

Overview
& Scrutiny



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

DATE: Tuesday 12th November, 2024

TIME: 6.30 pm

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

Member

Substitute

Councillor
Councillor Hardman (Chair)
Councillor Evans
Councillor Danny Burns (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Harrison Kelly
Councillor Christopher Page
Councillor Parker
Councillor Porter
Councillor Prendergast
Councillor Richards
Councillor Spring

Councillor
Bayliss
Councillor Myers
Councillor Corcoran
Councillor Pugh
Councillor Williams
Councillor Hart
Councillor McGinnity
Councillor Hinde
Councillor Brough
Councillor Duerden
Councillor John Kelly

Maurice Byrne, Healthwatch
Karen Christie, Healthwatch
Stuart Harrison, Diocese
Michelle Ravey, Archdiocese
Gemma Armer, PGR
Cheryl Swainbank, PGR
Sandra Cain, Independent
Advisory Member

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. Public Question Time (Pages 5 - 8)

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 9 - 16)

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2024.

5. Cabinet Member Update Reports (Pages 17 - 26)

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 27 - 36)

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

8. Children, Schools and Families - SEND Data (Pages 37 - 60)

Report of the Assistant Director of Children's Services
(Education Excellence).

9. Children's Services Complaints and Compliments (To Follow)
Annual Report 2023/24

Report of the Executive Director of Childrens Social Care and
Education.

10. Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan (Pages 61 -
76)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

Public Questions to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

12th November 2024

No.	Question	Response
1.	<p>Please can the O&S Committee increase the Parent Governors posts to three to allow for a greater voice? The current two PGR's have been unable to attend for several meetings. A third PGR would help this situation as they could attend. We appreciate that sometimes parents cannot attend due to family matters. It is within the power of the Committee to do this without consulting with the full council.</p>	<p>The Committee reviewed its membership and Terms of Reference recently. The Committee is fulfilling its statutory obligations with regard to PGRs and no changes to membership were proposed following the recent review. The position on this has not changed.</p> <p>The process for electing PGR's has previously been explained to Voice of the Families, and any Parent Governors interested may put themselves forward for one of the two places when we are due to re-elect in Summer 2025.</p>
2.	<p>There is no current lived experience of adoption on the scrutiny committee. This is a serious gap. How will the scrutiny committee be addressing this?</p>	<p>A member of the Committee is an adoptive parent with past experience and as mentioned in previous meetings, the Committee considers itself to have lived experience.</p> <p>We have set up the parent/carers sub-committee for parents to speak to members so we can find out about parent/carers experiences and would welcome having adoption as a topic.</p>

3.	Was the KIDs bid for Sendiass cheaper than Barnardos?	<p>The contract was put out to tender and evaluated by a diverse panel with representation across SPCF, SEND, health, commissioning, procurement and finance based on the following relative weightings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality (60%), • Price (30%) • Social Value (10%). <p>Whilst we are mindful of sharing commercially sensitive information, we are able to disclose that there was a 0.85% difference between the price scores for the bids submitted for this contract.</p>
4.	The Sendiass situation has been changed yet again which is confusing for parents. What was wrong with Barnardo's performance that led them to lose the contract?	<p>The contract was put out to tender following a 12-month pilot of SENDIASS with Barnardo's. The Council had to put the service out to tender in order to comply with Public Contract Regulations. The contract was awarded based on the quality of the bid submissions received, as referenced in question 2. Under current procurement legislation, past performance from a provider cannot be taken into account when evaluating submissions.</p>
5.	Now that the in-house FASD expert	We will continue the training via the

	has resigned from Sefton Child Services, what happens next? Is this the end of FASD training or will a Sefton be going with an external FASD trained agency that can consistently deliver?	Educational Psychology Team.
6.	As an employer how many jobs does Sefton Council give to post 16 young people who have/ had an EHCP?	This information is not collected during the recruitment process.
7.	What new measures have been put in place to strengthen the safeguarding issue regarding elected councillors following the arrest and conviction of a recent long standing Sefton councillor?	<p>A question on this issue is due to be asked at Full Council this Thursday 14th November. Any suggested course of action will be considered and implemented following that meeting.</p> <p>In addition, the Member Development Steering Group regularly monitors completion rates for mandatory member training and has recommended that the forthcoming training relating to Corporate Parenting, Safeguarding Awareness for both Adults and Children be promoted, with a view to increasing completion rates by Members.</p>

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

Overview
& Scrutiny



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

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Danny Burns (in the Chair)
Councillors Evans, Christopher Page, Parker, Porter,
Prendergast, Richards and Spring

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Roscoe, Cabinet Member – Children,
Schools and Families
Councillor Atkinson
Maurice Byrne, Healthwatch Representative
Michelle Ravey, Archdiocese Representative

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hardman and Harrison Kelly; Cheryl Swainbank (Parent Governor Representative), Gemma Armer (Parent Governor Representative) and Sandra Cain (Independent Advisory Member).

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2024, be confirmed as a correct record.

17. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Committee considered a number of questions raised by two members of the public, together with the responses given.

A member of the public who had submitted questions attended the meeting and supplementary questions were responded to by officers present.

RESOLVED:

That the questions and responses, be noted.

18. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

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 – Education, was attached to the report at Appendix A, outlined information on the following:

- The Delivering Better Value Programme
- Workforce Training Package
- SEND – EHCP's
- Post 16 SEND
- School Attendance - new national guidance
- Early Years
- School Improvement
- 2024 results in Phonics, Key Stage 2, GCSE and Post 16.
- Academisation
- 14-19 Participation
- Virtual School

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

- Ofsted Letter dated 25th July
- Ofsted Inspection response
- Early Help
- Youth Justice
- Help and Protection
- Corporate Parenting
- Safeguarding
- The Social Work Academy
- Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement
- Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership

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

Members of the Committee raised the following questions/issues:

Education

- How well received the Work Force Training package was amongst Teaching Staff and could anonymised feedback forms be an option
- How much extra resource had gone in to reducing the EHCP backlog
- The new guidance on school attendance and the work to implement changes
- SEND Pupils attendance
- 0-25 Journey and the graduated approach

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- If there was information available on children who were on a reduced offer and how schools report this.

Childrens Social Care

- Team Around The School and if this had now become permanent rather than a pilot scheme.
- If a learning exercise from the Southport incident would be carried out and used to inform policy across the country

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update reports from the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families be noted; and
- (2) the thanks of the Committee to all Children's Services Staff, Emergency Services and Street Care Staff for their response to the Southport incident, be recorded.

19. 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:

- Response to the Southport incident
- Work of the transformation team
- Social Work Academy
- SEND agenda
- Team Around the School
- Family Hubs Launch
- Significant rise in Front Door and Child Protection cases
- Findings of the last Ofsted Monitoring visit and work to improve.

Members of the Committee raised the following questions/issues:

- The pace of change
- The support available for Children's Services staff following the Southport incident
- The work of the police in terms of safeguarding and how fast they respond.
- The Social Work Academy and the numbers of Social Workers graduating and working for Sefton.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update be noted; and
- (2) a visit be arranged for the Committee to meet with the Social Work Academy Graduates.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

20. 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 June-July 2024.

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

Members of the Committee raised the following questions/issues:

- If Children's Services had the correct level of resources to manage the recent increase in child protection cases
- How inadequate practice was being targeted
- If samples of cases were examined on a regular basis to spot check for any issues

RESOLVED:

That the update on Quality Assurance and Practice Improvements be noted

21. EDUCATION SCORECARD

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education presenting the Education Scorecard. The report provided an overview of the data.

The Education Scorecard was attached to the report and set out statistics on:

- Pupil absence rate
- Persistent absence rate
- Pupil exclusions
- Education, Health and Care Plans
- Not in Employment, Education or Training
- National and Sefton Language Data
- Ofsted breakdown by schools
- Early Years Foundations Profile
- Phonics
- Key Stage 1
- Key Stage 2
- Key Stage 4

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following matter:

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

- The downward trend in some of the early years' foundations profile data.

RESOLVED:

That the data contained in the Education Scorecard be noted.

22. OFSTED INSPECTIONS SPRING/SUMMER 2024

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education) updating on recent Ofsted Inspection Reports and the work of the School Improvement Team.

