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Sefton Council 

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

DATE: Tuesday, 10th July 2018

TIME: 6.30 p.m.

VENUE: Birkdale Room, Town Hall, Southport

Member

Councillor
Cllr. Paula Murphy (Chair)
Cllr. Clare Carragher (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Richard Hands
Cllr. Pat Keith
Cllr. Daniel Terence Lewis
Cllr. Brenda O'Brien
Cllr. Michael Pitt
Cllr. Yvonne Sayers
Cllr. Paula Spencer
Cllr. Veronica Webster
Mrs Sandra Cain
Stuart Harrison
Ms. Libby Kitt
Father Des Seddon

Substitute

Councillor
Cllr. Michael O'Brien
Cllr. Carla Thomas
Cllr. Iain Brodie - Browne
Cllr. Mike Booth
Cllr. Catie Page
Cllr. Anthony Carr
Cllr. Terry Jones
Cllr. Liz Dowd
Cllr. John Kelly
Cllr. Robert Brennan

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Debbie Campbell, Senior Democratic Services Officer
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If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.

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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 the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 10)

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018

4. Sefton Public Health Annual Report 2017 (Pages 11 - 14)

Report of the Head of Health and Wellbeing.

Prior to consideration of the attached report, a short video on the latest Public Health Annual Report will be shown to the Committee.

5. Development of Family Wellbeing Service – Progress Report (Pages 15 - 58)

Report of the Director of Social Care and Health

6. Children's Social Care Annual Report (Pages 59 - 74)

Report of the Director of Social Care and Health

7. CAHMS Working Group - Interim Report. (To Follow)

Report of the Head of Schools and Families

8. NEETS Working Group Report (Pages 75 -

Report of the Executive Director

- 9. Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group Final Report – June 2018** (Pages 87 - 98)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
- 10. Special Educational Needs and Disability Process of Assessment Working Group - Final Report** (To Follow)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
- 11. Cabinet Member Report** (Pages 99 - 106)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
- 12. Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan** (Pages 107 - 122)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance

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

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

**MEETING HELD AT THE BIRKDALE ROOM, TOWN HALL,
SOUTHPORT
ON 20 MARCH 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor Murphy (in the Chair)
Councillor Carragher (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Bennett, Bradshaw, Hands, Keith, Pitt,
Spencer, Webster, Sandra Cain and Libby Kitt

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O'Brien and Carr,
and Education Added Members Father Des Seddon, and Stuart Harrison.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of personal interest were received:-

<u>Member</u>	<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Action</u>
Councillor Hands	94 – School Organisation and School Places	Personal – Is a governor of Birkdale Primary School and Peterhouse School	Stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon.
Councillor Spencer	94 – School Organisation and School Places	Personal – Is a governor of Rowan Park School and IMPACT	Stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon.

47. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2018, be confirmed as
a correct record.

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)- TUESDAY 20TH MARCH, 2018

48. CAPACITY AND WAITING LIST REVIEW - CAMHS SERVICES ACROSS SEFTON

Further to Minute No. 44 (2) of 30 January 2018, the Committee considered a report submitted by NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG on capacity and the waiting list review for the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) across Sefton.

The report outlined background information including current waiting times; change in demand; and CCG plans to address waiting time issues and respond to plans and strategies.

Martin McDowell, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Officer, NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, was in attendance to provide information with regard to the Services and to respond to questions put by Members of the Committee.

Mr. McDowell gave a presentation on the CAMHS Service that outlined the following:-

- Financial and performance information;
- Changing demand: more intensive treatment being received, with details of the average duration of treatment provided;
- Changing the delivery model – Thrive information model for Sefton CAMHS;
- Changing the delivery model – Getting help: increasing “lower” level support and increasing access. Piloting of new services via the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCF), including:
 - the Venus collaboration at South Sefton Wellbeing Hub;
 - Sefton CVS – subsidised Sefton Emotional Achievement Service (SEAS) offer to schools;
 - Sefton CVS – SEAS Transition Programme for whole class groups;
 - Sefton CVS – Peer Mentoring/Support programme;
- Changing the local delivery model – getting risk support; and
- Next steps.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:-

- Whether the CCG had a response to the CAHMS report
- Expressed their concern that the average waiting from referral to partnership was 31 weeks
- Staff training and the impact this has on waiting times

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)- TUESDAY 20TH MARCH, 2018

- CCG spending on CAHMS' services, and whether money was been diverted for other projects/initiatives
- What outreach services were being funded in Sefton
- Inclusion teams approaching schools for pupils in years 6 and 7 and whether this initiative was borough-wide
- How quick was the follow up for individuals who had self-harmed.

RESOLVED:

That the report and the presentation be noted.

49. SCHOOL ORGANISATION AND SCHOOL PLACES

Further to Minute No. 49 (3) of 21 March 2017, the Committee considered the report of the Head of Schools and Families on school organisation and school places. The report set out the background to the matter, together with details of Government policy; local authority statutory duties; the Government's vision for local authorities regarding school places; factors affecting pupil place planning; education reform; school funding reform; demographic issues; and planning areas based on geographical and ward boundaries.

Details of how pupil place planning numbers were determined and the next planning period projections were included within the Pupil Place Plan 2016/17 to 2020/21, attached to the report, The Plan set out the structure and characteristics of school provision; trends in pupil numbers; methodology used for forecasting pupil numbers; primary pupil numbers; secondary pupil numbers; Sefton's planning areas; pupil projections by planning area; empty places and surplus places.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:-

- How responsive could schools be to fluctuating pupil numbers
- The 'Fair Access' process
- The increase in demand for Primary School places in the south of the borough
- The fact that some primary schools are over capacity
- The fact that the Formby PDC currently could, potentially, be converted back to being a school, but was listed as a site for development in the Local Plan
- Pupils 'drifting' to fill spare capacity in schools
- The acceptable level of surplus places
- The leverage the Council had over Academy Schools

RESOLVED:

That the information contained within the report be noted.

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)- TUESDAY 20TH MARCH, 2018

50. NOT IN EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEETS) WORKING GROUP - IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chair reported that a request had been received from the relevant officer for the item to be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the "Not In Education Employment or Training (NEETs) Working Group - Implementation of Recommendations" be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee, to be held on Tuesday, 10 July 2018.

51. CABINET MEMBER REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance in relation to the most recent report of the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Safeguarding for the period February – March 2018. The report outlined information on the following:-

- Schools Funding Formula;
- SEN Review and key issues for Sefton including:
 - Demand;
 - Provision;
 - Workforce;
 - Finance;
- Pupil Place Plan 2016/17 to 2021/2022;
- Adoption in Merseyside (AIM);
- Foster care allowances; and
- School Improvement.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member update report be noted.

52. WORK PROGRAMME - KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance seeking the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for the remainder of 2017/18; noting the progress made to date by the Working Group appointed by the Committee; and identification of any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)- TUESDAY 20TH MARCH, 2018

A Work Programme for 2017/18 was set out at Appendix A to the report, to be considered, along with any additional items to be included and agreed.

Details of the progress made to date by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Process of Assessment Working Group were set out within the report.

There was just one Decision within the latest Key Decision Forward Plan, attached to the report at Appendix B that fell under this Committee's remit, and the Committee was invited to consider the item for pre-scrutiny.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted;
- (2) the following item(s) be included within the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/19:-
 - Educational Assessments for Post 19s for SEN Working Group
- (3) progress made to date by the Working Group appointed be noted; and
- (4) the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan and items for pre-scrutiny for the period 1 April - 31 July 2018 be noted.

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Agenda Item 4

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	10 July 2018
Subject:	Public Health Annual Report 2017		
Report of:	Head of Health and Wellbeing	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member -Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To present the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2017.

Recommendation(s):

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) is asked to receive the annual report of the Director of Public Health and note its contents.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The report is a statutory independent report of the Director of Public Health and identifies key issues affecting health in the Sefton population.

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

N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

- (A) **Revenue Costs**
No direct costs associated with the report.
- (B) **Capital Costs**
No direct costs associated with the report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): No implications
Legal Implications: Legal Section 73B (5) and (6) of the National Health Service 2006 Act, inserted by section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, provides that the Director of Public

Agenda Item 4

Health must produce an annual report and the local authority must publish the report.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: *Raises the profile and the issue of mental health and well-being within the context of children and young people.*

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: *Shows partnership working to tackle the issue of poor mental health and well-being, showing what is being done to tackle it.*

Commission, broker and provide core services: n/a

Place – leadership and influencer: *Highlights the work of professionals and the community and voluntary sector as leader of change regarding mental health and well-being within Sefton.*

Drivers of change and reform: *Highlight works taking place within Sefton, as a catalyst for change.*

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: n/a

Greater income for social investment: *Showcases work with the community and voluntary sector to strengthen a collaborative approach to the issue.*

Cleaner Greener: n/a

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.5191/18.) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4415/18) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Engaged with partners, schools, community, voluntary and faith sector, Sefton pupils and community volunteers regarding the subject matter.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Steve Gowland
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Appendices: There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers: There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The Director of Public Health (DPH) is required to produce an independent annual report on the health and wellbeing of their population highlighting key issues.

1.2 It is an important vehicle by which the DPH can identify key issues, celebrate success, flag up problems, report progress and, thereby, serve their local populations. It will also be a key resource to inform local inter-agency action.

1.3 Aims of the Report

- Contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of local populations.
- Reduce health inequalities.
- Promote action for better health, through measuring progress towards health targets.
- Assist with the planning and monitoring of local programmes and services that impact on health over time.
- Be relevant to the health of local populations with information analysed at the most appropriate population level.
- Must be integral to planning across all sectors and needs to promote action.
- Should include a clear set of recommendations that are targeted, realistic and achievable (SMART).

2. Key findings

2.1 This year's annual report, which been produced as a short film to explore the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people and the services and resources which are available to support them. The film recognises the importance of building resilience, promoting good mental health and wellbeing, and enabling children and young people to live healthier, happier lives long into adulthood.

2.2 There is no single reason why children and young people experience problems with their mental health. Growing up in challenging home environments such as living in poor quality and overcrowded housing or living in a chaotic home environment can all have a negative impact on mental health and wellbeing. Some other risk factors include; having a disability, being a looked after child or a young carer, not being in education, employment or training, being exposed to domestic abuse or having a parent with mental health problems.

2.3 In Sefton, there are more people from most of these vulnerable groups, when compared to the national averages. We know that experiencing mental health problems before the age of 14 can affect educational attainment, physical health and impact on social relationships; therefore, leading to poorer outcomes in later life. Investing in early intervention programmes to develop emotional resilience will enable children and young people to be able to cope better with difficult circumstances and do well in school and in life. This could help to reduce and

Agenda Item 4

prevent potential problems from developing to crisis point and lead to less use of health and social care services in the future.

