



COUNCIL SUMMONS

To Members of the Metropolitan Borough Council

Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to be held on **Thursday 11th July, 2024 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Southport** to transact the business set out on the agenda overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

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

Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Southport

Wednesday 3 July 2024

Please contact Debbie Campbell, Democratic Services Manager
on 0151 934 2254 or e-mail debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

We endeavour to provide a reasonable number of full agendas, including reports at the meeting. If you wish to ensure that you have a copy to refer to at the meeting, please can you print off your own copy of the agenda pack prior to the meeting.

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A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(Pages 7 - 22)

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2024

4. Mayor's Communications

Public Session

5. Matters Raised by the Public

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

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

Council Business Session

6. Questions Raised by Members of the Council

To receive and consider questions to Cabinet Members,

Chairs of Committees or Spokespersons for any of the Joint Authorities upon any matter within their portfolio/area of responsibility, of which notice has been given by Members of the Council in accordance with Paragraph 49 to 51 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, set out in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

- 7. Bootle Area Action Plan - Publication** (Pages 23 - 34)
Report of the Executive Director (Place)
- 8. Unreasonably Persistent and Unacceptable Behaviour Policy** (Pages 35 - 56)
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 9. Sefton Youth Justice Annual Plan** (Pages 57 - 128)
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 10. Annual Progress Report Climate Emergency** (Pages 129 - 160)
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 11. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24** (Pages 161 - 192)
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 12. Financial Management 2024/25 to 2027/28 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2024/25 - Additional Estimates** (Pages 193 - 202)
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 13. Independent Remuneration Panel - Parental Leave Policy, Payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to Deputy Leaders and the Chair of the Planning Committee** (To Follow)
Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer
- 14. Membership of Committees 2023/24**
To consider any changes to the membership of any Committees etc.
- 15. Motion Submitted by Councillor Sir Ron Watson - Southport Flower Show** (Pages 203 - 204)
Copy attached

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

COUNCIL

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

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

Councillors Atkinson, Bradshaw, Brodie - Browne, Brough, Danny Burns, Carlin, Cavanagh, Corcoran, Desmond, Dodd, Doolin, Dowd, Doyle, Evans, Grace, Halsall, Hansen, Hardman, Harrison, Hart, Harvey, Hinde, Howard, Johnson, Keith, John Kelly, Sonya Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Lloyd-Johnson, Lunn-Bates, Maher, McNabb, Moncur, Morris, Murphy, Myers, Neary, O'Brien, Catie Page, Christopher Page, Parker, Porter, Prendergast, Pugh, Richards, Robinson, Roche, Roscoe, Sammon, Shaw, Spring, Thomas, Thompson, Veidman, Sir Ron Watson, Webster and Williams

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2024/25

It was moved by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Councillor Moncur and unanimously

RESOLVED:

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

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Byrom, Fairclough, McGinnity, McKee and Tweed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR FOR 2024/25

Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

It was moved by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Councillor Moncur and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That

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

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendment, the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 April 2024 be approved as a correct record:

- the inclusion of Councillor. McGinnity's name to the list of those present who voted for the substantive motion under Minute No. 118 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Carlin - Support for calling for a Ceasefire in Palestine and Israel.

6. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Election of New Councillors

The Mayor congratulated all of the Councillors who were re-elected to office following the Local Government Elections held on 2 May 2024, and extended a warm welcome to the ten new Councillors elected to office, namely:

- Karen Cavanagh
- Neil Doolin
- Sam Hinde
- Joe Johnson
- Dominic McNabb
- Dave Neary
- Chloe Parker
- Maria Porter
- Mike Sammon; and
- Joanne Williams"

Councillors Not Re-Elected

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

The Mayor also placed on record, the gratitude of the Council to Paul Cummins and Joe Riley, the two former Councillors, who were not re-elected to office, for their dedicated service to the Borough of Sefton over a period of 28 years for Paul Cummins and a period of 3 years for Joe Riley.

Mayoral Events

The Mayor reported that the total raised at the Mayor's Charity Ball was £6,310.00 and extended thanks to everyone who attended, as it was an enjoyable evening. The Mayor had three dates for diaries, as set out below, and further details on the events would be released in due course:

Saturday, 19 October 2024 – Charity Cabaret Night at St William of York;
Saturday, 25 January 2025 – Charity Burns Night; and
Saturday, 26 April 2025 – the Mayor's Gala Ball for 2025 at Formby Hall.

Euro 2024 Charity Sweepstake

The Mayor reported that she had launched the Euro 2024 Charity Sweepstake. The cost was £10.00 per team, with £80.00 for the winner, £30.00 for the runner up, £10.00 for most goals scored (which included penalty shootouts) and £10.00 for most goals conceded.

Office of Mayor 2024/25

The Mayor announced that as a traditional installation ceremony was not being held this year, due to her continuing into another term of office, she wished to take the opportunity to recognise what an honour it was to make history as the only Councillor to be made Mayor of Sefton four times. The Mayor thanked the Leader of the Council for putting her trust in her for another 12 months.

Pride of Sefton Awards

The Mayor reported that the awards were organised jointly between Mikhail Hotel and Leisure Group and Stand Up For Southport in association with In Demand Radio. At the Awards evening held on 26 April 2024 at the Grand Hotel in Southport, the Mayor was invited to present the Diversity and Inclusion Award, this award being sponsored by Sefton Council. The three finalists for the Award were Councillor Jen Corcoran for the first Pride march in Southport last year; John Doran for enabling disabled children to participate in football (he was the winner); and Victoria Lawton who offered support to men affected by domestic abuse at Sefton Women and Children's Aid (SWACA), which continued to be the Mayor's charity.

7. ELECTION RESULTS - 2 MAY 2024

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive and Returning Officer on the results of the Council Elections held on 2 May 2024.

Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Lappin, seconded by Councillor Moncur and

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that in accordance with the provisions in Paragraph 4 of Chapter 5 in the Council Constitution, the Council, at its meeting held on 18 January 2024, appointed Councillor Atkinson as Leader of the Council for the remainder of a period of four years until the Adjourned Annual Council Meeting in May 2027, or until such time as her term of office expires.

9. CABINET AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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

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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) it be noted that Councillors Moncur and Lappin have been appointed as the Deputy Leaders of the Council for the remainder of a four-year term of office until the Adjourned Annual Council meeting in May 2027 or until such time as their terms of office expire; and
- (2) it be noted that the Cabinet comprising of the Members indicated below will hold office until the Leader's term of office expires, unless removed by the Leader or for any of the reasons set out in Paragraph 4 (a) to (c) of Chapter 5 in the Constitution:

Cabinet (9)

Portfolio	Member
Leader of the Council	Councillor Atkinson
Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care and Health and Deputy Leader	Councillor Moncur
Cabinet Member - Children Schools and Families	Councillor Roscoe
Cabinet Member - Cleansing and	Councillor Harvey

Street Scene	
Cabinet Member - Communities and Partnership Engagement	Councillor Dowd
Cabinet Member - Corporate Services	Councillor Howard
Cabinet Member - Public Health and Wellbeing	Councillor Doyle
Cabinet Member - Housing and Highways	Councillor Veidman
Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills and Deputy Leader	Councillor Lappin

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEE 2024/25

The Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer which provided details of the allocation of Committee Places in accordance with the Political Balance Rules and the proposed Membership of the Committees and Working Groups for 2024/25. The report also sought approval to the terms of reference for Committees and Sub-Committees, as set out in chapters 6 and 7 of the Council’s Constitution.

It was moved by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Councillor Lappin and

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the allocation of Committee Places be noted; and
- (2) the Members, Chairs and Vice Chairs for the Committees and Sub-Committees set out below be appointed for a maximum period of twelve months until the Adjourned Annual Council Meeting to be held in May 2025, subject to any changes political groups may make to memberships of Committees at meetings of the Council;

(A) OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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

(Plus 2 Associate Members)

(Lab 8 / Lib Dem 2 / Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
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COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

1.	Chair: Cllr. Lunn-Bates	Cllr. Richards
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Myers	Cllr. Roche
3.	Cllr. Desmond	Cllr. Tweed
4.	Cllr. Grace	Cllr. Webster
5.	Cllr. Hart	Cllr. McGinnity
6.	Cllr. Hinde	Cllr. Danny Burns
7.	Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson	Cllr. Brodie-Browne
8.	Cllr. McKee	Cllr. Sonya Kelly
9.	Cllr. Neary	Cllr. Chris Page
10.	Cllr. Pugh	Cllr. Brodie-Browne

Associate Members:

(Non-voting Co-opted Members)

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

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) (10)

(Plus 4 Education Added Members and 3 Associate Members)

(Lab 8 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Hardman	Cllr. Myers
2.	Vice-Chair: Danny Burns	Cllr. Corcoran
3.	Cllr. Evans	Cllr. Pugh
4.	Cllr. Harrison Kelly	Cllr. Williams
5.	Cllr. Chris Page	Cllr. Hart
6.	Cllr. Parker	Cllr. McGinnity
7.	Cllr. Porter	Cllr. Hinde
8.	Cllr. Prendergast	Cllr. Brough
9.	Cllr. Richards	Cllr. Johnson
10.	Cllr. Spring	Cllr. John Kelly

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

Church Diocesan Representatives:

Ms. Michelle Ravey (Archdiocesan Representative) and
Mr. Stuart Harrison (Diocesan Representative)

Parent Governor Representatives:

Ms. Cheryl Swainbank - 2-year appointment until November 2024
Gemma Armer – 2-year appointment until June 2025

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

Mrs. Sandra Cain

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

Members)

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

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING PARENTS/CARERS
SUB-COMMITTEE (5)** (newly established)

(Lab 4 / Lib Dem .1 / Con .0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr Hardman	Cllr. Catie Page
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Danny Burns	Cllr. Corcoran
3.	Cllr. Evans	Cllr. Pugh
4.	Cllr. Chris Page	Cllr. Spring
5.	Cllr. Richards	Cllr. Harrison Kelly

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

(Lab 8 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Hart	Cllr. Murphy
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Corcoran	Cllr. Neary
3.	Cllr. Cavanagh	Cllr. Williams
4.	Cllr. Hinde	Cllr. Grace
5.	Cllr. Killen	Cllr. Parker
6.	Cllr. McGinnity	Cllr. O'Brien
7.	Cllr. McKee	Cllr. Thomas
8.	Cllr. Morris	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson
9.	Cllr. Sammon	Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson
10.	Cllr. Webster	Cllr. Richards

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

(Lab 7 / Lib Dem 2 / Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Bradshaw	Cllr. Harrison Kelly
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Byrom	Cllr. Carragher
3.	Cllr. Brodie-Browne	Cllr. Evans
4.	Cllr. McNabb	Cllr. Porter
5.	Cllr Murphy	Cllr. Johnson
6.	Cllr. Catie Page	Cllr. Myers
7.	Cllr. Parker	Cllr. Killen
8.	Cllr. Shaw	Cllr. Evans

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9.	Cllr. Thomas	Cllr. Roche
10.	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson	Cllr. Morris

(B) REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES

APPEALS COMMITTEE

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

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (10)

(Lab 8 / Lib Dem 2 / Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Robinson	Cllr. Desmond
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Murphy
3.	Cllr Harrison Kelly	Cllr. Byrom
4.	Cllr. Johnson	Cllr. Hansen
5.	Cllr. Maher	Cllr. Lunn-Bates
6.	Cllr. McNabb	Cllr. Hardman
7.	Cllr. Neary	Cllr. Catie Page
8.	Cllr. Pugh	Cllr. Sammon
9.	Cllr. Shaw	Cllr. Sammon
10.	Cllr. Spring	Cllr. Corcoran

Independent Non-Voting Member – Ms. Rachel Oakes

HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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

INITIAL ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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

REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

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

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

INDEPENDENT PERSONS (STANDARDS ISSUES)

(4 members)

Ed Davies, Joanne Hadley, Isobel McDonald-Davies and Andrew Pearson (2-year term to May 2026)

EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Members appointed by the Leader of the Council	Councillor Moncur (Chair) Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care and Health
	Councillor Doyle Cabinet Member – Public Health and Wellbeing
	Councillor Roscoe Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families
Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Place Director	Deborah Butcher
Director of Public Health	Margaret Jones
Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education	Risthardh Hare
Representative of the Council’s Adult Social Care Service.	Sara Alldis
Place Clinical Director	Dr Rob Caudwell
Representative of Healthwatch, Sefton	John Turner
Representatives of the NHS Acute Provider Sector	Anne-Marie Stretch Neil Holland
Representative from the Every Child Matters Forum	Janine Hyland
Representative from the Health and Social Care Forum	Andrew Booth
Representative from Merseyside Police	Superintendent Dawn McNally
Representative from Merseyside Fire and	Mark Thomas

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Rescue Service	
Representative from Alder Hey Children's Foundation trust	Adrian Hughes
Representative from the Voluntary Community Faith Sector (representative to be agreed through Sefton CVS as the umbrella organisation for the voluntary community and faith sector)	Angela White
Independent Chair of the Programme Delivery Group (part of the Sefton Partnership Governance)	Anita Marsland

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

LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE (15)

(Lab 12 / Lib Dem 2 / Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr. John Kelly
2.	Vice-Chair Cllr. Sonya Kelly
3.	Cllr. Carragher
4.	Cllr. Cavanagh
5.	Cllr. Corcoran
6.	Cllr. Dodd
7.	Cllr. Killen
8.	Cllr. Morris
9.	Cllr. O'Brien
10.	Cllr. Porter
11.	Cllr. Robinson
12.	Cllr. Thomas
13.	Cllr. Thompson
14.	Cllr. Webster
15.	Cllr. Williams

LICENSING AND REGULATORY (URGENT REFERRALS) COMMITTEE (3)

(Lab 2 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr. John Kelly	Cllr. Bradshaw
2.	Cllr. Sonya Kelly	Cllr. Robinson
3.	Cllr. Thompson	Cllr. Dodd

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

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

LICENSING (SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES) SUB-COMMITTEE

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

PAY AND GRADING COMMITTEE (7)

(Lab 5 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0) – Including Cabinet Member – Corporate Services

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE (15)

(Lab 12 / Lib Dem 2 / Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Hansen	Cllr. Byrom
2.	Vice-Chair: Cllr. O'Brien	Cllr. Grace
3.	Cllr. Brough	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson
4.	Cllr. Desmond	Cllr. McNabb
5.	Cllr. Dodd	Cllr. Sammon
6.	Cllr. Johnson	Cllr. Killen
7.	Cllr. John Kelly	Cllr. Bradshaw
8.	Cllr. Sonya Kelly	Cllr. Robinson
9.	Cllr. McGinnity	Cllr. McKee
10.	Cllr. Chris Page	Cllr. Cavanagh
11.	Cllr. Richards	Cllr. Spring
12.	Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Danny Burns
13.	Cllr. Thompson	Cllr. Sammon
14.	Cllr. Tweed	Cllr. Thomas
15.	Cllr. Williams	Cllr. Maher

PLANNING (URGENT REFERRALS) COMMITTEE (3)

(Lab 2 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

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	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cllr. Hansen	Cllr. O'Brien
2.	Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Chris Page
3.	Cllr. Thompson	Cllr. Dodd

PLANNING VISITING PANEL (15)

The Panel comprises of the Members of the Planning Committee.

(C) CONSULTATIVE BODIES

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

(6 members)

Ed Davies, Joanne Hadley, Tony Hussey, Susan Lowe, Isobel McDonald-Davies and Susan Murphy (2-year term to May 2026)

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

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFFS

(9 Council Members plus 9 Teacher representatives)

(Lab 7 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Cllr. Bradshaw	Cllr. O'Brien
2.	Cllr. Brodie-Browne	Cllr. Pugh
3.	Cllr. Corcoran	Cllr. Porter
4.	Cllr. Harrison Kelly	Cllr. Robinson
5.	Cllr. McNabb	Cllr. McGinnity
6.	Cllr. Parker	Cllr. Danny Burns
7.	Cllr. Richards	Cllr. Lunn-Bates
8.	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson	Cllr. Morris
9.	Cllr. Webster	Cllr. Sonya Kelly

LOCAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(12 Council Members plus 12 Trade Union Representatives)

(Lab 9 / Lib Dem 2 / Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Cllr. Bradshaw	Cllr. Hart

2.	Cllr. Brodie-Browne	Cllr. Shaw
3.	Cllr. Carragher	Cllr. Grace
4.	Cllr. Harrison Kelly	Cllr. Chris Page
5.	Cllr. Lunn-Bates	Cllr. Killen
6.	Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Hinde
7.	Cllr. Neary	Cllr. Desmond
8.	Cllr. O'Brien	Cllr. Roche
9.	Cllr. Catie Page	Cllr. Spring
10.	Cllr. Pugh	Cllr. Shaw
11.	Cllr. Webster	Cllr. Byrom
12.	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson	Cllr. Morris

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION PANEL (4)

(Lab 3 / Lib Dem 1 /Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
1.	Chair: Cabinet Member - Communities and Partnership Engagement - Cllr. Dowd	Cllr. John Kelly
2.	Cllr. Byrom	Cllr. Hardman
3.	Cllr. Cavanagh	Cllr. Murphy
4.	Cllr. Shaw	Cllr. Brodie-Browne

COUNCIL (6)

(Lab 4 / Lib Dem 1 /Con 1 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0)

	<u>Member</u>
1.	Chair Cllr. Lappin
2.	Cllr. Howard
3.	Cllr. Lloyd-Johnson
4.	Cllr. Sonya Kelly
5.	Cllr. Robinson
6.	Cllr. Sir Ron Watson

11. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MERSEYSIDE JOINT AUTHORITY BODIES 2024/25

The Council considered a schedule of the proposed representation on the Merseyside Joint Authority Bodies for 2024/25.

It was moved by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Councillor Moncur and

RESOLVED:

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COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

That the following Members be appointed to serve on the following Joint Authority Bodies in 2024/25:

Joint Authority

Representatives

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)
Substitute Member(s) – Deputy Leaders of the Council (Councillors Moncur or Lappin)

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee

Councillors Danny Burns (Lab), Carragher (Lab), Corcoran (Lab) and Dodd (Lib Dem)

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillors Byrom (Lab), Grace (Lab), Thompson (Lib Dem) and Tweed (Lab)

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

Councillors Sonya Kelly (Lab) and Catie Page (Lab)

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

Councillors Hinde (Lab) and McNabb (Lab)

12. REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)

The Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services which presented the findings following a review of the Committee's Terms of Reference.

The main proposals arising from the review were:

- Revised, streamlined Terms of Reference for the Committee which encompassed the main focus areas for the Committee.
- A two-year term of office for Co-Opted Members of the Committee, together with attendance conditions of office.
- The establishment of a Children's Services and Safeguarding Parents/Carers Sub-Committee.
- The introduction of a Public Question Time at the commencement of the Committee.

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

It was moved by Councillor Roscoe, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

RESOLVED: That

- (1) changes to membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) in regard to co-opted members, together with the proposed Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), as set out at Appendix 2, be approved;
- (2) the proposal to establish a Children's Services and Safeguarding Parents/Carers Sub-Committee, as set out at Appendix 3, be approved;
- (3) a Public Question Time period for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), as set out at Appendix 4, be approved;
- (4) the Council's Constitution be amended by the inclusion of Appendices 2, 3 and 4 of the report; and
- (5) the proposals be reviewed in twelve months' time.

13. PROTOCOL FOR JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

The Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer requesting approval of the revised protocol for Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements for Cheshire and Merseyside. The revised Protocol for the Establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements in Cheshire and Merseyside was attached to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Moncur, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

RESOLVED

That the revised Protocol for Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements for Cheshire and Merseyside, as attached to the report, be approved.

14. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024/25

It was moved by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Councillor Lappin and

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that the Council meetings scheduled to be held during the Municipal Year 2024/25 are as follows:

- 11 July 2024
- 12 September 2024
- 14 November 2024

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COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024

- 16 January 2025
- 27 February 2025 (Budget Meeting)
- 24 April 2025

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Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	Thursday 20 June 2024 Thursday 11 July 2024
Subject:	Bootle Area Action Plan - Publication		
Report of:	Executive Director (Place)	Wards Affected:	Derby; Linacre; Litherland; Netherton and Orrell;
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Report seeking approval for publication of Bootle Area Action Plan (Local Plan Document) for public comment and subsequent submission to Secretary of State for Examination in Public.

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet:

- 1) recommend to Council that the Publication Draft of the Bootle AAP and supporting assessments be approved for publication for public comment and submission to the Secretary of State for examination.

That Council:

- 1) approve the Publication Draft of the Bootle AAP and supporting assessments for publication for public comment and submission to the Secretary of State for examination; and
- 2) delegate authority to the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, to make non-strategic changes to the Publication draft of the Bootle Area Action Plan or supporting assessments prior to publication and/or submission; and
- 3) delegate authority to the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, to make minor editorial and presentational changes to the Publication draft of the Bootle Area Action Plan or supporting assessments prior to publication and/or submission.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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To allow the draft of the Bootle Area Action Plan and supporting assessments to be published for public comment and subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

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

Not to do an Area Action Plan for Bootle. This is not appropriate as it is considered necessary to clearly set out a vision for the town and to provide the planning policy framework to allow the various planned and future regeneration projects and investment opportunities secure planning approval.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The cost for the production the Bootle AAP, including the various engagement stages, public examination and potential supporting studies had been estimated at £230,000. 40% of the costs (£92,000) will be covered by Sefton's core budget, with the remainder (£138,000) secured from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Strategic Investment Fund (SIF).

(B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

The cost for the production the Bootle AAP, including the various engagement stages, public examination and potential supporting studies had been estimated at £230,000. 40% of the costs (£92,000) will be covered by Sefton's core budget, with the remainder (£138,000) secured from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Strategic Investment Fund (SIF).

Legal Implications:

The preparation and engagement of the Bootle AAP will be undertaken in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

The Publication draft Bootle AAP has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment. This concluded that the Bootle AAP would generally have a neutral impact on the range of protected characteristics, with a small number of positive outcomes from a number of policies. However, it is not expected that there will be any significant equality

implications from the Bootle AAP.

Impact on Children and Young People: Yes

The vision has been amended to have specific reference to children and young people (see paragraph 3.1 below). A specific objective of the AAP - *To recognise the needs and potential of children and young people in regeneration and place-making in Bootle* - has been added.

To help deliver on the vision and objectives in this regard, a number of policies in the Bootle AAP have specific references to children and young people so that any benefits of implementing the policy is focused on them. This includes:

BAAP1 'Design' – reference is made to design in new development should have particular emphasis placed on creating places that are safe and feel safe for women, children and young people and others who may be feel vulnerable in public spaces.

BAAP3 'Bootle Central Area' and BAAP6 'Civic and Education Quarter' supports new educational facilities that will help maximise educational opportunities for our children and young people.

BAAP4 'Bootle Town Centre' sets out that the redevelopment plans for Bootle Strand should provide for facilities/uses should encourage leisure opportunities for all residents, including families, children and young people.

BAAP8 'Getting Around' sets at that to improve accessibility new development must ensure the needs of all residents and users of services, spaces and buildings, including children and young people and those with limited mobility, are met.

BAAP10 'Healthy Bootle' sets out the AAP will seek to protect and secure investment in existing public areas, open spaces, parks, playing fields and the links between them, encouraging people, particularly children and young people, to take physical exercise by providing opportunities for walking, cycling, outdoor recreation and sport.

BAAP11 'Public Greenspace' requires new development proposals should place particular emphasis on how children and young people can safely access areas of public greenspace from new development.

BAAP15 'Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development' specifies that training and employment opportunities for children and young people is one of the priorities that should be prioritised within an Employment and Skills Plan.

BAAP18 'Housing for Older People and Supported Living' sets out an approach to ensure that only good quality and suitable homes are used for children's care homes and supported living.

BAAP22 'Open land between Irlam Road and the Asda Store' supports development on site with improvements to the adjacent open space, which could include new children's play equipment.

BAAP24 'Environmental Improvements' will secure financial contributions from new

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development for arrange of environmental improvement. This will include improving public greenspaces with emphasis on facilities, equipment and activities for children and young people.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

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

Whilst the AAP will have a limited impact, as the effects will be restricted to the wider Bootle area only and to new development, there are policies in the plan that will have a positive impact on climate change implications. The key policy on this issue is BAAP 'Best Use of Resources' which requires major development proposals to incorporate measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where practicable. The policy also seeks to ensure that new build housing developments should seek to be water efficient by seeking to encourage water consumption to fewer than 110 litres per person per day. The policy sets out that existing buildings should be re-used and retrofitted in preference to demolition and re-build unless it can be clearly demonstrated that loss of the buildings, through embedded carbon, is clearly outweighed by other factors. The policy also that development involving demolition and/or construction must implement measures to achieve the efficient use of resources, including minimising waste production and encouraging re-use and recycling materials.

Otherwise, the Bootle AAP generally supports to reuse of brownfield land in the Bootle area. This will help protect our greenspaces and greenfield land from future development if we can meet our development needs in our urban areas. It also supports development in central areas of Bootle which have good existing public transport connections. This will help reduce reliance on car use.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:

The AAP sets out policies that look to prevent new development having an unacceptable impact on all residents. It looks to secure sufficient sustainable homes, to help lower costs. It also includes policies that look to secure employment and training opportunities for some of our most deprived communities.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

The AAP is seeking to improve Bootle as a place and, if secured, this will help support Bootle's communities.

Commission, broker and provide core services:

N/a

Place – leadership and influencer:

N/a

Drivers of change and reform:

N/a

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

The AAP sets out policies that provide land for economic development, secures investment and looks to secure training and employment opportunities for local people.

Greater income for social investment: The AAP includes a policy that seeks to secure contributions towards local environmental improvements which may include supporting local groups to manage environmental projects.
Cleaner Greener The AAP includes a range of policies that look to secure improved places and best use of resources.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7652/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5752/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

A member steering group was set up to inform and guide the Bootle AAP as it progressed to this stage. The steering group consisted of a ward member from each of the four wards that the Bootle AAP includes.

(B) External Consultations

The Bootle AAP has been subject to two previous stages of public engagement (see section two below). This include sending leaflets to every home and business in the area, public drop in events, and online workshops.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	Ian Loughlin
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 3558
Email Address:	ian.loughlin@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Publication Draft of Bootle Area Action Plan and Policy Map

Background Papers:

Draft Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the Publication draft Bootle AAP

Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Publication draft Bootle AAP

Equalities Impact Assessment of the Publication draft Bootle AAP

The above documents can be accessed from the [online library](#). If members would like a paper copy, they should contact the officer (details above).

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1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 An Area Action Plan (AAP) is a type of Development Plan document that provides specific planning policy and guidance for a particular location or an area of significant change, for example a major regeneration area. AAPs can create new policy over and above the Sefton Local Plan within the designated AAP area. Unlike the Local Plan, having an Area Action Plan is optional.
- 1.2 The Council has been developing an Area Action Plan for the Bootle area (and parts of Seaforth and Litherland), titled the 'Bootle Area Action Plan – Our Future, Our Bootle' for the past few years. The emerging AAP has already been subject to two previous stages of public engagement.
- 1.3 The key purposes of doing an AAP for the wider Bootle area is:
- to promote and support regeneration, growth, and investment in the wider Bootle area and to make Bootle a sustainable place to live and work;
 - to provide the mechanism to secure planning approval for the various regeneration projects already underway in the area (notably plans for Bootle Strand);
 - to identify other areas of regeneration opportunity in the area and articulate the types of development the Council would wish to promote in the future in these areas;
 - to demonstrate to the public, landowners, businesses, the private sector, funding providers and others that the Council is supportive of and aspirational for growth and investment in the Bootle area;
 - to provide specific development management policies for the Bootle area to tackle issues particularly pressing in this area;
 - To show how the range of policies and development sites opportunities can contribute to a vision for the town.
- 1.4 This is the final draft of the AAP which will be published for public comment (hence it known as the 'Publication Draft'). Following a period for comment, the draft AAP, any comments made during the consultation period and any supporting evidence and documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. It is possible that examination hearing sessions will be required, but this will depend on the Inspector that we will be allocated and the comments made.
- 1.5 The Government has indicated that a new plan-making system is to be introduced later this year and plans that are currently being progressed under the current system, such as the Bootle AAP, must be submitted for examination no later than June 2025.

2. Previous Stages

- 2.1 This is the third stage of progressing the Bootle AAP. The Council approved an initial consultation document that set out some of the Issues and Options that the AAP could address. The 'Issues and Options' engagement took place between

November 2021 and January 2022 and details are available at www.sefton.gov.uk/bootleAAP.

- 2.2 All the comments made during this engagement period were used to inform the first full draft of the Area Action Plan (known as ‘Preferred Options’).
- 2.3 The ‘Preferred Options’ draft of the AAP was the first document that set out a vision, objectives, a range of policies and site allocations. The ‘preferred options’ of the AAP was approved by Cabinet for public engagement at their meeting on 22 June 2023. Following its approval, the document was made available for public comment during August to November 2023. Whilst changes have been made since the ‘preferred option’ stage, the publication draft of the AAP remains substantively similar.

3. Bootle Area Action Plan – Publication Draft

- 3.1 The Publication draft of the Bootle Area Action Plan starts by setting out an Introduction (section 1) and an overview of the context of Bootle as a place (section 2) before moving to set out the vision and objectives that the AAP is looking to achieve. The draft vision in the document is:

‘Our ambition is for Bootle to be one of the best places in which to grow up in the country. By 2040, a regenerated Bootle will be a place that provides a full range of opportunities to all its residents to live secure, fulfilling, healthy and supported lives whilst addressing key environmental challenges, including pollution and climate change. It will be a place that is open to sustainable business and provide skills, expertise, land, facilities and infrastructure that is attractive to a range of high-quality employers particularly those that would benefit from Bootle’s superb locational advantages. Key to Bootle’s success will be our children and young people who will have the spaces, opportunities, support and a voice to shape their town for the future.’

- 3.2 To help deliver on the vision, the Bootle AAP then identifies 15 objectives for the plan:

Obj1	To meet the housing needs of Bootle’s residents in a way that is safe and secure including affordable and aspirational housing, homes for families, older people, and people with special needs
Obj2	To ensure new buildings are resource efficient to help reduce running costs and especially fuel poverty and to support the retrofitting of existing homes and buildings with energy efficiency measures
Obj3	To prevent the building and conversion of poor-quality houses, flats and homes in multiple occupation that fail to provide a suitable and secure homes or integrate with the community
Obj4	To ensure that existing and future residents have access to a wide range of easily accessible and high-quality services and facilities with all key facilities and services within a short, safe and attractive walk or cycle ride
Obj5	To make land, premises and infrastructure available for sustainable economic growth that enables Bootle to build upon its excellent location in the city region, on the coast and close to the motorway and rail network

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Obj6	To provide good quality, secure jobs, training and business opportunities for Bootle's residents
Obj7	To put measures in place to prevent, reduce and mitigate the harm that business and commercial activity can have on residential amenity and quality of life
Obj8	To improve Bootle Town Centre and the Strand shopping centre to consolidate its position as the main focus of shopping, leisure, cultural, community and other uses for Bootle's residents and those in the wider area
Obj9	To bring back into beneficial use vacant land, homes, and buildings
Obj10	To protect and enhance green infrastructure and nature as part of a high quality environment for Bootle, including identifying locations for tree planting, landscaping and ecological improvements
Obj11	To make Bootle a healthier place to live and to provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle
Obj12	To set high standards of design for new buildings, infrastructure and spaces that complement and improve the places that make Bootle special and which help design out crime and anti-social behaviour
Obj13	To set standards in new development that help the Council respond to the challenge of climate change
Obj14	To identify, protect and, where appropriate, find suitable viable uses for Bootle's valued built heritage.
Obj15	To recognise the needs and potential of children and young people in regeneration and place-making in Bootle

3.3 The vision and objectives above will be delivered through a range of policies set out in the AAP. These are summarised below.

Design and Best Uses of Resources

3.4 Policy BAAP1 'Design' looks to add a local dimension to the existing Local Plan policy on design and the National Design Guide. Specifically, this addresses issues such as design of new development needing to reflect Bootle's Victorian and Edwardian heritage. It also looks to avoid areas 'left over from planning' that have no public ownership and therefore can attract littering and fly-tipping. The policy also stresses the importance of public spaces that are well overlooked and provide safe spaces for all.

3.5 The policy refers to findings of the Design Code Pilot that Sefton participated in during 2021 and the Design Code that was produced for canal side sites in Bootle during that pilot. The policy also covers the design considerations for small infill development sites that are occasionally available in Bootle.

3.6 Policy BAAP2 sets out the approach to the best use of resources. It covers energy efficiency measures for major developments and looks to set water efficiency standards in new homes. The policy also looks to encourage re-using and retrofitting of buildings in preference to demolition if this is appropriate.

Bootle Central Area

- 3.7 Policy BAAP3 defines the central area of Bootle and the types of development that would be encouraged and acceptable in this area. This policy sets the context for the 3 key sub areas in the Central Area, namely:
- BAAP4 'Bootle Town Centre' – confirms that this is the focus for retail, leisure and other town centre uses and sets out the key principles for the redevelopment plans for Bootle Strand.
 - BAAP5 'Office Quarter' – looks to protect the key office accommodation in the area and provides a flexible approach to other buildings and sites.
 - BAAP6 'Civic and Education Quarter' – this policy set out the principles for the re-use of the Town Hall complex of buildings and supports expanded education uses in and around the existing Hugh Baird campus areas.
- 3.8 To help support the key opportunity sites that the AAP has identified in and around the Bootle Central Area (notably in the office quarter to the south of Merton Road), the Council propose to commission a Masterplan for the area. This will be a way to engage with local landowners to demonstrate to them the development opportunities that exist in the area in which they own land. The Bootle AAP would provide the mechanism to secure approval for these development opportunities whilst the Masterplan would be used to attract landowner and developer interest.
- 3.9 The Masterplan would in effect have a marketing role to 'sell' the vision for the area, show the type and mix of development that could occur and how this could link to other major regeneration proposals that are or could happen (such as Bootle Strand or the Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor, see below).

Regeneration Opportunity Areas

- 3.9 There are several sites that have been identified as regeneration opportunity areas which the AAP promotes for a flexible range of uses to try to boost their chance of being developed. These include sites within the Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor (Policy BAAP20) which could, in the longer term, form part of a wider new mixed-use neighbourhood.
- 3.10 As with the Bootle Central Area and office quarter (see above) it is proposed that a Masterplan is to be commissioned to support the Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor allocation to demonstrate in a visual and engaging manner the potential development that could occur in this neighbourhood. At the moment the area is a mix of different uses including some lower quality employment land. The Council could use this masterplan approach to 'sell' the potential of the area for a new mixed use area anchored around a canal side residential area and gauge the potential interest in this from landowners, the public, the potential investors and funding providers.