The following schools had been inspected and reports received during Spring and Summer Terms 2024:

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

A Summary of Ofsted Outcomes and Support during Spring 2024 was attached to the report.

Members commented that they hoped Ofsted assessors were being mindful of the impact of the Southport incident on Southport Schools and it was confirmed this had been noted by Ofsted, whilst still being mindful of legal deadlines.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

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23. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

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

- seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023/24;
- note that there were no items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan;
- note that the topics of ASD/ADHD Services, Child Poverty and Health Inequalities in Care Experienced Children were 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;
- note the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2024/25;
- receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- Formally note the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) on Housing for Care Leavers;

Maurice Byrne, Healthwatch, spoke to provide an overview of the Healthwatch Annual Report 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2023/24, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) the fact that there are no items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee, on this occasion, be noted;
- (3) note the topics of Child Poverty, ADHD/ASD services and Health Inequalities in Care Experienced Children for in-depth review;
- (4) the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24, as set out at Appendix B be noted;
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.
- (6) 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 be formally noted.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES
AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

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Report Title: Cabinet Member Update Reports

Date of meeting:	12 November 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 submit the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period September-October 2024.

Recommendation(s): That the reports be noted.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 The most recent Cabinet Member reports for Children, Schools and Families

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 Any financial implications associated with the Cabinet Member reports that are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.
 - (A) Revenue Costs – see above
 - (B) Capital Costs – see above

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3. Legal Implications

- 3.1 Any legal implications associated with the Cabinet Member reports that are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

4. Corporate Risk Implications

- 4.1 Any legal implications associated with the Cabinet Member reports that are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

5 Staffing HR Implications

- 5.1 Any staffing HR implications associated with the Cabinet Member reports that are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

This report has therefore been submitted to comply with the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

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

Equality Implications:

There are no direct equality implications. Any equality implications arising from the consideration of any decisions contained in the update would have been/will be reported to members at the appropriate time.

(Please note that Council have agreed care experience should be treated like a protected characteristic.)

Impact on Children and Young People:

There are no direct children and young people implications. Any children and young people implications arising from the consideration of any decisions contained in the update would have been/will be reported 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 c

update would have been/will be reported to members at the appropriate time.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

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

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable.

Implementation Date for the Decision:

With immediate effect.

Contact Officer:	Laura Bootland
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2078
Email Address:	Laura.bootland@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A – Education Update

Appendix B - Childrens Services Update

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Councillor	COMMITTEE	DATE
Councillor Roscoe	Cabinet Member Children schools and families	12 November 2024

Introduction

After the tragic events in Southport, where children’s services in Sefton rallied round the community and provided support to children families and schools we are entering into a focused period of work rebuilding trust and community cohesion. Our Early Help transformation is progressing with services already being delivered in Family Hubs, with a plan for a celebration of this work (rather than a launch) to happen in the new year. In Children’s Social Care we are focusing relentlessly on practice improvement and are preparing with partners for an Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services, expected in the next six months. In Education, we are rolling out the team around the school initiative to the schools in Southport and working on the implementation of our updated Attendance Strategy. We are also preparing for a SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) inspection, which is likely to take place in 2025.

Children's Social Care

We know that Ofsted will be undertaking another full Inspection of Children’s Services within the next six months and have started a programme of inspection readiness in preparation for this.

Our Improvement plan was revised in Summer 2024, building on the work done since the original one was published in 2022. The actions from the revised plan have been separated into service plans for the areas of focus. We have also completed a diagnostic of progress since the ILACS and the subsequent monitoring visits, to track progress against the specific priority actions required by inspectors.

Our transformation plan will focus on wider systems improvement to provide a framework of support to practice – workforce development, partnerships, sufficiency, and commissioning. The children’s services transformation plan sits within and is supported by the corporate transformation plan, which sets a clear ambition to build on successes and remain focused on improving the lives of our residents.

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What's Improving?

Early Help

We have implemented a transformation programme in Early Help, to ensure children and families who need support are able to access it at the right time. It was recognised by Ofsted in their last monitoring visit that children who need early help receive an effective and timely response from FAST. Newly developed Family Hubs are up and running, providing support for children and families in communities which are accessible. Services provided include: breast feeding support groups, baby clinics (with Health Visitors) benefits advice, careers advice for 16-18 year olds, talking therapies, Stay and Play, advice for parents of children with SEND, and family legal advice. A celebration of Family Hubs (rather than a launch) is being organized in the new year to celebrate the achievements of staff and parents, and to increase visibility and attendance.

Data, performance and quality assurance

With the help of strategic support colleagues, we have developed robust systems to monitor performance, against our key performance indicators, and in comparison with regional partners and statistical neighbours. This is allowing operational and strategic managers greater clarity regarding where we need to improve practice. We are also undertaking audits as part of our quality assurance framework to ensure practice is good enough. This informs our training and practice improvement programme. Audits show a steady improvement in the core practice we deliver to children and families since the ILACS in February 2022.

Achieving Permanence for our Cared for Children

We have done a huge amount of work to ensure that our cared for children are living in supportive, safe and secure families, whether this is with family members through special guardianship orders (SGOs) moving into adoptive families, living with foster carers in long term arrangements, or being reunified with parents, after a period of being cared for. Since the ILACS in 2022 we have also made significant improvements in our Fostering Team, to ensure cared for children are able to experience family life in households where their carers are experienced and supportive of their needs.

Springbrook

Our in-house respite provision for children with Complex Needs has recently been inspected by OFSTED. Although we are awaiting the formal reply from OFSTED we are happy with the findings which again highlight progress in this much needed service.

Corporate parenting

There has been considerable progress in increasing the responsibility of the council and wider partners as corporate parents, for our cared for children, and for care experienced young people (CEYP) who are on journeys to independence. An example of this is the work done with Housing colleagues to make the transition to living independently easier for CEYP. They have negotiated an agreement with the largest provider of social housing in Sefton that they will provide carpets, curtains and white goods for CEYP to ensure they can move in to their permanent housing smoothly and with a minimum of stress. The CEO of this housing provider now also attends the corporate parenting board. In terms of education, we are working with schools and colleges to maximise the support given to cared for and care experienced young people, to address barriers they may have to learning, with the assistance of our Virtual School.

Areas of concern?

Despite the progress being made, we know there are several areas where we need to focus our attention, to improve systems and practice, to provide better support for the vulnerable children we work with, many of whom have complex needs.

Workforce stability

We know there is still a relatively high number of social workers who are not part of our permanent workforce, but who are employed as agency workers. The percentage at the moment is 29%, and we have a target to reduce this to 20%. We know that social work recruitment is a highly competitive marketplace. Neighbouring local authorities are able to pay higher rates of pay and have better incentives, so we have instigated a programme of workforce development (see page 4) to ensure we give the best possible support to our social workers.

Practice in Help and Protection

We know there are high numbers of children subject to statutory social work interventions, and that the latest Ofsted monitoring visit, and our own deep dive audits and performance monitoring show that some areas of practice are poor. We have seen an increase in the number of children subject to child protection plans, and we know that there are some families where children have been on plans for longer than we would like. Some of these children have complex needs. There is a focused piece of activity scheduled to commence from November 2024 which involves a review of all children subject to a CP plan for over 12 months.

Partnership understanding of multi-agency safeguarding

We have completed some monitoring through audits of multi-agency safeguarding, which has highlighted some issues around understanding of what it means to effectively

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safeguard children. This is particularly apparent when we are working with children subject to criminal and sexual exploitation, who are at risk, and cannot be supported through just one agency. As a result, we have commissioned an independent review of services, structure and practice to support improvements and this is being reviewed regularly by the 3 Key Safeguarding Leads.

Children with complex needs and disabilities

We have just completed a review of this service, and we know that there are various issues that need to be addressed, such as a backlog of assessments, the linking of Direct Payments to the needs of children, and a shortage of permanent staff. We are also going to look at the management structure of Springbrook, our residential provision for children with complex needs and disabilities and the prospect of increasing our in-house offer.

Care experienced young people with emotional wellbeing and mental health needs

We know that some of our care experienced young people who are experiencing problems with their mental health, but whose needs do not meet the threshold for a statutory intervention, can't always access support.