- 2.4 We are working in partnership with others to create the right conditions and environments to promote and improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. As featured in the film, leisure and cultural activities (which encourage children and young people to talk about their feelings and emotions in a safe place) are delivered by schools, Council and community based organisations such as Big Love Sista, Litherland Moss Primary School, Merseyside Youth Association SPACE, Well Young Person Team and Y-Kids. In addition to this community and voluntary groups such as sports and dance groups, Scouts and Girl Guiding groups also play an important role in supporting the mental health of children and young people.
- 2.5 However, to make a *real* difference, it needs to continue to be everybody's responsibility. If you are a local business, a service provider, policy maker, teacher, carer, friend or a family member; we all have a role to play to create a caring, supportive system that will make children and young people feel safe, happy and improve their lives.
- 2.6 The Council and partner agencies have established a steering group to drive forward improvement of the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Sefton. The group has been tasked by the Sefton Health and Wellbeing Board with developing strategic approaches to transform systems and services to improve outcomes. It has been recognised as being innovative and effective by OFSTED because of the input from schools into the partnership.
- 2.7 The full film can be seen at www.sefton.gov.uk/PHAR

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 Sefton Public Health has committed to developing a local programme to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people (particularly those at highest risk) over the next two years.by:
 - 1 Working with partners and interested stakeholders to extend and promote good mental wellbeing in schools and communities, making sure that activities to help children and young people to develop mental resilience skills are available and used to their full potential.
 - 2 Taking a collaborative approach to deal with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and reduce their impact on young people and their families/carers.
 - 3 Further develop and widen the availability of suicide prevention training to specifically cover children and young people, making sure that it is available throughout Sefton.

Agenda Item 5

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 10 July 2018
Subject:	Development of Family Wellbeing Service – Progress Report		
Report of:	Director of Social Care and Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

In December 2017 the Council approved the proposed development of locality working. This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) the opportunity to comment on the proposals to align Family Wellbeing Centres into Locality working and note the outcomes of Sefton Community First.

Recommendation(s):

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to comment on:

- (1) the principles of Sefton Community First
- (2) the ASPIRE outcomes
- (3) the role of Family Wellbeing Centres within Sefton Community First

they are also asked to note

- (1) the new posts currently being consulted on within the structure

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Council faces significant demographic and financial pressures. This proposal is part of the Early Intervention & Prevention project approved by Council in March 2017. This proposed model will tackle the multiple needs of families in a more joined-up way.

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

Remaining the same is no longer viable.

Agenda Item 5

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The total revenue budget in support of Children’s and Family Centres is currently £6.5m and this figure includes services commissioned from other external agencies that support the current Children’s Centre delivery model.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications:
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The proposed model seeks to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a focussed response on providing improved outcomes for the children and young people themselves on occasions where the “whole family” approach does not work.• Ensure that the child's voice is heard and that safeguarding thresholds are maintained through service redesign and delivery
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The proposed model seeks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect families starting points, and intervene early to provide the required support in a timely way.• Develop a “whole family” approach where root cause issues can be addressed and families limit the number of times they need to tell their story• Support children and families that are failing to thrive or reach their potential, particularly with regard to attachment, language acquisition and early childhood milestones• Promote good mental health and emotional wellbeing for all children and young people, parents and care givers in Sefton and improve access to targeted support to address health inequalities.
Commission, broker and provide core services:
Place – leadership and influencer:

Drivers of change and reform: The proposed model seeks to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a targeted and evidence-based approach for those children and families who are in the greatest need
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 Head of Corporate Resources (FD5199/18) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4423/18.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

A number of working groups, meetings with Headteachers, Centre Managers and engagement sessions with the wider workforce, partners and parents have been held to help shape and influence the offer.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

Contact Officer:	Jacque Finlay
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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix 1 – Sefton Community First
- Appendix 2 – Delivery model
- Appendix 3 - Staffing structure
- Appendix 4 – Staffing allocation

Background Papers:

N/A

Agenda Item 5

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Following the public consultation in autumn 2017 and the subsequent Cabinet Report in December 2017 work has been undertaken to deliver the Family Wellbeing offer, as agreed in the Cabinet report.
- 1.2 A number of working groups, meetings with Headteachers, Centre Managers and engagement sessions with the wider workforce, partners and parents have been held to help shape and influence the offer.
- 1.3 Following extensive work a model for complete integration with locality working has been worked on and has resulted in the delivery plan, presented within this paper – Sefton Community First
- 1.4 Sefton Community First is the delivery mechanism to address Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) 2. Though this aspect is supported by other EIP workstreams which all together have a significant bearing on successful delivery of Early Intervention and Prevention

2. Context – Family Wellbeing

2.1 In developing an approach to Family Wellbeing the Council actively listened to the views of the community and the following recommendations were approved:

- A new funding methodology is introduced
- To develop an offer in line with the strategic vision and principles
- To continue to operate from all existing children centre and family centre buildings
- Agree the removal of childcare subsidy
- Continue to engage with schools on implementation
- Explore the formation of Health and Wellbeing Centres (a more integrated model with NHS partners)

2.2 For the purposes of this report, the formation of Health and Wellbeing Centres is not being reported on as further work is progressing and this will be reported on at a future Committee.

2.3 As the Family Wellbeing offer is part of the Locality Offer approved in March 2016 this report will explore how Locality Working and Family Wellbeing will align to provide a seamless offer for communities and residents

2.4 Currently the vast majority of Children's Centres are managed directly by schools, operating as a commissioned service. However through this process a number of Head teachers and Governing bodies have taken the decision to hand back the running of the Children's Centre to the Council

2.5 A detailed commissioning outcome framework has been developed to support those head teachers wanting to continue as a commissioned service. These proposals are currently being developed to ensure all the outcomes can be met and delivered in a way to offer value for money.

2.6 The chart below highlights the likely changes for children centre delivery.

Agenda Item 5

However, it is worthy of note that overall strategic management of the offer will be undertaken by Council Officers.

Children's Centre	Phase & yr. established	Existing Governance Arrangements	Expected Governance Arrangements
Cambridge	Phase 1 27/04/2007	Commissioned service, governed by Cambridge Nursery School	Council
Linaker	Phase 1 11/07/2006	Commissioned service, governed by Linaker Primary School	Council
Litherland	Phase 1 24/03/2006	Commissioned service, governed by Litherland Moss Primary School	Council
Netherton	Phase 1 18/09/2006	Council	Council
Seaforth	Phase 1 13/02/2006	Commissioned service, governed by Sand Dunes primary School	Council
Springwell	Phase 1 23/03/2006	Commissioned service, governed by Springwell Primary School	Council
First Steps (Farnborough Road & Kings Meadow)	Phase 2/3 25/02/2008	Commissioned service, governed by Farnborough Road Infant School	Continue to be a commissioned service, governed by Farnborough Road Infant School
Hudson	Phase 2 25/02/08	Commissioned service, governed by Hudson Primary School	Continue to be a commissioned service, governed by Hudson Primary School
Waterloo/Thornton*	Phase 2 01/11/07	Commissioned service, governed by Waterloo Primary School	Continue to be a commissioned service, governed by Waterloo Primary School *Only Waterloo – as Thornton will be aligned to Netherton
Freshfield	Phase 3 28/02/2010	Commissioned service, governed by Freshfield Primary School	Discussions are ongoing

Agenda Item 5

3. Sefton Community First

3.1 The Vision Outcome Framework and principles (as outlined in Section 1.6 and 3.6 of December 2017 Cabinet Report) formed the basis of all work in developing an effective operating model across Localities and Family Wellbeing

3.2 It was crucial that for residents and communities, when developing the offer that new siloed ways of working did not emerge. There was potential for a Locality offer and Family Wellbeing offer to compete against one another. With this in mind an all-encompassing operating model has been developed – Sefton Community First (see appendix 1 for details on the vision, rationale for change, delivery model and ASPIRE outcome framework.)

3.3 The ASPIRE model reflects the priority areas that will inform our delivery to support our communities.

Our key priorities are to:

- **Address worklessness, financial and social exclusion**
- **Support Families and Individuals in Need by providing the right support**
- **Promote Education, Training, Employment and Volunteering**
- **Increase attendance at schools, improve speech and language development and levels of progress that children and young people make**
- **Reduce Domestic Abuse, risk of homelessness and isolation**
- **Engage Children, Families and Individuals with a range of Health and Wellbeing Needs**

4 Engagement

4.1 A number of engagement sessions have contributed towards the content and shape of the Sefton Community First model.

4.2 As anticipated in the Cabinet report, the nature of some activities will be delivered differently, some will cease, and some will be offered as outreach, and new activities will be added. These will reflect the desired outcomes according to the ASPIRE model.

4.3 The new offer will continue to be regularly reviewed and flexed, as the activities, interventions and support offered must meet need and demand.

4.3 As now, families will be kept fully informed of planned changes to activities and schedule. It will be important that any changes are effectively communicated to ensure that the expectation of our communities can be managed.

4.4. The Council will ensure that children and young people continue to be safeguarded.

4.5 More detail of what will be delivered across Family wellbeing and localities are available within Appendix 2.

5 Funding Methodology

5.1 Further consideration has been afforded to the implementation of a new funding methodology which is equitable and allows for a fair distribution of monies across our most deprived areas, enabling the best possible outcomes

5.2 In order to realise the vision, a new staffing structure has been developed and following discussions with the joint trade unions this is currently being consulted on. Details of the staffing structure can be found in appendix 3. Through merging Family Wellbeing and Locality Working additional staffing capacity can be fully utilised for delivery from the existing venues. Appendix 4 details the staffing breakdown across Family Wellbeing Centres according to the agreed funding methodology and also the expected numbers of staff allocated to each locality, aligned to their new job title.

5.3 Ongoing discussions and work with Head teachers will ensure that a clear and transparent funding methodology is implemented in September 2018, bringing parity and ensuring resources are targeted to deprivation and disadvantage and some allocated universally.

5.4 As the funding methodology does not include any allowance for childcare, Head teachers have worked closely with Council departments to cease or transfer childcare provision.

5.5 Early indications are that the childcare market is coping with these closures and no sufficiency issues have to date been raised.

6 Delivery

6.1 Through engagement sessions and consulting with service users, a conscious decision has been taken to not significantly change current delivery, at this time. Instead, work has been undertaken to standardise the offer across centres and localities and to fully utilise other departments and existing service areas to fully maximise the offer for service users.

6.2 For example universal services such as libraries and leisure will support the Family Wellbeing/Community First offer through delivering and hosting a range of activities

6.3 The delivery programme for September is currently being developed, timetabled and shared with families. This will encompass a 0-19 offer.

6.4 A commitment has been made to staff, service users and parent groups to involve them in any future changes and modifications during the coming months when service delivery will be reviewed and adjusted to meet community/local needs.