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- 3.11 The complex of buildings in Bootle Village (corner of Litherland Road and Waterworks Street) has been identified as a potential area for new uses (Policy BAAP21), as has a small overgrown piece of land to the west of Asda (BAAP22) and the land around Coffeehouse Bridge, Irlam Road (BAAP23). Bootle Office Quarter (BAAP5) also includes some areas that a flexible approach to new uses is given.

Employment

- 3.12 Policy BAAP12 identifies the employment sites in the AAP area and sets out what types of employment uses we would accept on each. This policy takes account of the different types of employment areas we have and that they have different characters and are suitable different types of businesses. Policy BAAP13 looks to protect these sites for employment uses and identifies the limited circumstances in which we would allow other uses on them. Policy BAAP14 set how we would assess proposals on employment sites so that it does not cause significant harm to residents. Policy BAAP15 looks to secure employment and training opportunities for local residents from large developments in the Bootle area.

Housing

- 3.13 Policy BAAP16 identifies the sites allocated for housing in the AAP area. These will contribute to Sefton's overall housing supply. It is estimated that the AAP could contribute approximately 1,500 new homes during the period up to 2040. Policy BAAP17 sets out a range of measures to try to diversify the housing stock in the Bootle area. The policy reiterates the Local Plan requirement for 15% of new homes on schemes of 15 homes or more to be secured as affordable homes. It sets out the tenure mix of those affordable homes. On large schemes (50+ homes) of 100% affordable housing, which are common in the Bootle area, the policy seeks to prevent all those homes being social/affordable rent and looks to secure at least half as affordable ownership homes. This is to help provide choice for residents and to assist people to get onto the housing ladder without moving away.
- 3.14 Policy BAAP17 also looks to secure a mix of house types (in relation to number of bedrooms) in both market and affordable housing on large housing developments (25+ homes). The policy also looks to secure all new homes to a minimum standard of accessibility and adaptability (i.e. Building Regs M4(2)) and 5% of new build homes on large schemes of 50+ at the higher standard for wheelchair users (i.e. M4(3)). In this regard it is more stringent than the current Local Plan requirement and reflects Bootle's higher proportion of residents who live with a limiting long-term illness. The policy also encourages the provision of plots for self/custom build homes on very large housing schemes (100+ homes) to help the Council to meet its responsibilities in relation to self and custom build homes.
- 3.15 Policy BAAP18 supports housing for older people but looks to restrict new assisted living care schemes to the social rented sector, which is the identified need in the Bootle area. The policy seeks to prevent an over-concentration of Residential Care Homes for Children in the Bootle area, with a restriction proposed that would prevent conversions to new care homes for children within 400m of an existing home. The policy also steers care homes for children with

educational, behavioural, or social difficulties (EBSD) to larger properties if there are more than one child to be looked after. The policy also requires a management plan to be submitted with all applications for children's care home use and to be supported by evidence of local need.

- 3.16 Policy BAAP19 looks to manage proposals for conversions to flats and Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). This includes having regards to impact on future tenants, existing neighbours, and the wider neighbourhood. This policy links to the existing detailed Supplementary Planning Document on this issue. This policy also looks to prevent the loss of homes that are suitable and in demand locally for continued use as family dwellings and commercial properties that are in demand for businesses.

Other policies

- 3.17 Bootle has a number of long shopping parades (e.g. Linacre Road, Stanley Road) that have high numbers of vacant units and provide too much retail space for modern requirements. Therefore, it is proposed to identify core blocks in these parades to be protected for local shopping and service provision (Policy BAAP7). For the other blocks on these longer parades, the Council will encourage redevelopment. On all parades, the Council will restrict conversion of ground floor units to residential except in very limited circumstances.
- 3.18 The AAP also contains a policy on nature (BAAP9) and looks to secure ecological improvements on all development sites. The AAP also seeks to secure contributions towards environmental improvements, including to open spaces.
- 3.19 Policy BAAP8 promotes ease of movement through and between new developments for all and identifies the key routes in Bootle which will be the priority for protection and improvement.
- 3.20 Policy BAAP10 looks to address health inequalities in the Bootle area. The policy links to the range of existing and proposed policies that can have a positive benefit on the health of residents. This includes making it a requirement that on large schemes an application must be supported by a Health Impact Assessment to show how the proposal will help address relevant health issues.

4. Supporting documents, evidence, and assessments for the Bootle AAP

- 4.1 The Bootle AAP, like all planning policy documents, is supported by a range of documents (many statutory), evidence and assessments. It is intended to publish these alongside the Publication draft of the Bootle AAP so that people can comment on these or to see how we are justifying our AAP policies.
- 4.2 The following supporting assessments will be published for comment alongside the Bootle AAP:
- Draft Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the Publication draft Bootle AAP
 - Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Publication draft Bootle AAP
 - Equalities Impact Assessment of the Publication draft Bootle AAP

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- 4.3 Approval is sought to publish these supporting assessments alongside the Publication Draft of Bootle AAP.

5. Engagement and Next Steps

- 5.1 The Council recently had an informal meeting with a planning Inspector who acted as a critical friend on the draft Bootle AAP. The meeting provided an early opportunity for a government planning inspector to review the Bootle AAP before publication and submission. Whilst not binding, the outcome of the meeting was a list of questions and observations the Inspector had on the AAP. Many of these will be clarified and answered within topic papers which will support the Bootle AAP, whilst others may require some changes to the Bootle AAP prior to publication. These changes will be done under delegated authority as set out in the suggested recommendations of this report.
- 5.2 If approved, the Publication draft of Bootle AAP will be made available for comment. It will be published online, and hard copies will be made available in libraries and Council offices in Bootle. The AAP will be available for a minimum period of 8 weeks over the summer. Following a period for comment, the draft AAP, any comments made during the consultation period and any supporting evidence, and documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. It is possible that examination hearing sessions will be required, but this will depend on the Inspector that will be allocated to us. It is expected that the examination stage (including any hearings) will progress into the early part of 2025.
- 5.3 As set out above, the Council will commission two Masterplans (Bootle Central Area and the Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor) and will engage on these throughout this summer. These will be useful to engage more deeply and specifically with relevant landowners and local residents on development options that are allowed by the Bootle AAP within these two areas. It is intended that the Masterplans would be commissioned by Planning, with the support of colleagues across the Council, and undertaken during this summer so that a draft will be available to submit alongside the Bootle AAP in November.
- 5.4 If adopted, the Bootle AAP will form part of the Development Plan for Sefton, alongside the Sefton Local Plan. These are both supported by a range of Supplementary Planning Documents which are introduced and updated from time-to-time.

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Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee Council	Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 19 June 2024 11 July 2024
Subject:	Unreasonably Persistent and Unacceptable Behaviour Policy		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To provide Members with a revised policy and procedure for dealing with unreasonably persistent and unacceptable behaviour by members of the public when complaining to the Council or making data access requests.

Recommendation(s):

Audit and Governance Committee

(1) To consider the report and the revised policy and to make any appropriate comments or amendments and to submit a final draft to Council for approval

Full Council

(1) To endorse the policy recommended by the Audit and Governance Committee

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The revised policy will provide officers with a framework in which to deal with complainants who exhibit unreasonably persistent and unacceptable behaviour.

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

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None. The current policy was endorsed by Full Council on 2 March 2017 and requires updating particularly in light of the Council motion of 18th April 2024 ‘*Support to Women in Public Life*’.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None	
Legal Implications: Having such a policy will stand the authority in good stead when it comes to dealing with individual cases. This approach is recommended by the Local Government Ombudsman’s office and the Information Commissioner	
Equality Implications: None	
Impact on Children and Young People: None	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services:

From time to time members of the public can become vexatious or unfocussed complainants or in their data requests. This can be very difficult for officers to deal with and very time consuming.

The proposed policy and procedure if agreed will give officers a framework against which to consider dealing with such complainants and ensure that they are dealt with consistently and in a fair and proportionate manner

Place – leadership and influencer:

Drivers of change and reform:

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

Greater income for social investment:

Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7674/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5774/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	David McCullough
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2008
Email Address:	david.mccullough@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

- Revised Unreasonably Persistent and Unacceptable Behaviour Policy

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Agenda Item 8

1. Introduction

- 1.1 From time-to-time complainants and members of the public can act in a way that makes it impossible for officers to reach a resolution on their complaints or data requests. Efforts by officers to resolve such matters can also take up a disproportionate amount of officer time when resources are increasingly scarce. Complainants and members of the public falling into this category are a very small proportion of those engaged in the vast amount of correspondence exchanged between the Council and members of the public each year.
 - 1.2 The policy is applicable to complaints that Members of the Council have breached the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, and the Monitoring Officer will be mindful of the policy when dealing with such complaints.
 - 1.3 The attached draft revised policy and procedure document aims to establish a set of principles for both staff and complainants to either resolve difficulties or for the Council to garner sufficient evidence to be able to cease responding to individual's correspondence.
- 2 Furthermore, on 18th April 2024 Council unanimously approved the following motion submitted by Councillor Atkinson:

Support to Women in Public Life

45% of Sefton Councillors are women, with Sefton Council recently appointing its first female leader in its 50-year history.

Sefton is a positive reflection of how increasing numbers of women are participating in politics and wider public life, including being elected to public office, attending political events, and making their voices heard. Even in societies where women do not have equal rights, they often risk their lives to speak out and are not prepared to be silent partners in the future of their countries.

But despite the progress women have made in this country and in this instance in Sefton, there is the ever-present spectre of misogyny, particularly on social media. Unfortunately, we are all aware of the level of abuse many, if not all, female councillors experience. This can involve inappropriate language of a sexualised nature, threats, accusations, complete lies, foul language, humiliating negative comments about looks, body size and shape, to name a few. The sole aim of this disgraceful behaviour, given it is specifically targeted at women, is to seek to undermine all that is female. The trolls all have one thing in common...their hatred of women.

In recognition of this serious problem and the desire of this council to demonstrate its continued support to women in public life:

This council resolves to

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- Take a zero-tolerance approach to this behaviour and help protect female councillors in Sefton.
- -Agree to treat those individuals(with the appropriate evidence,)who are guilty of this despicable behaviour as vexatious complainants to deter further insult and degradation to women because of their gender.
- In light of this motion, ask officers to review the Council's Vexatious and Unfocussed Complaints Policy.
- Work closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police to hold to account and work toward full prosecution of those who are guilty of those behaviours.
- Work with newly elected female councillors to advise them of those who have been identified as vexatious complainants because of the inappropriate behaviour in order they take a robust approach and protect themselves from these attacks.

2.1 If approved, senior managers in the Council will be tasked with ensuring that those that deal with complaints and data requests are acquainted with and understand the policy. It is proposed that the policy will be added to the Council's transparency pages and appropriate links made on the Council's website to ensure that the policy is accessible to all.

2.3 Having such a published policy is recommended as good practice by both the Local Government Ombudsman's office and the Information Commissioner's Office.

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Sefton Council

Unreasonably persistent and unacceptable behaviour policy

June 2024

DRAFT

Summary Sheet

Document Information

Protective marking (Official/Official-Sensitive-Personal, Official-Sensitive-Commercial, Official-Sensitive Confidential)	Official
Ref	Unreasonably persistent and unacceptable behaviour policy (previously referred to the Vexatious or unfocused complaints policy and procedure v4.0) Policy 5.1
Document purpose	Legal obligations and good practice in Council use in dealing with vexatious and unfocused citizen complaints and those who display unacceptable behaviour.
Document status (Draft / Active)	Active
Partners (If applicable)	N/A
Date document came into force	2 nd March 2017
Date of next review	Biennial basis as part of Annual Information Governance statement taken to Information Management Group
Owner (Service Area)	Sefton Council – Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence
Location of original (Owner job title / contact details)	Data Protection Officer – as above
Authorised by (Committee/Council)	Audit & Governance Committee – 19 th June 2024 Council approval – 11 July 2024

Document History

Version	Date	Author	Notes on revisions
1	April 2016	Ben Heal – Data Protection Officer	
2	April 2016	Ben Heal – Data Protection Officer	Incorporation of comments from colleagues
3	May 2016	Ben Heal – Data Protection Officer	Incorporation of comments from colleagues
4	June 2016	Catherine Larkin – Data Protection Officer	Incorporation of comments from colleagues
5	June 2024	Catherine Larkin – Data Protection Officer, David McCullough – Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Amendment to legislation references, broadening of policy

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to explain the actions that the Council will take against individuals deemed to be displaying unreasonable or unacceptable behaviour which can distress our staff and councillors or strain our resources with persistent and unrealistic demands.

This policy describes how Sefton Council applies the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and Information Commissioner's guidance on citizens who the Council deem to be displaying unreasonable or unacceptable behaviour.

Where complaints relate to data sharing this document has been prepared in terms of the Council's obligations as a "data controller" under the UK General Data Protection Regulation, Data Protection Act 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Council is committed to providing everyone it deals with in a respectful, courteous and polite manner. Where an individual raises an issue or complaint with us, they have a right to expect to be dealt with fairly and impartially. They should also receive a response which fully addresses their concerns in a timely manner.

The Council may encounter complainants who act in a vexatious or unfocused way which makes resolution of their complaints or enquiries impossible, while taking up a disproportionate amount of Council resources. As an employer, we have a duty to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our staff. The Council does not expect its staff or its councillors to tolerate abusive, threatening, demeaning or offensive behaviour either verbally or in writing. Similarly, we do not expect our staff to deal with someone who, because of the frequency of their contact, places a strain on time and resources and causes undue stress for staff.

Under section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000), public authorities are not required to respond to freedom of information requests which are vexatious or repeat requests.

Most people exercise their right of access responsibly. However, a few may misuse or abuse FOIA by submitting requests which are intended to be annoying, disruptive or have a disproportionate impact on a public authority. The ICO recognises that dealing with unreasonable requests can strain resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services or answering legitimate requests. These requests can also damage the reputation of the legislation itself.

Section 14(1) is designed to protect public authorities by allowing you to refuse any requests which have the potential to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress.

Councillors

For the avoidance of doubt, this policy also applies to complaints that Members of the Council have breached its Code of Conduct.

Serving in public office is both a privilege and a responsibility, however, there is a growing issue of abuse and intimidation in public and political discourse that can have a negative impact on councillors, their families and local democracy.

In 2022, the LGA found that seven out of 10 councillors had experienced abuse from the public in the previous year. Further research by the LGA in 2022, reinforced concerns that

abuse in public life and public discourse is becoming normalised and seriously impacting civic life and local democracy.

Sefton Council is a positive reflection of how increasing numbers of women are participating in politics and wider public life, including being elected to public office.

This policy confirms the Council's commitment to taking a zero-tolerance approach to this behaviour and help protect female councillors in Sefton.

The Council also has a dedicated policy for dealing with the online abuse and intimidation of Councillors.

Principles

The Council recognises that a small minority of individuals cannot work within the Council's usual procedures. Therefore, there needs to be an equitable 'due process' offering equivalent rights to either facilitate resolution of the issues raised or where this is not possible conclude ongoing contact with the complainant over the specific concerns.

There is a consistent need to obtain clarity and focus on complaints and enquiries. This is applicable to both complainant and Council.

The Council has an obligation to protect its staff and resources from the complainant's unjustifiable actions. We expect our staff to be treated with courtesy and respect. We recognise that customers and service users can at times feel under pressure, distressed or feel that they have to be determined to pursue their concerns. They can also feel angry about their situation.

The formalised assessment process is an opportunity to verify that the Council has listened to the complainant and evaluated its options and rationale when responding. It should evidence a review by senior Departmental and Corporate Council managers of the circumstance, context, and sufficiency of communication with the complainant.

The complainant should not be under or over serviced by the Council in regard to the complaint or data access sought.

The approach set out in this guide is based on the clear understanding that:

- All complainants are treated with fairness and respect.
- In the absence of very good reasons to the contrary, all complainants have a right to access public services.
- All complaints are considered on their merits.
- Unreasonable actions from complainants do not preclude there being a valid issue. Someone may have a legitimate complaint but express it unreasonably.
- The substance of a complaint (what is alleged to have gone wrong, and its impact) should dictate the level of resources dedicated to it, not a complainant's demands or actions.
- Anger is an understandable and, to some degree, an acceptable emotion among frustrated complainants as long as it is not expressed through aggression, violence or the use of offensive or discriminatory language.
- Staff and councillor safety and well-being are paramount when dealing with unreasonable complainant conduct.

- The decision to change or restrict a complainant's access to services as a result of their actions will only be made at a service management level. It must also be subject to review.
- Service managers will ensure relevant systems, policies and procedures are in place to manage complaints including making information available to staff on how to respond to unreasonable actions.
- Any decision to restrict actions to services should be proportionate in relation to the impact the unreasonable actions have on the organisation's ability to deliver an efficient service. Any restriction should still allow fair access to mandatory services.

New complaints from people who have come under this policy will be treated on their merits. The Council will decide whether any restrictions which have been applied before are still appropriate and necessary in relation to the new complaint. The council does not support a "blanket policy" of ignoring genuine service requests or complaints where they are founded.

Anticipated Outcomes

A formalised assessment of the issues will be undertaken. This should be overseen by senior managers from the relevant Council Department, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer, and the Corporate Information Management & Governance Executive Group as appropriate. The findings will be recorded and shared with the complainant.

Sufficient agreement and focus should be created to enable a Council response to the applicant's request.

The Council may eventually decide to protect its resources and staff by refusing to deal with the set of issues raised by the complainant as they can evidence they are unreasonably persistent or their behaviour is unacceptable in nature.

An overview of the process is outlined in Appendix 1.

Definitions

Unfocused

Where the complainant's issues are either too vague, imprecise as to time, place or personnel or constantly shifting as to what is sought to be resolved.

Vexatious

The regulatory bodies – the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and the Information Commissioner's Office - have itemised what they consider to be unreasonably persistent and unacceptable behaviour. While not exhaustive the examples below illustrate the variety of behaviours to which the Council will respond to protect its staff and resources:

- Persistent complaining over the same issue. Persistence will be defined as the same or similar complaint made, irrespective of to whom in the Council, on a number of occasions. Persistently seeking an outcome that the Council has already explained is unrealistic for policy, legal or other valid reasons.
- Complaining about or challenging an issue based on a historic and/or irreversible decision or incident.

- Making persistent and unreasonable demands on Council staff after the unreasonableness has been explained. An example would be a complainant who insists on immediate responses or sets the Council unreasonable deadlines.
- Behaviour or language that may cause staff and Councillors to feel seriously stressed, afraid, intimidated, threatened or abused, e.g. the use of language that could be described as foul, offensive, demeaning, inappropriate and/or racist, sexist or homophobic, threats or physical violence, derogatory remarks, rudeness, harassment, inflammatory statements and unsubstantiated allegations;
- Threatening behaviour and harassment of employees and Councillors, whether this is in person or via social media
- Taking a 'scatter-gun' approach to their complaints, for example within the Council or using MPs, elected members, or regulatory bodies.
- Refusing to specify the grounds of their complaint despite offers of assistance.
- Refusing to co-operate with the Council's investigation of the complaint, insisting on their demands being met without such an investigation.
- Refusing to accept that issues are not within the power of the Council to investigate, change or influence. An example would be a problem caused by the private sector rather than the Council.
- Insisting that the complaint be dealt with in ways other than the Council's complaints policy or equivalent. For example, insisting there are no written records made of the complaint.
- Refusing to accept the outcome of the complaint or data access process after the Council's considered final response, repeatedly arguing the point, or denying that this was an adequate response.
- Insisting a minor variation in the original complaint means that it is a 'new' complaint requiring a new Council response.
- Where the complainant can be evidenced to be verbally or physical abusive, threatening or violent in their contact with the Council over the issue.
- Where the complainant keeps shifting the focus of the topic or relevant staff involved with the complaint.
- Where the complainant has been significantly partially or wholly untruthful in their complaint or data access request.
- Is politically motivated - where the complaint is used to bring into question another political party's ethos, to fuel personal political animosities or to solely meet the interests of a particular political party.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 indicates that someone's actions amount to harassment when they make the victim feel distressed, humiliated, threatened or fearful of further violence.

This type of behaviour can be exhibited in many different ways, including in person, on the telephone, in written or email correspondence and on social media platforms. When dealing with this kind of behaviour, the Council will take into account the frequency of contact, the content of the contact, the actions we took to resolve the customer's complaint and the level of disruption caused.

If unreasonable behaviour occurs during a telephone conversation, Council staff will explain to the caller why their behaviour is unacceptable. The caller will be given the opportunity to stop the unacceptable behaviour. If the unacceptable behaviour continues, Council staff will inform the caller that they are ending the telephone call and will record the reason for the termination on the appropriate Council system.

The Council's response to unreasonably persistent or unacceptable behaviours

Once sufficient evidence around seemingly unreasonably persistent or unacceptable behaviour is accrued by the relevant Council team the first step is take the issue, with relevant evidence, to the Corporate Information Management and Governance Executive Group. They will decide if the conditions are met to put in place alternative methods of dealing with the complainant. Which method depends on the severity and longevity of the complainant's actions.

However, should it be determined that the behaviour in question is sufficiently serious enough, the Council withholds the right not to follow the process outlined below and will inform the complainant that it will no longer enter into any dialogue with them. If such action is deemed appropriate in connection with a complaint or complaints that a councillor has breached the Members Code of Conduct, then such a decision is for the Council's Monitoring Officer.

There may also be occasions where the relationship between the Council and unreasonably persistent or vexatious or abusive complainant breaks down completely. This may even be the case while complaints are under investigation and there is little prospect of achieving a satisfactory outcome. In such circumstances, there may be little purpose in following all the stages of the complaints procedure. Where this occurs the Council will advise the complainant that they may approach the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman who may be prepared to consider a complaint before the procedure has run its course.

Employees of the Council and Councillors will be guided to retain a comprehensive log of the inappropriate behaviour or harassment. This will include, but is not limited to:

- Telephone logs,
- Copies of emails,
- Copies of written correspondence,
- Screen shots of social media posts,

The Council may ask the complainant to enter into an agreement which provides focus for the complaint and sets expectations for the Council and the complainant.

A template guide for such an agreement can be found at Appendix 2.

Where sufficient evidence already exists Council will send a letter of 'vexatious' status to the complainant. A template guide can be found at Appendix 3.

A failure by the complainant to meet the focusing agreement requirements will lead to the vexatious status statement and be used as evidence of good will and intent by the Council to any subsequent regulator's investigation.

Focussing and expectation agreement with complainant

An agreement may be drawn up between the individual/complainant and the Council, where possible.

The agreement should recognise that while the complainant has the same complainant rights as any other, there is a need for extra support to gain focus, clarity and structure. If

these cannot be obtained the Council cannot resolve the complaint/s and will therefore not progress the complaint.

A central principle is the complainant should not be under or over serviced by the Council or its workforce.

The component elements of the agreement should be:

- Boundaries of relevant Council staff involvement
- Respective responsibilities of complainant and Council
- Forming realisable expectations with complainant
- Contact and authority structure for complainant
- Time frames, deadlines, key information required, communication methods, and closure steps
- List of options for action
- Mutual goals
- Signatures

Boundaries of Council staff involvement

There will be a single point of contact (SPOC) person for the complainant.

Other organisation staff will keep to their specialist roles but direct all communications relating to the complaint or data request via the SPOC. The SPOC may at times ask any Council staff to contact directly but the principle is that this is mainly the SPOC's decision. If the SPOC becomes unavailable the complainant will be informed of a replacement.

If the complainant complains about the SPOC, they will need to outline and evidence their complaint in writing and send it to a specified senior manager. The senior manager will then communicate with the complainant as to whether they consider the complaint justified to the extent they replace the SPOC.

Respective responsibilities of complainant and Council

The complainant should:

- State their complaint in an organised manner without excessive or extraneous material. They should be signposted to advocacy services to support them to do this if necessary.
- Provide all required information in a timely and complete manner – not in dribs and drabs over time.
- Provide only factual and truthful material.
- Use the SPOC and not bring other organisational staff into responding to their complaint/s
- Refrain from personal remarks, offensive or threatening behaviour.

Council staff should:

- Respond via the SPOC in an accurate and timely and truthful manner.
- Unless agreed with the SPOC redirect all communications relating to the complaint back to the SPOC.
- Offer the complainant the same level of service as any other complainant.

Forming achievable expectations with complainant

A key function of the SPOC is to clarify what the grounds for complaint are. Without this the complaint response cannot progress.

If the complainant subsequently compounds, confuses, or keeps adding complaints, they will explain this is not acceptable as it presents the Council with a shifting and unclear complaint.

If the complainant has further complaints these may await the outcome of the original complaint as this may answer all subsequent complaints.

It will be explained that:

- All further complaints around the same issue will not be considered until the initial one is completed
- The Council will not respond to a further complaint as this was outlined at the outset of the original complaint.
- It may be appropriate to bring complaints together at a later stage of the process.

Contact structure for complainant

Communications will be via

- Letter or email
- Phone calls
- In person interviews

The SPOC will be where the complainant is directed to go for ALL complaints – except a complaint about the SPOC. It will be explained while they may attempt to contact others in the organisation, including senior managers, they will only redirect them back to the SPOC.

Time frames, deadlines, key information required, communication methods and closure steps

The SPOC will outline in written form what these expectations are. They are clearly interdependent. For instance, until key information is acquired from the complainant, time frames and deadlines cannot be established. Given the SPOC may be contacting busy operational sites for information it is important to be realistic to the complainant about time scales. If they complain further about non-response they will be directed to the agreed time scales.

List of options for action by the Council

The Council may highlight a number of options for action including:

- To refuse to process complaints which are persistent, confused, and / or contain excessive or extraneous material after the Council's attempt to clarify them with complainant.
- Refusing to register and process further complaints about what it perceives as the same matter.
- Placing of limits on the number and duration of contacts per week or month.
- Offer restricted time slot for necessary calls.
- Limiting the complainant to one contact medium – letter, email, and phone.

- Requiring the complainant only contact one member of staff.
- Any personal contact takes place with a staff witness.

In brief, the implementation sequence for any of the above options starts with SPOC liaising with relevant service manager who will write to complainant outlining why their behaviour is of concern and what actions will follow if it does not cease.

Restrictions will be proportionate and appropriate and recognise individual circumstances and inform the complainant of their right to refer to the Ombudsman or the Information Commissioner.

If progress is impeded by the complainant's actions the matter will be returned to the Corporate Information Management and Governance Executive Group for decision whether to escalate to Vexatious status.

Mutual goals (mutual where possible with the complainant)

Where possible the Council is keen that the above are mutual goals and principles shared between the complainant and the Council. It is the obligation of the complainant to state briefly and clearly what they cannot agree with and why. The Council will decide if they can modify it accordingly.

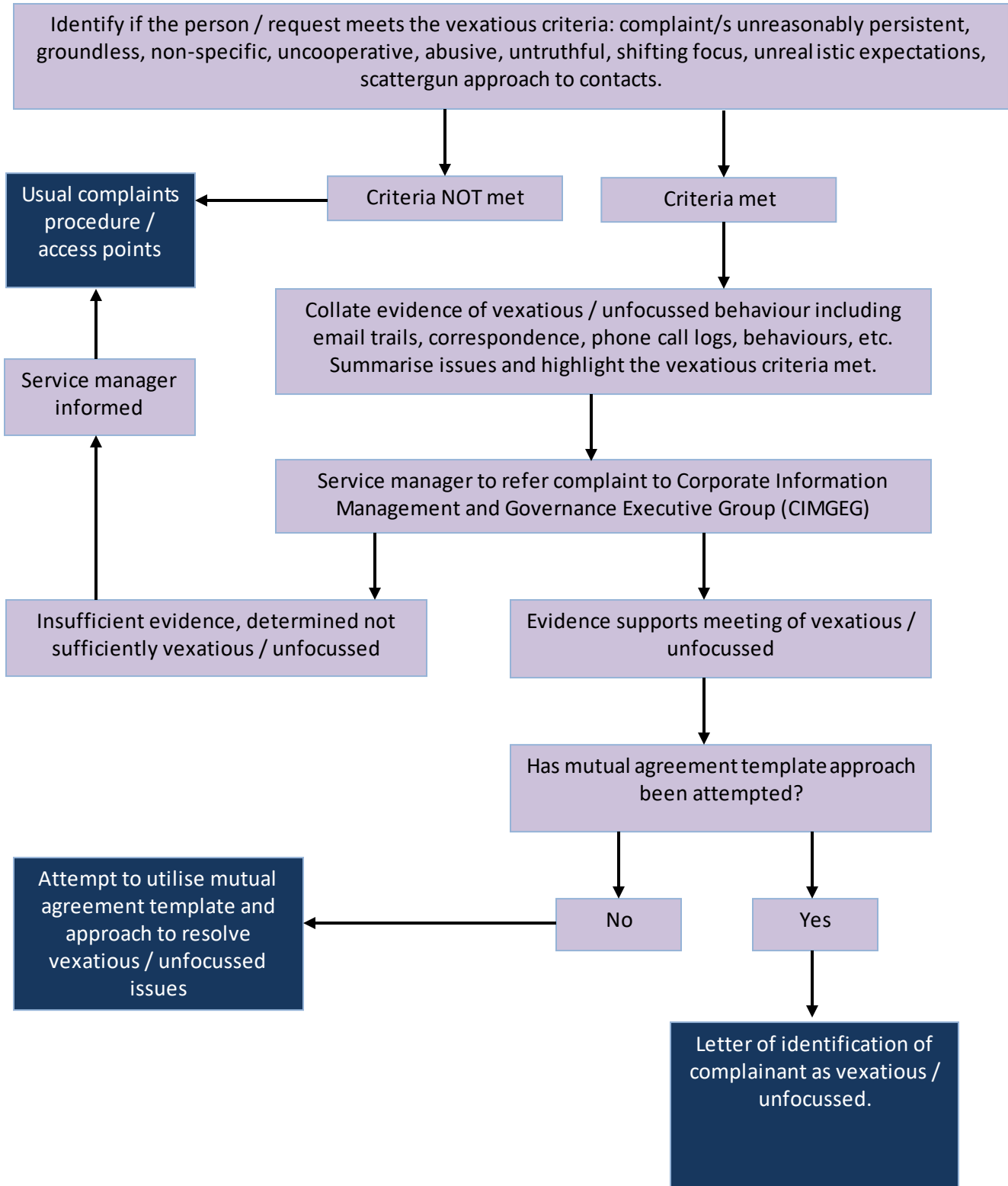
The agreement and any complainant response to it will potentially be shared with any regulator such as the Ombudsman, Information Commissioner's Office and professional body to whom the complainant may turn. It should provide evidence of Council goodwill and openness while requesting structure and clarity from the complainant.

Signatures to agreement

These will be sought where possible. If the complainant refuses to sign, it will be recorded for evidence to any regulatory body that they were offered the opportunity. It is acceptable for them to verbally agree to the agreement and the Council record such agreement.

Appendix 1

Background/Purpose
To ensure proportionate and appropriate response to citizen complaints when seemingly unfocused or compromising Council staff or resources.



Appendix 2 – Mutual Agreement Template

If it is decided that it might be possible for the complainant and Council to come to mutual agreement over a set of agreed components relating to their complaints/enquiries the following covering letter and agreement template should be used. The sections are described in more detail above. The following recognises while the complainant has the same complainant rights as any other, there is a need for extra support to gain focus, clarity and structure.

Covering letter to accompany Mutual Agreement Template

Re: Your Contact With Sefton MBC

I write with reference to your complaints to the Council/requests for information under the DPA /FOIA as detailed below:

- XXXX e.g email of 6 June 2016 addressed to XXX
- XXXX email of 10 June 2016 addressed to YYYY
- XXX
- XXXX

Your contact with the Council has been considered in line with the Council's policy on 'unreasonably persistent and unacceptable behaviour' and to assist in resolving your complaints / requests, the Council consider it appropriate to enter into an agreement with you on how your contact with the Council will be managed in the future.

Please find enclosed a draft agreement for your consideration and if you are happy with the contents I shall be very grateful if you could sign a copy and return it to me at your earliest convenience. Alternatively, you could confirm your agreement via email to:

xxxxxxxxxxxxx@sefton.gov.uk.

I trust you will view this as a positive development in your relationship with the Council which is advanced as a way in which your complaint / request can be appropriately resolved.

Yours sincerely

Mutual Agreement Template

Boundaries of Council staff involvement

The Council and complainant agree to work through a single point of contact in order to ensure consistency and appropriateness of contact.

Single Point of Contact Details

Add in contact details ...

Job title

Contact details

E-mail

Phone No

Address

Person to contact if you wish to complain about the single point of contact.

Add in contact details ...

Job title

Contact details

E-mail

Phone No

Address

Respective responsibilities of complainant and Council

Adjust the following to include complainant name and add / remove any criteria as necessary.

Complainant agrees to:

- *State my complaint in an organised manner without excessive or extraneous material*
- *Provide all required information in a timely and complete manner – not in dribs and drabs over time*
- *Provide only factual and truthful material*
- *Use the single point of contact and not contact other organisational staff regarding my complaint/s*
- *Refrain from personal remarks, offensive or threatening behaviour*

The Council agrees to:

- *Respond via the single point of contact in an accurate, timely, and truthful manner*
- *Unless agreed with the single point of contact, redirect all communications from the complainant back to the single point of contact.*
- *Offer the complainant the same level of service as any other complainant.*

Forming achievable expectations

Use this section to clarify what the complainant's key issues are and identify the grounds for the complaint.

The primary complaint is:

Contact structure for complainant

Outline the expected way that contact with the single point of contact will be made (letter, email, phone, in person, etc.)

Contact structure

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Protective Marking: **Unclassified**

Time frames, deadlines, key information required, communication methods and closure steps

Complete specific details relating to these areas that are realistic and specific. Particular effort should be made to closure steps and definition of when the complaint will be considered to be closed and no further action will be taken. These elements should be clear and unambiguous.

List of options for action

Where appropriate agree limitations to the actions to be taken by both parties when dealing with the complaint. These could include but are not limited to:

- To refuse to process complaints which are persistent confused and contain excessive or extraneous material after the agencies initial attempt to clarify them with complainant.*
- Refusing to register and process further complaints about what it perceives as the same matter.*
- Placing of limits on the number and duration of contacts per week or month.*
- Offer restricted time slot for necessary calls.*
- Limiting the complainant to one contact medium – letter, email, and phone.*
- Any personal contact takes place with a staff witness.*

Mutual goals

Where possible the Council are keen that the above are mutual goals and principles shared between the complainant and the Council. It is the obligation of the complainant to briefly and clearly state what they cannot agree with and why and the Council will decide if they can modify it accordingly.