What are we doing about it?

Workforce development, which includes recruitment and retention of experienced social workers, is one of our Transformation Pillars. We aim to improve the numbers of permanent staff and decrease the turnover of social workers to provide stability for our children. A programme of work has already started which includes: Development of a workforce strategy and implementation plan to address the following:

- Recruitment & retention reducing the need for agency staff
- Organisational development to support best practice
- Culture change to create measurements for learning, professional trust, authenticity and curiosity

We have developed a programme of rapid improvement in Help and Protection.

We developed an immediate response to the June Ofsted monitoring visit concerns: including better reporting of timeliness and effectiveness of meetings, and a programme of training, including safety planning training throughout the service.

We are about to start a three-month improvement project, which is being done jointly with the safeguarding unit, and supported by our practice improvement team, focusing on children who have been subject to Child Protection plans longer than 12 months.

Panels will be put in place for focused practice improvement leading to improved outcomes for these vulnerable children.

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We have also developed a learning and development accelerated response, delivering 'firm foundations' training on assessments, analysis, planning and management oversight and there will be a new service wide focus on Permanence, led by an Assistant Director in the New Year

In conjunction with Leeds, our sector led improvement partner (SLIP), we have had a development session looking at a medium term goal in supporting changes to the child protection conference structure, making it more strength based in approach and as a result more engaging and participative with families. A proposal has now been shared with the senior leadership team and agreed and will now go the Safeguarding Partnership for partnership approval. The intention will be to initiate an implementation process to ensure staff are engaged in the process.

In terms of multi-agency safeguarding, we are taking the learning and recommendations from the multi-agency audits back to our subgroups and the Safeguarding Forum, to ensure we can embed practice improvement.

The children with complex needs and disabilities team, under the direction of a new service manager is starting on a programme of improvement, whereby we will instigate amongst other things, more effective and timely assessments, and ensure a rolling programme of recruitment to ensure permanent staff.

To support Care Experienced young people with psychological wellbeing, a pilot spot purchase model has been agreed whilst the option to develop a broader localised model is explored. The agreed specification /model includes an assessment/triage, and 6 sessions provided by established voluntary, community or faith (VCF) providers. Additional sessions will be available if needed. This is a low level support offer, however, if clinical thresholds are met for commissioned adult MH services, then appropriate referrals would be made. It is hoped we will have the service offer fully mobilised and operational by the end of the year.

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

Date of meeting:	12th November 2024		
Report to:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children Services & Safeguarding)		
Report of:	Interim Assistant Director (Safeguarding & QA)		
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Children’s Social Care		
Wards affected:	All Wards		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

Summary:

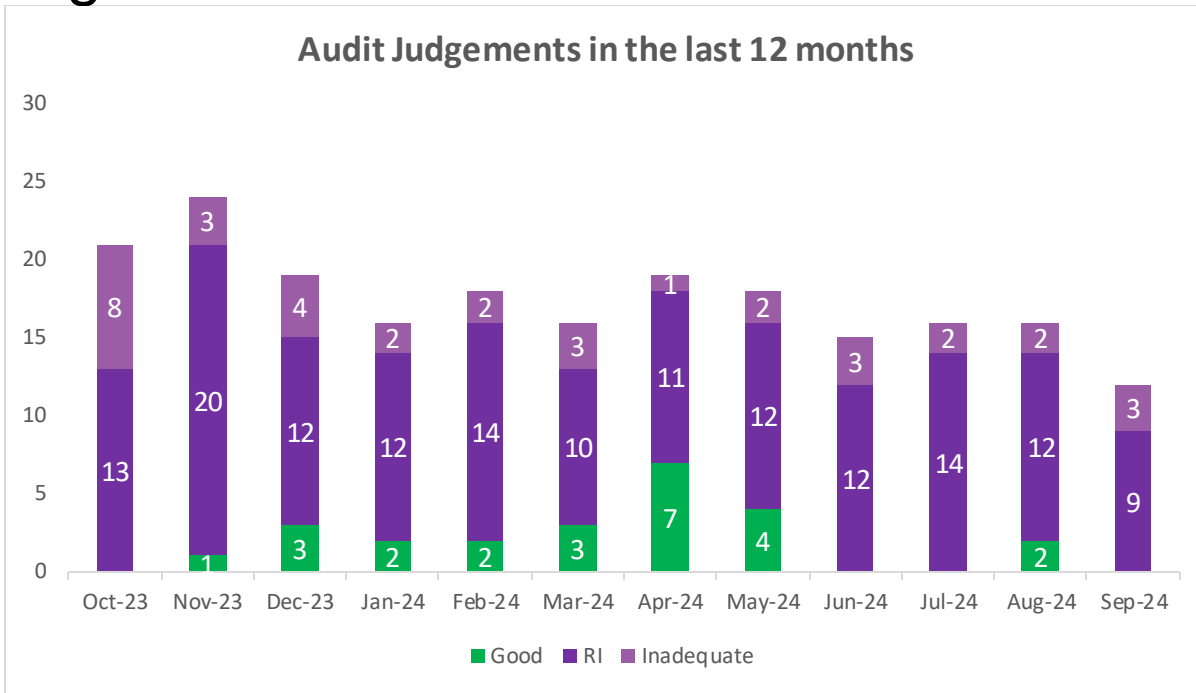
This report will provide an overview of Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement activity during August and September 2024 in Sefton Children’s Social Care. In addition to this, it will set out audit performance over the last 12 months offering a view of direction of travel.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

Key highlights and direction of travel

The chart below summarises activity over the last 12 months. Some good work was identified in August but **most work audited across the service continues to be considered ‘Requires Improvement to Be Good.’**

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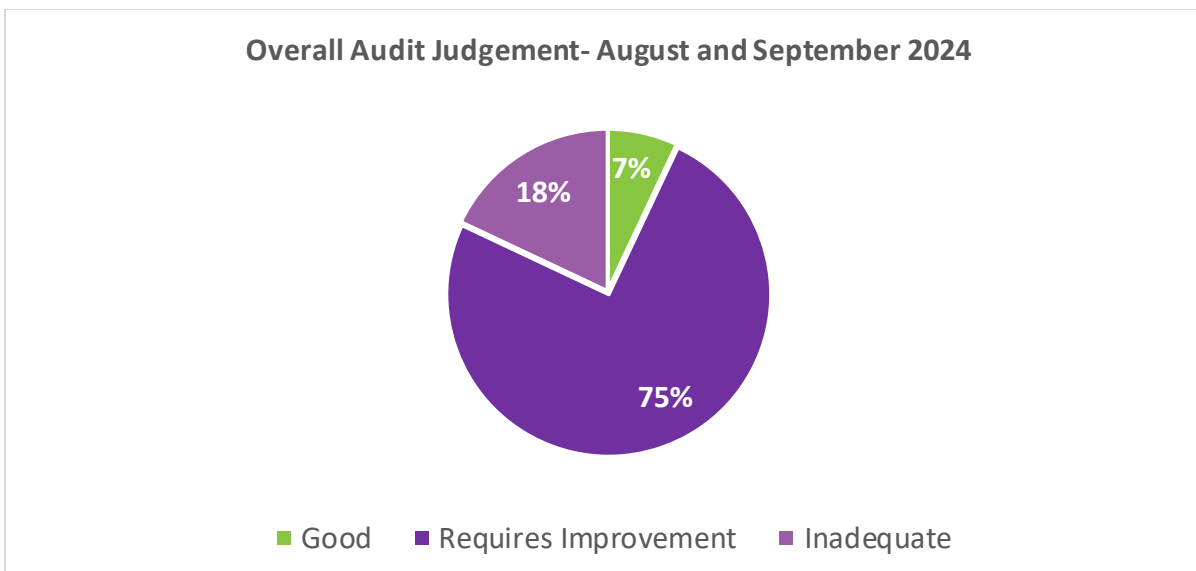


Audit judgements per practice domain

Current Picture- August and September 2024

28 deep dive audits

have been completed across Children’s Social Care in August and September 2024. **11** of these audits were moderated (**39%**) which resulted in **2** audits being downgraded from ‘Good’ to ‘Requires Improvement to be Good’ and 1 audit upgraded from “Requires Improvement to be Good” to “Good.”