6.5 As health services are a key contributor, discussions continue to be ongoing to achieve full integration with a range of partners including North West Boroughs, CCG's, Living Well Sefton and midwifery services.

6.6 For schools continuing to operate as a commissioned service, a considerable amount of time and negotiation has gone into determining the delivery model to ensure it

Agenda Item 5

aligns with the other centres and reflects the APSIRE outcomes

6.7 Given the process undertaken to date, changes for service users will be minimal, existing services may be rotated across a locality or be taking place in a new venue, but they will in the main continue. Over time, once staff are fully briefed and aware the Sefton Community First offer will be fully complemented and supplemented through effective signposting to a vibrant community voluntary and faith offer

6.8 Once all staff have been recruited, they will be involved in further shaping the new service; particularly with regard to case management and case oversight.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Since the Cabinet report in December, very good progress has been made to implement the new model. This has incorporated, good engagement with the community, partners and parent/carers has been undertaken and work with schools and Head Teachers has been positive.

7.2 The Sefton Community First offer now provides a holistic approach and joins up work with public health, NHS and wider council work. However we acknowledge that this offer is not static, it will be constantly reviewed and move and flex to meet the needs of the community it serves.

Appendix 1

Sefton Community First 2018-2020
Revised June 2018



Agenda Item 5

1

Contents

Page

Vision for Sefton Community First

1

Rationale for Change

2

Tiered Offer

4

How we will deliver – Aspire Model

9

Aspire Outcomes

1. Sefton residents access employment, housing, leisure & social opportunities
2. Families where children need help are well supported
3. Sefton residents take pride in their community and make a positive contribution
4. Children and young people have good attendance and do well at all levels of learning
5. Sefton residents are free from domestic abuse, neglect or exploitation
6. Sefton residents have good mental health, wellbeing and lead healthy lives

Resources

11

Services in Scope

12



Our Vision for Sefton Community First

Sefton Community First is a joined-up way of working to help our residents achieve health, wellbeing and independence.

The Sefton Community First offer will provide easily accessible information, advice and guidance to the whole community through, online support, routine contact with our frontline staff, and outreach to our more vulnerable communities. This will help people to find faster and better solutions to their needs and reduce the need to wait for or be referred to public services.

Early intervention and prevention is about ensuring every individual and family gets the help they need, as early as possible. In most instances support and guidance is provided by family, friends and the wider community. With just a little help or pointing in the right direction, together with our partners we can help the individual, or family to find solutions for themselves.

Even so, some families will need extra help. The Sefton Community First offer has moved away from a 'done-unto' assessment process and will instead provide an opportunity for shared conversations between the key worker and the individual or family. Our approach recognises where any individual or family are now and jointly identifies the necessary steps required for them to get to where they want to be. It will be a joint approach which empowers those involved to achieve a lasting change.

The Sefton Community First offer is a whole family approach to identify what needs to be done and what action needs to be taken focusing on strengths. Together we will look at what is going well, what could be better and what needs to happen to achieve improvement.

Rationale for Change

This document outlines the vision for Sefton's new Community First offer to be implemented in 2018. It details the rationale for change from the current model, driven by the Council's financial position and budgetary constraints, increased demand for services, a changing landscape and most importantly what our residents have told us they require overcoming the challenges they face.

The document outlines a joined up and fully integrated model that will see children, young people, adults of any age and families at the heart of what we do. Working alongside our partners, commissioned and non-commissioned services, the ambition is that we will strive to deliver the quality the community deserves but in a more efficient and effective way. By working with people earlier we can prevent their needs escalating into more acute, intrusive and costly services.

There are two main drivers for change to the Sefton Community First offer, which include:

1. Budget

The challenge remains that as Council budgets have reduced and the needs of people have changed we have to look for new ways to deliver services and make sure that people are getting the support they need, in the most appropriate way, promoting a Community First approach. It is vital to support the building of community resilience.

2. What the Community has told us: Imagine Sefton – The vision for 2030

In 2016 Sefton Council developed a new, exciting and innovative vision for the future of the borough, which involved working alongside everybody who lived, worked or visited Sefton. Working closely with partners, businesses, private sector organisations, the voluntary, community and faith sector and the wider Sefton community the Imagine Sefton 2030 group considered what was important to communities for the future.

As a result of the engagement, the following were identified as key themes that communities wanted for the borough of Sefton:

- A great place to live, work and play
- Accessible and linked
- Activities, sociability and hosting
- Digital, science and technology
- Growing, living and ageing well
- Image and environment
- Resilient people and places
- Right for business

Residents told us that they wanted to access joined-up services that were closer to them in their community. They wanted one point of referral and support that was tailored to their needs. This has evolved into our Community First offer.

Family Wellbeing Public Consultation 2017

Family Wellbeing is incorporated within the Community First offer, in response to what our residents have told us. In 2017, an extensive consultation and engagement exercise was undertaken in regard to the delivery of Children and Family Centres. In response our Family Wellbeing services are incorporated within our Sefton Community First offer.

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3 Tiered Offer

Universal Offer

The universal offer will provide information, advice and guidance through libraries, one stop shops, frontline delivery and online. We will offer positive activities through our schools and leisure centres and early learning and development opportunities. We are working with the voluntary, community and faith sector to enhance and increase the uptake of our universal offer, where residents have a voice and a greater influence to shape what their local area looks like. Our staff will have a range of skills and behaviours to support a culture of making every contact count, and supporting people to do more for themselves. We will adopt a proportionate approach. That means we will offer more support to those with greater needs. This will help to reduce current health and social inequalities.

Targeted Activity

In targeted activity, multi-agency staff will support communities, individuals and families taking a holistic approach to understand needs and deliver interventions to create sustainable outcomes. All will have a key worker who they can build a trusting relationship with and develop an individual or family centred plan. The SMART* plan objectives will work on the individual or families strengths and focus on sustainable change. (SMART specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely).

Multiple / Complex Needs

To those with multiple and complex needs and are vulnerable, we will offer appropriate tailored support to help manage those needs and reduce associated risk. We will support individuals and families giving them the skills to be more independent and to have a greater control of their lives. We will maximise their support network, strengths and engage the individual or family to develop their own solutions.

Our commitment is to help residents to help themselves and achieve independence. Our approach will be non-judgemental and will focus on aspirational and sustainable change to achieve their full potential.

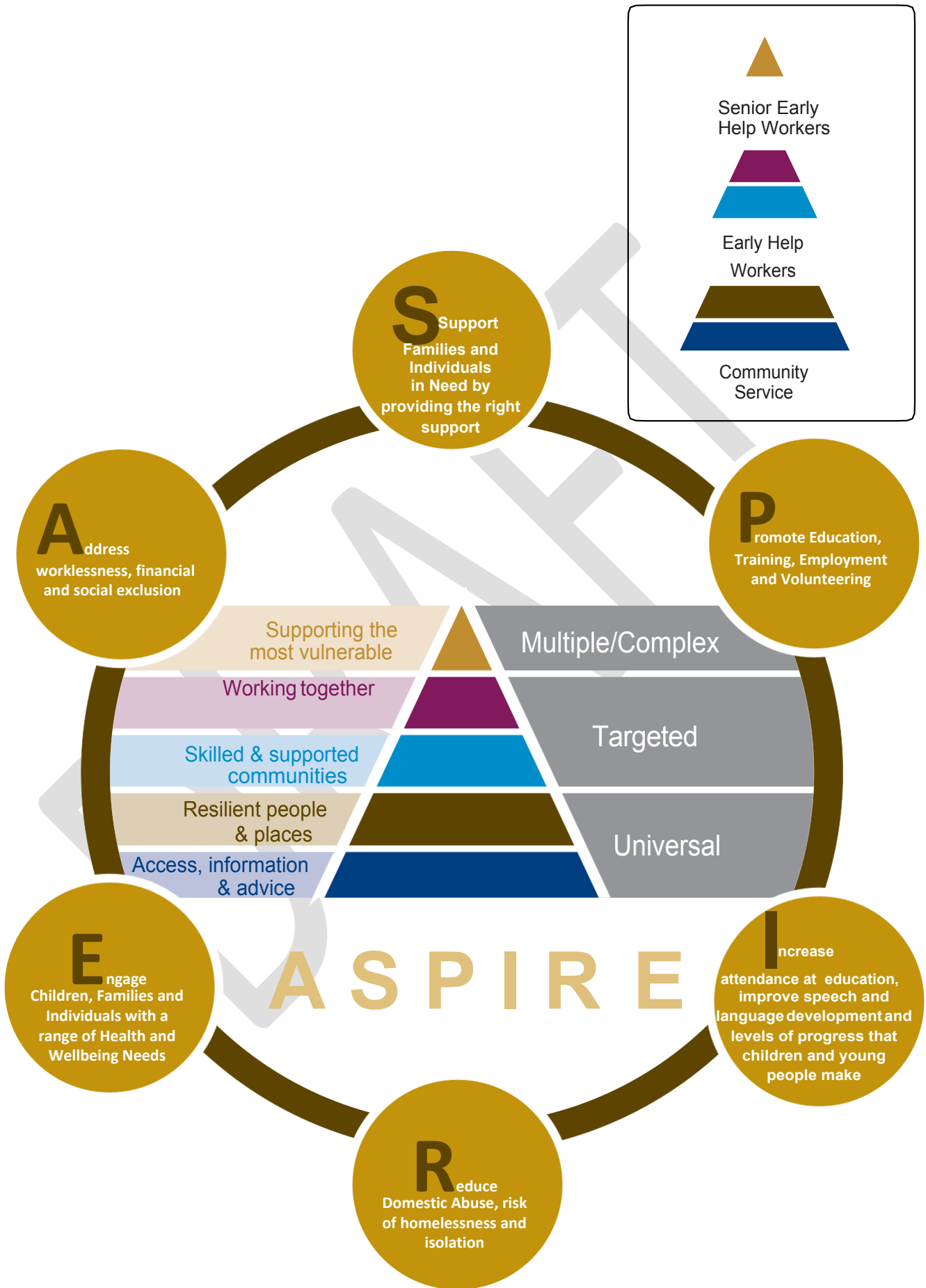
How we will deliver – ASPIRE Model

The ASPIRE model reflects the priority areas that will inform our delivery to support our communities.