The agreement and any complainant response to it will potentially be shared with any Council regulator such as the Ombudsman, Information Commissioner's Office and professional body to whom the complainant may turn. It should provide evidence of Council goodwill and openness while requesting structure and clarity from the complainant.

Signatures to agreement

	Signature	Date
<i>Complainant/s</i>	_____	_____
<i>Sefton Council Representative</i>	_____	_____

Appendix 3 – Vexatious Status Letter

Template for letter of vexatious status to complainant

Re: Your Contact With Sefton MBC

I write in connection with your recent communications with Sefton Council which I consider to be vexatious. I will detail the action that we will take as a consequence of that decision.

I have reviewed the considerable amount / nature of communications and have summarised events in the attached document.

It is my decision that you should now be considered a vexatious complainant for the following reasons:

- You have made groundless complaints and claims against the Council and its officers
- You have made an unreasonable amount of contacts with the Council in relation to matters which have their origin in events of XXXXX
- You make the same complaints repeatedly
- You continually raise subsidiary issues / complaints
- Your complaints are often vague, not backed by evidence and / or difficult to comprehend
- You contact many officers within the Council
- You refuse to accept the outcome of the complaints process
- You refuse to accept documentary evidence
- Your repeated contacts with Council officers is placing unreasonable demands on staff time and resources
- You have threatened legal proceedings against the Council on a number of occasions but we have not been served with any court papers
- Your communication has included use of threats, intimidation or violence
- Your communication has included use of abusive, offensive or discriminatory language
- Your communication has caused officers or councillors to feel harassed.

Please note that in future Sefton Council will not reply to or acknowledge any further contact from you on any matter directly or indirectly related to the matters described above.

When making this decision I have considered the *Local Government Ombudsman's Guidance note on management of unreasonable complaint behaviour* and I consider this to be a just and proportionate response.

However, if you submit any further complaints not related directly or indirectly to matters referred to above those complaints will be considered on their merits according to the appropriate process.

Signed by relevant Senior Manager

Appendix 4

Background information from the Information Commissioner's Office and Local Government Ombudsman relating to vexatious requests.

Information Commissioner's Office

[What does section 14\(1\) of FOIA say? | ICO](#)

Local Government Ombudsman

[Managing unreasonable actions by complainants: A guide for organisations - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#)

Agenda Item 9

Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	11 July 2024
Subject:	Youth Justice Service - Annual Plan 2024/25		
Report of:	Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt Confidential Report:	/ No		

Summary:

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

Sefton's Youth Justice Annual Plan has been produced in accordance with the YJB requirements and has been shared with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Assistant Director Early Help, Targeted and Help and Protection for Children, Executive Director for Children's Services, Assistant Director Communities and Executive Director for People. The Chair of the Youth Justice Service Partnership, Paul Holden, Supt. Local Policing, Merseyside Police has signed the Plan on behalf of the partnership who were consulting during the plan production phase.

Recommendation(s):

That

- (1) the Council approves the Youth Justice Service - Annual Plan 2024 / 2025 and
- (2) in the event of subsequent comments by the Youth Justice Board, delegated approval be granted to the Executive Director of Children's Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families, to finalise the Youth Justice Service Annual Plan.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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

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

N/A

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What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

N/A

(B) Capital Costs

N/A

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

The grant allocation from the Youth Justice Board will be received following submission of the Plan.

Legal Implications:

Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services (YJSs). Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how YJSs in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

Impact on Children and Young People: Yes

The work of the Youth Justice Service sets out to support vulnerable children, address the root causes of their offending behaviour and prevent them from reoffending.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

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

The contents of the report have no climate emergency implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:

The work of the Youth Justice Service sets out to support vulnerable children, address

the root causes of their offending behaviour and prevent them from re-offending.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The work of the Youth Justice Service aims to protect the public and support safer communities.
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above
Place – leadership and influencer: As above.
Drivers of change and reform: As above.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener: N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7701/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5801/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

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

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	Ros Stanley
Email Address:	Rosanna.stanley@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

The Sefton Youth Justice Annual Plan 2024 / 2025

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

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

Sefton's Youth Justice Annual Plan has been produced in accordance with the YJB requirements and has been shared with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Assistant Director Early Help, Targeted and Help and Protection for Children, Executive Director for Children's Services, Assistant Director Communities and Executive Director for People. The Chair of the Youth Justice Service Partnership, Paul Holden, Supt. Local Policing, Merseyside Police has signed the Plan on behalf of the partnership who were consulting during the plan production phase.

This year's plan highlights a focus on education relating to the offers to children and attendance. The service is committed to the Child First Principles and delivering interventions that provide the opportunity to build a pro-social identity and develop confidence. We continue to develop the cohort profiles to understand the challenges that children face and ensure that partners are aware of this so that they can advocate for children. We have developed our prevention offer and have delivered to groups of children in secondary schools with our Police colleagues.

The plan highlights a stable year of performance. The YJB in April 23 introduced a monitoring system referred to as the Oversight Framework, which rates Youth Justice Services against performance metrics and compliance with the YJB grant terms and conditions. Sefton YJS has maintained satisfactory performance in Quadrant 2. We have maintained a Service Development Plan and made good progress against many of the actions. This demonstrates that we understand our gaps and risks so as to deliver quality services and maintain inspection readiness.

Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan 2024 / 25

Service	Sefton Youth Justice Partnership
Service Manager	Ros Stanley, Service Manager
Chair of Youth Justice Partnership	Paul Holden, Supt. Local Policing, Sefton

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Foreword by Chair of Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership

It is a privilege to be the new Chair for Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership Board and I am pleased to introduce the Youth Justice Plan for the coming year. As this plan demonstrates, there is a shared commitment from a wide range of partners to improve the outcomes for children and protect them as well as our communities from harm.

This plan articulates our tireless commitment to achieve the Partnership Board Vision through our suite of priorities, to ensure that we deliver an effective service for children and utilise our resources to secure positive outcomes.

I am impressed by the growing strength of the partnership who are committed to transparency and constructive challenge to continuously develop the quality of our collective services. We have a commitment to the Child First principles which underpins our trauma informed approaches and our ambition to become a trauma informed borough. I know that many partners have accessed high quality Trauma Informed Training this year, via the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership.

We are ambitious for children and for the services that we deliver to ensure that children are diverted from the criminal justice system and achieve their full potential. This plan sets out our focus for the coming year, building on the strengths of the partnership and our continued focus to advocate for children through all our services.



*Paul Holden,
Superintendent Local Policing
Sefton, Merseyside Police*

1. Introduction, Vision, and Strategy

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires each Local Authority to complete a Youth Justice Plan that sets out how local Youth Justice Services (YJS) will be delivered within the available resources. Sefton's Youth Justice Plan illustrates our ambition, plans, and priorities for 2024 to 2025. This plan will highlight achievements from last year and areas of work in development.

YJS has been part of Sefton's Children's Services directorate since April 2023. There is a greater level of alignment with operational and senior staff and YJS has influenced practice standards for the wider services by encouraging others to be part of the trauma informed and Child First journey.

In April 2024, the responsibility for YJS was placed with the Assistant Director for Early Help, Help and Protection for Children. YJS has influenced a restructure within Early Help with a renewed focus on high quality early intervention services to be delivered through the Family Hubs. In addition, the Service Manager has supported the development of a new vulnerable adolescents' service "Springboard" which optimises the learning from the Turnaround Project and an in-house project called Community Youth Connectors.

Our performance against the Key Performance Indicators has remained stable across the last year. There is only one Sefton child in custody currently placed at Wetherby YOI and one child currently on remand.

Sefton YJS is committed to service improvement, and we have delivered an Annual Audit Plan which has illuminated some good practice and areas to improve that have been escalated to the Youth Justice Partnership Board (the Board). A key focus has been on the quality of out of court work and improvements have been noted across the last year. We have further focused on our use of resources to ensure consistency across delivery by refreshing the resource repository and purchasing some new up to date resources, including those to support speech and language.

The Board is well attended by senior leaders from partnership agencies, who have received an induction to understand their responsibilities as board members. The Partnership had a change of Chair in October 2023 and welcomed Paul Holden Superintendent of Local Policing for Sefton, Merseyside Police, who has a strong ambition for children and families. In April 24 the board welcomed a Community Member who is also a newly trained Panel Volunteer.

Sefton YJS has experienced some challenges across 2023 and into 2024. There has been some unavoidable long-term sickness, and one case manager left the team. Our team remains stable with little transiency although it took some time to recruit to the new case manager's role which impacted on others. We are still without a 0.5FTE Probation Officer and this has been the case for some considerable time, however we do appreciate the

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Probation have experienced challenges in recruiting staff like many Children's Services. We are currently negotiating the transfer of funds in the absence of a suitable staff member.

1.1 Vision

The Partnership recognises the importance of having a vision that is ambitious and clearly identifies our focus. This Vision and Strategic Priorities were set in 2021 and were revised late 2023. Both remain relevant for our Partnership.

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

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

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

1.2 Strategic Priorities

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

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

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

We know that Sefton has issues with Organised Crime Groups who coerce and exploit young people into criminality. My SPACE (Sefton Protection Against Child Exploitation) has been in place since April 2023 and in June 2024 will move to the Service Manager for Youth

Justice. There are already excellent joint working relationships with MySpace and YJS attend daily meetings to oversee missing episodes and key concerns.

We value the voice of the children we work with and ensure that they are fully involved and are at the heart of all plans and decision making so that their voice that is heard and understood. We have adjusted our plans to ensure that they are child friendly and that the children co-produce their plans. It remains a challenge to create a group of children to consult with although there have been some excellent examples of how colleagues and children have developed trusting relationships where children have been forthcoming with their views and feedback. We are consulting with a child who is keen to attend our Board and we have continued to develop our Children's Survey which has provided feedback that has influenced our practice relating to interventions and what children want to engage in.

1.3 Local Context

Sefton is a metropolitan borough of Merseyside, and its local authority is Sefton Council. The Borough consists of a coastal strip of land on the Irish Sea and extends from the primarily industrial area of Bootle in the south to the traditional seaside resort of Southport in the north. In the south-east it extends inland to Maghull. Sefton has an approximate area of some 155km².

Sefton has a population of approximately 279,000 residents. Sefton has a high percentage of residents over 65yrs. Further detail is captured within Sefton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapters which are accessible via this link [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#). The most current population data we have is from Census 2021, which shows Sefton having approximately 27,500 children aged 10-18yrs old. In term of ethnicity, 91.8% of Sefton's population is white British.

Information relating to children is captured within our cohort profiles.

2 Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

2.1 Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership Board

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

- Sefton Safeguarding Children Board
- Sefton Safer Together (and Safer Together Youth)
- Children and Young People's Board
- Children's Improvement Board
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Early Help Partnership

The Board includes a wide range of partners and has recently welcomed a Community Board Member who is also a Referral Order Panel Member. The Board provides strategic oversight and governance for the delivery of Sefton's Youth Justice Services and holds all

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partners to account. The Board scrutinises YJS performance and the cohort profile. The Board is equally challenging and supportive, and the culture of the board has enabled partners to forge excellent relationships. The quality of the relationships has enabled constructive challenge as all partners are committed to the Vision and Priorities of the board. The Board Membership and Terms of Reference are at Appendix 1.

The board receives audits, case studies, progress reports from partners and has invited workers to highlight good news and best practice. Members participate in board development days as well as attending four board per year. Progress against the YJS Service Development Plan is also reported at the board.

Education attendance and support has strengthened alongside Health input and support. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services is an invitee and has offered support and provided welcomed challenge. The Cabinet Member has also visited the YJS on a number of occasions. Board members have been inducted so that they understand their responsibilities and the Inspection Framework.

YJS is now located within Children's Services and reports to an Assistant Director. A Service Manager leads the service and is part of a Senior Management Team with other service managers from Children's Services. The current remit of the Service Manager will soon expand to include MySpace and the new vulnerable adolescents service "Springboard" which will enable the learning from YJS and MySpace to influence the prevention work within Springboard.

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

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

- Early Help Partnership Board
- Harm Outside the Home Subgroup
- Practice Review Panel
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Information Management and Governance Group
- Multi-agency Response to Threat Harm and Risk (MARTHUR)
- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Merseyside Youth Justice Services

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

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

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

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

3 Update on Previous Year - Progress on Priorities in Previous Plan

Cohort Profiles - Business Intelligence colleagues have continued to produce detailed cohort profiles with the support of the wider team. There has been a great deal of support offered relating to recording and data cleansing. The profiles are produced quarterly and cover the whole period rather than use a 'snapshot' on a given day as a sample. This information is shared with the Board to promote a shared response in addressing the needs in the cohort. The cohort profile is shared at Team Meetings and are reported alongside YJS Performance at Children's Service Performance Management Meetings.

Performance Oversight – there is a sharper focus on performance and quality including auditing against standards now that 0.5 FTE Quality and Assurance and Audit worker is in place.

Education Focus – following the implementation of the Education Working Group consisting of a wide range of partners there has been a reduction in children of statutory school age accessing less than 25hrs. Having a point of contact between the education and the youth justice service is assisting the wider team in being more confident in challenging schools and strongly advocating for children and young people and there are some excellent examples which evidence this. One notable example is one of our children has been reintegrated into mainstream education having spent time at the Pupil Referral Unit.

With our partners we also focus on Post 16yrs children preventing NEET. The YJS Service Manager is a Governor at Impact, Pupil Referral Unit and chairs the Safeguarding and Attendance Committee working with the Designated Safeguarding Lead ensuring there are policies and procedures in place for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's and young people's welfare.

Prevention – we have successfully implemented Turnaround and utilised our third Police Officer to enhance our prevention service for children who has accessed direct support through 1:1 work and group work within schools.

Community Youth Connectors – we have embedded this offer across 13 schools within Sefton and the project was highlighted as best practice. It has been presented at the Northwest Development Forum as is included within the YJB Resource Hub.

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Vacancy Management – we have successfully recruited to vacancies despite the national challenges experienced by Children’s Services. We now have limited long-term sickness.

3.2 Performance

The full performance report appears at Appendix 2 and not in this section due to its size. Sefton's performance has been stable across the last year.

First Time Entrants

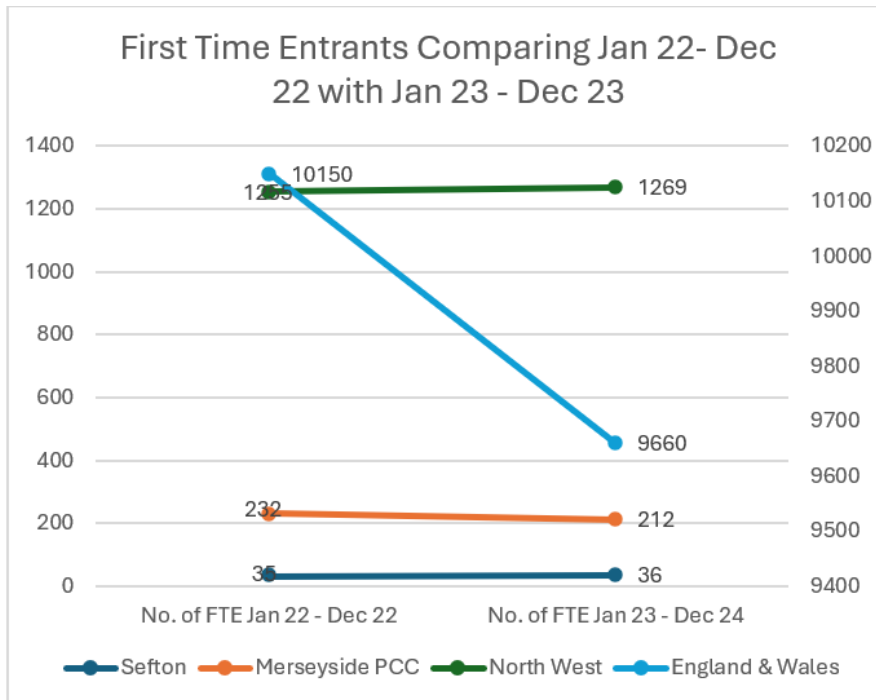


Figure 1 First Time Entrants

Figure 1 shows an actual increase of 1 child in the data comparison period.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) – January 2022 – December 2023.

Local Authority.	Jan 22 – Dec 22		Jan 23 – Dec 23	
	No. of FTE.	Rate per 100 000	No. of FTE.	Rate per 100 000
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington ¹	160	158	131	126
Knowsley	30	206	37	246
Lancashire	185	159	162	136
Liverpool	101	255	66	162
Sefton	35	143	36	146
St Helen's	30	179	34	199
Wirral	36	118	39	125

Figure 2 – FTE comparison

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Figure 2 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In calendar year 2022, Sefton had the second lowest amount of FTEs. This is also the same for calendar year 2023.

Reoffending

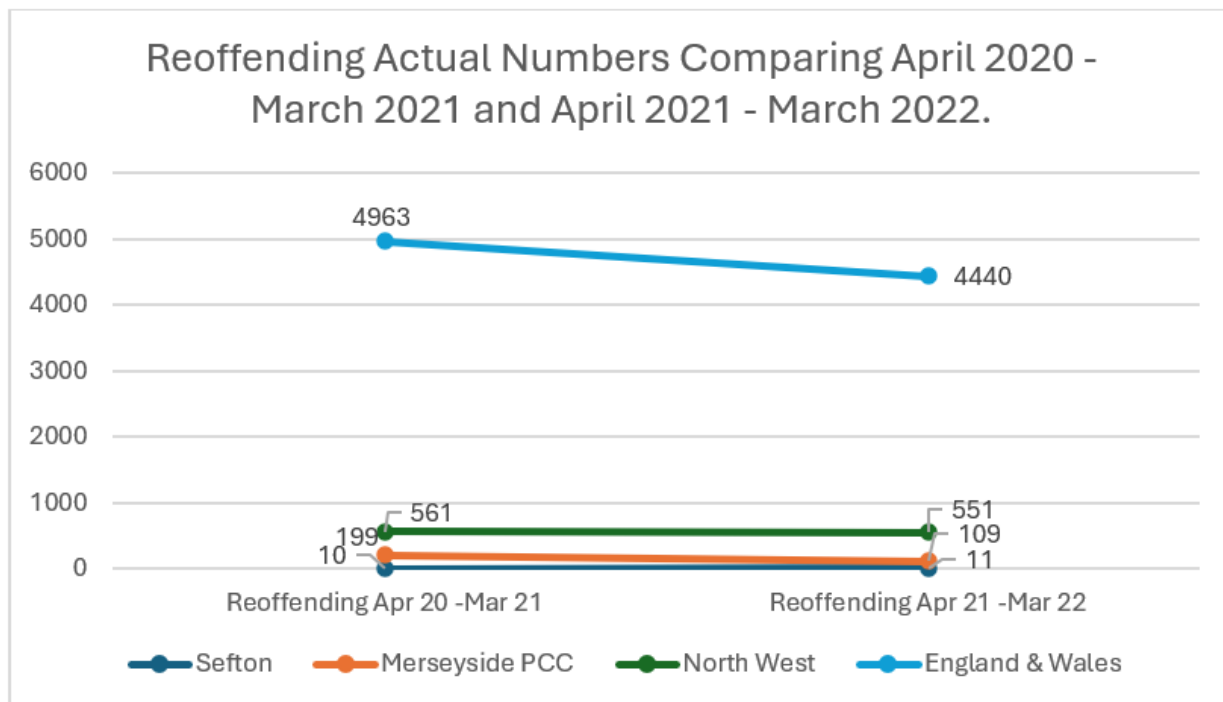


Figure 3 Reoffending

Figure 3 shows an actual increase of 1 child 2021 to 2022. There were 10 children identified as reoffending in financial year 20/21 compared with 11 in 21/22. The number identified as reoffending across the Merseyside PCC has decreased by 90 children from 199 to 109. The Northwest region has seen a decrease of 10 children from 561 to 551. Nationally, there has been a significant decrease of 523 children from 4963 to 4440.

Reoffending Rates - comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) April 2020 – March 2022.

Local Authority.	Apr 20 – Mar 21		Apr 21 – Mar 22	
	No. of Reoffenders.	% of Reoffenders.	No. of Reoffenders	% of Reoffenders.
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington	57	32.8%	69	34.7%
Knowsley	17	37.0%	12	33.3%
Lancashire	97	37.5%	84	40.2%
Liverpool	53	39.0%	46	36.8%
Sefton	10	21.3%	11	28.2%
St Helen's	15	31.9%	18	36.7%
Wirral	24	35.3%	22	47.8%

Figure 4 Reoffending Comparison

Figure 4 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In financial years 20/21 and 21/22, Sefton had the lowest rate of children reoffending in their cohorts. Please note the % of Reoffenders rates is based on each LAs cohort. It is not the full total of the LAs listed.

Custody Sentences – there was a decrease to zero from 2 children, in 2022 – 2023 for children sentenced to custody. Currently Sefton has one child in custody, placed in Wetherby.

YJB - Key Performance Indicators

The YJB KPI's have been in place for one year therefore there is no comparison to be made to previous years. There are 167 in the cohort for the reporting period.

Suitable Accommodation – there were 8 children identified as having unsuitable accommodation. The unsuitability related to family dysfunction, poor home conditions and temporary accommodation.

Education - for statutory school age children - at the end of Q4, 10 children were identified as being in an unsuitable ETE type/provision. The main reason for unsuitability was non-attendance at the setting or a recent permanent exclusion. There were 79 statutory school age children in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24. This makes 47.3% of Sefton's over all cohort of 169 children.

Education – Post 16yrs children - At the end of Q4, 16 children were identified as being in an unsuitable ETE type/provision. The main reason for unsuitability was Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). To encompass 23/24, there were 79 Post 16 children in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24. This makes 52.7% of Sefton's overall cohort of 169 children.

SEND – considering all children in Sefton's YJS cohort, 79 children either had an EHCP or were in receipt of SEN Support. This equates to 47.3% of the full cohort of 167 children.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs - 84 children were identified as having Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This equates to 42.6% of the full cohort of 167 children. 22 children have been identified as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder needs. This equates to 13.2% of the full cohort. The 11 children identified as having Speech, Language and Communications difficulties includes Dyslexia. This equates to 6.6% of the full cohort.

Substance Misuse - In Q4, 34 children were identified as having Substance Misuse needs, which was an increase from Q3 of 7 children but still less than Q's 1 and 2. In addition, 16 children have had an intervention with Change, Grow, Live (CGL). Across 23/24, there has been a reduction of 10 children. 89 children (53.3%) out of the full cohort have been identified as having Substance Misuse needs

Out of Court Disposals - In total, 95 children had either completed or are completing an OOAD. This equates to 56.9% of the full cohort.

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Links with Other Services - In addition to YJS intervention(s), 68 children in Q4, have also been open to support from EH and CSC. This is a decrease of 4 children from Q2. The total number of children on a CSC Plan is 37 with 31 open to Early Help. Therefore, the need for CSC support and intervention outweighs EH.

There have been considerable increases in further support from EH and CSC since Q1. Overall:

- Early Help has seen an increase of 9 children.
- CIN has seen an increase of 11 children.
- CfC has seen an increase of 1 child.
- Whilst there was an increase in Q3; overall, CP has now levelled back to 5 children.

Management Board Attendance

There is a requirement for the following colleagues to attend board meetings:

- Senior Manager LA Children's Social Care.
- Senior Manager LA Education.
- Senior Manager Police.
- Senior Manager Probation.
- Senior Manager Health.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Children's Social Care	P	P	P	A
Education	P	P	P	P
Police	P	P	P	P
Probation	P	P	A	P
Health	P	P	P	P

P = Present. A = Apologies.

The table above shows that there has been a good level of representatives at board meetings. The new chair appointed in Q4 is a representative from the Police. There was no representative from Probation in Q3. However, they were fed back to accordingly with minutes from the Board meeting. Although there was no representative from Children's Social Care in Q4, the YJS Service Manager is a member of the Children's Social Care Senior Management Team (SMT). The Service Manager reports to SMT monthly with YJS progress and information.

Serious Violence - Violence Against the Person is the highest group with 13 children identified in Q4. This has increased by 3 children since Q1 (10 children). The Drugs offence group has increased by 1 child from 7 children in Q1 to 8 children in Q4. All other offence groups have remained the same. 'Assault of a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm', is generally abbreviated to ABH was the top offence. There was a slight fluctuation in Qs 2 and 3 for ABH by 3 children. This has now decreased to 7 children. Possession of Cannabis has remained the same consistently at 7 children. Assault by beating has levelled back to 5 children. Common assault has seen a decrease of 2 children (reduction of 50%). Possession of a knife/blade has remained the same at 2 children.

Victims - All victims of children's offences are offered support by ways of being involved in Restorative Justice (RJ). Victims can choose and are encouraged to attend face to face meetings with the child and be kept up to date with the progress children are making on their interventions.

engagement with and from Victims has rapidly increased. The acceptance of RJ has increased 11-fold from Q1 to Q4.

3.3 Risks and Issues

The risks that Sefton YJS are currently experiencing are as follows:

Resources - Sefton has some limitations relating to resources influencing the breadth and depth of our offer. Since last year we have secured an Education Welfare Officer (1 day per week) who supports the Education Working Group. We have utilised external funding to purchase CAMHS for 2 days per week and we are exploring additional CGL resource to meet demand.

We remain concerned about Speech and Language provision and continue to highlight the need for additional resources with Alderhey. We have linked with our health colleagues who support the belief that speech and language concerns are associated with an undiagnosed learning or disability need due to the long waiting lists for diagnosis both nationally and locally. Sefton also has a growing number of children with SEND. We have delivered training via Alderhey for staff to implement strategies to support children with speech and language concerns and we are mapping cases to highlight specific demand to secure in house provision. We have also purchased resources for staff to use to strengthen their approaches with children. We are currently (June 24) reviewing all service level agreements to develop provision from all partners and strengthen the partnership offer.

Budget Pressures – Merseyside YJS's have had a reduction in PCC funding although Sefton has retained the full budget contribution for 24/25. Should this be reduced or cease from April 25 then this will impact the ability to purchase additional services such as the CAMHS offer or budget for resources and diversionary activities that support Child First implementation. The CAMHS services are short term funded by Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership until July 24 and the YJS budget will cover the costs until July 25. We do not have reparation or parenting posts. Currently, delivery staff reparation however this is in addition to direct work with children. That said, the staff are resourceful and there have been some excellent examples of reparation.

Recruitment - where we have had vacancies it has taken time to recruit the right individuals and have experienced the same recruitment challenges as have Children Social Care. For the last three case manager vacancies it took multiple rounds of interviews to recruit. We have a manager on a Social Work placement (part of degree qualification) from September, and the Assistant Director has authorised agency cover to maintain stability for the management team.

Inspection Readiness - YJS features in not only HMIP inspections but Ofsted Inspections of Children's Services and Joint Targeted Area Inspections too. The Service Manager

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attends the weekly management meetings and receives monthly supervisions, enabling risks to be shared and escalated. The AD is a Board Member and has received an induction.

YJS also acknowledges the findings of other HMIP inspections and will discuss these from a 'true for us' perspective. Other LA's inspection reports have been reviewed within Practice Development Sessions.

The YJS Service Manager attends the Northwest Heads of Service briefings to receive further information and link with colleagues to support Sefton's practice, generate ideas and make comparisons. We will continue to reflect on the Standards to ensure compliance and monitor our performance against the Service Development Plan. There are good links with the YJB Northwest Representative and performance is discussed quarterly as part of the Oversight Framework arrangements.

4 Plan for the Forthcoming Year

Child First Approaches

Sefton YJS is committed to developing our Child First approach. We have delivered Child First Training with all staff and the Partnership Board members (May 24). The four Child First principles and how we currently meet them are set out below:

- **See children as children:** Our staff are trauma informed trained and evidence this within their assessments, plans, and delivery. All staff have attended Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership Trauma Informed Training. We recognise that children have often experienced significant trauma that impacts on their wellbeing and behaviour, their ability to learn and that trauma is an intergenerational issue.

Plans for the coming year include closer working arrangements with Early Help and Primary Care Network (formerly Clinical Commissioning Group) to enable access to ACEs Recovery Programmes. We will also introduce a parenting group which will be facilitated by our prevention police officer and a case manager. There is scope to have a parent support facilitation also and we are in the early stages of developing this.

Develop pro-social identity for positive child outcomes: Our work focuses on the child's strengths, and we actively seek to support the child in areas of interest for them. A key strength of YJS is the ability to build relationships with children and staff have received excellent feedback from children and parents. We recognise that education is a strong protective factor and work in collaboration with Education colleagues to ensure that children access their full education offer. We recognise that newer approaches move away from offence focused work and support the child's sense of self and relationships. Within the financial envelope, we engage children in diversion activities so they can experiment with different roles and experiences.

- **Collaboration with children:** We encourage children's active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. The child's voice is evidenced through the

child's record, and they are part of the planning process. As part of our Child First approach, we encourage children to be key stakeholders in determining the interventions that they want to engage in whilst working with us. This is demonstrated through the Child Friendly Plans that are produced with every child. We are keen to have children represented at the Board by a child who has accessed our service, so that the partnership can understand the contexts that influence a child's life first hand.

- **Promote diversion:** We actively seek diversion opportunities, and we welcome the opportunities that Turnaround brings in the context of understanding what works. We have developed our prevention offer with more to do. The Service Manager is part of the leadership team responsible for the restructure of Early Help, which includes a prevention strand for 10+yrs children. This offer will divert children at risk of entering the youth justice system at an early stage and will also integrate child first principles into practice.

4.1 Voice of the Child

We value the quality of the relationships with children to ensure that they feel psychologically safe and can share their views and feelings. The voice of the child is well captured within the children's assessments and the What Do You Think questionnaire. Case notes also evidence the child's voice following interventions. We utilise our Feedback Survey which has strengthened the voice of children and has influenced our decision making relating to diversion activities and interventions. For example, this prompted the use of external funding to purchase Media Courses for use across the next financial year. The Service Manager is also a member of the Sefton Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group.

To encourage engagement, we have adjusted our child friendly plan which all staff use. We will continue to use this rather than the plan included in the new Prevention and Diversion assessment which includes the child's plan.

At the time of writing we are planning to develop a Girls Group in response to Pippa Goodfellow's report 'Girls in the Youth Justice System and Custody' [Pippa Goodfellow - Girls in the youth justice system and custody - April 2024.pdf](#). Further to this, we have consulted with a girl who accessed our service who will attend the Youth Justice Partnership Board in July to share her experiences with us.

4.2 Resources and Services

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

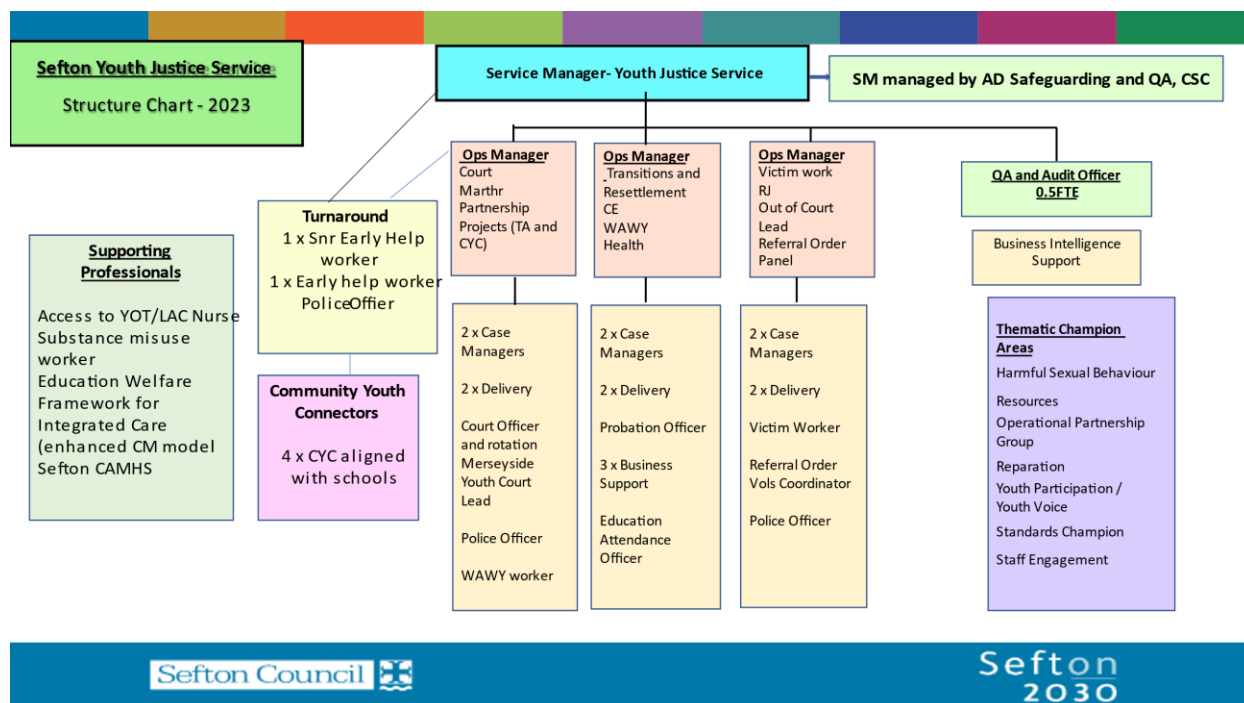
We use our grant, partnership resources and available resources to deliver youth justice services to reduce reoffending, prevent offending and reduce first time entrants, prevent

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children from custodial sentences and increase children’s safety and wellbeing. In addition, the work that we deliver encourages children to access education, engage in further education, training and employment and support good health outcomes both physically and mentally. We continue to strive for improvement and review our services and performance throughout the year, primarily through performance data and service reviews through audits. The Youth Justice Budget is shown at Appendix 3.

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

Figure 5 – Structure Chart



The YJS management team comprising of a Service Manager and three Operational Managers has been stable with managers remaining in posts for a considerable time. In July 2023 we welcomed a new Operational Manager who was previously with the team as the Quality Assurance and Audit Officer. We have subsequently recruited to that post and now have a skilled and competent management team.

We have 6 Case Managers (including 4 social workers) and 6 Delivery Staff. We have a Victim and Restorative Justice Worker and a dedicated Court Officer who works within the Merseyside Centralised Youth Court. We also have a small Business Support Team.

We have access to a Dedicated Cared Experienced and YJS Nurse Service and Clinics are convened across the borough which are easily accessible for children. Where there is a need, Nurses can do an assessment in the child’s home. For a lengthy period, we have been

without a Probation Officer which has impacted on children's transitioning to Probation. This has been raised several times and it is recognised that recruitment is a challenge nationally for Probation. We have requested the equivalent funding as a Probation Officer has not been successfully recruited. We have maintained good relationships with Career Connect and Sefton@work who support children into further education, training and employment and they are represented at the Partnership.