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August and September 24	Outstanding%	% Good	% RI	% Inadequate
Assessments		18%	61%	22%
Plans and Planning		13%	65%	22%
Relationship based practice and direct work	3%	25%	57%	15%
Management Oversight and Supervision		7%	71%	22%
Impact and Outcomes		0%	81%	19%

Overview of Key Findings

Relationship based practice remains a strength in Sefton and in audits judged 'good' or 'Outstanding'; children/young people/ care experienced young adults are benefitting from consistent and trusting relationships with professionals which has resulted in positive outcomes for them. Some parents/carers also commented during this audit period that their current worker was "reliable", "supportive," "always there;" speaking highly of the service they had received.

However, work remains to improve communication with parents, particularly when professionals end their involvement or workers change. Multiple changes in workers and poor communication hinder trust being built with families to enable meaningful work to be progressed. Also, fathers continue to feedback that they are not consulted in planning for their child and more steps are needed to build relationships with fathers/ other significant males to understand their role in the child's life and utilise strengths or increase support.

For some families, delay has been a feature, and despite plans being in place to support them, the child and family has not had the right support at the right time. Changes in professionals, irregular multi-agency meetings and gaps in multi-agency information sharing at key points contribute to these delays.

In audits judged 'Requires Improvement to be Good,' there are some examples of clear plans in place for children and families to reduce risk and improve outcomes, but some plans would benefit from being more specific to the individual child and include timebound actions to support the child and family and remove barriers to permanence including securing legal permanence when stability has been achieved. More reflection and challenge by the Team Manager in supervision would also support improved outcomes for the child and family and minimise any drift and delay.

In audits judged 'inadequate,' children have experienced significant delays in achieving permanence, or despite the high levels of intervention, risks have not reduced or there is little change to the child/young person's outcomes. Also, children who are privately fostered are not always identified at the earliest opportunity and this means that private fostering assessments are not always completed in a timely way to understand any vulnerabilities for the child/young person.

Agenda Item 7

Practice improvement or learning activity underway

- A bespoke session 'Working Effectively with Fathers' was delivered by Research and Practice to 17 practitioners from across Children's Services. A Practice Improvement Manager and Learning and Development Partner will be rolling out this training across Children's Service from November 2024.
- Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership training sessions on plans and planning were delivered in July 2024 to 31 partners and on 3 October 2024 to 21 partners. Further sessions are planned.
- In addition, Sefton Practice Month reached over 1000 people across Children's Services and the wider partnership. The focus was on increasing awareness and improving our response when Intra- Familial Child Sexual abuse is a worry. Speakers from Children's Service and partner agencies e.g. RASA, Education – Early Years, Schools and Colleges, Health and Research in Practice facilitated informative learning sessions with good feedback received.
- There is an intensive programme of practice improvement planned for the next 3 months in the Support and Protection teams to review all children subject to long term child protection planning. Improvement actions will be identified, and Practice Improvement Managers will work alongside Team Managers, Social Workers and Child Protection chairs to achieve these without further delay. There will be no audit work completed in Support and Protection teams during this period to allow this work to take priority. All Managers and practitioners have been briefed on this plan.
- There is a new dedicated Social Worker, Team Manager and Child Protection chair responsible for privately fostered children/young people to ensure that there is clear oversight for these children and young people and increased knowledge of private fostering across the workforce and wider partnership. A review of all privately fostered children/young people is currently underway, and a report of findings will be presented to senior managers by the end of November 2024.

2. Financial Implications

Not Applicable

3. Legal Implications

None Directly

4. Corporate Risk Implications

Not Applicable

5 Staffing HR Implications

Not Applicable

<p>Equality Implications:</p> <p>There are no equality implications.</p>
<p>Impact on Children and Young People:</p> <p>Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement activity between August – September 2024</p>
<p>Climate Emergency Implications:</p> <p>The recommendations within this report will have a Negative impact.</p> <p>There are no climate emergency implications as a direct result of this report.</p>

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Services and Commercial (FD 7821/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5921/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not Applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision :

With immediate effect. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Children’s Social Care Performance Scorecard

Agenda Item 7

Data as at end of September 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)

Key indicator. Targets have been set for all key indicators.		Latest published statistics (2022-23)												
No	Indicator	LA rolling 12m (Oct23 - Sep24)	LA rolling 6m (Apr24 - Sep24)	Direction of travel (RAG rated where low/high is stated)	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q1 Sefton	2024-25 Q1 RIG NW	LA	SN	NW	Eng	Compared to mid-50% LA	Analysis
1	Referrals received (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	749.7	770.0	↑	580	-	671	534.1	823	630	530	545	Higher	The 12 month rolling rate continues to rise and has increased for the sixth consecutive period from 632 in March to 749.7 in September. There has been a 40% increase in the number of referrals between April to September 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	24.4%	23.0%	↓	21%	Low	24.0%	22.2%	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 three reporting periods, 6m rate has been lower than 12m rate, indicating progress in the right direction. The current 6 month rate of 23% is slightly higher than target and in the same range as benchmarking neighbours.
3	Assessments completed (annual rate per 10,000 of children)*	782.3	822	↑	622	-	777	610.4	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 (822) 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 (%)*	82.2%	81.0%	↓	89%	High	82.8%	83.8%	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 81% 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)*	276.8	322	↑	207	-	258	203.1	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 in 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	79.9%	81.2%	↑	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 81.2% compared to the 12 month rolling rate of 79.9%, demonstrating progress in recent months.

Key indicator. Targets have been set for all key indicators.										Latest published statistics (2022-23)					Analysis
No	Indicator	LA rolling 12m (Oct23 - Sep24)	LA rolling 6m (Apr24 - Sep24)	Direction of travel (RAG rated where low/high is stated)	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q1 Sefton	2024-25 Q1 RIG NW	LA	SN	NW	Eng	Compared to mid-50% LA		
8	Percentage of Assessments completed within 45 working days by Corporate Parenting	63.0%	67.3%	↑	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 67.3%, which is an improvement, however a fall in recent months. Monthly performance shows rates as high as 88% in May, but fallen since then.	
9	Percentage of CP Visits completed within timescales	87.7%	88.3%	↑	90%	High	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Progress has been made with CP visits has shown by 6 month rolling average of 88.3%, compared to 87.7% 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	84.9%	85.5%	↑	90%	High	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Monthly analysis shows that the percentage of Cfc visits completed on time are improving each month and edging towards target.	

No	Indicator	LA Sep23 ChAT	LA Sept4 ChAT	Direction of travel	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q1 Sefton	2024-25 Q1 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)	58	84	↑	-	-	79	65.6	99	72	69	63	Higher	The 6mth rate of children per 10k who were subject of an ICPC has increased for the fourth consecutive period from 55 (May) to 84 (September). Number of ICPCs have nearly doubled in the last four months compared to the previous four. Monthly analysis shows a large number of ICPCs started in June and July. Despite the recent increase, the 12m rate is still below stat neighbours and NW.
12	Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days of the start of the section 47 enquiry (%)	70%	91%	↑	-	High	86%	80.3%	91	80	80	78	Higher	ICPC timeliness rate has increased in recent months, as reflected in the 6m rate of 91% compared to the 12m rate of 70%. Four months out of the last six show the rate above 85%. August and September data shows 100% of ICPCs were completed in time.
13	Children in need (snapshot rate per 10,000 children) **	415	475	↑	-	-	468	376.8	517	390	387	343	Higher	The rate of children in need has fallen slightly compared to last reporting month (483 v 475), due to to 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)	58	63	↑	-	-	53	48.7	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 63 per 10k. After seven months of CP numbers below 300, CP has risen to 336 in September (fifth monthly increase). The 12m current rate of 58 per 10k is above statistical neighbours and North West.
15	Children who became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (%)	25%	25%	↔	-	Low	22.4%	23.1%	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% (September). 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	5%	3%	↓	-	Low	-	2.1%	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 (rolling 12m) has increased too, although 6m rate is starting to fall. 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)	116	105	↓	-	-	106	94.8	114	93	97	71	Higher	The number of Cared for Children has remained under 600 for the ninth consecutive month (561) 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 (%)	11	12	↑	-	-	-	-	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%	2%	↑	-	-	-	-	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 (%)	69%	93%	↑	-	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 (%)	88%	98%	↑	-	High	-	-	98	90	92	89	Higher	Percentage rate has remained stable compared to this time last year. Above benchmarking groups.