Our key priorities are to:

- Address worklessness, financial and social exclusion
- Support Families and Individuals in Need by providing the right support
- Promote Education, Training, Employment and Volunteering
- Increase attendance at schools, improve speech and language development and levels of progress that children and young people make
- Reduce Domestic Abuse, risk of homelessness and isolation
- Engage Children, Families and Individuals with a range of Health and Wellbeing Needs

A full outcomes framework is available in Annex 1



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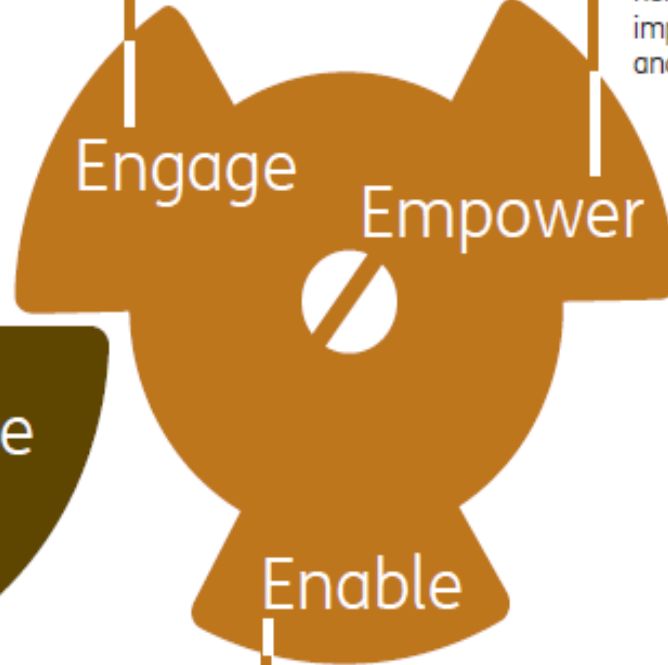
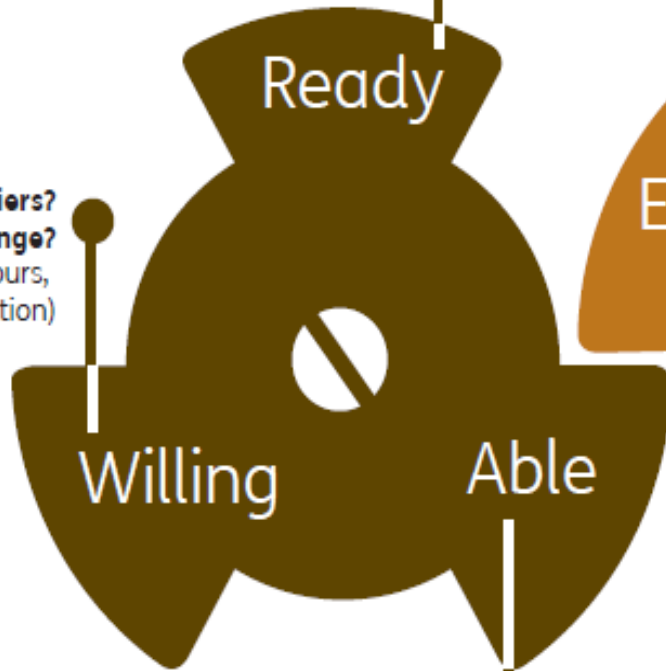


Ready to receive help and make change

Is the individual or family ready to embrace change?
If not why not? (root cause)

Outcome and solution focused
• Individual
• independence and responsibility
• Sustainability

Finding solutions for the individual or family
Remove barriers and improve confidence and motivation



What are the barriers?
What needs to change?
• Challenging behaviours, attitudes, aspiration, motivation)

Positive choice and ownership
• I'm ready and willing and I know what I need to do
• Skills and confidence to take the necessary steps

One worker one plan approach
• Trusting relationship
• Honest conversations
• Understand the reality

Before a resident embarks on a journey of change, together we need to reach an understanding of whether they are ready, willing and able. This will inform our approach to help promote consistent engagement. Through building a trusting relationship we will engage and empower residents to enable them to fulfil their potential.



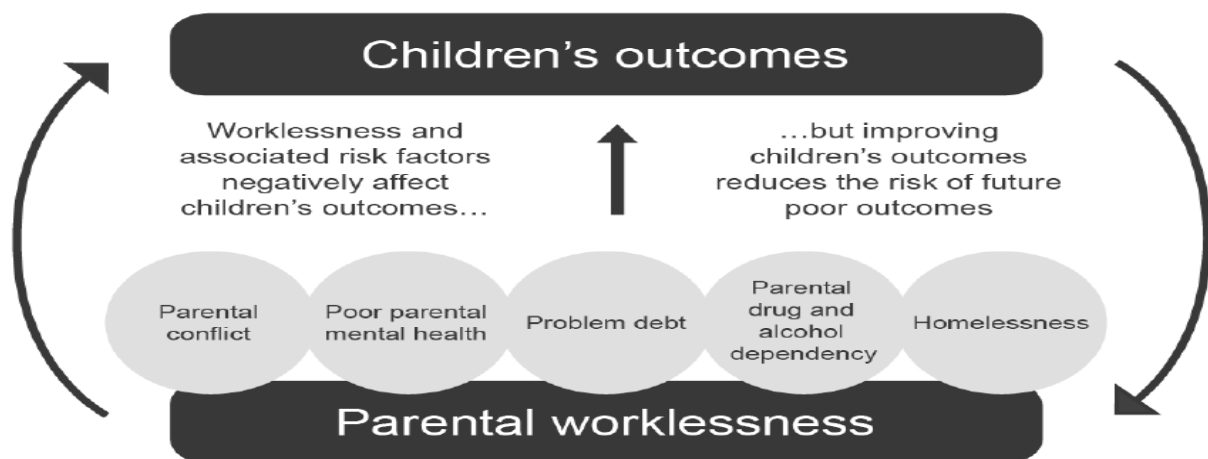
ASPIRE OUTCOMES

1. SEFTON RESIDENTS ACCESS EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, LEISURE & SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Why these outcomes are important

Not having enough money to cope with the circumstances of everyday life means that families can go hungry, not have enough money to heat and maintain their home and not be able to do the things we all take for granted like going to the cinema or enjoying other leisure activities. Sadly work is not a guaranteed route out of poverty. Two thirds of children growing up in poverty in the UK are living in a family where at least one person works. (Child Poverty Action Group 2018). Work is the best route out of poverty (DWP, 2014) and, as is well known, children do worse in workless families.

Low income and poor employment can have other negative impacts. Children growing up in workless families are almost twice as likely as children growing up in working families to fail at all stages of education (Improving Lives, DWP, 2017). Many of these children may also experience other problems in their family life that may impact upon them achieving positive outcomes, which the diagram below illustrates.



Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families, DWP, 2017

Insufficient or inadequate access to housing can also contribute to poor outcomes. Without a stable home most residents will struggle. Without support residents who experience many of these issues will struggle to overcome the problems that they face.

Regular access to leisure and social opportunities is proven to improve physical and mental health outcomes and prevent social isolation.

Sefton Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Partnership are working to address the impact of poverty. More information can be found by following the links to [Sefton Directory](#) or [Sefton CAB](#)

2. FAMILIES WHERE CHILDREN NEED HELP ARE WELL SUPPORTED

Why these outcomes are important

A whole family approach to delivering services will be adopted and promoted with a strong focus on outcomes. Families where children need help may have underlying root causes to their issues that could be inter-connected to other family member's problems. We will address the presenting issues whilst also being open to the broader needs of the child and family and having the scope to involve others working within the Sefton Community First offer.

3. SEFTON RESIDENTS TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Why these outcomes are important

Sefton has a diverse range of communities across the borough. Residents with differing needs, diverse backgrounds and changing circumstances live side by side. Having pride in our communities and a sense of belonging can lead to opportunities for those residents who want to make a positive contribution such as supporting others and volunteering.

Culture and Leisure interventions are an effective way to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by keeping people positively engaged in their communities.

4. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE GOOD ATTENDANCE AND DO WELL AT ALL LEVELS OF LEARNING

Why these outcomes are important

Some children can be disadvantaged before they begin school as they have not met developmental milestones such as those related to speech and language. When children attend nursery or school regularly they are more likely to reach their full potential and achieve longer term goals and ambitions.

5. SEFTON RESIDENTS ARE FREE FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION

Why these outcomes are important



Children exposed to domestic abuse have been shown to be at risk of long-term developmental problems and everyone working with families should be alerted to. There can be serious effects on children who witness or experience domestic abuse, which often results in absenteeism from school, poor educational performance, ill health, bullying, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and self-harm throughout their life. How parents communicate and relate to each other is recognised as a primary influence on effective parenting practices and children's long term mental health and future life chances.

The impact of neglect on children and young people is unacceptable because of the lasting damage it can have and also because it is avoidable harm which is within our power to address.

Child Exploitation can be devastating and early identification and providing support as soon as problems emerge is critical.

Child Exploitation can effect:

- Physical (including sexual) and mental health and wellbeing
- Education and training and therefore future employment prospects
- Family relationships
- Friends and social relationships, currents and as adults and
- Their relationships with their own children in the future

Young people involved in or on the periphery of serious and organised crime may be exploited as part of an initiation or as punishment. Young people may also be encouraged to recruit peers exposing them to similar treatment of criminal exploitation and make it difficult to identify perpetrators who are in control.

Vulnerable young people may be exploited into criminal activity or violence by other young people or adults who are able to coerce them to do so.

6. SEFTON RESIDENTS HAVE GOOD MENTAL HEALTH, WELLBEING AND LEAD HEALTHY LIVES

Why these outcomes are important

Good mental and physical health is crucial for residents and can stop the need for acute services. Good mental health is important as it allows people to develop the resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them.

Culture, Leisure and Community opportunities can have a positive impact on physical and mental health outcomes.

Resources



Agenda Item 5

12

The Sefton Community First offer is focussing resources on supporting residents through early help provision and preventing them from needing support from more acute services. This will be achieved through a mix of voluntary, community and faith sector, council, non-commissioned and commissioned partners.

Resources and interventions will be outcomes focussed, targeted and demand led. By using all of the information available to us we will be able to identify need and work with the individuals or families to offer strengths based solutions. However, we cannot do this alone and can only be successful by working smarter, harder and closer together.

This will complement the offer from Living Well Sefton

In July 2016, Sefton Council commissioned an Integrated Wellness Service 'Living Well Sefton' (LWS) to deliver an innovative, flexible, holistic service that enables people to access a range of support and services, seamlessly across the Living Well Sefton Partnership. The partnership has three core strands; Smokefree Sefton, Active Sefton and LWS Community.

The service is focused on prevention and early intervention and is committed to working flexibly with a broad range of partners to meet the needs of local people. The LWS partnership works hard to enhance and protect the health and wellbeing of all people in Sefton, however, extra effort is placed on reaching people who experience the greatest disadvantage.

The service offer includes the following core elements:

- Specialist/Clinical Interventions – NHS Health Checks, and behavior change interventions including Weight Management, Exercise on Referral and Smoking Cessation.
- Support for people to address the things that impact negatively on health, such as debt, employment and training, housing and benefits,
- Community activities, including walking groups, bereavement sessions, cooking sessions, and activities aimed at reducing loneliness and isolation.
- Training – Health And Wellbeing related training for staff partners and volunteers. Includes MECC, Brief Intervention and Smoking Advisor training.
- Connecting People – Health Mentors, Community Champions and all other LWS staff are committed to supporting local people to access services and activities available in their local communities.
- Community Resilience Grants – Local people and groups are encouraged to access a community grant to fund activity that aims to improve health and wellbeing opportunities in local communities.