We have three Police Officers embedded within the team, one officer is funded through Supporting Families.

We have a good relationship with Change Grow Live (substance misuse worker) and have a dedicated worker who works closely with the team. In addition, the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership has provided some funding for therapeutic support which has enabled Alderhey to second a member of staff for two days a week. This member of staff delivers consultation for staff, assessment and completes direct work for children. We have secured funding to continue this provision through to July 2025.

We have excellent relationships with Education and have an Education Welfare Officer 1 day per week, who also supports our new Education Working Group, in addition to the Head of Education and Virtual School Head.

4.3 Board Development, Reporting and Influence

In addition to the Cohort Profiles, the board has engaged in a development session relating to the new draft HMIP Inspection Framework. This enabled members to reflect on Domain 1 and how connected the board is to YJS delivery. Board members were invited to visit the YJS, and the new Chair has attended a Full Team Meeting. Staff members have been invited to observe the board and a Case Manager is scheduled to deliver a case study at the July Board.

The Board attended a development session focusing on the YJB Oversight Framework. We have also delivered sessions on the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System and Child First Principles.

The board has previously received a report relating to escalating concerns about Risk of Serious Harm and Violence within the cohort. The proposals within this report were escalated to the Children Social Care Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet Members. A key proposal of the report was to develop a targeted prevention service which has influenced the decision to create the vulnerable adolescent service. At the time of writing, budgets are being agreed, the adolescent service (proposed name Springboard) is part of the wider Early Help restructure and proposals were put forward and agreed at Full Cabinet end May 24. A period of consultation will ensue with Trade Unions and staff, with a view to recruit and launch the new structure later this year.

4.4 Workforce Development

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

The list of training that staff have accessed appears at Appendix 4.

YJS staff have access to a wider training offer as are part of Children's Services which is implementing a suite of actions to develop services including workforce training. Staff can also access training offered by the Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

There are monthly Practice Development workshops which are planned to collaborate with the team and develop practice across various themes.

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

4.5 Evidence Based Practice and Innovation

Turnaround

Our Turnaround Programme is a strong offer of focused intervention and support. The team meet with the Police weekly to scrutinise the numbers of children who have been Released Under Investigation and others who may be eligible for the programme. Children who have accessed the programme have engaged in some excellent projects including a Media Course which increased the children's aspirations to learn and achieve. We have committed funding to deliver this project to the wider cohort of children across the YJS due to the impact that we have noted on those that have already engaged. One child who attended a media course is volunteering for a course currently being delivered which demonstrates them building a pro-social identity and developing their leadership and supportive skills.

Community Youth Connectors (CYC)

We have successfully bid for further funding from the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to continue the CYC project until end March 2025. In September 2023, Liverpool John Moores university evaluated the project. This project delivers support to girls who experience emotional wellbeing concerns and are at risk of harm. The project has been well regarded and a presentation was delivered at the Northwest Development Forum in April 2024. The presentation can be accessed [here](#). The project was also included in the YJB Resource Hub.

During 2023/24 the Community Youth Connectors have reached out to provide 1:1 sessions to 94 children in addition to providing whole year group support sessions on topics identified by schools as being of need. There has been a 97% engagement rate for children accessing the support, the support has extended beyond the sessions with the children and provided

wider family support, connecting them to other support services where there are wider needs. CYC have provided support throughout the year, holding group activities during school holidays forming them based on the children's interests.

Next steps goal setting and outcome-based measures have been used throughout interventions for the children to identify positive areas of their life and areas of support needs to help develop support plans. Through outcome-based measuring it has been established that the interventions have had a positive impact on children's wellbeing, engagement in positive activities and school. On average children's attendance has increased by 6.5%. No children have become known to Sefton Youth Justice through out of court or statutory interventions.

Mental Health first aid has been offered as part of the interventions, providing children with an opportunity to be trained and receive an accreditation.

Feedback from children, families and other professionals:

*"Since asking for support for my daughter's mental health through community youth connectors and being assigned our worker, I can't even put into words how different things are now, and all for the better. She has been my biggest support in getting myself and my daughter the correct services involved as well as supporting both of us with our mental health along the way. She has attended some significant meetings with me and provided me with the best support I could ask for. She fully encouraged me to reach out for help from an early help worker, something I was anxious about, but it's turned out to be a great decision, she has also put me in touch with parent carers and sent me contact details for ADDvanced solutions for even more support. The work she has done with my daughter has been a massive help with understanding her mental health but also provided me with more knowledge on my daughter's additional needs and getting us on the right pathway for a diagnosis, something I've been battling for, for 8 years. I really couldn't have done it without her, and I'll be forever grateful." **Parent***

*"The support has provided to all the pupils was a massive stepping stone in either improving self-esteem, attendance, behaviour of their general well-being" **Pastoral lead***

*"It's great that the girls have completed an accredited course over the summer- it shows how resilient they can be!" **Head of SEN***

*"My daughter was referred to CYC following issues at home regarding her anger. She was at the time having angry outbursts several times a week, sometimes becoming violent towards myself and her brothers. Since seeing CYC, she has become much calmer and less prone to these fits of anger. She has been opening up to me at home a lot more and the violence has stopped. This has made such a difference for us all and she and I are closer as a consequence. I'd like to thank CYC for the time she has spent with my daughter and the positive impact she has had on her and our family as a whole" **Parent***

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Koestler Awards – two children who accessed the DMC Media Programme were put forward for the Koestler Arts Awards having submitted the video that they produced. They received certificates and their worker was very proud to present them.

Supporting Families – in Q1 of 2024, a submission was made to Supporting Families Framework evidencing sustainable outcomes for families for the previous year. YJS was the Top Team for the number of families who achieved outcomes that the Council could claim for (26 families) and two YJS staff were in the Top 5 Staff for the most families. This evidences the strength of whole family working.

4.6 Evaluation

In December 2023 we welcomed our new QA and Audit Officer to the team. From this point onwards we have steadily increased QA within the team. This commenced with a multi-agency Harm outside the Home Audit allocated by the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. A key learning action from this audit for YJS, was to revisit the KPI's and strengthen the quality of our recording. This is already in progress through the practice workshops that are being delivered as part of our service development plan.

In addition to the above we our Out of Court (Q4) audit was completed. It was rewarding to see that from the Harm Outside of the Home Audit some of the wider team learning was evidenced in some of the children's records. We have a clear direction of travel for the coming year, and we are keen to ensure that we continue to sustain and improve our performance.

5 Priorities for the Coming Year

5.1 Standards for Children

The service has undertaken audits against all the National Standards Some areas of improvement were initially identified in the out of court audit, specifically around drift and delay, and tenacity in contacting children and families. Following this, development workshops were delivered to improve practice and this area is subsequently audited quarterly. We have seen improvement in this area and audits will continue as we begin to embed the new Prevention and Diversion assessment tool. The latest audit findings were reported to the Partnership Board in April 2024.

Following the Court Standard audit, some actions were taken to improve practice across Merseyside due to having a centralised court. In addition, recording improvements were made in our service relating to the child understanding their rights and responsibilities. Audits will continue through the year relating to the Standards and quality of practice. All managers will be involved in undertaking audits and areas for development will feature within the Practice Development Workshops. In addition, where there are identified concerns, the QA and Audit worker will sample cases in more depth and develop actions to secure improvement.

Moving forward we are planning to develop the way we undertake some of our audits. Where possible, we will hold reflective learning conversations with our team members so that they have an opportunity to share their experience of working with child and their family. This gives us the opportunity to explore what we have read on the child's record and determine whether to contact the child and their family for their perspectives.

5.2 Service Development

Service Development Plan - Sefton YJS maintains a Service Development Plan which is updated quarterly. This is also shared with the Partnership Board. In January 2024 the plan was adjusted to capture the new KPI's and was amended for the Board in April 24. The plan also includes the pillars for wider children's services and how YJS aligns with these. The April version of the plan appears [here](#).

The service is committed to embedding Child First into practice and training has been delivered with Board Members and Staff to enable this. We are proposing a Child First Steering Group and are in the preliminary stages of proposals to the Board.

Key Performance Indicators – In line with the YJS Strategic Plan (24-27) we continue to scrutinise our KPI's and where there are concerns to understand the narrative behind the metrics. We are rated in Quadrant 2 within the Oversight Framework and meet quarterly with the YJB Representative for the Northwest.

Practice Development – the Managers deliver monthly practice development workshops with the team and all actions will be included in the Service Development Plans from July 24. The focus has been quality of practice against the standards, HMIP Inspection Framework and refreshing our approach to embedding child first practice. The QA and Audit Worker will review any emerging themes or concerns. Practice audits against the standards will take place across the next year and they will inform future workshops.

Additional Support for Children – we continuously review the quality of our assessments and how we meet the needs of children. We recognise that many children require speech and language support, therefore we commit to raise this concern to the Board and seek additional services to complement the YJS to meet the needs of children.

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6 National Priority Areas

6.1 Children from groups which are over-represented

Sefton as a borough has a predominantly white British population which for some areas would be a disproportionate representation. Sefton has previously been a borough with low ethnic minority populations which is reflected in the cohort with approximately 90% white British.

The YJS has accessed Disproportionality Training which was regarded as excellent by participants.

6.1.2 Mental Health Concerns

Sefton YJS have previously implemented the Community Youth Connectors project to address the disproportionate number of girls with mental health issues with a focused-on prevention. We submitted a further bid and have secured funding to deliver this project until end March 2025. Learning from this project will be fed into the new targeted services within Early Help. We have secured funding for YJS CAMHS workers to be part of the team until July 2025. Workers offer support through consultation for staff, direct work with children and fast-tracking referrals.

6.2 Policing

We have an excellent working relationship with Local Policing. We have three police officers as part of the team and the Board chair is the Superintendent for Local Policing. Police colleagues support our Out of Court Panel, Risk Management and Welfare Meeting, deliver prevention work including an offer for schools and support diversionary activities through football and other outdoor activities. We can raise any risks or concerns through Police management systems and are well supported in managing concerns.

6.3 Prevention and Diversion

YJS is grateful to Merseyside Police for seconding a third police officer to YJS. This officer's work complements Turnaround and delivers prevention interventions to children. The Police Officer has added value for children who are not eligible for Turnaround yet have unmet need and are at risk of further offending behaviour. We have agreed for the Prevention Police Officer to work with those children. The intention is for the Officer to utilise existing assessments and work in partnership with existing services, utilising the prevention resources within the YJS.

In addition, in partnership with YJS Delivery Staff the Police Officer has developed a School's based intervention called ROOTS. The offer to schools is to identify a small cohort of children who would benefit from four 1 hr sessions covering topics of the school's choice, although most commonly those topics are healthy relationships, bullying, exploitation, and the dangers of drug use. As the vulnerable adolescent's service develops, the Police Officer and Turnaround (until that project ends) will align to deliver a targeted prevention service.

The YJS Service Manager is involved in the transformation of Early Help Services which will include a new targeted service for children 10-18yrs. The proposal is to have a dedicated team to support children

The wider council offer an Early Help service has also transitioned into Children's Services. The Service Manager for YJS sits on the Early help Partnership and the Service Manager for Early Help has agreed to sit on the Youth Justice Partnership. A new structure for Early Help has been agreed by Cabinet and the Targeted Service for children 10-18yrs will be led by the YJS Service Manager. The overarching aims for the service are:

- Developing relationships
- Discovering talent
- Building connections
- Developing positive sense of self.

The service will embrace a whole family approach and collaborate with children and families to develop a tailored plan to address assessed need. The service will link with Youth Justice Prevention and MySpace and the offers will be integrated once the new team is established. The timeline for launch is estimated to be October 24.

Police Supporting Prevention

Our YJS Police Officers have delivered prevention work as follows:

ROOTS - Helping young people grow – intervention in schools.

The aim of this project is to engage with children nominated by the school who they have worries about or feel need some support. The school choose the topics from a list including Drug awareness, knife crime and joint enterprise, healthy relationships, violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour, consequences of crime and cyber safety. The Police Officers deliver to small groups of 8. Whilst the resource is limited, we are delivering to a small number of schools.

Our Police Officers have supported a number of children through direct work and have received feedback from parents including '***This is a great thing you're doing***', and '***I will do anything to keep my child safe***',

Police preventative work is Identified through weekly triage and from liaising with Social Care and Early Help for children who does not fit the criteria for Turnaround. The Police Officers have secured good engagement and noted that being a police officer has not been a barrier with either the parents or child.

Below are some comments from parents:

- '***FINALLY, SOMEONE IS HELPING US***'
- '***Thanks for your continued support with XX I'm very grateful and will pass on to other parents not to be afraid to have services involved to get best results and keep our kids safe***'
- '***You've been amazing***'

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Our Police Officers have also supported the Community Connectors with interventions such as pizza making, crabbing at Crosby Beach and cinema trips, talking sessions around anti-social behaviour how and when to call the Police, how the Police can help, what is anti-social behaviour, how to be safe in the community. They have engaged with 22 children who could have been at risk of entering the youth justice service. This demonstrates **Child First** work through actively promoting a pro social identity and engaging children in positive activity.

There have been some excellent examples of support and direct work with children by our Police Officers, through actively supporting case managers and delivery staff with carrying out intervention work including work around relationships, consequences and engaging with sports-based activities including numerous football sessions, trampoline park and skateboarding. Our Summer Activity planning is well underway with a number of sessions planned with different groups of children.

Direct work has also focused on building good relationships with children and supporting their re-engagement back into education and support at Panel.

Reframe

Re-Frame is a diversion programme for 10–17-year-olds who have been found in possession of class B or C controlled drugs that aims to reduce substance use and offending. This is a study programme with Kent University which our Police Officers were asked to assist with and is due for completion in August 2024.

Part of the programme involved being interviewed by the University and attend quarterly meetings where updates are provided. The reframe programme provides two sessions, approximately 45 minutes each. Delivered by the qualified youth substance misuse workers at Change Grow Live, the sessions are delivered either in person or online.

6.4 Released Under Investigation

Up until recently, Sefton YJS did not intervene with children who are Released Under Investigation (RUI) however through the Turnaround Project, RUI children can be referred for support and this is an area to develop in the context of wider youth prevention. We have tracked data relating to Sefton's RUI's and are currently analysing which of those children access a service.

6.5 Youth Service

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

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

Youth Bus - Staff go into local areas and work with children and families, they can also deliver projects in local areas. Projects include Street Cooking, Forest School Projects. Diversionary Activities at specific points in the year (Halloween/Bonfire etc). The team

deliver some Exploitation Awareness and have access to the video screen on the bus to show informal educational videos. Staff deliver Stay Safe work to regular attendees. Staff understand and will make MASH referrals where there are concerns.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.6 Education

The Virtual School works in partnership with the Youth Justice Team to champion the education, employment, and training of our young people. Cared For young people who are known to the service have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) as part of their care planning. Although Sefton remands tend to be minimal, we are concerned about the education

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provision. We will therefore ensure that any children on remand as well as having an allocated social worker, will also have a PEP to ensure education continuity.

To support children and young people to achieve positive outcomes, the work Sefton Youth Justice Service works with schools, academies pupil referral units, alternative provision and colleges is key. Our links with the School Support Service has been strengthened along with work to support inclusion, increased tracking of data has enabled this to be recognised as a partnership response. Monthly Education Review meetings are well established, providing a forum to discuss support for children who are not in receipt of the statutory offer. These meetings are also an opportunity to ensure that any needs in literacy, numeracy and wellbeing in education are addressed. Sefton YJS also has an Education Welfare Officer seconded to the team, one day per week. This officer tracks school attendance, suspensions and exclusions and those young people who have reduced education provision. They also support children and parents and are the single point of contact between the education services and the Youth Justice Service and assisting staff to liaise with the individuals in schools and Services within Education Excellence Services.

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

6.7 Restorative Approaches and Victims

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

Our victim worker is a very experienced R.J. Practitioner. He is registered with the [National Restorative Justice Council](#) as an Advanced Practitioner.

'Advanced Registered Practitioners lead restorative processes involving cases of all levels of complexity. They perform a variety of casework or restorative processes and can apply a range of techniques in a variety of challenging context'.

Information relating to contact with victims since August 23:

- Statutory Orders 40 Non-Statutory 39
- 11 are corporate victims
- 68 individual victims
- 4 victims have had a face-to-face meeting or direct reparation
- 11 victims accepted letters from children supported by their caseworkers
- Victim leaflets have been refreshed re YJS/R.J./Victims Code/Support available
- New victim survey introduced to try to improve levels of victim feedback. Traditionally this can be very low. The new survey can be communicated to victims in person or by phone/letter/email/text or WhatsApp via a QR code or link.

- Victim feedback was obtained in 8 cases
- Sefton YJS Victim Worker has a very good relationship with the Sefton based Probation Service Victim Liaison Officer
- Sefton YJS Victim Worker is compliant with the [Code of Practice for Victim's of Crime](#) and assists victims with points relevant to the role of the YJS.
- Sefton YJS Victim Worker has attended a Board meeting this year to tell Board members about his role and to raise awareness of R.J.

Victim Feedback Snapshot:

"It was brilliant"

"Everything went well"

"Contact with victim worker, explanation of process, help if needed etc"

"Nothing could've been better"

"Couldn't do anything better"

Making a Difference

Children's Service celebrate good performance and good practice examples. In April 24, an example of YJS Restorative Practice was showcased following very successful RJ meeting. Very positive feedback was obtained from the victim, the child and child's mother. Quote from victim:

The meeting was relaxed, well structured, professional but allowed us to relax and share some jokes and "banter" I got a great deal of job satisfaction from the meeting ... it gave me a feel-good factor and boosted my morale.

The child greatly benefited from this practice and enjoyed a strong sense of achievement.

Further support is offered for additional safety and well-being. Since August 2023 there has been only one request for additional support from other agencies. It is apparent from the involvement with victims that wider agency involvement in some instances is already in place and victims make the worker aware of this.

Referral Order Community Panels

In 2024, we have recruited 14 new panel member volunteers recruited, vetted, and trained and now active along with existing 5 volunteers.

Panel forms have all been revamped including child friendly contracts, panel feedback forms and panel member scripts and a handout for children and parents regarding spent convictions and Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

6.8 Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Serious Youth Violence

Within the cohort profile, violence tends to be the top offence closely followed by drug related offences. The Partnership has oversight of the cohort and has specifically requested audits to enhance the Partnership's understanding. In May an audit was completed to

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establish the connection between violence and school exclusion. The finding of this audit will be shared with the Partnership Board and other boards within the wider children's services.

In conclusion, the findings were as follows:

- This activity found that 10.3% of the cohort have been cautioned or convicted of a violent offence and received a fixed term exclusion and / or permanent exclusion, showing some correlation.
- The average age when the offence took place was 15.1 years for boys as compared to girls which was 13.8 years.
- The most common offence type for boys was drugs followed by violence against the person. Whereas, for girls it was violence against the person followed by drugs. Interestingly, robbery did not feature as an offence.

Serious Violence Duty

The YJS has worked in partnership with Community Safety to ensure that Sefton complies with the Serious Violence Duty. Merseyside has Serious Violence Strategy which Sefton Council contributed to. Sefton Partnership has a Delivery Plan which has objectives that YJS are responsible for, including the below:

- Educating children relating to risk of harm and exploitation
- Deliver and monitor the Community Youth Connector project
- Deliver Turnaround and support early intervention and diversion for children who receive a 'no further action' outcomes or are released under investigation
- Promote out of court disposals
- Monitor the impact of school exclusions on serious youth violence
- Continue to offer specialist services through Framework for Integrated Care, MySpace and YJS (camhs)
- Support children not accessing education, training, or employment

Exploitation (Harm outside the Home – HOTH)

As part of the Sefton's Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP), there is the Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) subgroup, chaired by Local Policing D/Chief Inspector, the YJS and MySpace Manager is the Deputy Chair. In line with developments for the SSCP, the HOTH group has revised the workplan to meet a suit of objectives that have been agreed by the Three Key Leads. This plan is 'live' as of April 2024 and is robustly monitored. Each of the subgroup leads formally reports to the Three Key Leads bi-monthly to maintain momentum and accountability.

MY SPACE (Sefton Protection Against Child Exploitation)

My SPACE is a wraparound service for Sefton young people who are at risk of harm through exploitation. This team provides intensive interventions to children focusing on:

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

My SPACE team also works in close partnership with colleagues from other organisations including Merseyside Police, Sefton's YJS, Alderhey Framework for Integrated care team for

emotional and mental health support and PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation). The team focuses on children going missing and will complete interviews upon their return within set timescales. The team has accessed Child First training and has an action plan to develop practice across the next year.

NRM Referrals

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

Safer Knives Scheme

Sefton has worked with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to develop the Safer Knives Scheme. This is a knife replacement scheme for families to receive rounded end knives in return for pointed knives, which will reduce the potential to cause harm by stabbing. Since October 22, (to date) 13 packs of knives have been exchanged and 53 knives confiscated.

6.9 Detention in Police Custody

Detentions that extend beyond 15hrs are monitored via a pan Merseyside scrutiny group which is attended by the Emergency Duty Team who links in with the YJS Service Manager and shares information relating to any such detentions. The Local Policing lead shares information relating to the trend of more than 15hrs detentions across Merseyside to highlight emerging issues. During office hours, YJS can attend police custody setting to be an Appropriate Adult (AA) and likewise the Emergency Duty Team for out of hours. Sefton also has a volunteer who is AA trained and can attend where available for out of hours work. Sefton does not have an emergency bed arrangement. The YJS Operational Manager is due to train a new cohort of AA volunteers from across the organisation to create capacity.

6.10 Remands

Sefton had no remands throughout the last year until May 2024 where one child was remanded to Wetherby. YJS has supported a new policy for Children Social Care relating to the allocation of a social worker and where relevant a Personal Assistant for children on remand or serving a custodial sentence. In addition, YJS is working with the Virtual School to ensure that there is an education plan for any child on remand. Sefton YJS strives to keep young people out of custody as such as possible. During the last year there were some pre-sentence reports highlighting all options available and there were a couple of children that perhaps came close to being remanded however this was not the case.

6.11 Use of Custody and Constructive Resettlement

Since 2019, Sefton has not had a child serve a custodial sentence until March 2023. Sefton has not supported a child leaving a custodial setting back into the community for considerable years.


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However, Sefton YJS has a Resettlement Policy in place that clearly outlines timescales and responsibilities of all professionals involved in supporting a young person in custody and planning a smooth, effective, and robust resettlement plan upon release.

6.12 Working with Families

YJS considers the wider context of the child including families, home life, the impact of existing issues and current and previous trauma. To provide support staff have delivered direct work and support to families such as arranging access to debt and housing advice, making referrals to partners such as Parenting 2000, Sefton@work and Active Sefton for diversion. We have good links to Early Help and can support families to access the Family Hub offer. Staff ensure that children are visited in their home so that we understand the context of home life. The voice of the care giver is also captured. We are developing our ideas to create a Parents Group which will be led by our Victim and RJ Officer and our Police Colleagues.

7 Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Partnership Board	Paul Holden (Supt. Local Policing, Sefton)
Signature:	
Date:	28 th June 2024

Appendices

Appendix 1 – YJ Partnership Board Membership and Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 – Performance Report

Appendix 3 – Financial Composition and Contributions

Appendix 4 – List of Training Accessed by Team Members

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Appendix 1

Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Terms of Reference

Role and Purpose

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

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

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

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

The role of the Partnership is to:

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

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

Objectives

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

Membership of the Partnership

The Board shall comprise:

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

The Partnership may co-opt representatives of agencies involved in criminal justice, representatives of the community, representatives of the voluntary sector involved in youth

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offending work and any other individual who in the view of the Board would have a contribution to make to the effective operation of the Youth Offending Service. Co-options shall normally be for a minimum of two years.

Conduct of meetings

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

Standing Agenda Items and Reports

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

Youth Justice Partnership (Revised April 2024)

Organisation	Role	Name
Merseyside Police	Local Policing Lead and Chair	Paul Holden
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Children Social Care	Mandy Williams
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Communities	Mel Ormersher
Sefton Council	YJS and MySpace Service Manager	Rosanna Stanley
Sefton Council	YJS Operational Managers	Adele Maddocks Moira Adams Amie Clarke

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Probation Service	Head of Liverpool and Sefton Probation Senior Probation Officer	Janet Marlow Rachel Hall
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Education Excellence Virtual School Head Dep Virtual Head	Deps – Tracy McKeating Mary Palin Tabitha Walker Simmonds
Sefton Council	QA and Audit Officer Business Intelligence	Nicola Read Mike Edwards
Merseycare	Director of Operations	Maria Sumner
Sefton@Work	Employment & Skills Manager	Claire Maguire
Sefton Council	Administrator	YJS Business Support
Sefton Council for Voluntary Services	Strategic Lead for Children and Families	Sharon Cotterall
Change Live Grow	Agency Lead	Akeem Serrano
Secondary Schools	Head of Chesterfield High	Amanda Ryan
Alder Hey	Head of Camhs	Vicky Killen
Career Connect	Head of Service	Sarah Vaughan

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Appendix 2 – Performance Report

Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan 2024 / 25 – Performance Report.

This section covers our performance which has been stable across the last year. We are aiming to maintain stability and perform well across all Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The KPIs have now been in place for a year.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) Actual Numbers – January 2022 – December 2023.

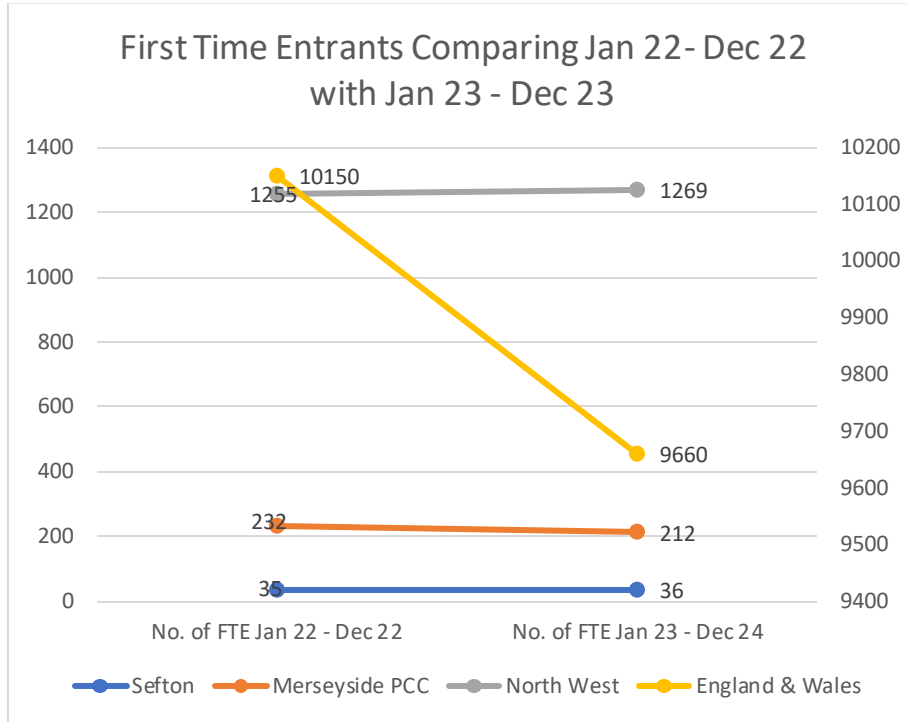


Chart 1.
Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 1 shows a slight increase of 1 FTE into Sefton’s YJS. There were 35 FTEs in calendar year 2022 compared with 36 in 2023. The number of FTEs across the Merseyside PCC has decreased by 20 FTEs from 232 to 212. The Northwest region has seen an increase of 14 FTEs from 1255 to 1269. Nationally, there has been a significant decrease of 490 FTEs from 10150 to 9660.

	FTEs Jan 22 - Dec 22.	FTEs Jan 23 - Dec 23.
Sefton	35	36
M/side PCC	232	212
North West	1255	1269
England & Wales	10150	9660

Table 1

Table 1 shows the figures that are illustrated in Chart 1. From this, we can see that in calendar year 2022; Sefton's YJS had 35 out of the 232 children identified as FTEs (15.1%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 1255 FTEs reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 2.8% of this cohort. Out of the 10150 FTEs reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.3% of this cohort.

The table also illustrates that in calendar year 2023; Sefton's YJS had 36 out of the 212 children identified as FTEs (17.0%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 1269 FTEs reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 2.8% of this cohort. Out of the 9660 FTEs reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.4% of this cohort.

To compare and summarise between calendar years 2022 and 2023:

- Sefton has seen an increase of 1 child identified as an FTE.
- The Merseyside PCC FTE cohort has decreased by 20 FTEs. Sefton FTE cohort holding of the Merseyside PCC cohort has increased by 1.9%.
- The Northwest region cohort has increased by 14 FTEs. Sefton's FTE cohort holding of the Northwest region has stayed the same.
- The National cohort has decreased by 490 FTEs. Sefton's FTE cohort holding of the National figure, has increased by 0.1%.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) per 100 000 – January 2023 – December 2023.

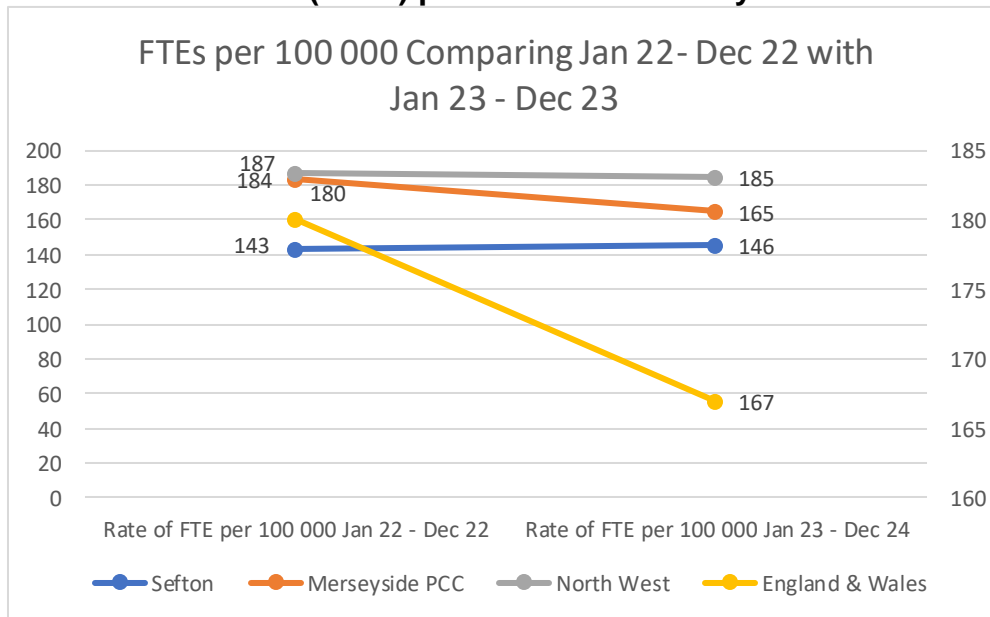


Chart 2. Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 2 shows a slight increase of 3 FTE per 100 000 into Sefton's YJS. This is representative and coincides with Chart 1 displaying Sefton having an increase of 1 child into Sefton's YJS. The number of FTEs across the Merseyside PCC, the Northwest region and at national level have decreased. Chart 2 illustrates that Sefton is below the national, regional and Merseyside PCC's FTE rate.

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First Time Entrants (FTEs) comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) – January 2022 – December 2023.

Local Authority.	Jan 22 – Dec 22		Jan 23 – Dec 23	
	No. of FTE.	Rate per 100 000	No. of FTE.	Rate per 100 000
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington ²	160	158	131	126
Knowsley	30	206	37	246
Lancashire	185	159	162	136
Liverpool	101	255	66	162
Sefton	35	143	36	146
St Helen's	30	179	34	199
Wirral	36	118	39	125

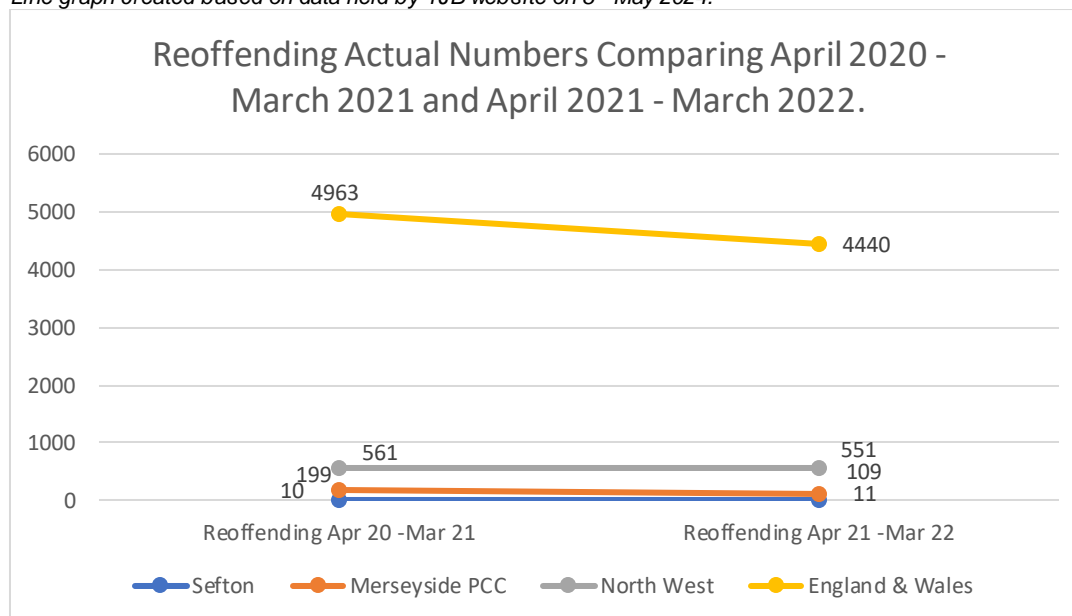
Table 2

Table 2 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In calendar year 2022, Sefton had the second lowest amount of FTEs. This is also the same for calendar year 2023.

Reoffending Actual Numbers – April 2020 – March 2022.³

Chart 3.

Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.



² These 4 LAs share a central YJS.

³ Unfortunately, at the time of writing this report, the latest figures published by YJB for Reoffending currently go up to March 2022.

Chart 3 shows a slight increase of 1 child identified as reoffending into Sefton’s YJS. There were 10 children identified as reoffending in financial year 20/21 compared with 11 in 21/22. The number identified as reoffending across the Merseyside PCC has decreased by 90 children from 199 to 109. The Northwest region has seen a decrease of 10 children from 561 to 551. Nationally, there has been a significant decrease of 523 children from 4963 to 4440.