No	Indicator	LA Sep23 ChAT	LA Sept4 ChAT	Direction of travel	Target	Low/High is good	RIG Q1 Sefton	2024-25 Q1 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 (%)	5%	7%	↑	-	-	-	-	<1%	10	9	9	In range	Adoption rate has increased in the last 6 months and is slightly below compared with benchmarking groups.
23	Children who ceased to be looked after in the period due to a Special Guardianship Order (%)	14%	31%	↑	-	-	-	-	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 (%)	96%	72%	↓	-	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 **	85%	95%	↑	-	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 **	44%	54%	↑	-	High	-	-	47	53	54	56	Lower	Young people in employment, education or training (EET) has increased when comparing to the same period 12 months ago. This rate is on par with benchmarking groups.

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

** snapshot at end of September 2023, September 2024

Report Title: Children, Schools and Families – SEND Data.

Date of meeting:	12 th November 2024		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Children’s Services and Safeguarding		
Report of:	Nadine Carroll – Assistant Director Children’s Services (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:

The presentation at Appendix A outlines data on performance in SEND, refers to the preparation for an impending joint area SEND inspection and confirms the governance arrangements of the SEND Improvement Board (SENDICB), which oversees SEND performance in Sefton.

Recommendation(s):

(1) That members note the report and seek clarification where necessary.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

The Committee has requested an update on SEND performance.

1.1 Background and Overview: Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

1.2 There is a national target for all local authorities to complete and issue Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) within 20 weeks. In Sefton the compliance within the 20-week timeframe currently sits at 43% for the year. The national compliance rate stands at just over 50%.

1.3 June’s compliance was 57% and July’s compliance was 45%. August’s compliance was 52% and September’s running figure is currently 70%.

1.4 The backlog of cases has reduced from 240+ cases to 38 cases, and of those 21 have plans drafted and 17 have no plans currently, mainly due to school places. It is envisaged that by November 24 there will be no or minimal backlog.

1.5 The trajectory for EHCP 20-week compliance is on target for a year end 60% average.

Agenda Item 8

1.6 **Background and Overview: Local Area SEND Inspection**

- 1.7 All local area partnerships will be inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) over a five year period. The first inspections against the latest framework started in March 2023. This inspection takes place over a three week period.
- 1.8 To date, 40 areas have had their inspection reports published, with several more inspected but their reports are yet to be published. The inspections are not graded, but judgements are made against three criteria relating to the extent to which the local area's children and young people with SEND have positive experiences, or have inconsistent experiences, or there are significant and systemic weaknesses in the area's arrangements.
- 1.9 Plans are in place to ensure Sefton Council and its partners in health and the parent/carer forum are well prepared for a forthcoming inspection, with weekly challenge and improvement meetings established. Data, intelligence and relevant documentation are reviewed and updated to ensure everything is in place for compliance. A refreshed self evaluation (SEF) is being developed across the partnership. In addition, effective practice and positive case studies are reviewed regularly, so the local area is ready to receive the inspectors, highlighting the 'lived experience' of children and young people with SEND, highlighting that partners know Sefton children well.

1.10 **Background and Overview: Governance of SEND through the SENDCIB**

- 1.11 There are strong governance arrangements around SEND, through the oversight, challenge and direction of the improvement board (SEDCIB), where senior leaders from the Council (education and social care), Health and the Parent/Carer Forum provide effective leadership challenge on a monthly basis. The board is chaired by the lead member for Children and Families.
- 1.12 There are three working groups reporting to SENDCIB, focusing on quality improvement, joint commissioning and co-production. These groups have a wide range of partners working together to improve the outcomes of children and young people with SEND. Details of their work is outlined in Appendix A.

2. **Financial Implications**

Not applicable

3. **Legal Implications**

Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2015 both set out the legal framework covering children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

4. **Corporate Risk Implications**

Not applicable

5 **Staffing HR Implications**

Not applicable

6 **Conclusion**

Monthly updates on SEND performance are reported to SENDCIB.

<p>Equality Implications:</p> <p>There are no equality implications.</p>
<p>Impact on Children and Young People:</p> <p>Working together in the SEND partnership to improve performance across education, health and social care will have a positive impact on the outcomes for children and young people with SEND.</p>
<p>Climate Emergency Implications:</p> <p>The recommendations within this report will have a Neutral impact.</p>

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Services (FD.7823/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5923/24.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision :

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Committee decision.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Background Papers:

There are no background papers

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SEND Improvement Update

October 2024

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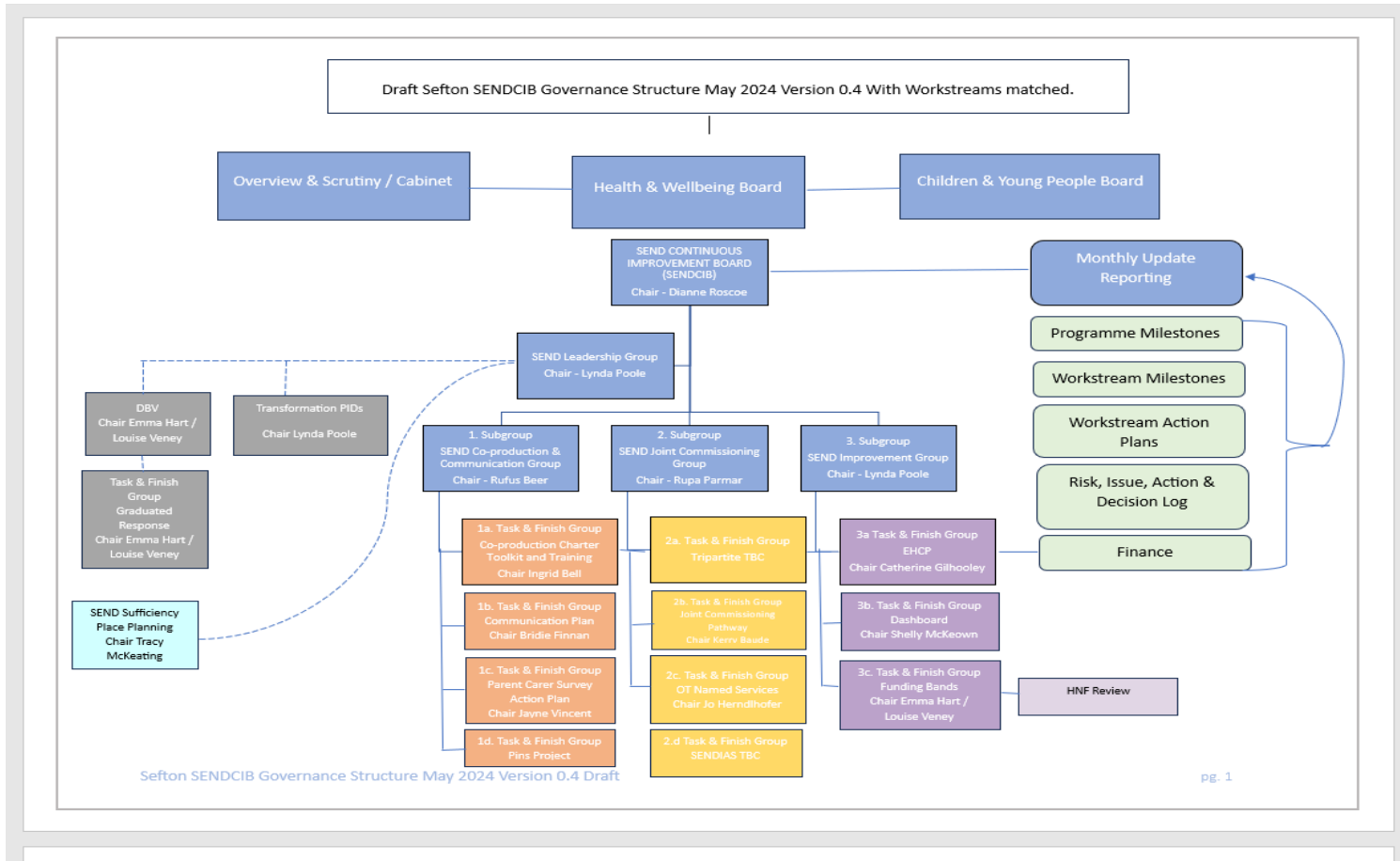
Agenda Item 8

Background and Context

- These slides provide an update on the Sefton SEND Local Area's inspection preparation and planning together with a summary of the actions we are taking.
- We continue to approach our planning and preparation to focus on understanding our improvement progress and how that would stand up to scrutiny rather than attempting to pass the 'exam'.
- Under the revised inspection approach there are now three potential inspection outcomes:
 - “The local area partnership's SEND arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.”
 - “The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.”
 - “There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently.”