Living well Sefton can be accessed via self-referral or referral by practitioner:
www.livingwellsefton.org.uk or on 0300 323 0181

Enabling the workforce is vital if Sefton’s Public Sector Reform programmes, in particular PSR3: Together we are Stronger is to succeed. This project will help to build capacity and resilience in our communities to enable people to have better levels of health, wellbeing, and independence, and therefore reducing reliance on council and other statutory services.

<http://intranet.smbc.loc/framework-for-change/public-sector-reform.aspx>

A commissioning outcomes framework has been developed and this will outline our intentions.

Services in Scope

There are a range of services that have been integrated into the Sefton Community First offer. These include:

The Atkinson	Libraries
Leisure Centres (excluding Crosby Lakeside)	Integrated Youth Service
Children’s Centres	Well Young Person’s Projects
Family Centres	Anti-Social Behaviour Team
Housing Options including homeless Prevention	Troubled Families including Family Intervention Practitioner’s
Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy team	School Readiness
Education Welfare	Schools Regulatory Service
Common Assessment Framework	Welfare Rights
Children with Disabilities	Voluntary, Community and Faith & Equalities
Springbrook	Missing Education Team
Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND)	Gateway
Aiming High	

ANNEX 1 - Locality Outcomes Framework

SEFTON LOCALITY OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK							
2030 Vision	TOGETHER A STRONGER COMMUNITY		A BOROUGH FOR EVERYONE		READY FOR THE FUTURE	LIVING WORKING & HAVING FUN	
	Reducing the number of children at risk of harm		Increasing the number of people entering education, employment or training		Improving the social, emotional & mental health & wellbeing of people in Sefton	Reducing the risk of homelessness	
LOCALITY WORKING							
ASPIRE	ADDRESS	SUPPORT	PROMOTE	INCREASE	REDUCE	ENGAGE	
	Worklessness, financial & social exclusions	Families & individuals in need by providing the right support	Education, Training & Volunteering	Attendance in education, improve speech & language development & level of progress that children & young people make	Domestic Abuse, risk of homelessness & isolation	Children, Families and individuals with a range of Health & Wellbeing needs	
ADDRESS	Outcome	SEFTON RESIDENTS ACCESS EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, LEISURE & SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES (STP4)					
	Priority	Provide play, learning, leisure, culture & sporting opportunities	Improve social, emotional & mental health and wellbeing	Improve digital inclusion	Increase employment opportunities (STP4.1)	Reduce families at risk of financial exclusion (STP4.5)	Increase access to affordable housing & reduce homelessness (STP4.6)
	KPI	Number of people entering into employment (STP4.1)	Number people enjoying recreational pursuits	Number of young people not in employment, education or training (STP4.3/4.4)	Number of people accessing training or demonstrating progress to work (STP4.2)	Number of people presenting as homeless (STP4.6)	State of the housing market (STP4.6)
SUPPORT	Outcome	FAMILIES WHERE CHILDREN NEED HELP ARE WELL SUPPORTED (STP3)					
	Priority	Help children to live in safe & supportive families (STP3.1)			Ensure the most vulnerable are protected (STP3.2/3.3/3.4)		
	KPI	Number of children looked after (STP3.4)	Number of children going missing (STP3.5)	Number of repeat contacts	Number of families with CP/CIN Plans is reduced (STP3.2/3.3)	Number of families who have children who are young carers (STP6.4)	
PROMOTE	Outcome	SEFTON RESIDENTS TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR COMMUNITY & MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION (STP1)					
	Priority	Increase participation, volunteering, voice and influence	Increase people living independently for longer	Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (STP1.1/1.2)		Increase positive health outcomes that are related to the neglect of self and others	
	KPI	First time entrants to the criminal justice system (STP1.1/1.6)	Number of people receiving anti-social behaviour interventions (STP1.2)	Reoffending and the use of custody (STP1.1-1.5/5.2)		% of children & young people engaged in positive activities	

Locality Outcomes Framework v0.9 - CONFIDENTIAL WORKING DRAFT



INCREASE	Outcome	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE GOOD ATTENDANCE & DO WELL AT ALL LEVELS OF LEARNING (STP2)									
	Priority	Improve attainment & close attainment gaps		Improve early speech, language & communication development		Improve outcomes for children & young people with SEND		Support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning		Support schools and settings to improve attendance & develop positive behaviour (STP2.1/3.8)	
	KPI	% with good level of development in Early Years	Number of places in good & outstanding Early Years and schools	Number of fixed & perm. exclusions (STP2.2/2.3/2.4)	Attainment gaps for children eligible for free school meals	Primary & secondary school attendance (STP2.1)	% gaining 5 good GCSEs including Maths and English	Destinations of CYP with SEND after they leave school	% children with good achievement at the end of primary school	Number of level 3 qualifications at 19	
REDUCE	Outcome	SEFTON RESIDENTS ARE FREE FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION (STP5)									
	Priority	Reduce the number of incidents of domestic abuse (STP5.3)		Increase the early identification & prevention of neglect (STP6.7)		Increase the early identification & prevention of criminal and sexual exploitation (STP1.3/3.6)		Reduce the number of repeat perpetrated offences of domestic abuse (STP5.1)			
	KPI	Number of children at risk of criminal exploitation (STP1.3)		Number of children at risk of CSE (STP3.6)		Number of police call outs for domestic abuse incidents (STP5.2)					
ENGAGE	Outcome	SEFTON RESIDENTS HAVE GOOD MENTAL WELLBEING AND LEAD HEALTHY LIVES (STP6)									
	Priority	Encourage physical activity & healthy eating (STP6.3)		Promote sexual health & positive relationships (STP6.5)		Minimise the misuse of drugs, alcohol & tobacco (STP6.2)		Improve parenting capacity (STP6.3/6.6)		Promote positive inter-parental relationships (STP6.3)	
	KPI	Obesity level (STP6.3)		Number of people taking regular exercise (STP6.3)		Teenage pregnancy rates (STP6.5)		Rates of alcohol & drug related hospital admissions (STP6.2)		Rates of self-harm hospital admissions (STP6.1)	

Agenda Item 5

Sefton Community First Structure

(Subject to change following consultation)

Universal and Targeted

Team Managers (already recruited)

**Principal Early Help Workers
Senior Early Help Workers
Early Help Workers**

Community First Workers

Multiple and Complex

Team Managers (already recruited)

Senior Early Help Workers (stay as is)

Back Office - Admin and Business Support



Proposed new job roles

Sefton Community First will be driven by the most effective way to deliver the vision and outcome framework. **Basing the organisation roles and structure around resident need, and not teams, it is a radical departure from what we currently have.** As we develop more insight and understanding the organisational staffing will evolve.

The structure is based on themes:

- Principal Early Help Workers
- Senior Early Help Workers
- Early Help Workers
- Community First Workers
- Back office business and administration support.



Appendix 3 – Sefton Community First/Family Wellbeing Delivery Model

Through discussion, workshops and engagement sessions with service users, staff and partners a comprehensive offer has been developed which covers Family Wellbeing and of course Community First across each locality. The detailed information below shows clear links to the ASPIRE model to ensure that all service delivery links to the overall outcomes. This summary captures the offer from Sefton services and some existing commissioned services; it does not yet include all aspects the current health offer. Over time the expectation is that this offer will change and will be complimented with the offer from the community, faith and voluntary sector.

From the service offer highlighted here, each centre will develop a timetable which can be shared with service users. In developing the model, we have applied a more consistent traded model for some of the more universal services, yet ensuring a proportion of places are kept available for those families most in need.

The offer below represents an example of the core offer for the locality, which will be replicated across the other localities. Some local differences will emerge as the offer develops and flexes to meet community needs

Locality Offer

ASPIRE Outcome	Priority	Delivery by	Delivery examples:
1. Sefton residents access employment, housing, leisure & social opportunities (STP4)	Provide play, learning, leisure, culture & sporting opportunities	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay and play • Maths L1, L2 • English L1, L2 • Stay and Play Toddler • Duke of Edinburgh’s Award • Music groups age 10+ • New beginnings • Personal and social development programmes • Short breaks • Spring brook respite

	Sefton Community First - Active Sefton/Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active buggies • Active Totz. • Jump into Gymnastics • Be Active • Swimming lessons • Park Nights • LAC Leisure Centre Access • Couch to 5k/Park Run • Bespoke (non-timetabled) programmes (e.g. Active Schools, Health Checks, weight Management) • Active Splash
Improve social, emotional & mental health and wellbeing	Sefton Community First - Library Sites or Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytime/rhyme time • Craft Activities • Talks programme • Human library Activities
	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby Yoga ££ • Baby Massage ££ • Baby Mindful ££ • Prambles ££ • Baby and You • Mum and baby Well-being ££ • CBT programmes • Understanding self-harming • New beginnings • Neuro Champions • Understanding stress and stress management • Stepping stones parenting programme • Sleep clinic
	Sefton Community First - Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Groups • Human library activities • Historic Walks Programme

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Groups • Human Library programme • Sefton Lost Voices Programme • Historic Talks Programme • Access to genealogical resources • Free Book Loans 	
	Increase employment opportunities (STP4.1)	ACL ; Hugh Baird; Sefton@work; DWP workers for every early help case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Education • Talent Match 	
		Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money skills programme • Work experience placements • Peer mentor opportunities 	
		Sefton Community First - Library sites/outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Job Clubs • Library Business Start Up • Peoples network Computers 	
	Reduce families at risk of financial exclusion (STP4.5)	Welfare Rights, Living well Sefton, Venus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with debt management • Financial Management • Housing applications • Benefit application 	
		Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt management assessment, advice and signposting 	
	Increase access to affordable housing & reduce homelessness (STP4.6)	Sefton Community First Venus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and outreach 	
	Improve digital inclusion	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet café • Digital advantage • Our North photography programme 	
		Sefton Community First - Library Site/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Public WIFI • Digital Eagles sessions 	
	ASPIRE Outcome	Priority	Delivery by	Delivery across localities
	2. FAMILIES WHERE CHILDREN NEED	Help children to live in safe & supportive families	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety equipment • Home support/outreach