	No. of Children Reoffending Apr 20 - Mar 21.	No. of Children Reoffending Apr 21 - Mar 22.
Sefton	10	11
Merseyside PCC	199	109
Northwest	561	551
England & Wales	4963	4440

Table 3

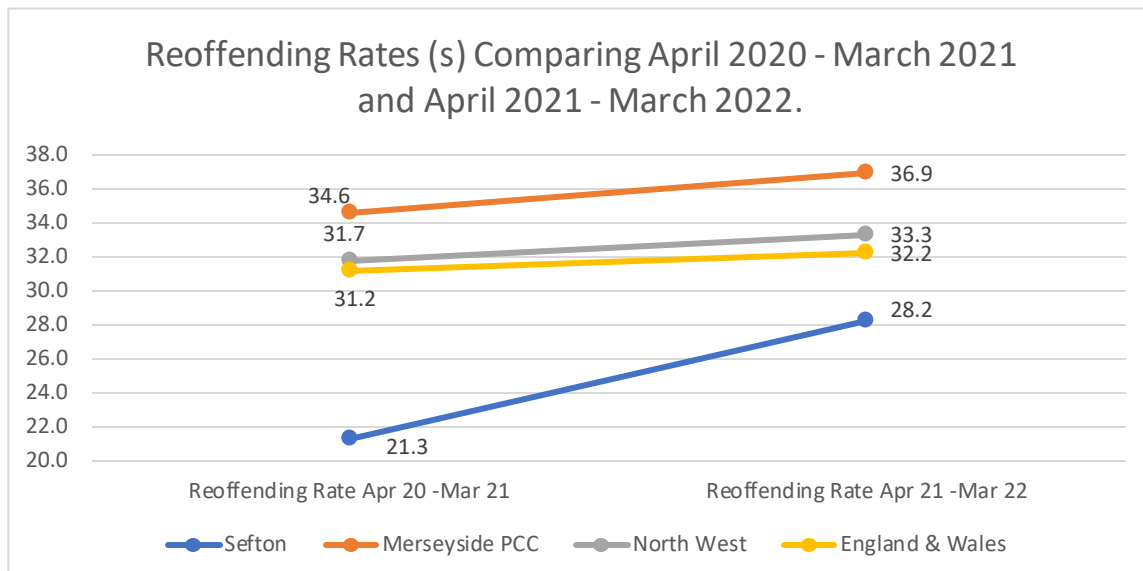
Table 3 shows the figures that are illustrated in Chart 3. From this, we can see that in financial year 20/21; Sefton’s YJS had 10 out of the 199 children identified as FTEs (5.0%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 561 children reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 1.8% of this cohort. Out of the 4963 children reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.2% of this cohort.

The table also illustrates that in calendar year 2023; Sefton’s YJS had 11 out of the 109 children identified as FTEs (10.1%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 551 children reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 2.0% of this cohort. Out of the 4440 FTEs reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.2% of this cohort.

To compare and summarise between financial year 20/21 and 21/22:

- Sefton has seen an increase of 1 child identified as reoffending.
- The Merseyside PCC FTE cohort has decreased by 90 children. Sefton’s reoffending cohort holding of the Merseyside PCC cohort has increased by 5.1%.
- The Northwest region cohort has decreased by 10 children. Sefton’s reoffending cohort holding of the Northwest region has increased by 0.2%.
- The National cohort has decreased by 523 children. Sefton’s FTE cohort holding of the National figure, has stayed the same at 0.2%.

Reoffending Rates (%s) – April 2020 – March 2022.



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Chart 4.

Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 4 shows increases in reoffending across all areas. Sefton's YJS has seen an increase of 6.9%. The Northwest region has increased by 1.6%. Merseyside PCC has increased by 2.3%. Nationally, there has been an increase of 0.9%.

'The reoffending rate for children increased by 0.9 percentage points to 32.2% following seven years of year-on-year reductions, while the number of children in the cohort continued to decrease'.

Quote taken from Statistician's comments regarding the National reoffending rates in latest article about Youth Justice Statistics: 2022 to 2023.⁴

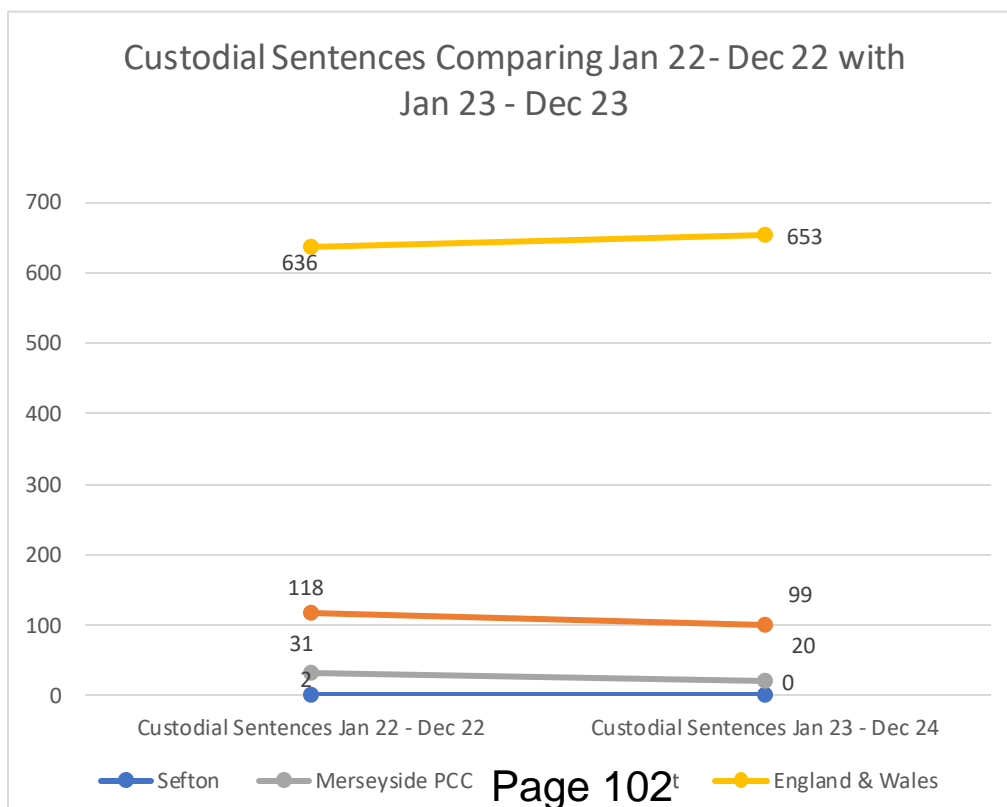
Reoffending Rates - comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) - April 2020 – March 2022.

Local Authority.	Apr 20 – Mar 21		Apr 21 – Mar 22	
	No. of Reoffenders.	% of Reoffenders.	No. of Reoffenders	% of Reoffenders.
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington	57	32.8%	69	34.7%
Knowsley	17	37.0%	12	33.3%
Lancashire	97	37.5%	84	40.2%
Liverpool	53	39.0%	46	36.8%
Sefton	10	21.3%	11	28.2%
St Helen's	15	31.9%	18	36.7%
Wirral	24	35.3%	22	47.8%

Table 4

Table 4 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In financial years 20/21 and 21/22, Sefton had the lowest rate of children reoffending in their cohorts. Please note the % of Reoffenders rates is based on each LAs cohort. It is not the full total of the LAs listed.

Custodial Sentences Actual Numbers – January 2022 – December 2023.



Statistics: 2022 to 2023
[to-2023-accessible-statisticians-comment](#)

Chart 5.
Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 5 shows a significant decrease of 2 custodial sentences in calendar 2022 to 0 in calendar year 2023. The number custodial sentences across the Merseyside PCC have decreased by 11 from 31 to 20. The Northwest region has seen a decrease of 19 custodial sentences from 118 to 99. Nationally, there has been a slight increase of 17 custodial sentences from 636 to 653.

	No. of Children with a Custodial Sentence Jan 22 - Dec 22.	No. of Children with a Custodial Sentences Jan 23 - Dec 23.
Sefton	2	0
Merseyside PCC	31	20
Northwest	118	99
England & Wales	636	653

Table 5

Table 5 shows the figures that are illustrated in Chart 5. From this, we can see that in calendar year 2022; Sefton’s YJS had 2 out of the 31 children identified as having a custodial sentence (6.4%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 118 FTEs reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 1.7% of this cohort. Out of the 636 custodial sentences reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.3% of this cohort. The table also illustrates that in calendar year 2023; Sefton’s YJS had 0 custodial sentences. Therefore, the percentages from calendar year 2022 are now depleted at 0%.

Custodial Sentences per 100 000 – January 2023 – December 2023

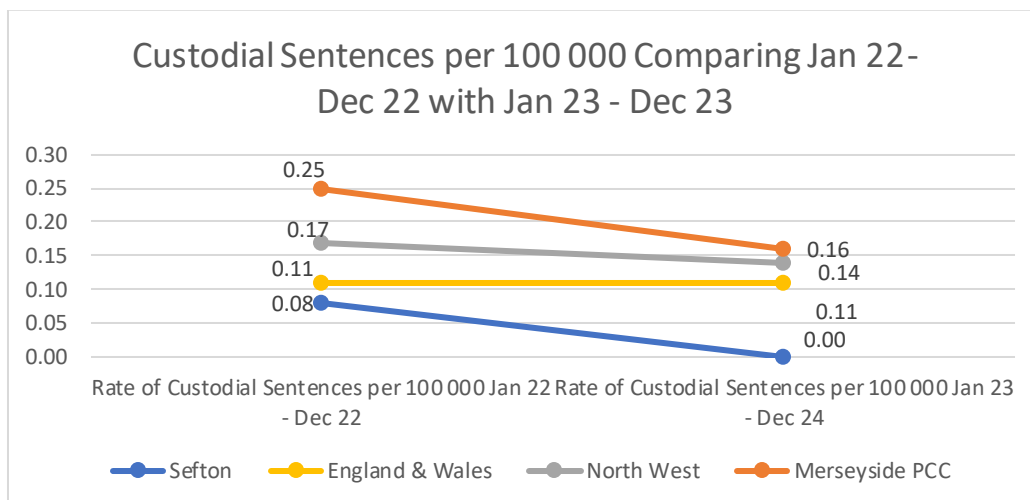


Chart 6 Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

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Chart 6 shows decreases of custodial sentence rates per 100 000 into Sefton's YJS, the Northwest region and Merseyside PCC. Sefton has seen a decrease of 0.08. The Northwest region has decreased by 0.03. Merseyside PCC has decreased by 0.09. The National rate has remained the same at 0.11.

Custodial Sentences - comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) - January 2022 – December 2023.

Local Authority.	Jan 22 – Dec 22		Jan 23 – Dec 23	
	No. of Custodial Sentences	Rate per 100 000	No. of Custodial Sentences	Rate per 100 000
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington	12	0.12	9	0.09
Knowsley	1	0.07	1	0.07
Lancashire	15	0.13	16	0.13
Liverpool	19	0.48	9	0.22
Sefton	2	0.08	0	0.00
St Helen's	5	0.30	7	0.41
Wirral	4	0.13	3	0.10

Table 6

Table 6 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In calendar year 2022, Sefton had the second lowest rate of custodial sentences. With there being no custodial sentences in calendar year, Sefton now has the lowest rate. Sefton is also the only LA listed above that has had no custodial sentences in 2023.

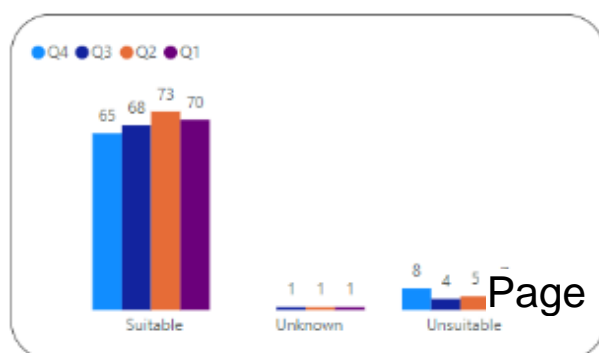
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) 2023/2024 ('23/24')⁵.

Prior to April 2023; the Youth Justice Board (YJB) set out its requirements for YJS's to record and report upon a set of additional KPI's. There are 10 individual KPIs. This section of the report gives Sefton's own statistics based on quarterly figures for financial year 23/24.

Please note that this section of the report considers children who have had or currently progressing with a statutory or non-statutory intervention. It does not include children on Turnaround and Prevention Programmes.

For the purpose of calculating percentages for the full year; **167 children** have been identified as being a part of Sefton YJS's cohort for 23/24.

1. Accommodation Suitability



April 2023; therefore a year on year comparison cannot be made.

Visual 1a Accommodation Suitability.

Accommodation Suitability	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
Suitable	65	89.0%	↓ -3	68	93.2%	↓ -5	73	92.4%	↑ 3	70	89.7%
Unsuitable	8	11.0%	↑ 4	4	5.5%	↓ -1	5	6.3%	↓ -2	7	9.0%
Unknown			↓ -1	1	1.4%	→ 0	1	1.3%	→ 0	1	1.3%
No. of Children	73		0	73			79			78	

Visual 1b Accommodation Suitability.

The three categories for Accommodation Suitability are: Suitable, Unsuitable and Unknown. Visual 1a illustrates how the three categories have increased and decreased over each quarter of 23/24.

Visual 1b details the figures. The recording quality for Accommodation Suitability has progressed over 23/24. At the end of Q4 all children had either Suitable or Unsuitable identified. This shows that YJS Case Workers are carrying out assessments of each child's home. For the 8 children identified as living in unsuitable accommodation in Q4; an in-depth analysis has taken place to ascertain where their home is unsuitable. The reasons for unsuitability included family dysfunction, poor home conditions and temporary accommodation.

Accommodation Suitability	No. of Children	%
Suitable	148	88.6%
Unknown	3	1.8%
Unsuitable	16	9.6%
Total no. of children.	167	

Visual 1c Accommodation Suitability.

To encompass 23/24, Visual 1c details 88.6% of children were living in suitable accommodation. 11.4% of children were either living in unsuitable accommodation or the suitability was unknown.

2. Education, Training and Employment (ETE).

For the purpose of this report, ETE will be split into three sections as follows:

2i. Statutory school age children.

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The school year range for this cohort is any child in Year 11 or lower. The general age range is 10-16 years old. The youngest age of a child in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24 was 12 years old.

2ii. Post 16 children.

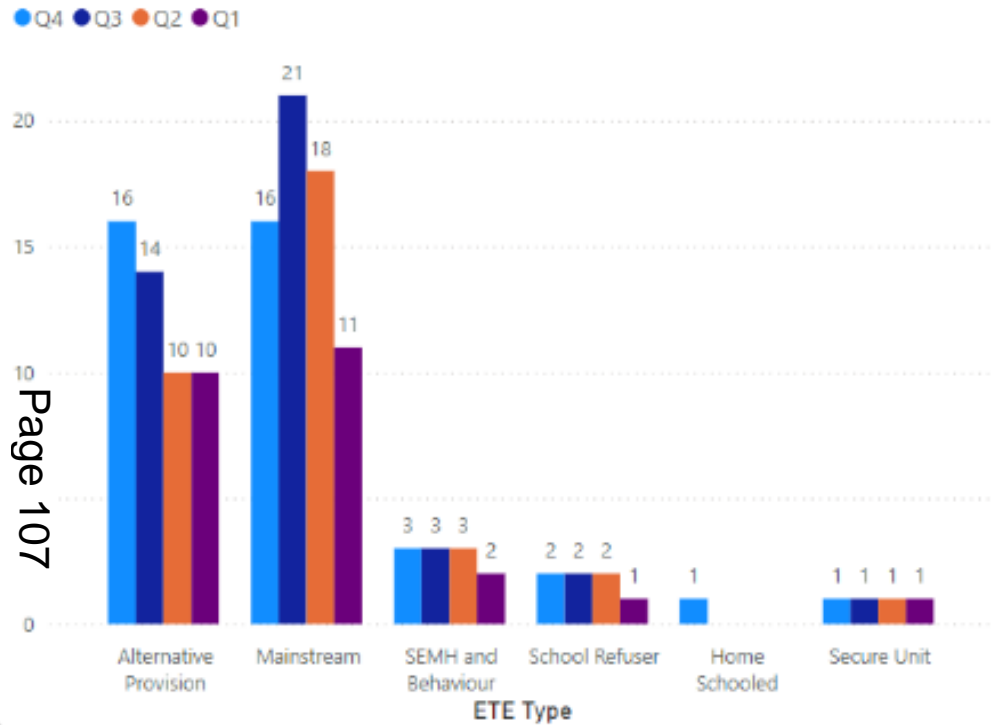
The school year range for this cohort is any child in Year 12 to 14. The general age range is 16-18 years old. The eldest age of a child in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24 was 18 years old. Although YJSs cater for children aged 10-17, a child may reach their 18th birthday towards the end of their intervention.

2iii. All of Sefton's YJS cohort.

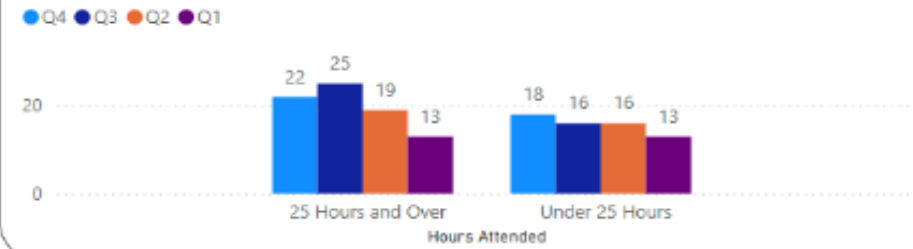
The two school age groups stated above combined.

2i. Statutory school age children.

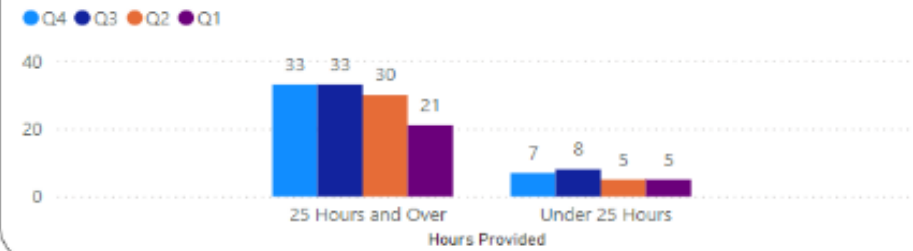
ETE Type per Quarter 23/24.



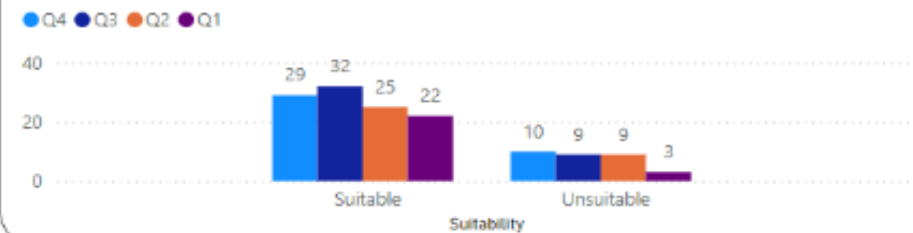
Hours Attended per Quarter 23/24.



Hours Provided per Quarter 23/24.



ETE Suitability per Quarter 23/24.



ETE Type	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Alternative Provision	16	41.0%	↑	14	34.1%	↑	4	10	29.4%	→	0	10	40.0%	
Home Schooled	1	2.6%	↑	1										
Mainstream	16	41.0%	↓	21	51.2%	↑	3	18	52.9%	↑	7	11	44.0%	
School Refuser	2	5.1%	→	0	2	4.9%	→	0	2	5.9%	↑	1	1	4.0%
Secure Unit	1	2.6%	→	0	1	2.4%	→	0	1	2.9%	→	0	1	4.0%
SEMH and Behaviour	3	7.7%	→	0	3	7.3%	→	0	3	8.8%	↑	1	2	8.0%
No. of Children	39			-2	41			34				25		

Hours Attended	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
25 Hours and Over	22	55.0%	↓	25	61.0%	↑	6	19	54.3%	↑	6	13	50.0%	
Under 25 Hours	18	45.0%	↑	2	16	39.0%	→	0	16	45.7%	↑	3	13	50.0%
No. of Children	40			-1	41			35				26		

Hours Provided	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
25 Hours and Over	33	82.5%	→	0	33	80.5%	↑	3	30	85.7%	↑	9	21	80.8%
Under 25 Hours	7	17.5%	↓	-1	8	19.5%	↑	3	5	14.3%	→	0	5	19.2%
No. of Children	40			-1	41			35				26		

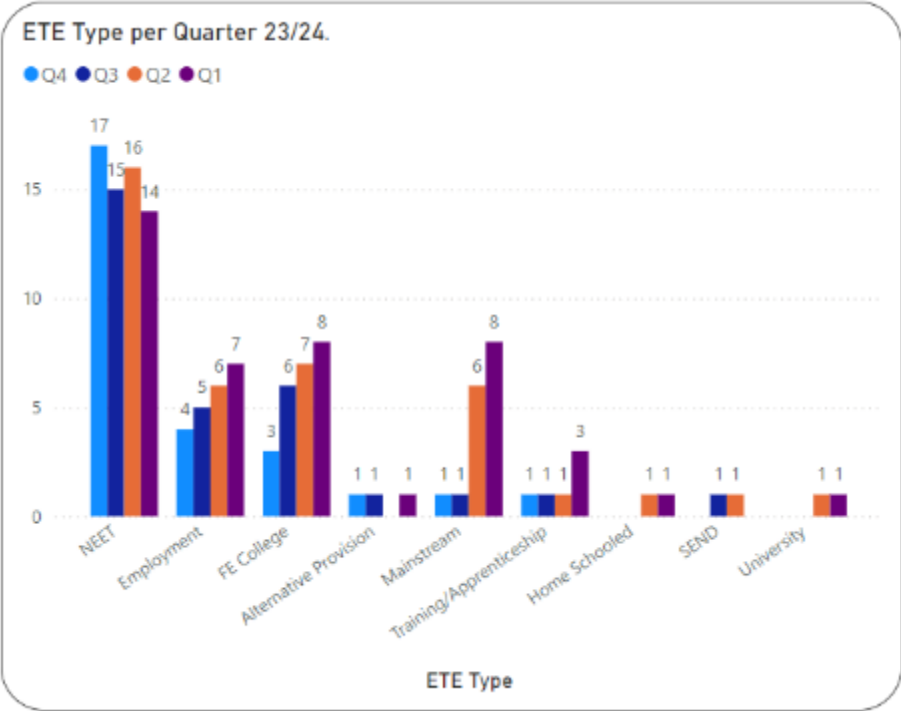
Suitability	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Suitable	29	74.4%	↓	-3	32	78.0%	↑	7	25	73.5%	↑	3	22	88.0%
Unsuitable	10	25.6%	↑	1	9	22.0%	→	0	9	26.5%	↑	6	3	12.0%
No. of Children	39			-2	41			34				25		

The visuals on Pages 11 and 12 detail the ETE type, hours attended, hours provided and ETE suitability for statutory school age children. The percentages in the tables on the right-hand side relate to the total number of statutory school age children in Sefton's YJS cohort per quarter.

At the end of Q4, 10 children were identified as being in an unsuitable ETE type/provision. The main reason for unsuitability was non-attendance at the setting or a recent permanent exclusion.

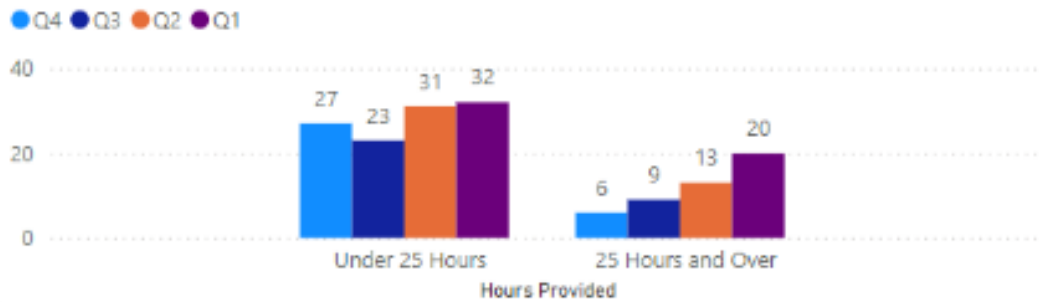
To encompass 23/24, there were 79 statutory school age children in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24. This makes 47.3% of Sefton's over all cohort of 169 children.

2ii. Post 16 children.

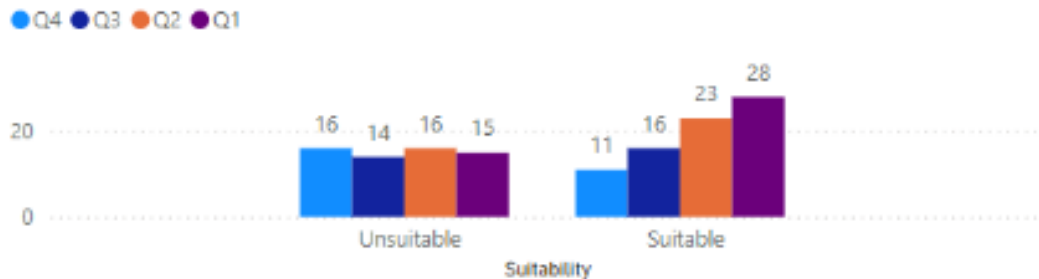


ETE Type	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Alternative Provision	1	3.7%	→	0	1	3.3%	↑	1		↓	-1	1	2.3%	
Employment	4	14.8%	↓	-1	5	16.7%	↓	-1	6	15.4%	↓	-1	7	16.3%
FE College	3	11.1%	↓	-3	6	20.0%	↓	-1	7	17.9%	↓	-1	8	18.6%
Home Schooled							↓	-1	1	2.6%	→	0	1	2.3%
Mainstream	1	3.7%	→	0	1	3.3%	↓	-5	6	15.4%	↓	-2	8	18.6%
NEET	17	63.0%	↑	2	15	50.0%	↓	-1	16	41.0%	↑	2	14	32.6%
SEND			↓	-1	1	3.3%	→	0	1	2.6%	↑	1		
Training/Apprenticeship	1	3.7%	→	0	1	3.3%	→	0	1	2.6%	↓	-2	3	7.0%
University							↓	-1	1	2.6%	→	0	1	2.3%
No. of Children	27			-3	30			39				43		

Hours Provided per Quarter 23/24.



ETE Suitability per Quarter 23/24.



Hours Attended	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
25 Hours and Over	6	18.2%	↓ -3	9	28.1%	↓ -3	12	27.3%	↓ -7	19	36.5%
Under 25 Hours	27	81.8%	↑ 4	23	71.9%	↓ -9	32	72.7%	↓ -1	33	63.5%
No. of Children	33			1 32			44			52	

Hours Provided	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
Under 25 Hours	27	81.8%	↑ 4	23	71.9%	↓ -8	31	70.5%	↓ -1	32	61.5%
25 Hours and Over	6	18.2%	↓ -3	9	28.1%	↓ -4	13	29.5%	↓ -7	20	38.5%
No. of Children	33			1 32			44			52	

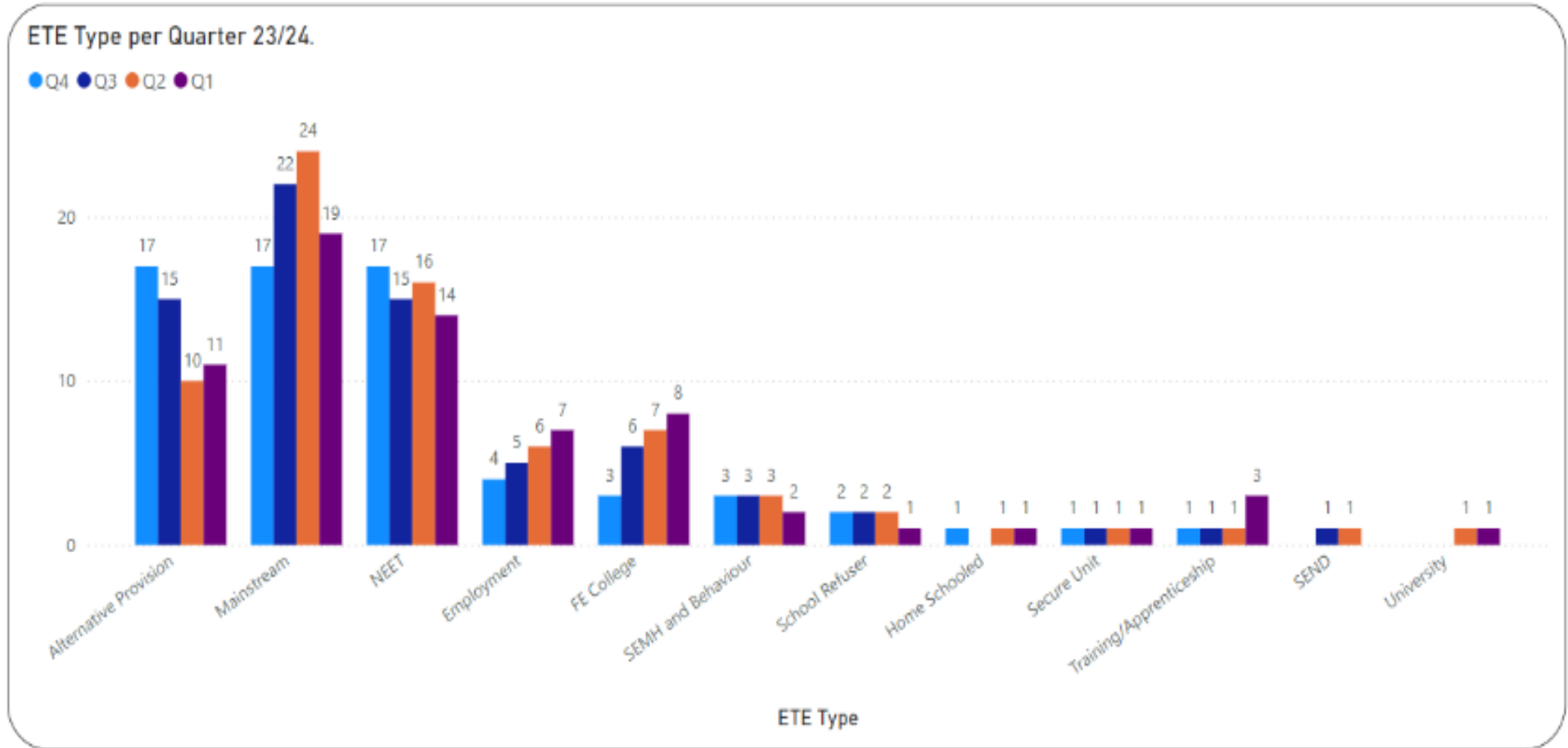
Suitability	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
Suitable	11	40.7%	↓ -5	16	53.3%	↓ -7	23	59.0%	↓ -5	28	65.1%
Unsuitable	16	59.3%	↑ 2	14	46.7%	↓ -2	16	41.0%	↑ 1	15	34.9%
No. of Children	27			-3 30			39			43	

The visuals on this Pages 14-17 detail the ETE type, hours attended, hours provided and ETE suitability for Post 16 children. The percentages in the tables on the right-hand side relate to the total number of Post 16 children in Sefton's YJS cohort per quarter.

At the end of Q4, 16 children were identified as being in an unsuitable ETE type/provision. The main reason for unsuitability was Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

To encompass 23/24, there were 79 Post 16 children in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24. This makes 52.7% of Sefton's overall cohort of 169 children.

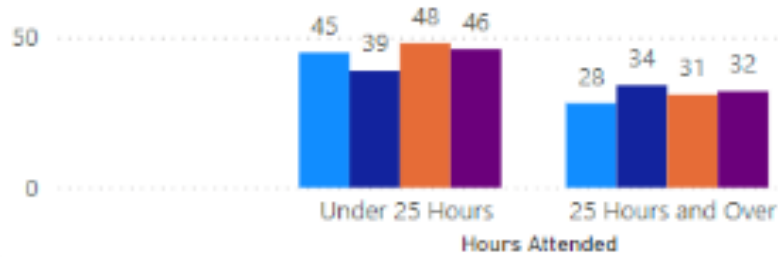
2iii. All of Sefton's YJS cohort.



ETE Type	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
	5	10	13.7%	↓	-1	11	16.2%				
	-1	6	8.2%	↓	-1	7	10.3%				
	-1	7	9.6%	↓	-1	8	11.8%				
	-1	1	1.4%	→	0	1	1.5%				
	-2	24	32.9%	↑	5	19	27.9%				
	-1	16	21.9%	↑	2	14	20.6%				
	0	2	2.7%	↑	1	1	1.5%				
	0	1	1.4%	→	0	1	1.5%				
	0	3	4.1%	↑	1	2	2.9%				
	0	1	1.4%	↑	1						
	0	1	1.4%	↓	-2	3	4.4%				
	-1	1	1.4%	→	0	1	1.5%				
	73				68						

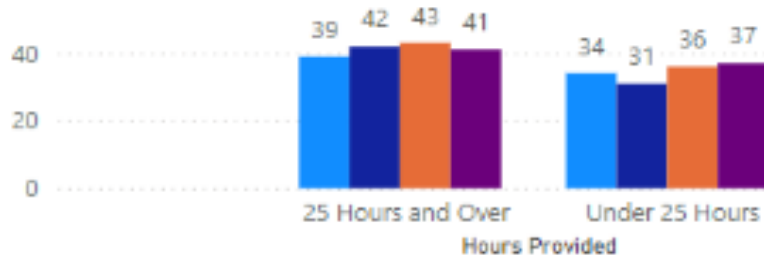
Hours Attended per Quarter 23/24.

● Q4 ● Q3 ● Q2 ● Q1



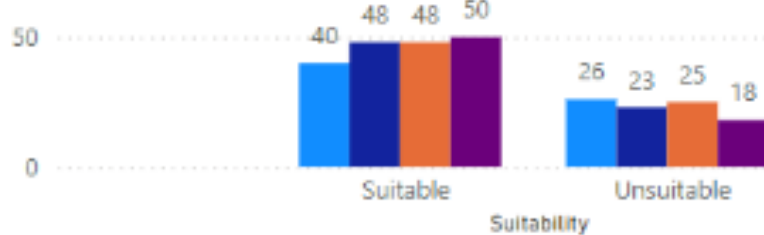
Hours Provided per Quarter 23/24.