SEND Inspection Planning Update

SEND Governance



SEND Improvement Groups Focus

SEND Improvement Group improvement focus:

- Improving the timeliness and quality of EHCP's.
- Reduction in Health Therapy waiting times
- Improving the SEND complaints handling process.
- Improving the quality of the SEND service.
- Improving the quality of SEND performance data.
- Improving SEND related CSC services.
- Reducing the HNB deficit.

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SEND Co-Production Group improvement focus:

- Development of the SEND communications strategy and plan.
- Development of the Sefton co-production charter.
- Improving the Local Offer user experience.
- Contribute towards improving parent carer satisfaction.

SEND Joint Commissioning Group improvement focus:

- Development of a short breaks service.
- Development of the Joint Commissioning action plan.
- Development of the SEND outcomes framework.
- Development of the pathway towards a 0-25 SEND offer.

SEND Dashboard Summary

EHCP & EHE Performance Overview

Area	Latest Data Update	Change from prior month	Actual latest figures & %
Active EHCPs	July 24	↑ 1.7%	3,492
EHCP plans finalised within 20 weeks	July 24	↓ 11.9%	45%
EHCP health advices completed within 6 weeks	April 24	0%	100%
Social Care - % of cases responded to within 6 weeks	June 24	↑ 1.0%	86%
Education Psychology - % of cases responded to within 6 weeks	June 24	↑ 2.0%	90%
EHE Open Referrals	May 24	↑ 65.0%	366

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Compliance with the 20-week timeframe for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) currently sits at 43% for the year.

June's compliance was 57% and July's compliance was 45%. August's compliance was 52% and September's running figure is currently 70%.

The backlog of cases has reduced from 240+ cases to 38 cases, and of those 21 have plans drafted and 17 have no plans currently, mainly due to school places. It is envisaged that by November 24 there will be no or minimal backlog.

Trajectory for EHCP 20-week compliance – Is on target for a year end 60% average.

Agenda Item 8

SEND Dashboard Summary

Speech and Language		Dietetics		Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	
0-18: Longest waiter • The longest wait is 38 weeks and there are no expected 52-week breaches.	↓ 38 weeks	0-18: Longest waiter • The longest waiter is 35 weeks and there are no expected 52-week breaches	↑ 35 weeks	0-18: % assessments started <12 weeks Slight improvement on assessment completed in 30 weeks (38%) with 79% completed in 65 weeks.	(99.1%)
0-18: Open pathways waiting <18 weeks	60.0%	0-18: Open pathways waiting <18 weeks	↓ 77.9%	0-18: Longest waiter The longest wait was 155 weeks. They are a complex YP who has had several appointments and concluded their diagnostic pathway in July 2023. A further review was requested by parents and completed in June - MDT booked for August for final conclusion.	↑ 155 weeks (1 YP)
0-18: Referral to 1 st contact	↓ 23.1 weeks	0-18: Referral to 1 st contact	↑ 14.4 weeks	18-25: Average waiting time • YP with SEND are prioritised	↑ 80.5 weeks (May)
Specialist CAMHS				Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	↓
0-18: Referral to help <6 weeks	↓ 49.7%			0-18: % assessments started <12 weeks improvement in diagnostic pathway 39% within 30 weeks and 69% within 65 weeks	(99.5%)
0-18: Open pathways waiting <18 weeks	↓ 62.3%			0-18: Longest waiter The longest wait is 128 weeks – an MDT was completed in May, but diagnosis inconclusive. Further information collected and further MDT scheduled for August when the pathway should be concluded.	↑ 128 weeks
0-18: Longest waiter Longest wait was 62 weeks. Appointment attended in May as requested by the patient.	↓ 62 weeks			18-25: Average waiting time YP with SEND are prioritised	↑ 17.2 weeks

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Key areas where delay is occurring and improvement focuses lie are dietetics, SA, CAMHS, ASD & ADHD pathways.

Waiting well and community services promoted through Local Offer.

Team around the school and inclusion services offering support.

National recruitment issues – looking at retraining / skill sharing etc as alternatives.

Summary Of What Good Looks Like In SEND

Leadership.....

- There is a well governed SEND agenda/change strategy.
- Plans and priorities are co-produced with parent's carers children and young people.
- The DCO role is embedded and has sufficient authority and capacity.
- Effective arrangements are in place for working strategically with Social Care.
- There is a clear process for engaging with setting leaders to review the SEND strategy.

SEND Arrangements.....

- There is an agreed SEND vision for all partners.
- A clear strategy, arrangements and governance is in place.
- There is clear and accurate performance data across the Local Area.
- Formal arrangements are in place around agreeing of resources.
- Effective processes are in place for Special/Unusual commissioning requests.

SEND Support.....

- There is a clear graduated response in place that effectively identifies needs.
- All partners have been involved in the development of the EHC plan process.
- All relevant staff across the system are clear on the EHC Plan process.
- Outcomes in EHC plans are SMART and they are relevant to the child's aspirations.
- Specialist assessment co-ordination relating to preparation for adulthood is effective.

Co-Production.....

- Local leaders have an effective parent carers and CYP engagement strategy.
- The Parent Carer Forum are involved in all stages of service planning.
- There is a local area co-production charter with the Parent Carer Forum.
- Health and the LA exercises its statutory SEND duties in relation to engagement.
- The local area receives feedback directly from children and young people.

Impact & Performance.....

- Data that monitors progress is gathered across the local area partnership.
- There is a data sharing arrangement between the local authority and health partners.
- The local are uses data effectively to monitor progress of its SEND arrangements.
- There is a clear policy in place for handling SEND complaints and providing feedback.
- Parents and young people have access to independent mediation advice.

Progress Leadership

- Nadine Carroll has been appointed as AD for Education Excellence and took up her post on the 1st August 2024. An interim Head of SEND and Inclusion has been recruited, whilst a wider recruitment exercise will look for a permanent member of the team. This will give strategic capacity and allow staff acting up to focus on service delivery and increase the pace of transformation work currently underway.
- Weekly EHCP dashboard in conjunction with Business Intelligence is being produced to enable real time up to the day monitoring of performance and blockages.
- Weekly finance meetings set up.
- Weekly sufficiency meetings established with both Head Teachers and Estates, which have resulted in a number of in borough places being created. A larger piece of work is looking to establish considerably more places. Currently 269 children are placed in Special Education settings outside of the borough at an average cost of over £58K each or approximately £800K over their school years.
- DBV updates to DfE continue to receive positive feedback about the improved stability and recent leadership changes as well as several areas of good practice.