HELP ARE WELL SUPPORTED (STP3)	(STP3.1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Assessment • Graded care profile 2 for neglect • AIM 2 assessment • Education Care Health Plan • Independent return interview
	Ensure the most vulnerable are protected (STP3.2/3.3/3.4)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised contact sessions • Graded care profile 2 for neglect • AIM 2 assessment • Summer food delivery • Independent return interview
ASPIRE Outcome	Priority	Delivery by	Delivery across localities
3. SEFTON RESIDENTS TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR COMMUNITY & MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION (STP1)	Increase participation, volunteering, voice and influence	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent champions • Youth Cabinet • Symbol (Sefton young people making better opportunities with leaders) • Youth Foria • Work experience placements • Peer mentors • Youth Voice • Volunteer programme • Peer mentors • Transitions
		Sefton Community First - Library Sites/outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visit book loan service
	Increase people living independently for longer	Sefton Community First - Library Sites/outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sefton Lost Voices Volunteers
	Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (STP1.1/1.2)	Sefton Community First - Active Sefton/Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Life

		<p>Sefton Community First</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent offenders programme • Reality in prison • Challenging Thinking programme • Victim awareness programme • Drug messages from misusers • Weapon and gang programme • Bite the bullet • Escape for parents • Restorative Justice and You • OCCD • Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme • Aim 2 - SHB • Understanding Crime and anti-social behaviour • Researching Youth Crime • Youth Bus • Out of court disposal
	<p>Increase positive health outcomes that are related to the neglect of self and others</p>	<p>Sefton Community First</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vitamins • Summer food • Neglect tool • Sleep clinic • C card • Focus groups • Youth Voice • Seeing behind the wall (body image programme). • All young people presenting with low level mental health are screened by Criminal Justice Liaison Diversion Team • All Young People have are seen by YOT nurse and both physical and Mental health are addressed within asset and via referral

		Living well Sefton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping Smoking • Exercising More • Making Every Contact Count
		Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby health club • Promote ant-natal care
ASPIRE Outcome	Priority	Delivery by	Delivery across localities
4. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE GOOD ATTENDANCE & DO WELL AT ALL LEVELS OF LEARNING (STP2)	Improve attainment & close attainment gaps	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and support packages on learning & development; • Support on tracking children’s progress • Improved School attendance is part of YOT YP plans post asset • Improving school attendance and access to education is part of assessment and interventions.
		Sefton Community First - Library Sites/outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Reading Challenge
	Improve early speech, language & communication development	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Year Offer • Toddler Read and Rhyme Time • Baby Crawlers • Book Corner • Chatterbox • P.E.C’s (picture exchange communication system) • Board maker • Makaton • Intensive support and training for Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector • Support and intervention from speech and language service
	Improve outcomes for children & young people with SEND	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Support Group Children with disabilities • Special Time • Sensory Play

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two year old offer • Referral support • Summer Respite programme • Short breaks • Direct payments
		Welfare Rights –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance advice and support
	Support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinky Dancers –physical activity sessions ££ • Messy play ££ • Little Stars • Playing to Learn Programme • Relax Kids outreach • Post 5 delivery offer inclusive of a range of personal, social and emotional programmes age 10+.
		Sefton Community First - Library Sites/outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bookstart
	Support schools and settings to improve attendance & develop positive behaviour (STP2.1/3.8)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Readiness Hubs • English as an additional language link with ESOL (English for speakers of other languages)
	ASPIRE Outcome	Priority	Delivery by
	5. SEFTON RESIDENTS ARE FREE FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION (STP5)	Reduce the number of incidents of domestic abuse (STP5.3)	Sefton Community First
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence perpetrators programme • Freedom Project • CAFCASS resources online • Safety Planning • Target Hardening • Restraining Orders/non-molestation orders support • Coping & dealing with Anger Effectively Programme • Like Glue Programme

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE's programme (Adverse childhood experiences) • Post 5 Youth Team
		SWACA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support/counselling/programmes
		Venus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venus step together project
		Relate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling services
	Increase the early identification & prevention of neglect (STP6.7)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home safety checks/equipment • Graded care Profile • Signs of safety • Early Help Assessment • Assessment, observation direct home visit
	Increase the early identification & prevention of criminal and sexual exploitation (STP1.3/3.6)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct family work • Understanding CSE and staying safe online • Understanding crime and ASB • Focus groups single gender • Going through changes • Child Criminal Exploitation
Reduce the number of repeat perpetrated offences of domestic abuse (STP5.1)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family work and programmes as mentioned 	
ASPIRE Outcome	Priority	Delivery by	Delivery across localities
6. SEFTON RESIDENTS HAVE GOOD MENTAL WELLBEING AND LEAD HEALTHY	Encourage physical activity & healthy eating (STP6.3)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby Yoga ££ • Jo Jingles Toddlers ££ (External provider rental charges apply) • Jo Jingles babies • Little Chefs • Top Tots Physical sessions ££

LIVES (STP6)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Weaning sessions • New beginnings • Seeing behind the wall • Developing confidence and self-esteem programmes • Youth Voice • Short breaks • Parent champions
		Sefton Community First - Active Sefton/Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel good fitness 5 ways • Weaning/baby wellbeing • Parent champions • Early help plan • Making Every Contact Count • Active buggies • Jump into Gymnastics • Be Active • Swimming lessons • Park Nights • Leisure Centre Access • Couch to 5k/Park Run • Bespoke (non- timetabled) programmes (e.g. Active Schools, Health Checks, weight Management)
		CVS/Voluntary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Every Contact Count
		Healthy Sefton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel good fitness 5 ways
		Health: Enhanced HV/Midwife/school nurses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaning/baby wellbeing • Children's dietician • Ante-natal parent education • Community midwives booking systems • Family Planning clinics • Well-baby clinic

	Promote sexual health & positive relationships (STP6.5)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Beginnings LGBTQ • C Card distribution • Sexuality A gender: An inclusive sexual health tool kit • Single gender focus groups • Understanding healthy relationships • Don't suffer speak out bullying programme
		Health: school nurses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of the box-talk easy/easy talk
		Addaction (commissioned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be further developed
		Sefton Drug/Alcohol services (Commissioned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice, support, medication • Animate – living with parents with substance misuse
	Improve parenting capacity (STP6.3/6.6)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mellow Bump • Mellow Parent • Triple P • Strengthening Families Programme • Nurture and Thrive Pathway • Stay and play • Stepping stones • Sleep clinic • Spring Brook respite • ACEs (Adverse childhood experiences) • YOT can explore parenting order via court • Whole family assessment and working • YOT ACE facilitator
	Promote positive inter-parental relationships (STP6.3)	Sefton Community First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mellow groups-mum/baby/toddler

In determining the new delivery model a small number of existing services and interventions have been reduced or deleted to reflect our commitment to ASPIRE and the changes in staffing these include:

Deleted Services/Reduced:

	South	Central	North
Stay and Play sessions	40% (5-3)	28% (11-8)	55% (11-5)
Baby Wellbeing sessions(Yoga/massage)	Currently only delivered by Health		29% (7-5)
Relax Kids			50% (10-5)
Playing To learn	34% (3-2)	50% (2-1)	50% (2-1)
Parenting Programmes	40% (10-6)		
Counselling Private		100% (1-0)	
NoXcuses	100%	100%	100%

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Appendix 4

Existing Staffing Numbers (March 2017)

	North Locality				South Locality					Central Locality				
	Linaker Children's Centre	Freshfield Children's Centre	First Steps Children's Centre	Talbot Street Family Centre	Waterloo Children's Centre	Seaforth	Cambridge Children's Centre	Seaforth Family Centre	Marie Clarke Family Centre	Netherton /Thornton Children's Centre	Hudson Children's Centre	Litherland Children's Centre	Springwell Children's Centre	Netherton Family Centre
Centre Managers	2	0.5	1		1	1	1			1	1	1	1	
Senior Practitioners				1				1	1					1
Age 0-5	5.8	1.5	2.3	9.92	1.5	3.0	1.8	10.83	9	5.0	3.5	4.1	1.6	8.32
Age 6-11	3.0			1.4	0.80	2.08	1.6		1	2.0		1.0	1.6	
Age 12-15	0.55					3.30	1.5			2.41			1	
Activity Workers	3.30													
Premises Staff	0.16					0.5	0.5			0.91	0.5		1	

Proposed staffing numbers as indicated through the new funding methodology (November 2017)

	North Locality				South Locality					Central Locality				
	Linaker Children's Centre	Freshfield Children's Centre	First Steps Children's Centre	Talbot Street Family Centre	Waterloo Children's Centre	Seaforth	Cambridge Children's Centre	Seaforth Family Centre	Marie Clarke Family Centre	Netherton /Thornton Children's Centre	Hudson Children's Centre	Litherland Children's Centre	Springwell Children's Centre	Netherton Family Centre
Strategic Management Overview	1				1					1				
Centre Managers														
Senior Practitioners				1				1	1					1
Senior Practitioner	8.95	2.50	1.46	9.92	6.77	4.09	1.59	10.83	9	3.61	1.59	4.17	3.52	8.32
Senior Practitioner	1.00	1.50	0.50	1.4	1.00	2.00	1.00		1	2.50	1	1.00	1.00	
Crèche														
Activity Workers														
Premises Staff														

The staffing proposals above are based on a number of factors such as deprivation, reach area, English as additional language, special needs etc. The main savings associated with the changes are from the reduction in management and a streamlining of roles.

As Family Wellbeing is now integral within the locality offer the above job roles have been altered to fit into the wider locality offer. Due to the complexity of the staffing cohort moving forward, which is still subject to consultation and a subsequent recruitment process; it is difficult, at this point, to determine the full complement of staff operating from each base. However, detailed below is the proposed staffing quota across localities from September 2018 (though this is subject to ongoing change)

Proposed staffing across Sefton Community First per locality

North	Central	South
1 Service Manager	1 Service Manager	1 Service Manager
6 Locality Team Managers	6 Locality Team Managers	6 Locality Team Managers
2 Principal Early Help Workers		
10 Senior Early Help Workers, includes: 2 Youth Justice workers 1 Youth Justice (Restorative Justice) 1 Welfare Rights worker	12 Senior Early Help Workers, includes: 1 VCF & Equalities Officer 1 ASB Co-ordinator 2 Youth Justice workers 2 Welfare Rights workers 1 Children with Disabilities Occupational Therapist 1 Children With Disabilities Social Worker	15 Senior Early Help Workers, includes: 3 Youth Justice workers 2 Welfare Rights workers 2 Well Young People workers 1 School Regulatory Service worker 2 Children With Disabilities Social Workers
34 Early Help Workers Includes domestic abuse support, youth support, family support, missing children and young people, housing options and anti-social behaviour support	33.4 Early Help Workers Includes domestic abuse support, youth support, family support, missing children and young people, housing options and anti-social behaviour support	64.3 Early Help Workers Includes domestic abuse support, youth support, family support, missing children and young people, housing options and anti-social behaviour support
Community First Workers (libraries)	3 Community First Workers (libraries)	9.9 Community First Workers (libraries)
		1.5 Library Senior Development Officer
1 Business Support Worker (Youth Justice)	1 Business Support Worker (Youth Justice)	13 Business Support Workers, includes: 1 Children Missing Education Coordinator 2 School Regulatory Service workers 1 School Regulatory Service In Year 1 School Regulatory Phased Admissions 1 School Regulator Senior Business Support 1 Youth Justice Business Support 1 MARSOC & MARAC Coordinator 1 Library Senior Information Officer
6 Admin	8.5 Admin	8 Admin
1 Quality Improvement Officer	1 Quality Improvement Officer	2 Quality Improvement Officers
		1.5 Facilities and Premises Officers
2 Crèche Workers	2 Crèche Workers	2 Crèche Workers
	1 Neighbourhoods Apprentice (borough wide)	4 Library Apprentice Crosby Library
Staff total = 67	Staff total = 68.9	Staff total = 129.20
1 Youth Justice Court Support – based in Court		

Page 57

Agenda Item 5

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Agenda Item 6

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 10 July 2018
Subject:	Children's Social Care Annual Report		
Report of:	Director of Social Care and Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Lead Member for Children, schools and Safeguarding		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report is a summary of the progress in relation to the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan 2017 /18 and should be considered alongside the performance scorecard data.

