People event; and the commitment of housing providers to a Care Experienced Housing Charter be endorsed; and

(2) at the conclusion of the Task and Finish Group to develop and agree the Housing Charter, the Assistant Director – Economic Growth and Housing be requested to submit a report to both the Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Regeneration and Skills) and (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) updating on the outcomes of the Group; and the Work Programme be updated accordingly.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

1.1 Work Programme 2024/25

The Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2024/25, as approved by Committee in June 2024, is set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The programme had been produced in liaison with the appropriate Executive Directors/Assistant Directors, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.

1.1.2 The Work Programme was produced based on items included in last year’s Programme.

1.1.3 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2024/25 to provide Members with the opportunity to add items to the Programme.

1.1.4 The Work Programme indicates that a presentation would be made to this meeting of the Committee on the Corporate Communications Strategy. It is now recommended that this presentation be made to the next meeting to be held on 22 October 2024.

1.2 Scrutiny Review Topics 2024/25

1.2.1 It has been usual practise for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.

1.2.2 However, over the last number of years the Committee agreed to hold informal meetings to consider topics for review rather than establishing Working Groups.

1.2.3 A schedule of the informal meetings so far for 2024/25 and site visits to be undertaken, is set out at Appendix B. The schedule will be updated during the Municipal Year as lines of enquiry develop and sessions take place.

1.2.4 The Committee is requested to comment on the schedule of informal activities to be undertaken during 2024/25 and note that additional items may be added to the schedule at future meetings of the Committee.

1.3 Pre-Scrutiny of Items in the Key Decision Forward Plan

- 1.3.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan, which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four-month period.
- 1.3.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 1.3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.
- 1.3.4 The latest Forward Plan for 1 October 2024 to 31 January 2025, contains no items relevant to the remit of this committee.

1.4 Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 1.4.1 As Members will be aware, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance Page 89 Agenda Item 8 produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny. This Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on 15 October 2019 (Minute No. 32 refers).
- 1.4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, one of which being that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S) be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- 1.4.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.

1.4.4 Role

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established by the Combined Authority in May 2017 in accordance with the Combined Authorities Order 2017.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:

- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a 'critical friend to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan.

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1.4.5 Membership

The Committee is made up of 3 elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities of the LCR Combined Authority, along with one elected Member from both the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

Sefton's appointed Members are Councillors Desmond, Hart and Hinde. Councillor Hart is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

1.4.6 Chair

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2024/25 are Councillors Steve Radford and Pat Moloney respectively.

1.4.7 Quoracy Issues

The quorum for meetings of the LCRCAO&S is 14, two-thirds of the total number of members, 20. This high threshold is not set by the Combined Authority but is set out in legislation. This has on occasion caused meetings to be inquorate.

1.4.8 Meetings

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link:

<https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=365&Year=0>

Latest Meeting – 11 September 2024

Matters considered at the meeting related to the following items:

- Financial Performance April-July 2024
- LCR Freeport and Innovation Zone Progress Report
- Liverpool City Region Long Term Skills Plan
- Work Programme Update

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 27th November 2024.

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

1.5 Recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

1.5.1 In respect of the informal meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) held on 28 August 2024 to consider the issue of the provision of housing for former looked after children who are now care leavers, the following recommendations were made:

- (1) the approach agreed at the Strategic Housing Partnership - Housing for Care Experienced Young People event; and the commitment of housing providers to a Care Experienced Housing Charter be endorsed; and
- (2) at the conclusion of the Task and Finish Group to develop and agree the Housing Charter, the Assistant Director – Economic Growth and Housing be requested to submit a report to both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) and (Children's

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Services and Safeguarding) updating on the outcomes of the Group; and the Work Programme be updated accordingly.

- 1.5.2 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Childrens Services and Safeguarding) were informed of the scrutiny review and were invited to participate. This Committee is asked to formally note the above recommendations which have also been taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) on 17th September. It is recommended that this meeting of the Committee approve formally the two recommendations above.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

(A) Revenue Costs – see above

(B) Capital Costs – see above

3. Legal Implications

- 3.1 None. Any legal implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

4. Corporate Risk Implications

- 4.1 None. Any risk implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

5 Staffing HR Implications

- 5.1 None. Any staffing/HR implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Committee is requested to determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2024/25 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny 'adds value' to the Council.