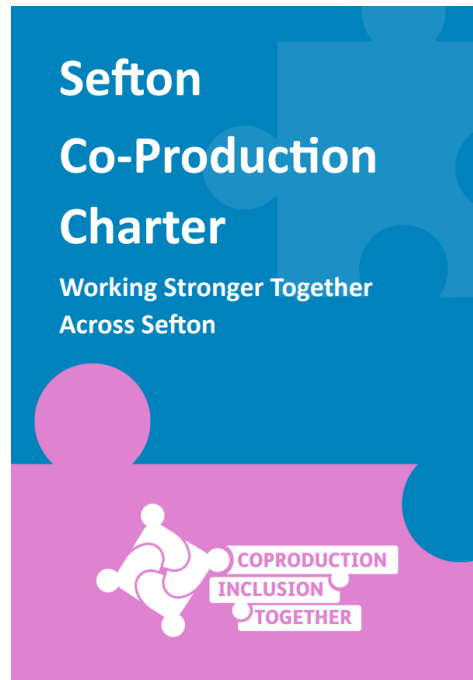
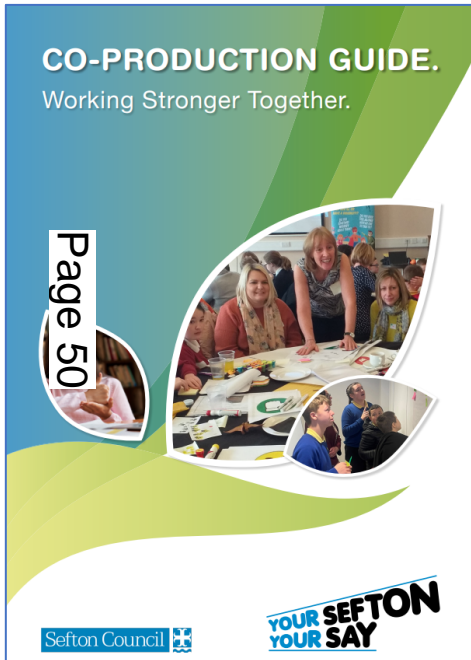
SEND Inspection Planning Update

Progress Send Support

- A Children's Services Transformation Team has been established and the Programme Manager for this area has been appointed. The team is currently being supported by 2 interim project officers, whilst permanent posts are filled. This team will be responsible for the planning, delivering and monitoring of the departments transformation programme going forward including Childrens Social Care, SEND and Home to School Transport.
- Use of resources, especially staffing and funding, are being reviewed, this will include using admin support to free up Strategic Support capacity to support more strategic work areas.
- Links and relationships with schools /other settings are positive and the appointment of an AD has been welcomed. Officers continue to receive positive feedback from Early Years Settings, Partners, Schools, the SPCF and young people about the positive impact they are making to children and young people's lives and this is highlighted each month (along with challenges) at SENDCIB through a Voice of the Child case study.

SEND Inspection Planning Update

Progress Co-production



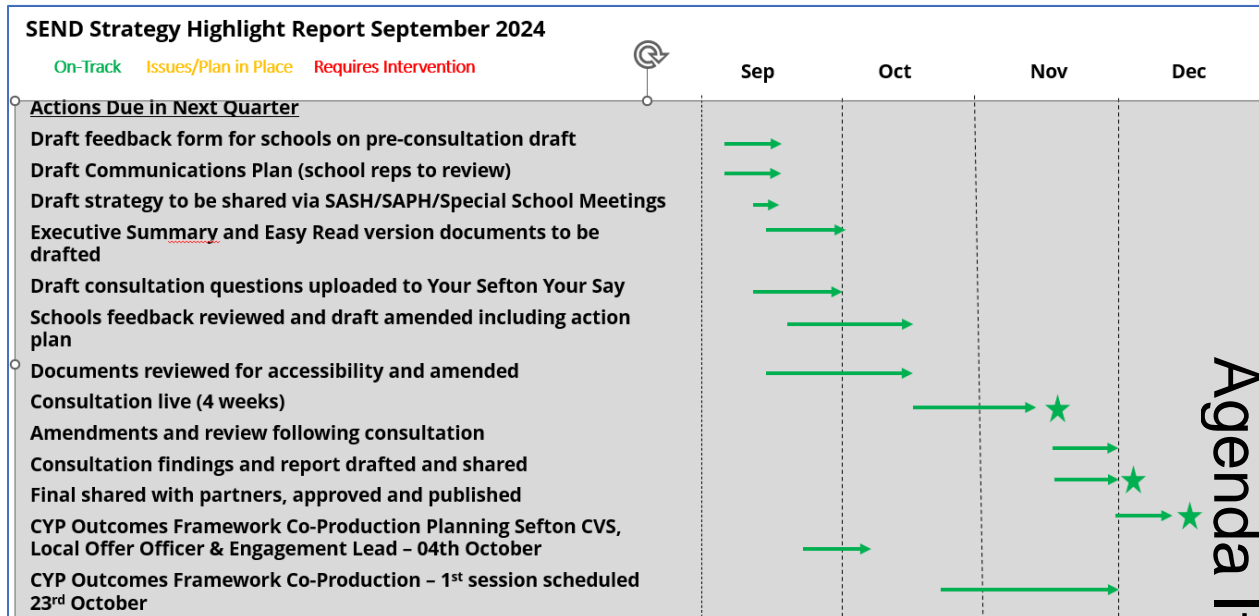
Coproduction Charter Update

- The coproduction charter has been finalised and signed off and shared with partners.
- The charter will be launched at the Local Offer Live (LOL) event in October ½ term.
- A training tool kit, has been coproduced with parents and carers and a train the trainer roll out is planned.
- The charter can be found at sefton-coproduction-charter.pdf
- Along with a guide for staff and other resources at [Working Stronger Together \(Co-production\) \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/working-stronger-together-co-production)

SEND Inspection Planning Update

Progress SEND Arrangements

- SEND Strategy – A draft SEND strategy has been developed and a timeline created to ensure that it has been coproduced and consulted with Head Teachers, Families, Young People and Partners.



Agenda Item 8

SEND Inspection Planning Update

Progress SEND Arrangements

- Sufficiency – A number of meetings have been held with Head Teachers to collate views, expectations and to map the landscape. Data has been analysed and it is predicted that 300 new places are required in Sefton in the next 3 years along with the creation of more nurture-based provision in mainstream schools. Work between Education and other council services is ongoing on our approach to creating sufficient places through the development and extension of existing assets
- Despite a drop in birth rate, Early Years are seeing a large increase in numbers of children requiring support from 500, two years ago, to 900 currently. Mainly with ASD, ADHD, SALT, SEMH need, and this is all currently being captured as part of a Sufficiency plan.
- Alternative Provision – AP task and finish group established, Analysis of AP placements completed including mapping of reason behind AP commission and primary need. QA framework developed and AP register in creation, along with an annual process for delivery.

Progress SEND Sufficiency

Presfield School: The Local Authority converted a storage area within the school to a classroom for 4 pupils. This has enabled the LA to name to the school of parent's choice.

Freshfield Primary: The addition of a double unit modular classroom to the site will increase the SEN Unit provision from 20 places to 28. The modular classroom is due to be onsite during the Autumn term and has allowed the LA to support 4 pupils which had been named to their mainstream reception class to move across to the SEN Unit

Bishop David Shepperd - Building work has commenced on site to develop a new SEN Unit.

Expressions of interest will be share with secondary provision for 3 Units across the borough.

There is a proposal to build a class room on Merefield site for 8 additional pupils

A modular classroom at Bedford primary has now been approved developing 12 places. This will prevent children having to access expensive out of borough places

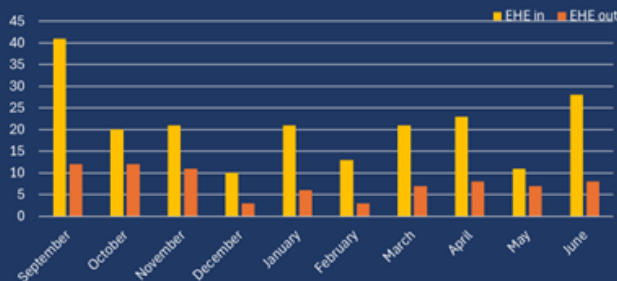
Electively Home Educated - Year End

EHE – end of year summary pupil movement / destination

Movement 408 pupils year end (Aug) :

346 pupils recorded as EHE Sept

Pupil Movement: EHE referrals in / EHE ceased (out)



	EHE in	EHE out
September	41	12
October	20	12
November	21	11
December	10	3
January	21	6
February	13	3
March	21	7
April	23	8
May	11	7
June	28	8
Total	72	

	mainstream Sp / AP Provision	Out of borough
September	8	2
October	11	0
November	9	0
December	1	1
January	5	1
February	1	0
March	7	0
April	4	2
May	2	2
June	8	0
TOTAL	56	8