The Plan identified three key objectives:

1. Ensure frontline practice is consistently good, effective and focussed on timely, measurable outcomes for children.
2. To improve management oversight at all levels to ensure effective services for children and young people receive good quality supervision
3. Ensure that frontline services are sufficiently resourced and the workforce appropriately skilled to enable high quality work to be undertaken with children and young people.

Recommendation(s):

(1) That Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to receive bi-annual reports updated performance scorecards.

(2) That Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the reviewed and refreshed version of the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan at the September Meeting

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Overview and scrutiny committee have an important role in receiving and scrutinising performance data to assure themselves of the effectiveness of Children's Social Care.

Agenda Item 6

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

N / A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue costs arising as a direct result of this report which is provided for information.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications:
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Children's Social Care have a statutory duty to protect the most vulnerable.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Children's social care work with children and their families to improve outcomes for children
Commission, broker and provide core services: Children's social care work in partnership with a range of organisations to ensure vulnerable children are safeguarded.
Place – leadership and influencer: The scrutiny of Children's social care performance supports the aspiration for all services to children to be good or better.
Drivers of change and reform: There has been significant focus on driving up standards of practice and linking and

aligning resources with the framework for change
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children will support them to have aspirations and obtain economic independence.
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 Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5206/18) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4430/18) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)

Contact Officer:	Vicky Buchanan
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 3128
Email Address:	vicky.buchanan@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Children's Social Care Annual Report
Annual performance score card

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Agenda Item 6



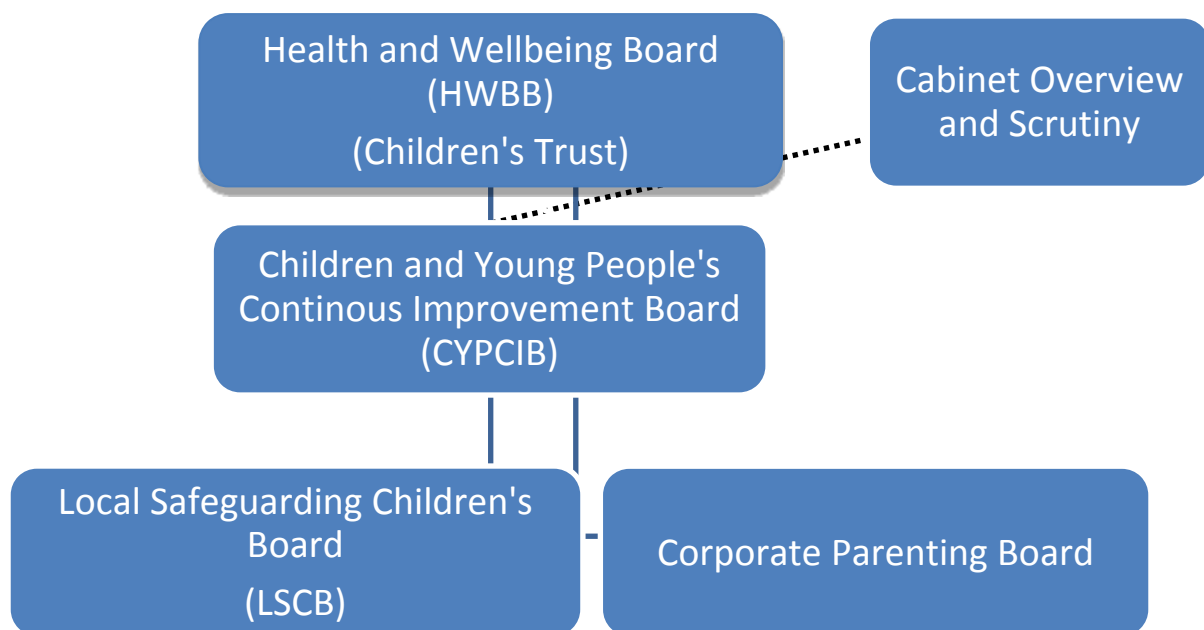
Children's Social Care
Annual Report and Review of
Improvement Plan
1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

June 2018
Vicky Buchanan
Head of Children's Social Care

Agenda Item 6

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In April 2016 an Inspection took place of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, the report was published in July 2016. The inspection concluded that children's services in Sefton require improvement to be good and made 11 recommendations.
- 1.2 An improvement plan was developed and submitted to DfE and Ofsted in October 2016. The improvement plan was reviewed and refreshed in September 2017. The Plan identified 3 key objectives:
1. Ensure frontline practice is consistently good, effective and focussed on timely, measurable outcomes for children.
 2. To improve management oversight at all levels to ensure services for children and young people receive good quality supervision.
 3. Ensure that frontline services are sufficiently resourced and the workforce appropriately skilled to enable high quality work to be undertaken with children and young people.
- 1.3 Robust governance arrangements remain in place as detailed below and a performance scorecard tracks progress on all actions detailed in the Improvement Plan.

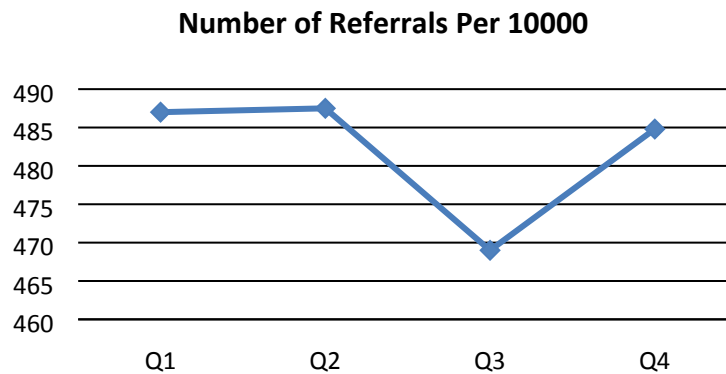


- 1.4 The Children's Social Care Improvement plan is in the process of being reviewed and refreshed, the updated plan will incorporate learning from Children's social care and multi – agency audits, the LSCB independent review of Child Protection re-plans, the LGA Care Practice diagnostic which took place in April 2018 and individual agency learning from Serious Case Reviews and Practice reviews.
- 1.5 It should be noted that there are a range of service annual reports including, Adoption, Fostering, Private Fostering, MASH and the Safeguarding Unit.

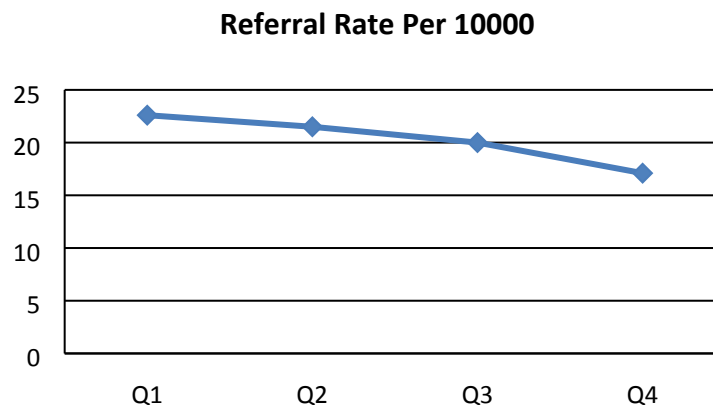
2 Strategic Priority 1 - Ensure frontline practice is consistently good, effective and focussed on timely, measurable outcomes for children Assessment and Planning

2.1 What the data tells us

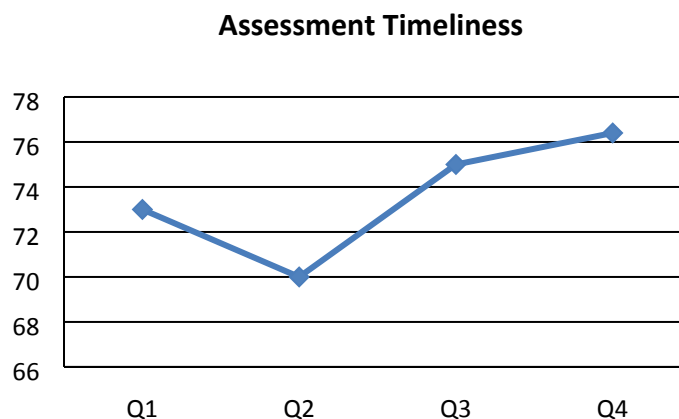
2.1.1 There has been a slight decrease in the rate of referrals (517 – 513.9 per 10000).



2.1.2 Re-referral rates have also decreased to 17.1 (21.6 – 17.1 per 10000), this is an indicator that the initial intervention did result in sustained improvement reducing the requirement for re-referral.



2.1.3 Assessment timeliness remains a strong focus, 76.4% of assessments were completed within 45 days this is a marginal increase on 2016/17 (+4%) and this needs to improve. The number of assessments completed did drop by 13.2% (3248 in 2016/17 to 2819 in 2017/18).