● Q4 ● Q3 ● Q2 ● Q1



ETE Suitability per Quarter 23/24.

● Q4 ● Q3 ● Q2 ● Q1



Hours Attended	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
25 Hours and Over	28	38.4%	↓	-6	34	46.6%	↑	3	31	39.2%	↓	-1	32	41.0%
Under 25 Hours	45	61.6%	↑	6	39	53.4%	↓	-9	48	60.8%	↑	2	46	59.0%
No. of Children	73			0	73				79				78	

Hours Provided	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
25 Hours and Over	39	53.4%	↓	-3	42	57.5%	↓	-1	43	54.4%	↑	2	41	52.6%
Under 25 Hours	34	46.6%	↑	3	31	42.5%	↓	-5	36	45.6%	↓	-1	37	47.4%
No. of Children	73			0	73				79				78	

Suitability	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Suitable	40	60.6%	↓	-8	48	67.6%	→	0	48	65.8%	↓	-2	50	73.5%
Unsuitable	26	39.4%	↑	3	23	32.4%	↓	-2	25	34.2%	↑	7	18	26.5%
No. of Children	66			-5	71				73				68	

The visuals on Pages 19 -22 detail the ETE type, hours attended, hours provided and ETE suitability for all children in Sefton's YJS cohort per quarter.

3. Special Education Needs (SEN) Levels.

SEN Level	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
SEN Support	17	23.3%	→ 0	17	23.3%	↑ 1	16	20.3%	↓ -3	19	24.4%
EHCP	21	28.8%	↑ 1	20	27.4%	↑ 2	18	22.8%	↑ 3	15	19.2%
No SEN Identified	35	47.9%	↓ -1	36	49.3%	↓ -9	45	57.0%	↑ 1	44	56.4%
No. of Children	73		0	73			79			78	

Visual 3a SEN Levels.

Visual 3a details figures of SEN Levels across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton's YJS cohort. 79 children either had an EHCP or were in receipt of SEN Support. This equates to 47.3% of the full cohort of 167 children.

SEN Need	No. of Children
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	84
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	18
Specific Learning Difficulties	17
Cognition and Learning	11
Speech/Language/Communication Difficulty	11
Behavioural Difficulties	9
Communication and Interaction	8
Moderate Learning Difficulties	8
Emotional Difficulties	5
Social & Communication	5
Autism	4
General Learning Difficulties	4
Sensory and/or Physical Needs	4

Visual 3b SEN Visual 3b SEN Need quarters in all children cohort. 84 having

Levels.⁶

details figures of Types across all 23/24 and includes in Sefton's YJS were identified as Social, Emotional

and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This equates to 42.6% of the full cohort of 167 children. 22 children have been identified as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder needs. This equates to 13.2% of the full cohort. The 11 children identified as having Speech, Language and Communications difficulties includes Dyslexia. This equates to 6.6% of the full cohort.

4. Mental Health.

Mental Health	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
Yes	30	41.1%	↓ -2	32	43.8%	↑ 5	27	34.2%	↓ -2	29	37.2%
No	43	58.9%	↑ 2	41	56.2%	↓ -11	52	65.8%	↑ 3	49	62.8%
No. of Children	73		0	73			79			78	

⁶ Please note that some children may have more than one need identified. Hence, the full total does not calculate to 167 children.

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Visual 4 Mental Health.

Visual 4 details figures of Mental Health levels across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton’s YJS cohort. The number of children identified as having Mental Health needs includes those who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) as an identified need on their EHCP or SEN Support plan. This also includes children who have a Mental Health category identified for Substance Misuse.

Of the 30 children identified as having SEMH in Q4: 14 children have an EHCP (46.7%). 7 children are receiving SEN Support (23.3%).

Where the full cohort for 23/24 is concerned, 63 children were identified as having Mental Health needs. This equates to 37.7% of the full cohort.

5. Substance Misuse.

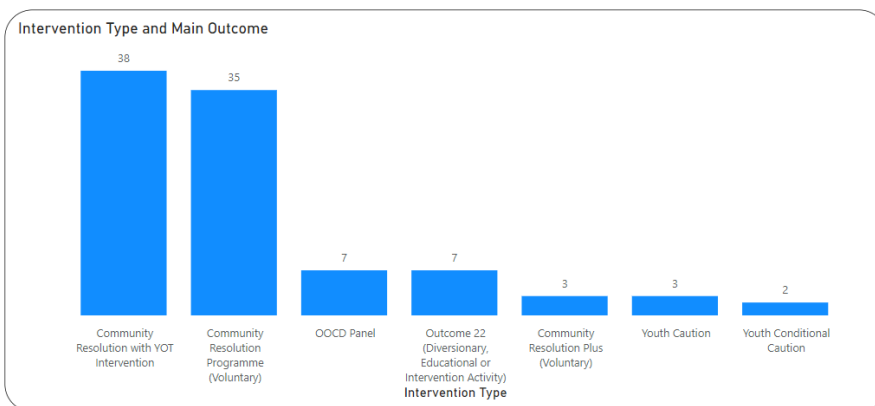
5 Substance Misuse												
Substance Misuse Identified	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children	
Yes	34	47.2%	↑ 7	27	37.0%	↓ -9	36	45.6%	↓ -8	44	56.4%	
No	38	52.8%	↓ -8	46	63.0%	↑ 3	43	54.4%	↑ 9	34	43.6%	
No. of Children	72			73			79			78		

Visual 5 Substance Misuse.

Visual 5 details figures of Substance Misuse levels across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton’s YJS cohort. In Q4, 34 children were identified as having Substance Misuse needs, which was an increase from Q3 of 7 children but still less than Q’s 1 and 2. In addition, 16 children have had an intervention with Change, Grow, Live (CGL).

Across 23/24, there has been a reduction of 10 children. 89 children (53.3%) out of the full cohort have been identified as having Substance Misuse needs.

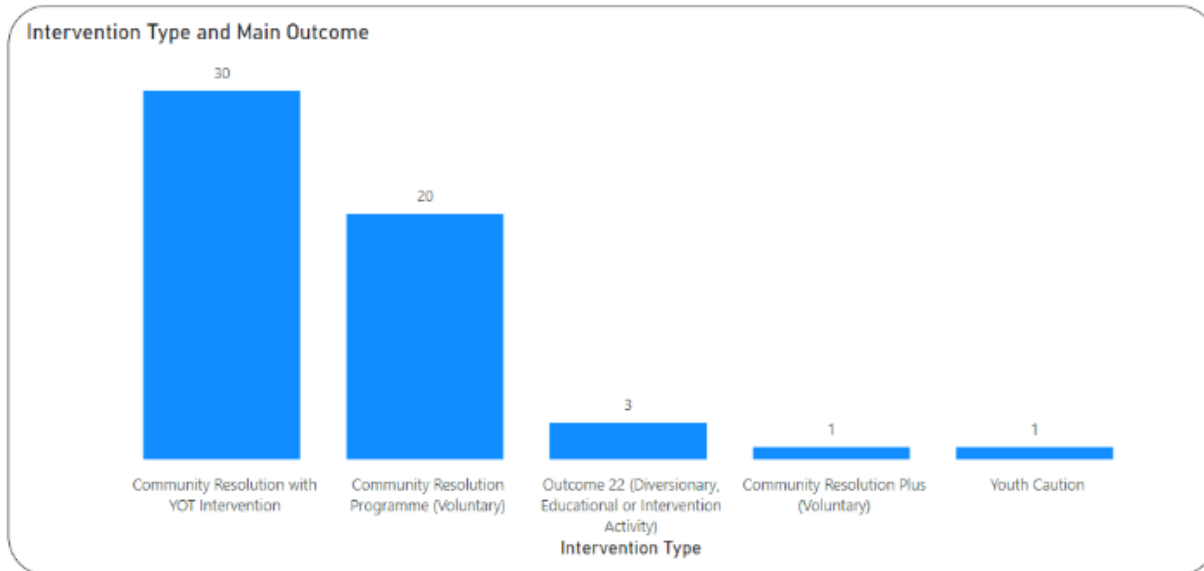
6. Out of Court Disposals (OOCs).



Visual 6a OOCs.

Visual 6a details figures of OOC levels across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton's YJS cohort. In total, 95 children had either completed or are completing an OOC. This equates to 56.9% of the full cohort.

Visual 6a OOCs – Successful Completions.



Visual 6b details figures of OOC levels and successful completions across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton's YJS cohort. In total, 55 children had successfully completed an OOC. This equates to 32.9% of the full cohort and 57.9% of the cohort completing an OOC intervention (95 children). The three categories of Community Resolutions are the most used at 76 children.

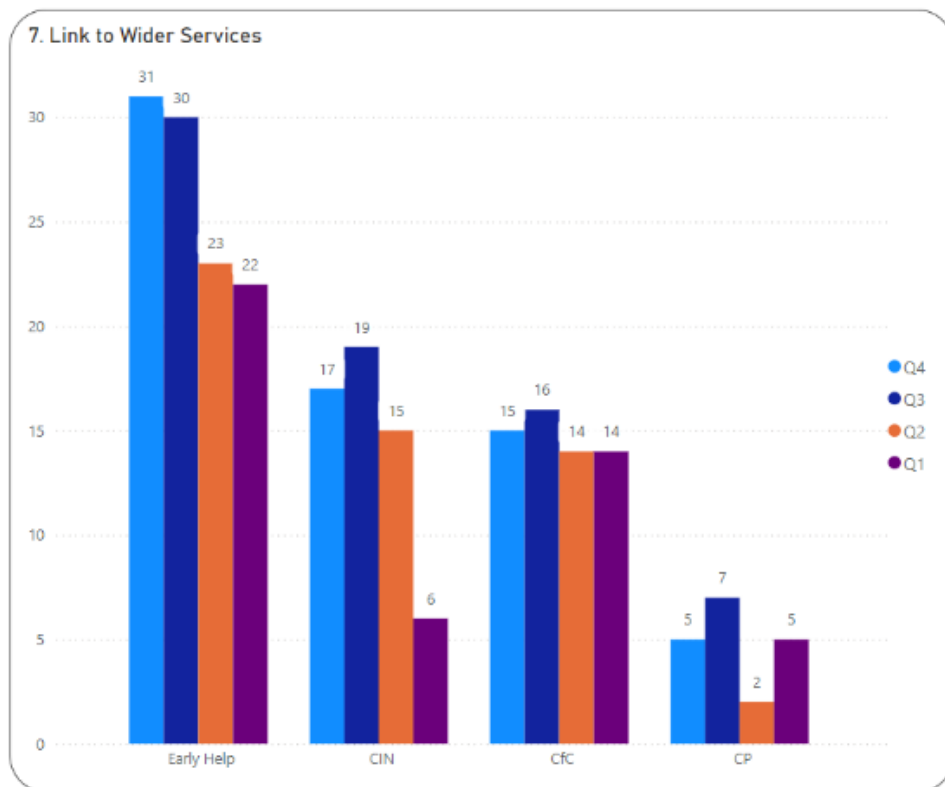
Of the remaining 40 children:

- 1 was not completed due to child missing sessions.
- 1 was not started due to the programme no longer being appropriate.
- 7 were partially completed due to missed sessions.
- 2 had a referral elsewhere as the programme was no longer appropriate.
- 1 child refused the programme.
- 28 children are currently completing their OOC as of Q4.

7. Link to Wider Services.

This KPI details whether a child has also been open to Early Help (EH) and or Children's Social Care (CSC) services. CSC services include Child in Need (CIN), Child Protection (CP) and Cared for Child (CfC).

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Visual 7a Links to Wider Services.

Service Area	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q2 and Q3	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
CfC	15	↓ -1	16	↑ 2	14	→ 0	14
CIN	17	↓ -2	19	↑ 4	15	↑ 9	6
CP	5	↓ -2	7	↑ 5	2	↓ -3	5
Early Help	31	↑ 1	30	↑ 7	23	↑ 1	22
Total	68	-4	72	18	54	7	47

Visual 7b Links to Wider Services.

In addition to YJS intervention(s), 68 children in Q4, have also been open to support from EH and CSC. This is a decrease of 4 children from Q2.

The total number of children on a CSC Plan is 37 with 31 open to Early Help. Therefore, the need for CSC support and intervention outweighs EH.

There have been considerable increases in further support from EH and CSC since Q1. Overall:

- Early Help has seen an increase of 9 children.
- CIN has seen an increase of 11 children.
- CfC has seen an increase of 1 child.
- Whilst there was an increase in Q3; overall, CP has now levelled back to 5 children.

8. Management Board Attendance.

There is a requirement for the following colleagues to attend board meetings:

- Senior Manager LA Children’s Social Care.
- Senior Manager LA Education.
- Senior Manager Police.
- Senior Manager Probation.
- Senior Manager Health.

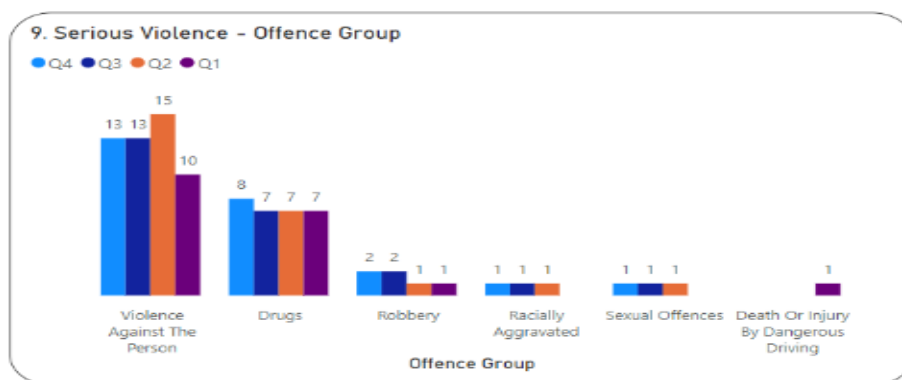
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Children’s Social Care	P	P	P	A
Education	P	P	P	P
Police	P	P	P	P
Probation	P	P	A	P
Health	P	P	P	P

P=

Present. A = Apologies.

The table above shows that there has been a good level of representatives at board meetings. The new chair appointed in Q4 is a representative from the Police. There was no representative from Probation in Q3. However, they were fed back to accordingly with minutes from the Board meeting. Although there was no representative from Children’s Social Care in Q4, the YJS Service Manager is a member of the Children’s Social Care Senior Management Team (SMT). The Service Manager reports to SMT monthly with YJS progress and information.

9. Serious Violence.



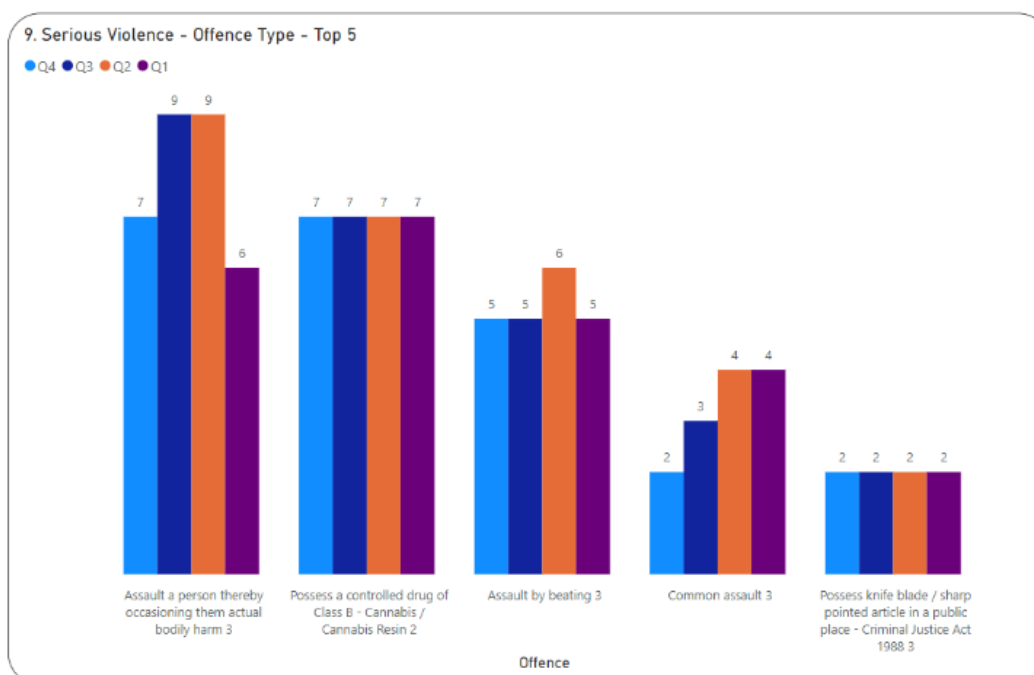
Visual 9a Serious Violence – Offence Groups.

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Offence Group	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
Violence Against The Person	13	→	10	↓	15	↑	10
Drugs	8	↑	7	→	7	→	7
Robbery	2	→	2	↑	1	→	1
Racially Aggravated	1	→	1	→	1	↑	1
Sexual Offences	1	→	1	→	1	↑	1
Death Or Injury By Dangerous Driving						↓	1
Total	16		16		17		11

Visual 9b Serious Violence – Offence Groups Figures.

Visual 9a illustrates how the Serious Violence offence groups have increased and decreased over each quarter of 23/24. Visual 9b details the figures. Violence Against the Person is the highest group with 13 children identified in Q4. This has increased by 3 children since Q1 (10 children). The Drugs offence group has increased by 1 child from 7 children in Q1 to 8 children in Q4. All other offence groups have remained the same.



Visual 9c Serious Violence – Top 5 Offences.

Visual 9c illustrates the top 5 offences per quarter. ‘Assault of a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm’, is generally abbreviated to ABH. There was a slight fluctuation in Qs 2 and 3 for ABH by 3 children. This has now decreased to 7 children. Possession of Cannabis has remained the same consistently at 7 children. Assault by beating has levelled back to 5 children. Common assault has seen a decrease of 2 children (reduction of 50%). Possession of a knife/blade has remained the same at 2 children.

10. Victims.

All victims of children's offences are offered support by ways of being involved in Restorative Justice (RJ). Victims can choose and are encouraged to attend face to face meetings with the child and be kept up to date with the progress children are making on their interventions.

10. Victims	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
No. of Victims Contacted	56	21	35	↑ 13	22	↓ -9	31
Offered RJ	54	38	16	↑ 4	12	↑ 2	10
Accepted RJ	34	32	2	↓ -1	3	→ 0	3

Additional Support	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
Additional Support Provided	116	-43	159	↑ 52	107	↓ -90	197
Additional Support Requested	33	4	29	↑ 16	13	↓ -50	63

Information and Updates	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
Update provided to Victim		↓ -1	1	↑ 1		↓ -18	18
Victim Provided with Information	7	↑ 3	4	↑ 4			

Visual 10a RJ, Support and Updates offered and provided.

Visual 10a provides evidence that engagement with and from Victims has rapidly increased. The acceptance of RJ has increased 11-fold from Q1 to Q4. Although the visual shows that Additional Support Provided and Requested has decreased over the quarters with the number of victims increasing; there will be duplicate victims across the quarters. For example, if a Victim was identified and contacted in Q3, they will roll over to Q4.

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Appendix 3

YJS Financial Contributions for 2023/24 (incl. Variance with 2022/23)

Agency/Funding Stream	Cash Contribution 2023/24 £	Payment in Kind 2022/23	Cash Contribution 2022/23 £	Variance 2023/24 to 2022/23 £
Youth Justice Grant – Good Practice Grant	435,873		375,752	60,121
Merseyside Police Crime Commissioner	70,889		65,000	5,889
Merseyside Police		1 fte Police Officer (42,893)		
Merseyside Probation Trust	5,000	0.5 Probation Officer (26,712)	5,000	0
Health – Clinical Commissioning (North &	25,371	1.6 Band 6 (63,115)	25,371	0

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South Sefton)				
Sefton Council	1,287,996		1,218,123	69,873
<u>Total</u>	<u>£1,825,129</u>		<u>£1,689,246</u>	<u>£135,883</u>

Appendix 4 – List of Training Accessed (across the team)

Safeguard, compliance and Diversity training
Safeguarding Adults Awareness (Mandatory e-Learning)
AIM 3 refresher
Diversity and Equality training
Brook Traffic light Tool
Neurodiversity Training
Oliver McGowen - Autism Training
Restorative Justice
Disrupting the Bias
Conversational Referral Model Briefing (Front Door)
Cyber Crime Prevent
NRM Virtual Briefing
Children and Young People's Mental Health
Next Steps training
AIM refresh training
NHS Autism awareness training
Protecting Children against Exploitation
Serious Child Safeguarding Cases
Caring Dad's Training
Coercive Control
Working Together to Safeguard Children
Domestic Abuse Awareness
LCS Training
MySPACE Briefing (Child Exploitation)
The Million Pieces Experience – Lads Like Us
Information Compliance, Sharing and Guarding
Health and Safety
Climate Change - All Staff Mandatory
Code of Conduct
Corporate Induction
Mental Health at Work
EHM System Training
Private Fostering
Fire Safety At Work
Social Isolation Awareness
Equality and Diversity Awareness
Emergency First aid
Payprus Suicide Prevention
Relax kids
Online Safety training
Working together to safeguard children
Building bonds and breaking cycles of ACES
Liverpool CAMHS Bitesize – Social media and Mental Health
Liverpool CAMHS Bitesize – Eating Disorders
Anti Exploitation training - SSCP
Serious – self harm / suicide prevention training- SSCP
Merseyside VRP Trauma Informed Training
Writing analytically through practice with research in practice
Neglect training (Arthur and Star)

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Building effective networks
Child First
Inspection readiness-Management oversight & data analysis
Counter Terrorism
Assessment training
Behaviour as Communication- CAMHS
Thrive Model Workshop
EHM Systems Training
CAMHS Stress Response
CAMHS Anxiety Training
Harmful Sexual Behaviour
Body Positivity- NHS
The Oxford Brain Story – Youth Justice Board
Anti Bias Training- Sefton Council
CAMHS Adolescent Brain Development
Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training- NUCO
Exploring Youth Justice
Turning Up the Volume of the Child
CAMHS-Body Image
Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
Neglect Screening Tool
ACES 'Building and Bonds' Training
MVRP Trauma Informed Training
LGBTQAI+
Early Help Assessment Training (Sefton Council)
Unitas / Youth Justice Initiative Effective Practice Award (Diversion)
CACI via MST
KPI Reporting and Recording; this workshop is suited to anyone who monitors KPI recording.

Agenda Item 10

Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	Thursday 20 June 2024 Thursday 11 July 2024
Subject:	Annual Progress Report Climate Emergency		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Public Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt Confidential Report:	/ No		

Summary:

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

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

Recommendation:

Cabinet / Council are recommended to :-

- (1) Note the progress made on the targets in the Sefton climate emergency strategy and action plan.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

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

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

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

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What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue implications arising directly from this report in terms of providing an update on progress. It should be noted however that to achieve a net zero position will require substantial capital and revenue investment in buildings, fleet etc. at present due to the financial position of all councils external funding is identified as the primary source of funding that could deliver this- this position is reflected in the LCR co-ordinating funding bids for oversubscribed central government grants. Whilst this isn't ideal, the fact that government have recognised the need to provide support is welcome and this will continue to be prioritised. In the event that it is clear that this funding will not be forthcoming to achieve the objectives of the programme, the council will need to make a decision on how it wishes to approach this.

(B) Capital Costs

Please refer to previous comment under 'revenue costs'

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
There are no resource implications arising from this report	
Legal Implications:	
There are no legal implications arising from this report	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Impact on Children and Young People: Yes Positive impact on future resilience to the causes and impacts of climate change. Reduction in emissions will have a positive long term effect. Children and Young people are a key part of the Council's communication and engagement strategy.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
The report directly addresses the climate emergency with a strategy in place to achieve the targets required.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

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

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7651/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5751/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report: Climate Emergency Annual Report 2023/24

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

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

1.2 The period 2020 -2030 was split into three phases of action in order to align with financial reporting cycles. This report covers the beginning of phase 2. Phase 1 laid robust foundations for future work and Phase 2 includes the delivery of key capital works. The progress made on the delivery of the strategy has been impacted by the energy and cost of living crisis, over the last two years. However, efforts have been made this year to address this. With less available budget within the council for investment purposes overall, more innovative programmes of work and bids for external funding have been prioritised.

1.3 Both the strategy and action plan have seven key principles to guide work in this area – guided by the acronym C.L.I.M.A.T.E

- Carbon Reduction
- Leadership
- Innovation
- Mobilisation
- Adaptation
- Transformation
- Engagement

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

2. Progress during 2023/24

2.1 The work carried out over the past year is reflected in the attached document 'Climate Change Annual Report 2023/24' Appendix 1. A summary of the carbon footprint and some highlights of the progress made, is presented below.

2.2 **Carbon Footprint** – Council emissions continue to fall for the 4th successive year. During 2023-24 the Council have reduced overall emissions by 29%. The fall is in line with the planned reductions in the Council's net zero trajectory. This has been achieved by the move to use electricity from renewable energy sources and has counteracted the rise in gas use (driven by a resumption of operations at Dunes Splashworld, the Council's largest gas user).

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

- 2.3 **Street Lighting** – In 2020 the Council approved a 4 year £12.750m invest to save project, the Street Lighting Asset Project, for the roll out of more energy efficient LED street lighting across the borough. The project is now well into delivery and is due to end in 2025. To date 19,772 lanterns have been changed, along with 4,162 full lighting columns, saving a total of 9-million kWh and two-thousand tonnes of carbon since April 2021 (representing ~6% of the Council's original footprint).
- 2.4 **Public Engagement** – Last year there was a commitment to increase engagement with the community on climate change through implementing the new Climate Communications and Engagement Plan. This has been progressed and the Council now has a dedicated climate microsite (sefton.gov.uk/climate), launched a quarterly e-newsletter (to over 4,000 email addresses), developed climate 'stamp' logo and brand identity (climate stripes) and regularly promotes climate-related campaigns.
- 2.5 **Adapting to the effects of Climate Change** – Action has been taken across all departments to assess the risks associated with a changing climate (e.g. flooding or heatwaves). This process involved workshops and meetings and is now established within the Council's risk assessment process. This will allow service areas to be more resilient to immediate risks such as extreme weather events and plan to reduce the costs and impact of risks in the future.
- 2.6 **Decarbonising our buildings** – A combined LCR bid for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3c was submitted in October 2023. If successful, ~£8M would be invested in 10 key sites in Sefton including Bootle Town Hall, Meadows Leisure Centre and Crosby Lakeside, the current heating system would be replaced with a low carbon alternative such as heat pumps with improvements made to the building fabric (insulation and glazing) and overall energy efficiency via LED lighting and solar panels. Initial indications are that the full award will not be made but Sefton will receive a smaller proportion of the funding requested. The Council's climate strategy includes the decarbonisation of 18 buildings which would represent ~11% of the total footprint, it is likely that only 2 of these buildings will be decarbonised via Phase 3c, with a likely 1-2% reduction to our overall target.
- 2.7 **Purchase of 'clean' electricity** – from 1 April 2023 all of Sefton's electricity was generated by renewable energy sources such as solar PV or wind. This has a significant impact on the Council's carbon footprint as it meant that our existing emissions from using electricity fell to zero emissions. This was achieved by specifying electricity sources that are certified as from 100% renewable sources through the Council's existing electricity contract. There is an additional cost to secure this type of electricity which will be monitored for affordability in future years.
- 2.8 **Green Sefton** - The natural environment also plays an important role in Sefton's decarbonisation journey, not only because it absorbs and stores carbon dioxide but also because of the co-benefits it has, including better air quality and reducing flood risk. During 2023-24 Green Sefton reviewed new national coastal erosion

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risk maps taking into account climate change predictions for sea level rise, installed water level monitoring equipment on smaller watercourses to understand changes in localised flows due to changes in the weather patterns and planted 635 standard trees (6,878 since 2019-20).

- 2.9 **In Summary** – Due to activities undertaken, at the end of 2022/23 Sefton reduced carbon emissions by 29%. However, since the Council declared a climate emergency carbon emissions have fallen by an impressive 41% (against initial 2019/20 baseline). In the coming year officers will take up the PSDS 3c funding to further reduce emissions by 1-2% and will resubmit our remaining buildings for PSDS funding due Autumn 2024. Work will also begin on intervention to decarbonise our fleet that could achieve an additional 13% reduction once completed.

3 **The Liverpool City Region Carbon Footprint and action plan**

- 3.1 All six authorities in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) have declared a Climate Emergency and are taking targeted action, as well as sharing creative ideas and lessons learned to help the whole city region achieve net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner. Carbon emissions for the LCR area are estimated by Central Government and made publicly available online. There is a two-year lag in data released, meaning references made in the report refers to 2021 results.
- 3.2 In 2021 LCR's emissions increased by 5.6% from 2020. However, since 2019 emissions were overall lower by 4.4% in 2021 compared to the high of 2019.
- 3.3 In early 2023, the LCR Combined Authority (CA) published the 'Pathway to Net Zero' strategy which outlines an ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions across the entire LCR. Later the same year, a 5-year Climate Action Plan 2023-28 was published, which set actions for the Combined Authority to complete, that help contribute towards decarbonising the LCR.
- 3.4 In 2023-24 Sefton Council worked with the LCR CA on a number of key projects including, joint applications for external funding to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the Low Carbon Skills Fund and domestic retrofit initiatives. Collaboration and information sharing on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Solar Together Project. This work is on-going and will continue in 2024-25.

4 **Priorities for 2024/25**

- 4.1 Work will continue to deliver the climate emergency action plan and in 2023-24 there are a number of key projects officers will focus on. These include;
- Delivering some decarbonisation works (works awarded under PSDS 3c)
 - Updating and relaunching climate emergency training for all staff and elected members
 - Build upon the engagement and educational activities already underway.
 - Work with colleagues in property service to embed climate friendly policies within the emerging corporate landlord property management framework.

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- As we near the half-way point to our 2030 target, to review the strategy and make any adjustments necessary to remain on track.
- 4.2 The Council remain broadly on track to reach net zero by 2030 but recognise a significant amount of work remains including decarbonising some Council buildings (Phase 2: 2023-25) and moving to an electric/low carbon fleet (Phase 3: 2026-29). Along with identifying offsetting options for remaining emissions from 2030.

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Sefton Climate

Emergency Plan

What Sefton Council

are doing about

Climate Change

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2023-2024

Annual Report





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Foreword from Councillor Doyle

This is now the fourth annual report we have published setting out our progress over the past year, as well as laying out our future ambitions. Climate change impacts seem to be constantly in the news alongside the ongoing cost of living crisis impacting everyone's daily lives and the Council's available budgets. Despite these challenges, we will continue to act. Work to reduce carbon emissions is vital. During 2023, for the first time, global warming has exceeded 1.5C across an entire year. Although this

alone doesn't breach the commitment made by world leaders in 2015 (The Paris Agreement) it is a worrying development. That is why I am delighted that Sefton made the transition to use 'clean electricity' from 1 April 2023. This means all of our electrical equipment in buildings and our streetlights had no carbon emissions. This has helped to significantly reduce our carbon impact.

I'm also very pleased that work has progressed in the past year on engagement and communications with our communities. We now have a dedicated climate hub on the Council website and a quarterly climate e-newsletter that highlights local news, events and actions residents can take.

We know that a changing climate is of concern to our residents, and we hope to support them this year through the delivery of more Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure, particularly for residents without access at home. And we will support people to access green job opportunities with the South Sefton Adult Education Centre.

As well as reducing our carbon emissions, we must also ensure that we can continue to deliver our services knowing we face the challenge of more extreme weather events, such as flooding and heat waves. And so, in the past year the Council has been starting those assessments to be better prepared.

There are signs of positive action across the globe. The rate of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest dropped sharply last year, after the Brazil government pledged to stop deforestation. And it was also the year energy from renewables, like wind and solar, grew faster than the world's power demand did. This means emissions from burning fossil fuels is on a downwards trend for the first time.

I hope this report helps to show that we can all make a difference.

Thank you.

Cllr Mhairi Doyle

Chair of Member Reference Group on Climate Emergency

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the progress that has been made in 2023-24, in-line with the climate emergency strategy and action plan.

The report includes the following:

- Sefton Council's carbon footprint for 2023-24
- Liverpool City Region (LCR) 2040 net zero carbon update
- Progress on key priorities in 2023-24
- Other Council projects and LCR wide initiatives
- Challenges
- Key areas of focus for the next 12 months
- Conclusions

Introduction

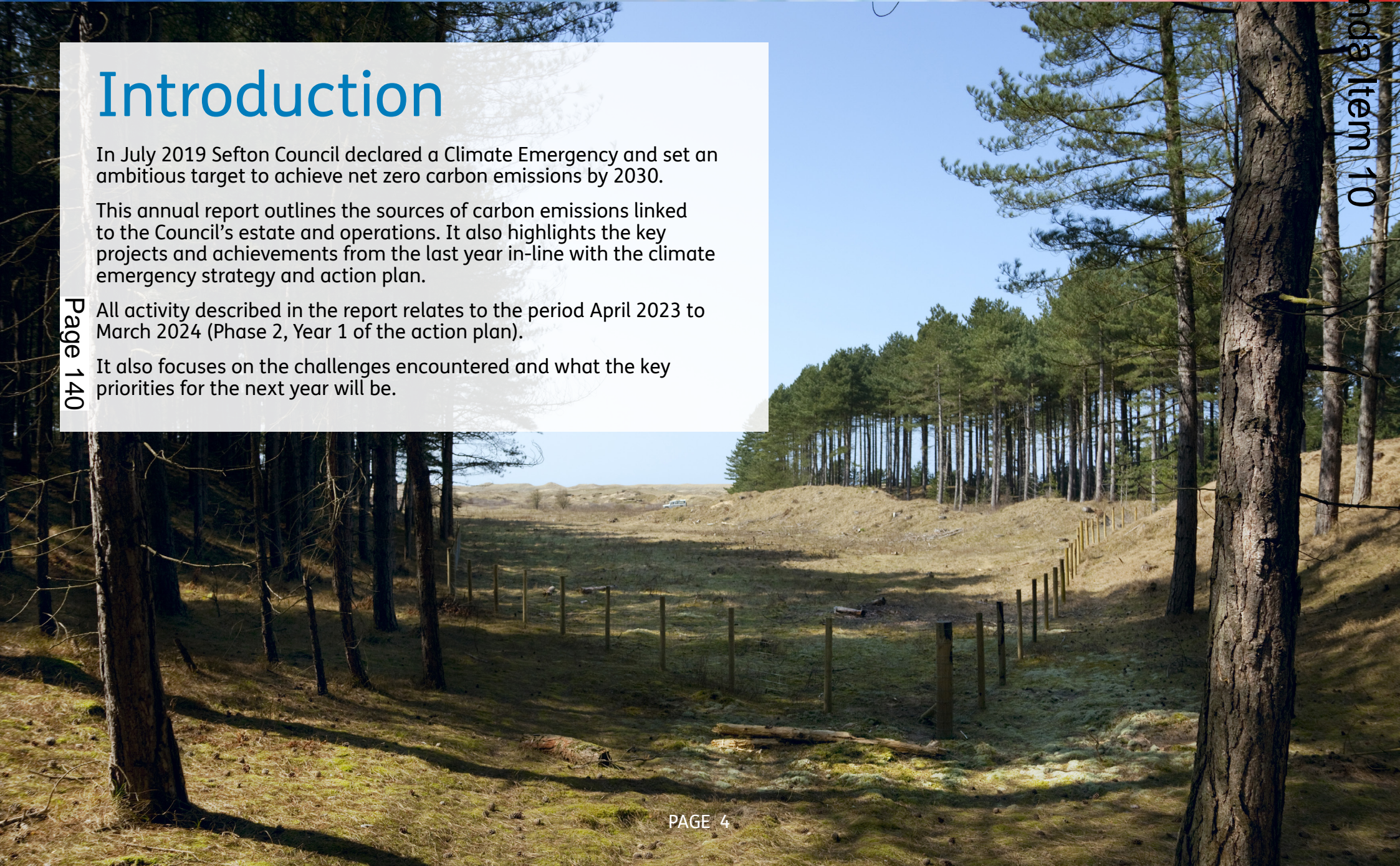
In July 2019 Sefton Council declared a Climate Emergency and set an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

This annual report outlines the sources of carbon emissions linked to the Council's estate and operations. It also highlights the key projects and achievements from the last year in-line with the climate emergency strategy and action plan.