What is the data telling us

Increase in pupil movement at start of academic year. Reflects advanced notifications to EHE for Y6 pupils and some difficulties experienced at transition

What are the issues:

Impact on admissions team in terms of holding secondary school places. Year on year overall rise reflecting nation trend and regional trend

What are we doing to improve:

- Working with admissions / Monitoring and placement. Letter process re: parental intention to keep / reject allocated school place at Y7. Fair Access maintain EHE within protocol for families re-engaging with school provision so additional needs are addressed and placements are appropriate. Pupils allocated school they deregistered from wherever possible at Fair Access.
- Increase contacts / dialogue with schools at point of intent / consideration of EHE
- Working with ADCS (National Consultation) and EHE NW re: proposals for national registration

Delivering Better Value - Update

Programme Name: Delivering Better Value (DBV)

Programme Sponsor: Nadine Carroll

Reporting Period: 07/07/2024-07/09/2024

Budget Status: ●

Programme Status: ● On Track

	Project	Status	Milestones / Achievements	Risks / Issues / Benefits
1	Inclusion Service Capacity	●	SENCO been in place since April to July 2024. The seconded sencos have worked on GA and toolkit development.	Potential changes to senco secondment. This will be managed from existing capacity.
2	Early Years SEND Capacity	●	All staff in place and working in settings and schools.	No risks or issues to report.
3	Educational Psychology	●	EBSA guidance is published. ELSA Training (Early Years and School Age). New assistant EP has started Sept 2024	Changes in EP delivery means Emotionally Informed Classroom will be unable to be delivered as part of the EP offer.
4	Workforce Training Programme	●	Staff training booked for Autumn Term. Conference moved for sensitivity around conference date following the incident in Southport. Other training being explored in response to the incident.	No risks or issues to report.
5	Graduated Approach	●	Toolkits are near completion with a launch date booked for 17 th Oct. This will be a joint launch with the SALT toolkit. Flyer been agreed by IC team and will be sent out by end of next week	No risks or issues to report.
6	Communication With Families	●	Focus groups to discuss Local Offer and development of communication strategy across the authority over September. Parental Workshops on GA delivered Summer 24.	No risks or issues to report.

Next DFE Reporting Date: 4th Oct 2024

Upcoming Activities / Milestones: 1. SEMH outreach hub meeting 17th Sept. 2. Continued meetings with settings. 3. Development of training offer booklet for 2024-2025. 4. GA toolkit launch 17th Oct

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Parent Carer Forum



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Parent Carer Survey 2024 – feedback highlighted gaps in communication and signposting and as a result a series of workshops are taking place to look at preferred methods of communication, along with the development of a new termly newsletter and news page on the Local Offer.

Parent Carer Forum reps are no longer available for meetings on Thursdays as they have secured paid employment on this day, they are also incredibly busy volunteers and have limited capacity.



Parent Carer Local Offer Live Event - Southport October 30th 2024 with over 60 tables so far confirmed and a Preparing for Adulthood conference 9th October 2024.

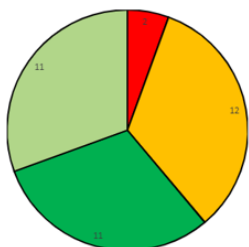
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Annex A and SEF Update

Ofsted Inspection Readiness

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Annex A



■ High Risk ■ Work underway but not complete ■ Complete ■ Complete but an update required once call comes

High Risk	2
Work underway but not complete	12
Complete	11
Complete but an update required once call comes	11

High Risk	Work Underway but not complete
Self-Evaluation	Approach to EHCP Plans (QA)
Short Breaks	SEND Strategy
	PB information
	Outcomes evidence
	Multi-agency audits
	Out of area placements
	Care services overview
	Health pathways
	Commissioning strategy and arrangements
	Needs of the children and young people (AP)
	Settings and attendees (AP)
	Monitoring and oversight (AP)

The update shows that work has progressed in many areas of the evidence library, with many of the amber areas underway or almost complete.

A draft SEF has been produced and from this a gap analysis and action plan are being created for presentation at the November Board.

The Short Breaks review has been delayed and highlighted as a risk, as capacity was diverted to the creation of the SEND Strategy and a revised timeline for the review starts in January 2025.

Actions for October / November

- SEND strategy consultation and engagement, and final draft document.
- SEF finalised along with gap analysis and action plan
- Roll out of DBV training programme and parent / practitioner toolkit.
- FASD training programme launched and rolling out across the partnership
- Financial modelling of mainstream school banding for SEND funding
- Parent carer workshops around communication and the creation of a communication strategy
- First edition of the new termly newsletter
- Finalisation of sufficiency plan and proposals to create new places
- Embedding of new leadership, recruitment of vacancies, development of teams including transformation team to ensure work programs are planned, delivered and monitored
- Ongoing support as part of Southport recovery. Octobers' conference is postponed until February 2025 – due to the need for schools to return smoothly for the Autumn Term and sensitivity of the timing

SEND Inspection Planning Update

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

Date of meeting:	12 November 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) Note the item on the KDFP;
- (4) 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
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and

Agenda Item 10

Scrutiny Committee be noted;

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 A 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 initially 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.

1.2 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 December 2024 to 31 March 2025, contains one item relevant to the remit of this committee as follows

- Re-procurement of Sefton Sexual Health Services

1.3.5 Please note this item cuts across both the Overview and Scrutiny (Adult Social Care and Health) Committee and this Committee. The item will also be reported to the ASC&H Committee on 7th January 2025.

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.

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

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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 – 23 October 2024

Matters considered at the meeting related to the following items:

- Draft Local Transport Plan
- Active Travel Progress Report
- Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
- Social Value Update
- Digital Connectivity Vision and Roadmap
- Delivery Planning and Performance Reporting
- 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.

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.

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?

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(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
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2078
Email Address:	Laura.bootland@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

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

Appendix B – Informal Meetings and Visits

Appendix C - Key Decision Forward Plan

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.



**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	Nabeel Chaudhry
4.	Children's Services Annual Complaints Report 2023-24	Paul Bayliss
5.	Children, Schools and Families - SEND Data	Nadine Carroll
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	Nabeel Chaudhry
4.	Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023/24	Karen Gray
5.	Domestic Abuse Update	Mel Ormesher/Janette Maxwell
6.	School Meals Provision Update	Colin Upton/Michelle Williams
7.	SACRE Annual Report 2023/24	Ian Ross
8.	Children, Schools and Families - SEND Data	Nadine Carroll
9.	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	Nabeel Chaudhry
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
4.	<p>Child Poverty</p>	Laura Bootland/Margaret Jones/Helen

	An informal meeting with the Public Health Team took place on Thursday 19 th September to look at Child Poverty	Armitage
5.	Visit to MAD Group To meet with the Making a Difference (MAD) Group – to be re-arranged (Bootle Town Hall).	Laura Bootland/Cheryl Yates
6.	Informal Mid-Year Review of Work Programme and Committee Catch-up The Chair requested a meeting with Committee members to look at the Work Programme at this mid-way point of the municipal year.	Laura Bootland/Cllr Hardman
7.	Joint Informal Meeting with O&S (Adult Social Care & Health) Committee to receive an update on the work with Schools following the Southport Incident. This meeting will take place on Teams on 28 th November 2024 5.30pm.	Nadine Carroll/Laura Bootland
6.	To visit Children’s Services at Magdalen House, Bootle – to be arranged.	Laura Bootland



SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 DECEMBER 2024 - 31 MARCH 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE:

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

Phil Porter
Chief Executive

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact	Page No
Re-procurement of Sefton Sexual Health Service	George Lock	3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Re-procurement of Sefton Sexual Health Service Approval sought for the direct award via Provider Selection Regime Direct Award Route C of the Sefton Sexual Health Service to the incumbent provider, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospital Trust.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Feb 2025			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding/Adult Social Care and Health			
Lead Director	Director of Public Health			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	As this is a universal service, we aim to consult with all residents, aiming to capture the views from all backgrounds that represent Sefton's population.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and residents including surveys (online and in the community) and focus groups organised through community gatekeepers.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Re-procurement of Sefton Sexual Health Service.			
Contact Officer(s) details	George Lock			

Agenda Item 10

Appendix C

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