The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues before making formal decisions.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to approve its Work Programme and identify scrutiny review topics.

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Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

Impact on Children and Young People:

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 Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will have a Neutral impact.

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

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**(A) Internal Consultations**

This report is not subject to LD and FD comments. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision:

With immediate effect.

Contact Officer:	Laura Bootland
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Appendices:

Appendix A - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2024/25

Appendix B – Informal Meetings and Visits

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspections

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)
WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

Tuesday, 4 June 2024, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle

No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
1.	Cabinet Member Update Report	Laura Bootland
2.	Changes to the Front Door/Family Hubs	Jacque Finlay/Alex Jones
3.	Children's Services Improvement Programme – Verbal Update	Risthardh Hare
4.	Children's Social Care Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement	Joe Banham
5.	Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2023/24	Joe Banham
6.	Work Programme Update	Laura Bootland

Tuesday, 24 September 2024, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport

No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
1.	Cabinet Member Update Report	Laura Bootland
2.	Children's Services Improvement Programme	Risthardh Hare
3.	Children's Social Care Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement	Joe Banham
4.	Education Scorecard (Summer Term)	Nadine Carroll/Tracy Mckeating
5.	Ofsted Inspection Report (Summer Term)	Jacqui Patterson
6.	Work Programme Update	Laura Bootland

Tuesday 12 November 2024, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle		
No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
1.	Cabinet Member Update Report	Laura Bootland
2.	Children's Services Improvement Programme	Risthardh Hare
3.	Children's Social Care Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement	Joe Banham
4.	Children's Services Annual Complaints Report 2023-24	Paul Bayliss
5.	SEND Data Report	Nadine Carroll
6.	Domestic Abuse Update	Mel Ormesher
7.	Work Programme Update	Laura Bootland

Tuesday, 28 January 2025, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport		
No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
1.	Cabinet Member Update Report	Laura Bootland
2.	Children's Services Improvement Programme	Risthardh Hare
3.	Children's Social Care Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement	Joe Banham
4.	Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023/24	Karen Gray
5.	School Meals Provision Update	Colin Upton/Michelle Williams
6.	SACRE Annual Report 2023/24	Ian Ross
7.	SEND Data Report	Nadine Carroll
8.	Work Programme Update	Laura Bootland

Tuesday, 18 March 2025, 6.30 p.m. Town Hall, Bootle		
No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
1.	Cabinet Member Update Report	Laura Bootland
2.	Children's Services Improvement Programme	Risthardh Hare
3.	Children's Social Care Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement	Joe Banham
4.	Ofsted Inspection Reports (Autumn Term)	Jacqui Patterson
5.	Education Scorecard (Autumn Term)	Nadine Carroll
6.	SEND Data Report	Nadine Carroll
7.	Work Programme Update	Laura Bootland

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)
INFORMAL MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS 2023/24**

Day/Date/Time/Venue to be arranged.		
No.	Report/Item	Organiser
1.	<p>Work Programme Session</p> <p>Prior to the first formal Committee meeting for the Municipal Year on 4 June 2024, an informal meeting of Committee Members and Substitutes took place to consider matters to be raised during the Municipal Year 2024/25 and a number of different matters were raised.</p>	Laura Bootland
2.	<p>Ofsted Monitoring Visit -Front Door – June 2024</p> <p>An informal meeting took place on 19th August, to receive information on the above. Mandy Williams and Joe Banham gave a presentation to update members on the recent Ofsted letter and the improvement journey for Children's Services.</p>	Laura Bootland/Mandy Williams/Joe Banham
3.	<p>Complaints Procedure</p> <p>An informal meeting with the Complaints Lead for Children's Services took place on 2nd September. This was a chance for members to hear about the work being done to improve the complaints process.</p>	Laura Bootland/Paul Bayliss

APPENDIX

4.	<p>Child Poverty</p> <p>An informal meeting with the Public Health Team has been arranged for Thursday 19th September to look at Child Poverty</p>	<p>Laura Bootland/Margaret Jones/Helen Armitage</p>
5.	<p>Visit to MAD Group</p> <p>To meet with the Making a Difference (MAD) Group – arranged for Wednesday 9th October 2024 (Bootle Town Hall).</p>	<p>Laura Bootland/Cheryl Yates</p>
6.	<p>To visit Children’s Services at Magdalen House, Bootle – to be arranged.</p>	<p>Laura Bootland</p>