All activity described in the report relates to the period April 2023 to March 2024 (Phase 2, Year 1 of the action plan).

It also focuses on the challenges encountered and what the key priorities for the next year will be.

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Sefton Council Carbon Footprint

There are three identified types of emissions.

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

Scope 2 - Emissions released due to electricity use.

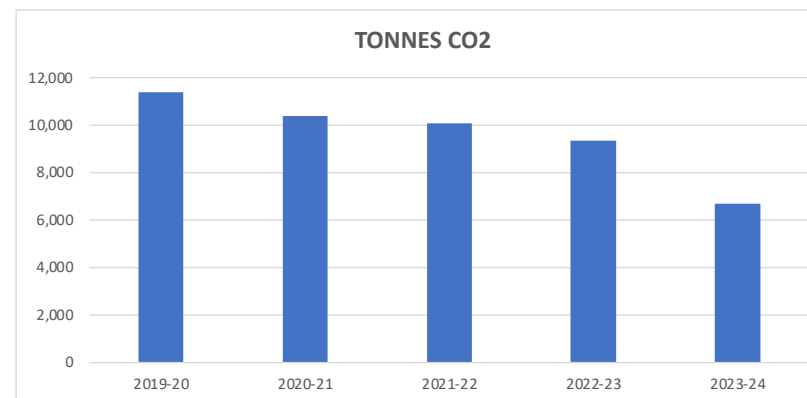
Scope 3 - Emissions from equipment or vehicles that do not belong to the Council but are used to deliver Council functions, for example, members using their own diesel/petrol cars for Council business.

Sefton Council started to track its emissions in 2019-20. Total emissions can be referred to as a carbon footprint. Over the last 4 years there has been an overall reduction of 4,701 tCO₂, which represents a 41% decrease.

The graph shows the annual breakdown. It demonstrates that emissions have continued to reduce every year with last year (2023-24) achieving a reduction of 29% (2,665 tCO₂).



Council Annual Carbon Emissions



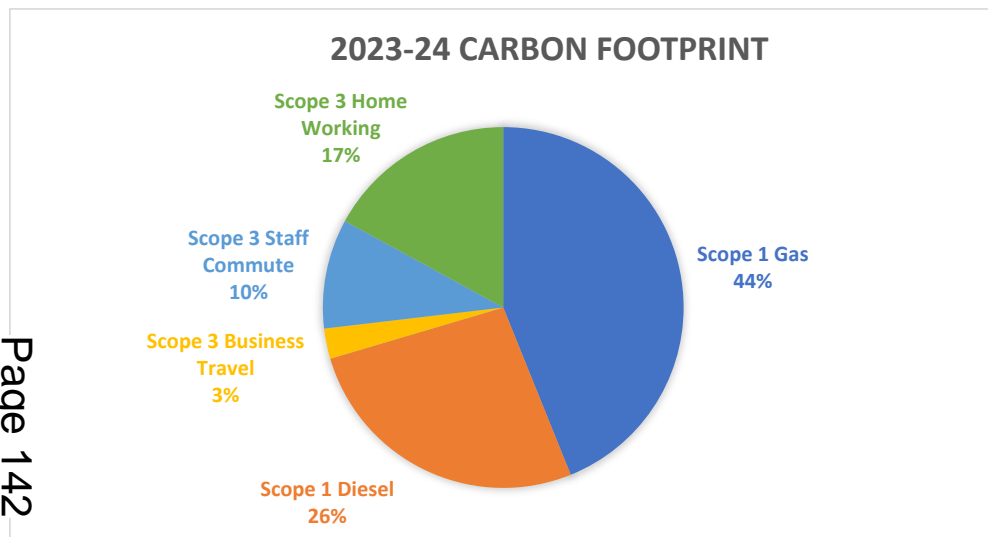
Data from the following activities was used when measuring the Council's carbon footprint:

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

*From 1 April 2023 Sefton Council moved to a 100% clean electricity tariff backed by REGO (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) certification.



The pie chart below shows a breakdown of the Council’s operational carbon footprint for 2023-24.



A significant proportion of emissions in 2023-24 came from gas use in Council buildings (44%), followed by emissions associated with the operational fleet (26%), home working (17%), staff commute (10%) and business travel (3%).

Electricity and Gas (Scope 1 and 2)

Emissions are calculated using consumption figures taken from utility bills as well as meter readings.

Electricity usage (kilowatt hours) has continued to decrease since 2019-20 for corporate buildings and street lighting.

The reduction has been driven by the large scale 4-year LED street lighting project, proactive installation of energy efficiency measures, changes to building use and the decarbonisation of the national grid.

Since April 2023, all electricity purchased for the Council’s energy supply (corporate buildings and street lighting) has been moved to a REGO-backed (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) clean electricity source. This is a key action in order to reach net zero by 2030.

It allows the Council to report electricity emissions as ‘zero’ under Scope 2 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. However, we can show that if we had not used clean electricity in our operations, we would have emitted 2,944 tCO2. Without this intervention, the Council would have seen a 3% increase in overall emissions (instead achieving a 29% decrease).

Overall gas emissions have reduced by 8% since 2019-20. Although in 2023-24 they increased by 12% (312 tCO2), making gas the Council’s largest emissions source. The main reason for the increase in consumption is the reopening of Splash World in May 2023, following this consumption more than doubled.

Operational Fleet (Scope 1)

Emissions are calculated using the fuel consumption data provided by the Fleet and Transport Team. Based on this information, transport is the Council’s second largest emissions source (26%) and has increased by 18% since 2019-20.

The Council aims to move to a low carbon fleet by 2030 and actions are included in the third phase of the Council action plan (2026-29).

A small percentage of the fleet has already been switched to electric vehicles, but a lot of work is still required to transition the wider fleet.

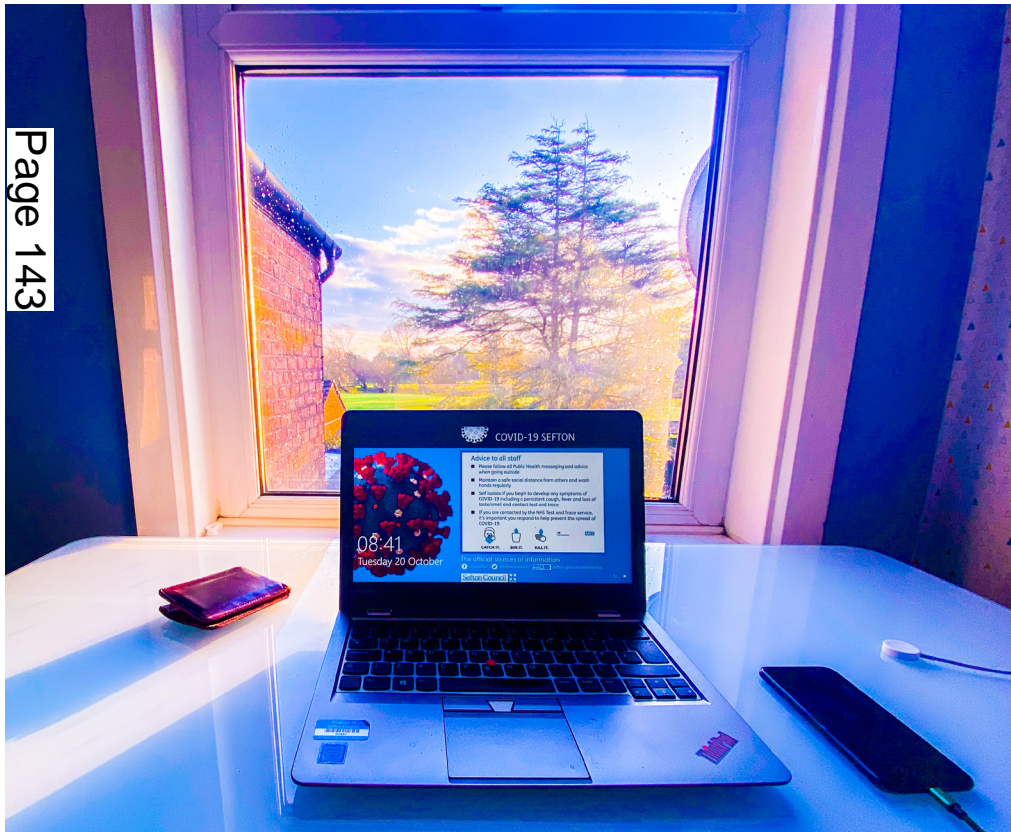
The Strategic Transport Planning and Investment Team are continuing the process of developing strategies, while working with colleagues across the Council to process the findings from the Fleet Review completed by the Energy Saving Trust.

Staff Travel (Commute and Business) and Home Working (Scope 3)

During 2023-24, emissions from staff commute increased by 6% compared to the previous year, as officers return to the office (post Covid19 pandemic). This equates to an increase of 39 tCO2. However, emissions from business travel and home working decreased by 43 tCO2 in total.

Staff commute and business travel continue to remain significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels and it is encouraging to see a working pattern which overall supports a reduction in emissions.

The Council continues to promote agile working and is committed to reducing emissions through the staff travel plan and associated policies.



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Liverpool City Region – 2040 Net Zero Carbon Target

All six authorities in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) have declared a Climate Emergency and are taking targeted action. Working collaboratively, authorities in the LCR share creative ideas and lessons learned to help the whole city region achieve net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner.

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Emissions for the UK are estimated by Central Government and made publicly available online. There is a two-year delay in data released, meaning this report refers to 2021 results.

In 2021, the LCR's emissions increased by 5.6% from 2020 but are still lower than they were in 2019 (down 4.4% overall).

Whilst this Sefton Council strategy relates only to Council operations, the LCR Combined Authority (LCRCA) strategy relates to all aspects of society and includes all homes, businesses, transport, and public sector organisations.

In early 2023, the LCR Combined Authority published the 'Pathway to Net Zero' strategy which outlines an ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions across the entire LCR.

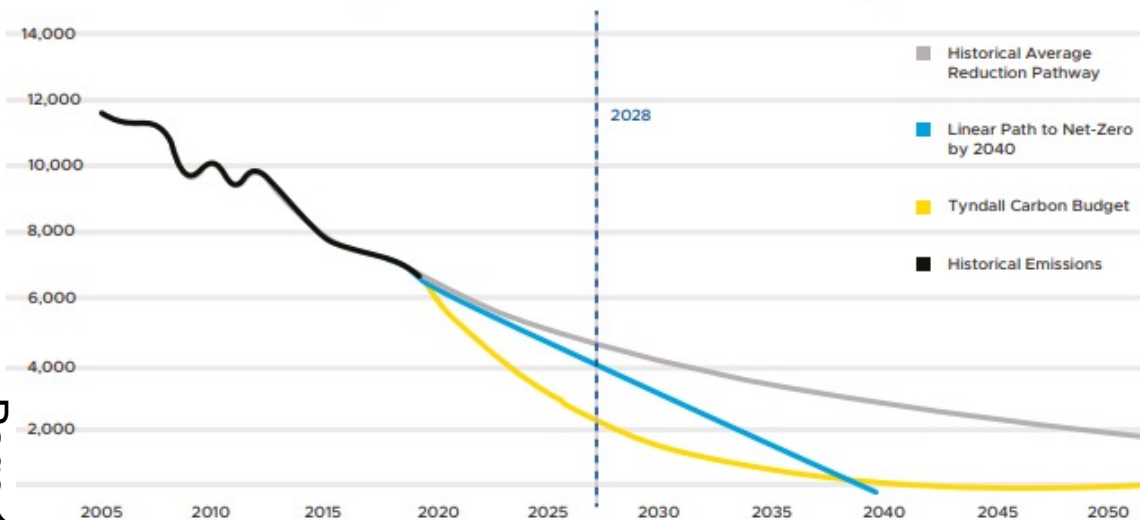
Later the same year, a 5-year Climate Action Plan 2023-28 was published, which set actions for the Combined Authority to complete that will help contribute towards decarbonising the LCR.

The plan is divided into 5 pillars shown below:



All actions have timescales for completion – short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-4 years) and long-term (up to 5 years or potentially running after 2028).

LCR CO₂ Emission Future Pathways (kt CO₂)



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Progress towards achieving the actions in the 5-year plan will be tracked by the LCRCA and reported publicly.

In 2023-24 Sefton Council worked with the LCRCA on a number of key projects including:

- External funding opportunities - Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Low Carbon Skills Fund, Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding
- Retrofit and social housing initiatives
- Biodiversity e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Solar Together Project

This work is on-going and will continue in 2024-25.





Climate Change Action Plan

We said, We did

In last year's annual report, the Council set out four key priorities for the year 2023-24. Progress has been made in all areas, as set out below.

1. Public Engagement

Sefton Council undertook a Climate Consultation in Summer 2022 for a period of 10 weeks. There were a number of key takeaways from the consultation which were used to form a 9-point engagement plan to increase the visibility of climate actions and facilitate involvement.

Progress has been made in 2023-24 on the following key actions:

- Launched a quarterly e-newsletter that highlights local and global news, events and actions people can take.
- Created a specific climate homepage (sefton.gov.uk/climate) which is updated with information and news in a clear and user-friendly way.
- Launched a climate 'stamp' logo and brand identity (climate stripes, shown across the top of each page) to make climate related activity more recognisable. The materials will be used by Council departments and on projects where there is a climate focus, i.e. Transport, Green Sefton and Regeneration.
- Created a climate email address (climate@sefton.gov.uk) that is actively used and promoted.

- Supported national and global climate-related campaigns across social media channels and on the Council website to help share important messages such as COP28, Net Zero Week, World Environment Day, World Oceans Day and Plastic Free July.
- Supported LCR schemes through regular promotion across Council networks.



2. Transport Strategies and Plans

The Strategic Transport Planning and Investment Team (STPI) have been continuing the process of developing strategies around low carbon transport and are planning to issue a Position Statement in Summer 2024, which will lead to a wider public facing communications campaign and further activity.

A baselining report for borough wide carbon emissions from transport has been undertaken, with key priority areas being identified.

Leading on from this, major highways / active travel schemes are being trialled through a carbon assessment tool, which will help to understand and enhance the approach to carbon within a scheme's lifecycle.

Page 147 : Council has also been looking at Electric Vehicle (EV) charging across the borough with the opportunity to obtain some Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to provide publicly available charging spaces.

Work is also continuing with colleagues across the Council to explore the use of EV's and lower carbon technologies within the operational fleet.



The STPI Team are also continuing to embed a Healthy Streets and Active Travel focus into all schemes and develop a strategic borough wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).



3. Climate Adaptation

Climate adaptation is about managing or avoiding the risks that climate change will bring. Some of the most significant climate hazards Sefton faces are more severe storms, with intense downpours, leading to urban and coastal flooding and erosion, and heatwaves impacting health, infrastructure, and transport.

Since Autumn 2023, the Council have undertaken work to embed long term climate risks into day-to-day risk management processes. Working alongside the Council's risk management team, all departments were invited to a Climate Change Adaptation workshop event and follow-up meetings. From which an agreed framework and

ring system was established. This process is ongoing under the direction of the Strategic Leadership Board. All service areas are now required to consider climate change related risks in their risk registers. This will allow service areas to be more resilient to immediate risks such as extreme weather events (e.g. flooding or heatwaves) and plan to reduce the costs and impact of risks in the future.

Furthermore, oversight will be given to these risk registers to 'build adaptive capacity' into decision making processes for policies, projects, and investment to ensure the Council adopts the most cost-effective and well-adapted options. An example to demonstrate this is to include shade as part of building design and to plant more trees for shading, to provide natural cooling during future prolonged hotter summers and avoid the costs of air-conditioning.

This work is on-going and will continue in 2024-25.

4. Funding Opportunities

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme - Phase 3c

The LCRCA co-ordinated a combined bid for funding to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3c in October 2023.

For successful sites, the current heating system would be replaced with a low carbon alternative such as air source heat pumps and improvements would also be made to the overall energy efficiency of the buildings by installing measures such as LED lighting, solar panels and insulation.

It was recently confirmed that Sefton has been awarded funding to decarbonise two sites, Bootle Library and the Netherton Activity Centre. The total value of these works is ~£1M. The Council will continue to request funding to decarbonise our other sites in future rounds.

Low Carbon Skills Fund – Phase 4

The LCRCA submitted a combined bid to create Heat Decarbonisation Plans (HDPs). This application was unsuccessful, although another collaborative bid with the LCR has recently been submitted for round 5.

The buildings put forward are a mix of Corporate buildings (6), Family Well Being Centres (3), Schools (17) and New Direction (4) sites. If successful, all visits will be carried out and reports compiled during 2024-25.

A decision is expected by the end of July 2024.





Carbon Reduction
Leadership
Innovation
Mobilisation
Adaptation
Transformation
Engagement and Education

Other Projects

In addition to the four achievements above, there are also a number of other projects in 2023-24 which helped to achieve the aims of our strategy and action plan and the wider LCR target.

The strategy and action plan have seven key principles which make up a C.L.I.M.A.T.E. acronym.

The principles guide our work in this area.

CARBON REDUCTION

LED Street Lighting Project – In 2020, the Council approved a £12.75m invest to save project for the roll out of more energy efficient LED street lighting across the borough. The work is on-going and is expected to be completed in June 2025. (Before and after photos shown overleaf).

To date, 19,772 lanterns have been changed, along with 4,162 full lighting columns. Saving a total of 9-million kWh and two-thousand tonnes of carbon since April 2021. When complete, the project will have reduced the carbon footprint by ~6%.

Solar Together LCR Project – Solar Together is a unique group-buying scheme that enables residents to register for solar PV and battery storage systems to receive competitive prices from pre-vetted installers.

To date there has been two Solar Together schemes, with round two being delivered during 2023-24. In total 2,431 (Round 1 - 1,857, Round - 2 574) residents in Sefton (10,400 residents across the LCR) registered interest, with 279 (Round 1 - 232, Round 2 - 47) properties in the borough being fitted with energy-saving solar panels and/or battery storage, enabling residents to cut their energy costs while also reducing carbon emissions.



LED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT



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Southport Road BEFORE



Southport Road AFTER

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LEADERSHIP

Liverpool City Region (LCR) Community Environment Fund

The LCR Community Environment Fund, aims to encourage long-term behavioural change, while improving the city region's environment and safeguarding its greenspaces.

To date, there has been two rounds of funding, supporting 92 projects across the LCR. Altogether 14 (Round 1 - 9, Round 2 - 5) projects have taken place in Sefton and 5 (Round 1 - 4, Round 2 - 1) projects have covered multiple authorities including Sefton.

42 projects have covered various environmental themes ranging from creating a community garden to enhancing the climate and environmental literacy of young people across the LCR.

Funding for round 3 has recently been approved and will be implemented in 2024-25.

Climate Emergency Training for Report Authors

All Cabinet and Council decision papers include an assessment of the potential climate change impacts.

A training package has been designed to provide officers with the information they need to complete the 'Climate Emergency Implications' section of the report template. To date, 63 officers have completed the training.

Public Events

The Council has a leadership role within the community to promote climate change action. As such, officers attended the Sefton CVS Annual Conference for community groups in November 2023.

Officers also attended a Scaling to Reach Net Zero event held in Liverpool. The conference provided valuable insights and networking prospects as authorities work towards creating a sustainable future.

INNOVATION

Climate Emergency Training

In 2021, the Energy and Environmental Management Team developed a Climate Emergency eLearning training module which to date has been rolled out to 2,540 officers.

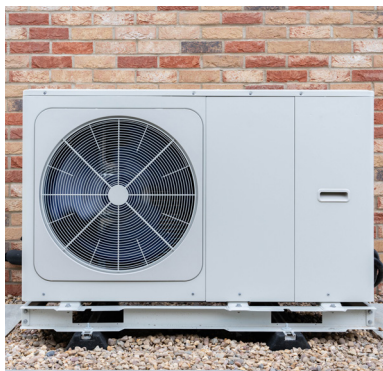
The eLearning module is currently being reviewed and updated and will be re-launched in September 2024.

Other Funding Opportunities

In 2023-24, the Council applied for other external funding (alongside the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Low Carbon Skills Fund) and an award was made from Sports England Swimming Pool Improvement Fund for just under £200,000. The funding will be used to provide additional photovoltaic (PV) panels to both Meadows Leisure Centre and Formby Pool and the installation of heat recovery pumps to the Air Handling units at Meadows Leisure Centre.

More recently the Council has developed a bid for "Pathways2Resilience" funding as part of the EU Horizon funding stream.

This funding, if successful, would support Sefton to map out wider risks across key infrastructure and develop robust plans such as a baseline report, climate resilience strategy and action plan.



MOBILISATION

Affordable Warmth Service

The Council’s Affordable Warmth Service helps vulnerable residents to stay warm and reduce fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty can be caused by living in a poorly insulated home, having a poorly performing heating system, and the subsequent costs of running these to keep the home warm.

The service supports residents to install insulation which helps improve efficiency, and there is now a move to the installation of low carbon heating systems which also helps to reduce emissions.

Key achievements in the last year are set out below:

- Brought in £390,500 funding to the Council to finance the service.
- Directly helped over 200 vulnerable residents with heating system repairs and replacements.
- Processed 210 applications for ECO4 - Energy Efficiency Grant for insulation, heating and renewable technology.
- This work has on average saved residents £240 per year on their energy bill as well as reducing measure/ installation costs.
- The improvements are estimated to have saved 117 tonnes of carbon emissions per year across the borough. This is the equivalent of taking 69 cars off the road.

The service and all activity is provided based upon successful funding bids submitted by the Council.

Environmental Support for Businesses in Sefton

Earlier this year, over 30 accommodation providers from Sefton attended an event to take up support from Sustainable Sefton.

Thanks to funding from the UK Government and in partnership with InvestSefton, environmental consultants Groundwork kickstarted a new programme of activity aimed at supporting businesses with their sustainability credentials.

Sustainable Sefton will provide funded sustainability support to 60 businesses from the hospitality and retail sectors over the next 12 months, all of which will be supported by Groundwork consultants to develop a bespoke sustainability action plan.

ADAPTATION

Green Sefton

Sefton's natural environment is a significant and valued asset and makes the borough an attractive and prosperous place to live, work and visit.

The natural environment also plays an important role in Sefton's decarbonisation journey. Natural landscape can absorb and store carbon dioxide which in turn can support better air quality and reduce flood risk.

During 2023-24, Green Sefton progressed in a number of key areas, these include:

- Reviewing new national coastal erosion risk maps, taking into account climate change predictions for sea level rise.
- Installing water level monitoring equipment on smaller watercourses to understand changes in localised flows due to changes in the weather patterns.
- Planting 635 standard trees (6,878 since 2019-20).

TRANSFORMATION

Retrofit

Domestic retrofit schemes offer an opportunity to improve the energy efficiency in some of the most poorly insulated homes in the borough. Activities can range from fitting energy-efficient light bulbs to installing sustainable heating technology, such as air source heat pumps.

The most recent domestic retrofit scheme delivered was the Sustainable Warmth Fund (SWF). This consisted of 2 funding streams, Local Authority Delivery (LAD3) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG1).

During this scheme, the Council improved a total of 386 properties (installing 418 energy-saving measures) with all work fully funded. Measures consisted of external wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, underfloor insulation, air source heat pumps, solar PV and window replacement.

The SWF scheme was completed in Autumn 2023. However, Phase 2 of the HUG scheme is being delivered by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and will continue until 2025.

ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

School Engagement

In 2023-24 through the Council's ECO Saver programme, schools received the following support:

- Bespoke support was provided to schools requesting an energy and water reduction audit. With additional signposting to wider climate information.
- Awareness raising through assemblies and Governor training.
- Regular updates were provided on consumption of electricity and gas use on site and how to reduce.
- Switch off Fortnight in November 2023 was promoted and supported.
- Automatic Meter Reading (AMR)/Remote Meter Reading (RMR) devices were installed on 10 school water meters to support the reduction of water use and identify issues on site.
- Energy and water saving posters and thermometers were distributed to schools taking part in Eco Savers.
- Support for small energy saving measures such as radiator reflector foil was provided.

Eco Centre

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

In 2023-24, the teaching staff delivered climate related education to over 3,400 school children.

The Clean Air Crew resource has been recognised beyond the city region as a pioneering AQ resource. It is recognised as an important educational tool and has been adopted by other local authorities, which has helped continue to fund its present and future development.

Throughout the year, one of the projects, 'Coasts for Kids', recently

won the prestigious "Climate Creatives Challenge", securing top spot in the Coastal Change theme which saw entries from 56 countries. The project showcases a diverse array of creative expressions focused on the theme of Coastal Change and strategies for adaptation. More information can be found at www.southportecocentre.com.

In 2024-25, the team will launch an interactive immersive experience, created and designed in-house, in support of retrofit and green jobs in partnership with the South Sefton Adult Education Centre.

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Challenges

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to date. However, to maintain this momentum, the climate emergency strategy and action plan will need to be continued and further progressed in order to reach net zero carbon within six years.

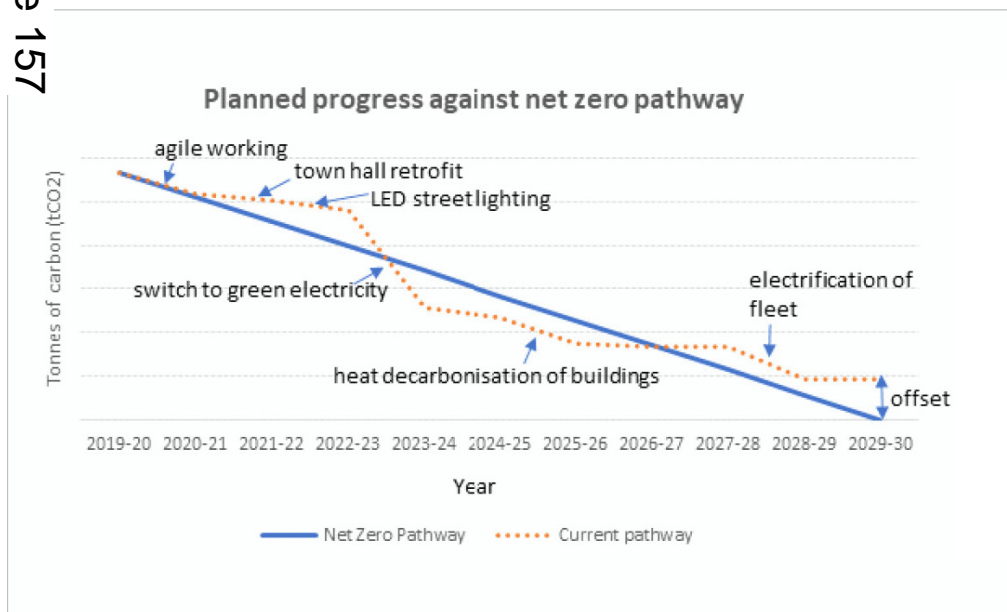
All activity described in this report relates to Phase 2, Year 1 of the action plan. The graph below shows the linear pathway to net zero by 2030 (blue line) and maps the current pathway (red dotted line).

It also focuses on the work carried out to date along with future projects such as decarbonising corporate buildings (Phase 2) and electrifying Council vehicles (Phase 3).

Given the Council's financial pressures and limited internal funding streams, ongoing collaborative work with the LCR, plus the identification of external and innovative funding mechanisms to increase capacity to act, will be crucial to the delivery of this agenda.

As mentioned above, the Liverpool City Region has set a 2040 net zero target for the entire area. The Council do not have direct control over these emissions but instead seek to influence and encourage others to adopt net zero approaches.

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Priorities for 2024-25

Overall good progress is being made on the delivery of the climate emergency strategy and action plan through various activities and programmes outlined in this annual report.

The focus for 2024-25 will be to:

- Continue to build on the engagement work completed in 2023-24, connecting with local communities and encouraging behavioural change.
- Work with the Strategic Transport Planning and Investment (STPI) Team to develop a low carbon transport approach.
- Continue to submit funding applications, in order to maximise available capital to the Council.
- Identify the Council's approach towards offsetting and explore potential in-setting opportunities while quantifying the potential cost.
- Promote the updated Climate Emergency eLearning module and provide support to officers.

Conclusions

The Council has long been committed to protecting the environment, and this annual report reaffirms the pledge made in July 2019 with an overall decrease in emissions of 41% since that date.

The report highlights some key projects and achievements over the last year with one of the main ones being the purchase of clean electricity from April 2023.

The Council remain broadly on track to reach net zero by 2030 but recognise that significant capital work and large-scale investment will be needed during phase 2 and 3 (Phase 2: 2023-25) (Phase 3: 2026-29). The Council are relying on external funding opportunities to help support these programmes and accept that there are inherent risks with this approach.

Work on the regional 2040 targets are developing and Sefton are working with LCR partners to align with those ambitions.

Take Action On CLIMATE CHANGE



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Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	11 July 2024
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Former Adult Social Care (now Adult Social Care and Health) Former Children's Social Care (now Children, Schools and Families) Former Communities and Housing (now Communities and Partnership Engagement and Housing and Highways) Former Education (now Children, Schools and Families) Former Health and Wellbeing (now Public Health and Wellbeing) Former Locality Services (now Cleansing and Street Scene and Housing and Highways) Former Planning and Building Control (now Housing and Highways) Former Regeneration and Skills (now Regeneration, Economy and Skills) Former Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (now Corporate Services)		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To present formally the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2023/24.

Recommendation:

That the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees introduce their Annual Reports for 2023/24.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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

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

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

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What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

Implications of the Proposals:

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

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly applicable to this report
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

This report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any reports referred to in the Annual Report have been subject to the LD and FD process when they were originally submitted to Committee. Likewise, any reports referred to in the “Year Ahead” section of the Annual Report will be subject to the LD and FD process prior to their submission to Committee during the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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

Appendices:

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

- 1.1 Each year the Council receives the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Attached as an Appendix to the report is the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24.

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- 1.3 The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been requested to introduce their Annual Reports for 2023/24.

Overview
& Scrutiny



**SEFTON COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
ANNUAL REPORT
2023/24**

Sefton Council 



Overview & Scrutiny



**'Valuing
Improvement'**

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Councillor Carla Thomas
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management
Board 2023/24

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2023/24.

Firstly, it must be noted that I became the Chair of the Management Board late in the municipal year following the appointment of the former Chair, Councillor Christine Howard, to the position of Cabinet Member of the former Regeneration and Skills portfolio. I would like to place on record my appreciation to the great work undertaken by Councillor Howard in her previous position as Chair.

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

Members have welcomed the Cabinet Member update reports and attendance of relevant Cabinet Members at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings; and this process will remain in place during 2024/25.

The Management Board met six times during 2023/24 and considered the following issues:

- Terms of Reference for the Management Board
- Executive / Scrutiny Protocol
- Overview and Scrutiny Training
- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Council
- Update on Working Groups
- Overview and Scrutiny Contribution Towards Improvements in Children's Services
- Broadcasting/Recording of Council Meetings
- Cabinet Member Reports and Questions at Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings
- Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

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- Review of the Operation and Terms of Reference for Children's Services
- Update on Called-in Items to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

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

Special Management Board Meeting – Children’s Services

The Management Board held a special meeting on 21 November 2023 to discuss governance and wider member support to Children’s Services. The Management Board considered a briefing note from Councillors Hardman and Carlin, Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding), setting out their views on the operation of the Committee and the increased number of informal meetings being held. The briefing note also included views on the following topics:

- Sub-Committee and Working Group format
- Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- Public participation in meetings
- Work with the Local Government Association
- Recording of meetings
- Joint Committee of Adult Social Care and Health and Children’s Services and Safeguarding

Executive/Scrutiny Protocol

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

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

An Executive/Scrutiny Protocol was subsequently developed and was approved by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet.

In November 2023, following submissions made by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet approved a change to the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol that Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fall within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, be requested to seek the views of the Committees on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it is not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committees to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon. This change will strengthen the pre-scrutiny function on Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A copy of the Executive/Scrutiny protocol can be viewed [here](#)



Centre for Governance and Scrutiny

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

- Annual Conference 2023: 'Governance and scrutiny fit for the future'.
- The Annual Survey is still live.
- Chief Exec's update from Ed Hammond. Upcoming CfGS free events, for both councillors and officers.
- Long read- scrutiny in committee system authorities.
- A new blog from CfGS Senior Governance Consultants, Helen Mitchell, 'Tales of the Unexpected- Preparing for the Twists and Turns of 2023 election results and how CfGS can help'.Recent blog,
- 'Public Accounts Committees- what are they?'
- BLOG: Health scrutiny and the NHS's current pressures.
- New publication: 10 Questions on Cyber Security
- CfGS Training Offer
- Case Study- Buckinghamshire Council Announcement of Mel Stevens new Chief Executive Officer.
- Ed Hammond's last CEO update.
- Annual Conference 2023: 'Governance and scrutiny fit for the future'.
- Five new publications, 'the review of council constitutions', 'the operation of call-in arrangements', 'the operation of schemes of delegation for decision-making', 'Health Scrutiny- A Short Guide' and 'Scrutiny of Children's Services- A Short Guide'
- CfGS Member Induction, Training and Control Change Offer
- Long read: 'The English Devolution Accountability Framework: first thoughts'
- Blogs- 'Local Public Accounts Committees – You Heard It Here First', 'Devon County Council – Children's Scrutiny and Ofsted', 'Health scrutiny and the Hewitt Review' and 'Failure to Prepare, Prepare To Fail'
- The drumbeat of oversight could be a good thing, The MJ article by our Interim CEO, Ed Hammond
- Case Study: South-West Regional Scrutiny Network: Case Study (March 2023) sent by Howard Bassett – Exeter Council
- Remembering our former Chair, Lord Bob Kerslake
- Reflecting on our Annual Conference
- Our recent attendance at the LGA Conference
- Read our two new publications: Devolution and Good Mayoral Governance White Paper - by Ed Hammond, in partnership with Trowers and Hamlins & Inspecting local authority children's services: Ofsted and the role of children's services scrutiny by Camilla de Bernhardt Lane
- New blogs – relating to 'Training and Development', which includes a helpful, practical checklist; a blog from Michael Hyatt, Professional Practice Lead,



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Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, on 'Complaints – a window into their role in good corporate governance and as the driver for improvement', which includes insights into their focus report and annual report.

- an upcoming event centred around finance scrutiny and asset management
- Request for information - governance models in your Local Authority.
- Call out to Governance Professionals! CfGS are looking at holding some Chatham House conversations about life under intervention
- Call for examples of best practice and guest blogs
- New blog- We have a new blog from one of our Senior Governance Consultants, Cath Buckley, on 'Member Officer relationships', the blog includes some key messages about how to improve and enhance these working relationships.
- Free Training- Adult social care scrutiny development sessions for councillors in the North West. These sessions are both online and in-person (which includes a free lunch!) more info below.
- Request for information - Governance models in your Local Authority.
- Call for examples/case studies in relation to making impactful recommendations.
- Latest blogs about improving public participation in Council Committees; and Council chambers.
- A short form piece by Ed Hammond on the new health scrutiny arrangements to start in January 2024.
- Case Study: Stockton-on-Tees, End-of-Term Report: 'A Window into Local Governance'.
- Request for information - Governance models in your Local Authority.'
- Navigating finance scrutiny: a webinar for elected members' to be held on 18 December 2023.
- New blog: Scrutiny of children's services.
- Case Studies: South Tyneside Council, 'Commission on Tackling Poverty in South Tyneside, Final Report and Recommendations' and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority – 'Strengthening the Scrutiny Function'.
- DLUHC Report on 'Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities'.
- Read Ed's latest article in The MJ, 'Curating a good council and government system'.
- Upcoming free events.
- Case studies
- Guidance on financial scrutiny for members
- Guidance on members' rights to access information
- News and blogs
- Annual survey 2024
- Changes to health scrutiny arrangements
- Health scrutiny fireside chat
- Forthcoming free events
- CfGS staff changes



- “Treasure Your Assets” – a publication to advise and guide councils in the management and control of their financial assets
- Unlocking information access - Empowering councillors to support effective oversight
- Forthcoming free events and case studies

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

North-West Employers’ Network Events

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

- purpose of the network and the role of the steering group
- appointment of Chair/Vice Chair
- sharing your experience of Scrutiny
- Centre for Governance and Scrutiny annual Conference Update
- open forum
- CfGS Update
- Scrutiny and Finance
- Update on Health Scrutiny
- An introduction to cyber security with the LGA
- Councillor and Care – how councillors can make a difference through scrutiny when it comes to adult social care

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

Update on Working Groups/Informal Meetings

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2023/24 continued with the new way of undertaking short reviews of services at informal meetings of the Committees. The new proposal obviated the need to establish Working Groups as short reviews of services could be undertaken by all Members at the informal meetings.

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



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Preparations for Municipal Year 2024/25

The Management Board kept an overview of the preparations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the Municipal Year 2023/24; particularly the production of Work Programmes and the operation of informal meetings as referred to above.

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

Councillor Howard was appointed as Sefton's Scrutiny Link to the LCRCA O&S for 2023/24. However, on Councillor Howard's appointment as Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills, she relinquished her position as both the Chair of the Management Board and as Sefton's Scrutiny Link to the LCRCA O&S. Councillor Hart was appointed by Council as Sefton's new Scrutiny Link. Updates have been provided on the work of the LCRCA O&S to each Management Board meeting. Sefton's representatives on the LCRCA O&S were Councillors Hart and Desmond; and Councillor Robinson subsequently replaced Councillor Howard. The Chair of the Committee cannot be from the majority group and Councillor Steve Radford, a serving Liverpool City Councillor representing the Liberal Party and Independent Group, was Chair of the Committee during 2023/24.

The Committee continues to have problems being quorate. The quorum for meetings of the LCRCA O&S is 14, two-thirds of the total number of members, 20. This high threshold is not set by the Combined Authority but is set out in legislation.

Overview and Scrutiny Training

A training event for all Overview and Scrutiny Members, "Shaping Successful Scrutiny" was held on 15 June 2023 and attended by 19 Members. The event was facilitated by the Local Government Association and presented by Daniel Archer.

Dedicated support for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) members was also provided over three sessions on topics of introduction to children's scrutiny and work programming, engagement and working with others, and demonstrating value and influence and creating a strong organisational culture.

Finally, dedicated support for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) members was provided on 25 January 2024. The training centred on leading healthier places. The event was facilitated by the Local Government Association and presented by Jonathan McShane and Sarah McIvor.

The Year Ahead

Given the scale of the financial and service challenges facing the Council, the year ahead will be extremely busy for the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Management Board. A key role of Members will be to scrutinise such challenges, including how they impact on the Council's statutory requirement to remain



financially sustainable, provide a wide range of services and the desire to deliver Sefton's 2030 Vision and Core Purpose.

Further updates on the work of the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny are anticipated including the full results of the 2023 Annual Survey.

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

Councillor Carla Thomas
July 2024



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During 2023/24 the following Members served on the Committees indicated-

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

Councillor Howard (Chair) subsequently replaced as Chair by the Vice-Chair, Councillor Thomas

Councillor Bradshaw

Councillor Byrom

Councillor Carlin

Councillor Corcoran

Councillor Dowd

Councillor Hardman

Councillor Myers

Councillor Thomas

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)

Chair: Cllr. Thomas

Vice-Chair: Cllr. Myers

Cllr. Brodie-Browne

Cllr. Brough

Cllr. Cluskey

Cllr. Halsall

Cllr. Hart

Cllr. J. J. Kelly

Cllr. Lunn-Bates

Cllr. Robinson

Mr. B. Clark, Healthwatch Representative

Ms. D. Blair, Healthwatch Representative



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

Chair: Cllr. J. Hardman

Vice-Chair: Cllr. Carlin

Cllr. Burns

Cllr. Carragher

Cllr. Evans

Cllr. Howard (Subsequently replaced by Cllr. Harvey)

Cllr. Page

Cllr. Prendergast

Cllr. Richards

Cllr. Spring

Mr. M. Byrne, Healthwatch Representative

Ms. K. Christie, Healthwatch Representative

Mrs. S. Cain, Advisory Member

Mr. S. Harrison, Church Diocesan Representative

Michelle Ravey, Church Archdiocesan Representative

Ms. C Swainbank, Parent Governor Representative

Ms. G Armer, Parent Governor Representative

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

Councillor Dowd (Chair)

Councillor Howard (Vice-Chair) subsequently replaced by Councillor Ian Maher

Councillor Corcoran subsequently appointed as Vice-Chair

Councillor Harvey

Councillor Lloyd-Johnson

Councillor Chris Maher

Councillor McKee

Councillor Catie Page

Councillor Sir Ron Watson

Councillor Webster

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

Councillor Bradshaw (Chair)
Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D'Albuquerque
Councillor Evans
Councillor Grace
Councillor Killen
Councillor McGinnity
Councillor McKee
Councillor Murphy
Councillor Sir Ron Watson



Adult Social Care and Health



Councillor Carla Thomas
Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
(Adult Social Care and Health) 2023/24

On behalf of the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2023/24 Annual Report.

During the year the Committee has met six times formally and considered matters relating to Adult Social Care and Health. At the formal meetings there has been a focus on the regular update reports from NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton) and the updates allow Members to raise questions and scrutinise aspects of the services provided.

Other reports/presentations considered by the Committee related to:

- Domestic Abuse Update
- Vaping Amongst Young People
- GP Patient Survey
- Melling Surgery Closure
- Health Substantial Reconfiguration Proposals
- Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance
- Public Health Performance Framework
- Adult Social Care Performance Data Review
- Winter Planning 2024
- Serious Violence Duty

At each meeting the Committee also received the Work Programme and Cabinet Member Update reports. This enabled the Committee to add/amend topics to be considered to reflect priorities; and to scrutinise the work being undertaken in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

All agendas and minutes of the Committee can be accessed [Here](#)

The Committee had also agreed to hold informal meetings and considered the following topics:



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- North-West Ambulance Service
- Primary Care
- CQC Assessment (Adult Social Care)
- Shaping Care Together Programme
- Adult Social Care Budget
- Public Health Performance Data on Healthy Weight

Draft Quality Accounts

Early in the municipal year, my Vice Chair and I met with the Healthwatch representatives on the Committee to consider the draft Quality Accounts from Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LUFT) and Mersey and West Lancs NHS Trust. Draft Quality Accounts are reports published annually about the quality of services offered by NHS healthcare providers. They provide a way of illustrating improvements in the services they deliver to local communities and stakeholders. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the draft quality accounts and we met remotely to discuss the documents submitted by the two Trusts and provided a feedback letter to each of them.

Cabinet Member Reports

In keeping with previous years and to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Committee therefore received regular Cabinet Member update reports; and I would like to take the opportunity to thank former Councillor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care, and Councillor Ian Moncur, Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing – for their attendance at meetings and their regular and informative update reports.

Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

At each meeting the Committee considered the reports of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views of the Work Programme for 2023/24, the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by informal meetings; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The pre-scrutiny process referred to above can assist the Cabinet to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.



The Year Ahead

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities over the coming year. The list is not exhaustive and other service operational reports as deemed appropriate by the Committee will also be considered.

- Health Provider Performance
- Public Health Outcomes
- Winter Plans
- Adult Social Care – Vulnerable Adults
- Supported and Assisted Living

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee, Cabinet Member Ian Moncur and former Councillor Paul Cummins and all of those officers who have attended meetings for their support to me over the past year and provided the Committee with valuable information.

Councillor Carla Thomas
July 2024



Children's Services and Safeguarding



Councillor Judy Hardman
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Children's Services and Safeguarding) 2023/24

On behalf of the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2023/24 Annual Report.

During the year the Committee has met six times formally and considered matters relating to Children's Services, Safeguarding and Education. It has also met on twelve occasions informally to progress the priorities agreed by the Committee at the beginning of the municipal year. These priorities were identified as part of a training programme delivered to the Committee by the Local Government Association, which supported the development of a focused work programme. This input was invaluable in helping the Committee to understand its role in scrutinising and holding to account the Council's improvement plan for services to children and young people.

Priority Areas for 2023/24

The three priority areas for scrutiny were identified as follows:

- 1) SEND
- 2) Health Outcomes
- 3) Safeguarding

A major area for scrutiny throughout the year has been the improvement journey that the Council's services for children are undertaking. At its first meeting of 2023/24, the Committee was advised that the Council would continue to focus on improving practice and of the Improvement Plan key priorities for the forthcoming year namely:

- Stabilising the workforce
- Ensuring the right children are receiving the right support at the right time
- Engaging the workforce and partners in the delivery of the required change.

In addition to the regular updates on the progress of the Children's Services Improvement Journey, the Committee also received a report to each meeting that set out performance management and quality assurance information in respect of Children's Social Care.



Work undertaken in formal and informal meetings.

(i) **Formal Meetings**

At the formal meetings, in addition to the focus on the Children's Services Improvement Programme and an overview of Social Work Practice, the Committee has considered other areas of work undertaken by the Council and its partners where these were relevant to the experiences of children and young people.

Reports/presentations considered by the Committee related to:

- Safeguarding Learning and Development Offer
- Education Scorecard
- School Ofsted Inspections
- Vaping Amongst Young People
- Domestic Abuse Update
- Serious Violence Duty
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Joint Commissioning Plan
- Corporate Parenting Annual Report
- Sefton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
- Review of the Terms of Reference of the Committee (see below)

At each meeting the Committee also received Work Programme and Cabinet Member update reports. This enabled the Committee to add/amend topics to be considered to reflect priorities; and to scrutinise the work being undertaken in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

All agendas and minutes of the Committee can be accessed [here](#).

Education

The Committee also received regular updates in the course of its formal meetings on School Ofsted Inspections and the Education Scorecard.

Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

At each meeting the Committee considered a report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views of the Work Programme for 2023/24, the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) or at informal meetings of the Committee; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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Cabinet Member Reports

In keeping with previous years and to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered the portfolios of the Cabinet Member – Education and Cabinet Member – Children’s Social Care. These form a regular part of the agenda at every formal meeting.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Councillors Roscoe, Cabinet Member – Education and Councillor Doyle, Cabinet Member, Children’s Social Care for their regular attendance at meetings to update Members on issues associated with their portfolios.

Pre-Scrutiny – The Key Decision Forward Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also been given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise items from the Council’s Key Decision Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

(ii) Informal meetings

Alongside its formal meetings, the committee met informally on 12 occasions to gather information about services, and to hear directly from children and young people, parents and carers and staff who work with them. This meant that the Committee was able to explore in greater depth issues arising from formal reports. The topics considered during informal sessions were as follows:

SEND Review

- SEND Ofsted Inspection Readiness
- 3 Meetings with Sefton Parent Carers Forum
- SEND The Graduated Approach
- Visits to Primary and Secondary Schools to discuss SEND provision.

Health Outcomes

- Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services
- A joint Meeting with Overview and Scrutiny (Adult Social Care and Health) to consider the Public Health Performance Framework with a focus on Healthy Weight for Children and Adults in Sefton.

Safeguarding

- Feedback from an Ofsted Monitoring Visit
- Partnership Working and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Visit to Social Work Teams at Magdalen House



- Improvement Board Update

Review of the Terms of Reference of the Committee

The Committee has considered, throughout the year, ways of making its work more transparent and ensuring that it takes account of the views of people with lived experience of services. The Committee is recommending to the Council that it introduces a short question time as part of the regular formal agenda, and a formal subcommittee so that parents and carers are more easily able to contribute to discussions about the services provided to Sefton's children. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the Democratic Services team for their support and hard work in this.

The Year Ahead

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities below over the coming years. The list is not exhaustive and other service operational reports as deemed appropriate by the Committee will also be considered.

- Changes to the Front Door and Family Hubs
- Childrens Services Improvement Programme
- Children's Social Care Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement
- SEND Dashboard
- Ofsted Inspections
- Education Scorecard
- Establishing the Children's Services and Safeguarding Parents / Carers Subcommittee.

Finally, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. We have driven our agenda forwards at some pace, and this has demanded considerable input from Members and officers alike. We owe it to Sefton's children that we expect continual improvement to services and that we maintain a high level of challenge to ensure this. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee, Cabinet Members and officers who have attended meetings and provided the Committee with valuable information for their commitment to improving children's outcomes and for their support to me over the past year.

Councillor Judy Hardman
July 2024



Regeneration and Skills



Councillor Liz Dowd
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny
Committee (Regeneration and Skills) 2023/24

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) Annual Report 2023/24.

During the year the Committee met six times formally and once informally. Reports and presentations considered by the Committee related to:

- Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People – Migration Update
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2023/24
- Domestic Abuse Update
- Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Programme
- Winter Maintenance Policy and Operational Plan
- Executive/Scrutiny Protocol
- Bootle Regeneration Strategy – Presentation
- Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Annual Report
- Green Sefton Annual Review 2023
- Update on the Progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy
- Serious Violence Duty
- A Cultural Strategy for Sefton
- Southport Market - 2 Year Review
- Sefton Economic Strategy Updates
- Sandway Homes - 2022 / 23 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies
- Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited (SHOL) - 2022 / 23 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies
- Housing Standards Team - Damp Mould and Condensation
- Social Value and the Growth and Strategic Investment Programme
- Refuse and Waste Recycling

All agendas and minutes of the Committee can be accessed [here](#)

A special meeting of the Committee was also held on 19 February 2024 to consider two items that had been called-in. The two items related to decisions taken by the Cabinet Members for Planning and Building Control and Locality Services in relation to the Adoption of Hesketh Road Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (with boundary change) and the North South Active Travel Route in Southport – Next Steps respectively.

Working Groups/Informal Meetings – New Way of Working

At the first meeting in the municipal year the Committee agreed to continue the approach to its operation during 2023/24 by arranging additional informal meetings. This proposal obviated the need for the Committee to establish Working Groups as short reviews of services could be undertaken by all Members at the informal meetings. One informal meeting was held on 15 January 2024 to review the topic of refuse and waste recycling. Members undertook a site visit to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre; then returned to Bootle Town Hall to hold an informal meeting of the Committee. The informal meeting agreed the recommendations set out below that were subsequently approved for implementation by the next formal meeting of the Committee.

- (1) the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) be requested to investigate measures that could be introduced as part of the Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes to compel landlords to have a level of control over their tenants to alleviate the anti-social actions of littering and dumping rubbish in rear entries;
- (2) the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) be requested to investigate the inclusion, within the Local Plan, of the need to provide recycling/community recycling facilities in development proposals;
- (3) the Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services) be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on methods to increase Sefton's recycling rates; the introduction of communal bins; and wider waste containment issues

The Committee will also consider holding informal meetings to give consideration to the topics of:

- the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers; and an invitation will be extended to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) to take part in the informal meeting
- the formal and informal processes for engagement between officers at the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA) and at Sefton Council, relating to the review, approval, funding, development and implementation of



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strategies, policies and projects. This relates to both regionally-led (LCR CA-led) and locally-led (Sefton Council-led) proposals

Cabinet Member Reports

In keeping with previous years and to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Committee therefore received regular Cabinet Member update reports; and I would like to take the opportunity to thank former Councillor Hardy, former Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing, Councillor Moncur, former Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element), Councillor Veidman, former Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control, former Councillor Fairclough, former Cabinet Member – Locality Services and Councillor Atkinson, the former Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills and Councillor Howard, the former Cabinet Member, for their attendance at meetings and their regular and informative update reports.

Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

At each meeting the Committee considered the reports of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views of the Work Programme for 2023/24, the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by informal meetings; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The pre-scrutiny process referred to above can assist the Cabinet to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

The Year Ahead

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities over the coming year. The list is not exhaustive and other service operational reports as deemed appropriate by the Committee will also be considered.

- Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report
- Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2024/25
- Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan
- Update on the progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy
- Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services
- Leasehold House Sales
- Green Sefton Annual Review 2024
- Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Pilot
- Domestic Abuse Update



- Southport Market Update
- Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited (SHOL) - 2023/24 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies
- Sandway Homes Limited - 2023/24 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies

As mentioned above, the Committee will also continue with the arrangement of holding informal meetings to undertake short reviews of services.

As part of the Committee's pre-scrutiny function all Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fall within the remit of the Committee, will be requested to seek the views of the Committee on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it is not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committee to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon.

Given the scale of the financial and service challenges facing the Council the year ahead will be extremely busy for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise such challenges, including how they impact on the Council's statutory requirement to remain financially sustainable and the desire to deliver Sefton's 2030 Vision and Core Purpose.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee, Cabinet Members Councillors Atkinson, Howard, Moncur and Veidman and former Councillors Fairclough and Hardy and all of those officers who have attended meetings for their support to me over the past year and provided the Committee with valuable information.

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to Councillor Hart, the newly appointed Chair of the Committee, for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

Councillor Liz Dowd
July 2024



Regulatory, Compliance, and Corporate Services



Councillor Sue Bradshaw
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate
Services) 2023/24

On behalf of the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2023/24 Annual Report.

During the year the Committee has met six times formally and considered matters relating to financial issues and updates associated with the 2023/24 revenue and capital budget and financial management across the Council. As is the usual practice, a Special Meeting of the Committee was held prior to Budget Council to scrutinise budget options and proposals.

Other reports/presentations considered by the Committee related to:

- Debt Management
- Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Reference Group – Updates were submitted to each meeting of the Committee to keep Members abreast of the scale of the problem in Sefton; and the measures being taken to alleviate them
- Customer Contact Centre Activity – Presentation
- Levels of Disciplinary, Grievance, Dignity at Work and Sickness Absence
- Executive/Scrutiny Protocol
- Update on Progress of Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy
- Corporate Communications Update
- Air Quality Update 2023
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Base for 2024/25 and Review of Council Tax Premiums for Long-Term Empty Properties
- Annual ICT Update Report
- Taxi Issues in Sefton

At each meeting the Committee also received Work Programme and Cabinet Member update reports. This enabled the Committee to add/amend topics to be considered to reflect priorities; and to scrutinise the work being undertaken in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

All agendas and minutes of the Committee can be accessed [here](#)

Financial Scrutiny

The Committee received regular budgetary update reports during the year and a Special Meeting of the Committee was held on 6 February 2024 prior to the budget meetings of both Cabinet and Council. At this Special Meeting the Committee considered reports relating to: Asset Management Strategy and Asset Disposal Policy 2024/25; Prudential Indicators 2024/25; Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/25; Capital Strategy 2024/25; Robustness of the 2024/25 Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves – Local Government Act 2003 - Section 25; and Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27 and Council Tax 2024/25.

At this meeting the main report for consideration was the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services that explained that on 8 February 2024 Cabinet would be asked to recommend to Council a Budget Plan for 2024/25; and that on 29 February 2024, the Council would be asked to consider and approve the Budget Plan for 2024/25 – 2026/27 and the level of Council Tax for 2024/25; The report provided the Committee with:

- an assessment of the Council's current financial position and approach to the 2024/25 Budget Plan and preparation for the additional two-year budget period 2024/25 to 2025/26
- an update on the Government's announcement of resources that were available to the Council for 2024/25
- the Council's current financial position and the assumptions built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan
- the proposed Budget for 2024/25; and
- the proposed Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27

Attached as appendices to the report were the individual school budgets 2024/25; budget saving proposals; draft Council budget summary 2024/25; and the Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

At each meeting the Committee considered a report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views of the Work Programme for 2023/24, the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) or at informal meetings of the Committee; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.



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Cabinet Member Reports

In keeping with previous years and to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered the portfolio of the former Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Councillor Lappin, former Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services for her regular attendance at meetings to update Members not only on issues associated with her portfolio but also on the Members Welfare Reform Reference Group.

Pre-Scrutiny – The Key Decision Forward Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also been given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise items from the Council's Key Decision Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

The Year Ahead

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities below over the coming year. The list is not exhaustive and other service operational reports as deemed appropriate by the Committee will also be considered.

- Review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- Disposal of Surplus Council Owned Land/Asset -Management Strategy
- Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group – Updates
- Air Quality Monitoring
- Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures and Sickness Absence Monitoring
- Update on Progress of LCR Digital Inclusion Strategy
- Annual ICT Update Report (Performance of Agilisys)
- The consideration of budget proposals in preparation of the Budget Report 2025/26 to 2028/29 and savings and the Medium-Term Financial Plan
- Corporate Communications Update

I envisage the forthcoming year to be extremely busy and challenging for the Committee and the Council due to the difficult budgetary position and financial savings that have to be met in Sefton. The Council has an excellent record regarding financial management over the last 14 years, however, it is now estimated that there will be residual financial pressures between 2025/26 and 2026/27 of at least £19.247m (before Council Tax increases), which may need to be met by implementing service delivery options additional to those approved at Budget Council in February 2024. This shortfall will have to be met on top of the significant budget reductions that have been implemented since 2010. Further work has



commenced this financial year to develop the Medium-Term Financial Plan and refine the budget gaps, including to reflect the requirements of Adult and Children's Social Care within the context of the overall financial envelope of the Council. This budget gap will require the development of budget / savings proposals over the first half of 2024/25

Finally, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee, Councillor Paulette Lappin, former Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services and officers who have attended meetings for their support to me over the past year and provided the Committee with valuable information.

Councillor Sue Bradshaw
July 2024



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Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	20 June 2024 11 July 2024
Subject:	Financial Management 2024/25 to 2027/28 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2024/25 - Additional Estimates		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	All Wards
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

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

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.859m for the Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant additional allocation funded by DLUHC.
- 2) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £3.500m for Disabled Facilities Grants core programme in 2024/25 funded by the Better Care Fund.
- 3) Approve supplementary capital estimates of £0.003m for Devolved Formula Capital and £0.034m Schools Condition Allocation funded by grant from the Department for Education.
- 4) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £4.040m for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities funded by the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation from the Department for Education.
- 5) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.500m for the Green Light Fund funded by grant from the Department for Transport
- 6) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.449m for the Network North Roads Resurfacing Fund funded by grant from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 7) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.065m for the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant funded by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 8) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £0.450m for the ICT Equipment Refresh project funded by prudential borrowing.

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- 9) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.237m for the UKSPF Ways to Work grant funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 10) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £5.273m for the Southport Public Realm project funded by external grants and contributions and Council resources.
- 11) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £5.799m for the A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements project funded by external grants and contributions and Council resources.
- 12) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £3.300m for the Carriageway Resurfacing Programme funded by grant from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 13) Note that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet and Council as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because of the requirement to set supplementary budget estimates as part of the ongoing delivery of Council's financial strategy for 2024/25.

Council is recommended to:

- 1) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3.500m for Disabled Facilities Grants core programme in 2024/25 funded by the Better Care Fund.
- 2) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £4.040m for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities funded by the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation from DfE.
- 3) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.450m for the ICT Equipment Refresh project funded by prudential borrowing.
- 4) Approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.237m for the UKSPF Ways to Work grant funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 5) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £5.273m for the Southport Public Realm project funded by external grants and contributions and Council resources.
- 6) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £5.799m for the A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements project funded by external grants and contributions and Council resources.
- 7) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3.300m for the Carriageway Resurfacing Programme funded by grant from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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

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

N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The estimate annual cost of prudential borrowing for the ICT Equipment Refresh will be £0.100m per annum which will be met from within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

(B) Capital Costs

The estimated cost of Disabled Facilities Grants in 2024/25 is £3.500m funded by grant allocated to the Council from the Better Care Fund.

The Southport Public Realm project is estimated to cost £5.273m funded through 2024/25 CRSTS settlement (£2.507m), Southport Town Deal LUF grant (£2.500m) and £0.265m of Council funding (capital receipts).

The A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements project is estimated to cost £5.799m funded through £2.858m Key route Network funding, £0.244m DfT signals fund, £1.000m CRSTS settlement, £1.127m Active Travel Funds, £0.470m of Developer Contributions and £0.100m of Council funding (capital receipts).

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

The ICT Equipment Refresh is estimated to cost £0.450m funded by prudential borrowing to be repaid over five years.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
The Council will acquire new ICT assets to the value of £0.450m funded by additional borrowing costs of £0.100m per annum which will be met from within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.	
Legal Implications:	
None	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Impact on Children and Young People: No	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	N

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

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

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

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

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 7677/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5778/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	Graham Hussey
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4100
Email Address:	graham.hussey@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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1. Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grants

- 1.1. Council on 29 February 2024 approved indicative grant allocations for capital grants to be applied to the capital programme 2024/25 including £4.823m for Adult Social Care. Following publication of the final Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocation for 2024/25 by DLUHC in May, an uplifted amount of funding has been allocated to Sefton of £5,261,093. Additionally, the 2023/24 allocation of grant was uplifted by £420,887 and is available to spend in 2024/25. The total amount of additional funding available is therefore £858,610 compared to the initial estimate approved in February.
- 1.2. Cabinet is requested to approve a supplementary estimate of £858,610 for the additional DFG block grant allocation in 2024/25.
- 1.3. Expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants for home adaptations has been increasing steadily since 2021/22 and will continue to do so with the delivery of the Council’s vision to support more people to remain independent in their own homes for longer, this includes things like the development of the Adult Social Care online Portal, development of extended warranties and revised means testing for applicants. The Council’s core programme for Disabled Facilities Grants in 2023/24 was £3m, an increase on the target of £2m set in 2022/23’s capital programme and £1.4m set in the 2021/22 programme. The proposed target for 2024/25 will be £3.5m fully funded from the Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant.
- 1.4. Cabinet is therefore requested to recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate for the core DFG programme of £3.500m in 2024/25.
- 1.5. Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health has delegated authority to approve budgets up to a value of £1m for the Wider Social Care Programme and Community Equipment Stores funded from the Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant. The list of schemes for the wider programme for 2024/25 will be fully developed and presented to Cabinet Member for approval.

2. Schools Funding

- 2.1. Council on 29 February 2024 approved indicative grant allocations for capital grants to be applied to the Education Excellence capital programme 2024/25. Following publication of the final capital allocations for 2024/25 by the Department of Education in May, an increased amount of funding will be received as set out in the table below.

Capital Grant	Block Allocation	
	Provisional Estimate 2024/25	Revised Estimate 2024/25
Education Excellence	£	£
Devolved Formula Capital (direct school allocation)	338,520	341,144
Schools Condition Allocation	2,207,934	2,241,878
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	700,000	4,740,380

- 2.2. Cabinet is recommended to approve the increases to Devolved Formula Capital and Schools Condition Allocation shown above and recommend to Council the approval of a revised estimate for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities.
- 2.3. Authority has been delegated to Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families to assign funding to individual capital schemes for the schools block allocations reported above up to £1m in value. The list of schemes for 2024/25 will be fully developed and presented to Cabinet Member for approval.

3. Highways Programme

- 3.1. Council on 29 February 2024 approved an indicative grant allocation for the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) to be included in the Highways capital programme 2024/25. Following this approval, the Department for Transport and the City Region Combined Authority have since confirmed further allocations of capital grant as outlined in the table below.

Grant Allocation	2024/25 £
Green Light Fund	500,000
Network North Roads Resurfacing Fund	449,302
Traffic Signal Obsolescence	65,018

- 3.2. Cabinet is requested to approve supplementary estimates for the Green Light Fund, Network North Fund and Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant.
- 3.3. Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways has delegated authority to approve schemes up to a value of £1m funded from the block allocations of grant approved by Cabinet and Council. A full list of Highways schemes for 2024/25 will be developed and presented to Cabinet Member for approval. The following schemes are above Cabinet Member’s delegated limit and are presented for approval by Council following recommendation from Cabinet:

Southport Public Realm

- 3.4. Southport Public Realm is a £5.273m project funded through the 2024/25 CRSTS settlement (£2.507m), Southport Town Deal LUF (£2.5m) and £0.265m of Council Growth funding to undertake Phase 1 of the Southport public realm works around Market Street, King Street, and Eastbank Street for Public Realm/ Accessibility improvements in support of the Les Transformations De Southport project in support of the Town Deal.

A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements

- 3.5. £5.799m has been allocated to a project funded through £2.858m Key route Network funding, £0.244m DfT Signals Fund, £1.000m CRSTS settlement, £1.127m Active Travel Funds, £0.470m of Developer Contributions and £0.100m of Council Growth funding, to deliver a new signal controlled junction at the A59/ Kenyons Lane with full pedestrian/ cycle facilities, along with 2.6km of unidirectional cycle lanes alongside the A59 between Dodds Lane and the

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borough boundary, new crossing points at Robbins Island as part of programme of accessibility improvements along the A59 Northway corridor.

Carriageway Resurfacing Programme

- 3.6. £3.300m has been allocated in 2024/25 to the programme of carriageway resurfacing across the borough funded by the CRSTS settlement.

4. ICT Equipment Refresh

- 4.1. The Council has a number of ICT assets (predominately laptops) that are now over five years old and approaching the end of their useful life. In order to meet the minimum specification as set by Microsoft for Windows 11, Windows 10 is end of life in October 2025 and therefore the Council has to replace these older devices in advance of this deadline.
- 4.2. The equipment refresh programme is estimated to cost £450,000 and will be funded from prudential borrowing, the cost of which has been included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

5. UKSPF Ways to Work Grant Funding

- 5.1. Sefton@work, the Council's job brokerage service has been in receipt of European Social Funding for the Ways to Work employment support project since 2016. This scheme was a joint programme delivered via all 6 of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Councils, with the LCR Combined Authority being the Lead Body and in Sefton helped more than 5,500 residents.
- 5.2. ESF funds have now ceased but the Ways to Work delivery model for employment support continues to be the LCR's key investment in addressing employment inequality and forms an integral part of the wider Plan for Prosperity, with commitment being given to find alternative means of continuation funding after the end of ESF.
- 5.3. The Government's Fund to replace European Social Fund is the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), and the Ways to Work scheme has been earmarked in the LCR UKSPF investment plan to receive an allocation of UKSPF for the year 2024/25. This will allow the service to continue the Ways to Work offer for Sefton residents who are economically inactive until March 2025.
- 5.4. The UKSPF offer encompasses two funding streams of the LCR investment plan which are E33 which will support the residents who are deemed economically inactive to seek and retain work and L2 which supports those people facing redundancy or seeking to access work through a large-scale recruitment. The allocation of UKSPF Funding for E33 is £824,389.00 and the allocation for L2 is £412,194.50, giving a total grant figure of **£1,236,583.50**.
- 5.5. Sefton@work has a proven track record of efficient management of a wide range of external funding and measures have been put in place to ensure that all claims and performance management information required to satisfy the requirement of this SIF grant offer can be met. The staff resources are in place to deliver this service, and policies and protocols have been designed in

conjunction with the LCR-CA to ensure risks are managed appropriately and service delivery is conducted to the highest standards. Client facing staff are all trained and qualified to appropriate levels and compliance staff have significant expertise in successfully managing audit requirements from the internal, sub-regional and European levels. The service continues to hold the national MATRIX standard which assures the quality of information, advice and guidance to nationally recognised standards and has also maintained the national Customer Service Excellence award.

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COUNCIL MOTION

11 July 2024

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE

SECONDED BY: Councillor Mike Prendergast

TITLE: Southport Flower Show

Sefton Council recognises the significant contribution that the Southport Flower Show makes to the attractiveness of Southport for many visitors and local residents alike.

The Council is delighted to congratulate all those involved in the Flower Show having been in existence for 100 years this year.

The Council has been very sorry to learn of the passing of Mr Tim Timmerman who was responsible for the setting up of the current Southport Flower Show Company and without his huge amount of effort and ability to attract both business and voluntary support the Show would not now be in existence.

The Council therefore agrees to prepare an appropriate Certificate of Thanks and for this to be presented by the Mayor to his family at the earliest opportunity.

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