Agenda Item 6

- 2.1.4 The number of children subject to child protection plans has remained stable, with a 1% increase from 2016/17, however there has been an increase in the number of children subject to repeat child protection plans indicating that the plan did not result in sustained change for the child and family. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board have focussed on this issue and an independent review was undertaken to look at this issue. As a result of this a multi – agency action plan is now in place to address this. There is an increase on children subject to child protection plans as a result of neglect, (30%), this is an indication that the neglect strategy has had an impact and neglect is being recognised.
- 2.1.5 Timeliness of reports to Child Protection conferences is a concern and will be a key priority for 2018/19. The practice standard states that reports should be available 3 days prior to conference, this allows reports to be shared with families, only 28.5% of reports were available 3 days before and this will be included in performance monitoring and refresh of the improvement plan.
- 2.1.6 Children seen within 5 days and 10 days of referral needs to improve, with only 46% of children being recorded as seen within 10 days of referral, this will be a focus of performance meetings. There has been an increased focus on assessments that are concluded as No Further Action and there has been an overall reduction of 7.5%, compared to last year.
- 2.1.7 There has been an increase in the number of children Looked After by approximately 4% to 486 children on 31st March 2018, despite this challenge placement stability has improved slightly with 10% of children experiencing 3 or more placement moves, this tends to be older children who have complex issues including CSE and Missing. Positively the number of children placed at home on full care orders has reduced by 3% and this continues to be an area of focus.
- 2.1.8 There continues to be challenges in relation to placement sufficiency for Looked after children and this is a national issue. We are working hard with colleagues in commissioning to work with the local provider market to ensure when safe and appropriate Sefton children remain in Sefton. We are looking at how we can enhance our offer to inhouse foster carers so that they are able to care for some of our older and more complex young people.
- 2.1.9 There has been a focus on Initial Health Assessments for looked After Children in partnership with CCG and provider colleagues, this has led to an increase of 18.6% of IHA's completed, this will remain a focus for the coming 12 months in relation to all health checks.
- 2.1.10 There has been an increase in the number of children adopted during the year to 13 children, with a further 15 children placed for adoption, this improvement in performance was acknowledged in a letter from the minister.
- 2.1.11 We have developed and published our local offer for care leavers. 91.2% of our care leavers are living in suitable accommodation which is comparable to last year's figure of 92.7%, (custody is not deemed as suitable accommodation), positively there have been no care leavers in emergency accommodation e.g. bed and breakfast, and 9% increase in care leavers who are in Education, Employment or training.
- 2.1.12 During 2017/18 Young Advisors were asked to undertake a piece of work to understand the experience of children and families in the Child in Need and Child Protection Service. The findings from their report have been taken forward and an

action plan developed. Ensuring we capture the voice of children and their lived experience remains a key priority.

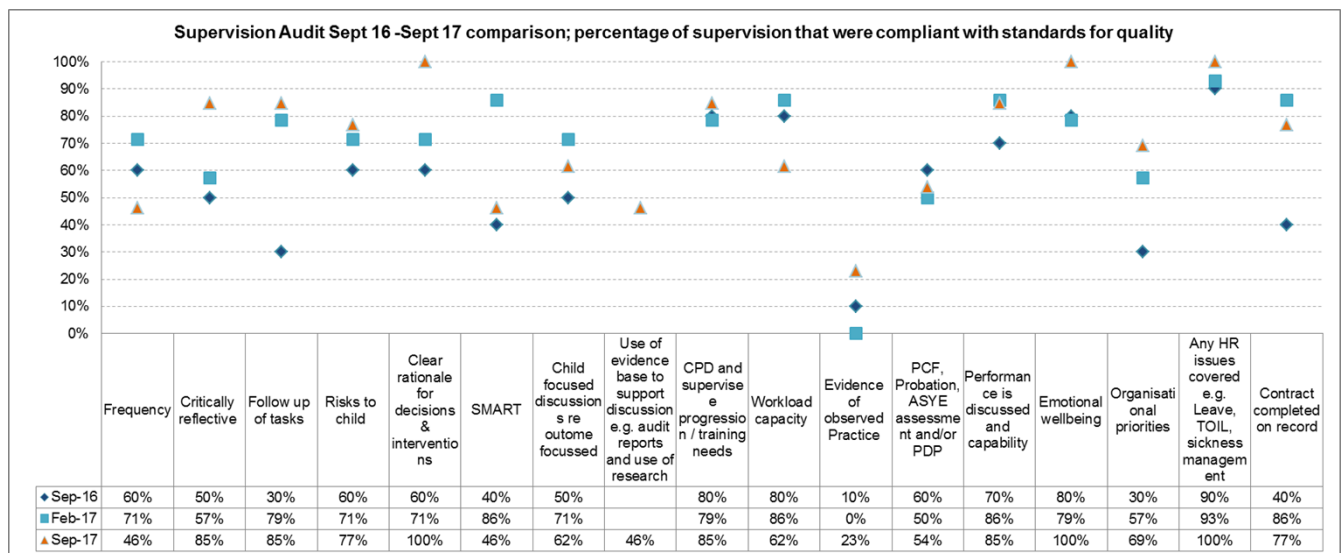
2.1.13 The LSCB commissioned an independent review of children subject to second or subsequent child protection plans, the review made a number of recommendations which children's Social care are addressing alongside the LSCB partnership. One Serious Case Review was started during the year and the findings of this this is due to be reported to the LSCB in July 2018. A common theme from audit and review is the sense of over optimism in some cases which can then then lead to drift and delay in care planning for children. A review is being undertaken of our current Signs of Safety approach which is a strengths based model, to look at what other tools and models are needed to support practice and effective decision making across the whole partnership.

3 Strategic Priority 2 - To improve management oversight at all levels to ensure effective services for children and young people and that frontline staff receive good quality supervision.

3.1 An audit of supervision was undertaken in September 2017. A further audit will be undertaken in July 18.

3.2 What the data tells us

3.2.1 In the supervision audit, 75% of the supervision records audited did not meet good overall, this had increased from 50% in the previous audit. No cases were judged to exceed good although in one case the auditor noted that the supervision would have exceeded good if had occurred more frequently. Areas that were highlighted for improvement in the previous audit had demonstrably improved in most areas.



3.2.2 Frontline managers are currently reviewing the supervision policy and templates for recording supervision to ensure that they are helpful to them and support them in evidencing reflective supervision. What is clear when talking to frontline practitioners is that formal and informal supervision takes place regularly but is not always well recorded and reflective discussions captured.

3.2.3 There continues to be a focus on leadership and management across the organisation. Practice and Performance Workshops are held quarterly led by the Head of Service,

Agenda Item 6

and all frontline staff are invited to attend, these workshops provide opportunities to share learning from audits including multi – agency audits, share good practice and ensure that social workers are afforded an opportunity to influence the development of plans to improve practice.

3.2.4 Performance meetings are held monthly with Team Managers to ensure that we continually scrutinise data and translate this into what it means for children and families.

3.2.5 There is robust scrutiny and challenge at all levels in the organisation as detailed in the governance structure above.

4 Strategic Priority 3 - Ensure that frontline services are sufficiently resourced and the workforce appropriately skilled to enable high quality work to be undertaken with children and young people.

4.1 In October 2017 Children's Social care restructured its services. The aim of the restructure was to address the following,

- Children experience too many changes of social workers at important transition points.
- Caseloads are too high in some areas, (assessment, Corporate Parenting and IRO's)
- Management Oversight and supervision needs to improve.

4.2 There has been a dip in performance since the restructure as new approaches 'bed – in'. Locality Social Work teams now have a wider remit, whilst over time this will be positive for children as they should not experience changes of social workers at key decision points, it does mean that team managers and social workers are undertaking areas of practice that they have not necessarily undertaken before. We are working closely with team managers to support them in the development of their teams.

4.3 The new structure also supports clear lines of accountability within teams and support to develop frontline managers is in place. There has been mandatory training for frontline managers and quarterly development meetings. We believe that investing in the development of our frontline managers is key to raising practice standards. The new structure should help to create the culture and environment for continued improvement.

4.4 As we have recruited to vacancies and increased numbers in social work teams there has been an increase in the number of newly qualified social workers in their Assessed and Supported year in Employment, (approximately 20 social workers). This is positive in many ways as we are growing our future workforce however it does mean there are increased challenges as they should have protected caseloads, increased supervision and support to develop which puts an extra burden on team managers. We have secured some resource to provide additional support to this cohort of staff to ensure they meet the requirements of the programme and relieve some of the burden for Team Managers.

4.5 We have increased our support to Care leavers as part of the restructure, creating a team that provides this service and increasing the number of personal advisors. This should help us to meet the requirements of the Children and social work act 2017 with support to care leavers up to the age of 25.

5 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1 Raising Practice standards and improving the consistency of core practice remains a priority focus. Standards of recording have improved which to demonstrate through audit that there is a tangible outcome on children's lives. We must now ensure that here is momentum and change gathers pace moving forward.
- 5.2 Management oversight and supervision must strengthen further to have an impact on quality of practice.
- 5.3 Recommendations from audits, serious case reviews, the Local Government Association Peer Review Care practice Diagnostic and independent review of children subject to repeat child protection plans will be incorporated into a reviewed and refreshed improvement plan for the service to ensure we continue to drive improvements in practice and improve the lived experiences of our most vulnerable children.

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			Year End Target	Baseline outturn 2016/17	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	17/18 Outturn	DoT	Comments
	Good	Outstanding									
Rate of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10,000 population (12 month rolling period)	Below regional average			517.0	487.0	487.5	469.0	484.8	484.8	↓	During 2017/18 a total of 7706 contacts were received, of which an annual average of 52% were passed to Early Help and 29% progressed to a referral. December 2017 and January 2018 saw a higher average of 63% had been passed to Early Help, which led to the MASH reviewing these cases. The audit concluded that MASH were appropriately implemented the LSCB Level of Needs and agencies were making contacts to access Early Help support. The audit findings were reported to the LSCB Performance Quality & Assurance Sub Group and the Early Help Sub Group and informed the updated Early Help Strategy, Action Plan and development of the Early Help Performance Dashboard. The rate of referrals has decreased over the year by 6.2%. The lowest figure was recorded throughout Q3. There has been a marked increase in the rate of contacts progressing to a referral throughout Q4, directly comparing April 17 data with March 18, there has been a 100% increase in progression of contacts to referral.
Percentage of those referrals that were re-referrals (rolling 12 month period)	19-15	<14	16	21.6	22.6	21.5	20.0	17.1	17.1	↓	The Re-Referral rate continues to decrease, with a 5.6% reduction throughout 2017/18. The LGA team provided positive feedback regarding the work of the MASH, in terms of them collating partnership information to inform decision making and ensuring families are offered the right support at the time time, this has continued to contribute to the reducing re-referral rate.
Percentage of children and young people seen within 5 days of the referral (rolling 3 months)	75-83	85+	84		24.1	23.6	27.0	25.8	25.8	↓	Throughout the year there has been a reduction for both performance measures children are not routinely being seen within 10 days of referral. The figure has decreased by (-2.9% seen within 5 days and -2.4% seen within 10 days). These two performance measures remain a significant service priority in CSC Performance Meetings. Locality Teams report this is due to the new teams being in the service restructure. Performance is being closely monitored, to ensure this dip is not sustained.
Percentage of children and young people seen within 10 days of the children and family assessment start date (rolling 3 months)	75-84	85+	85	61	60	53	66	50	50	↓	
Percentage of assessments completed within 15 days (rolling 12 months)	40-49	50-100	40	17	18.0	16.0	18.0	18.3	18	↑	Throughout the reporting period there has been an overall improvement in assessment timeliness.
Percentage of assessments completed within 35 days (rolling 12 months)	75-80	85+	75	44	41.0	47.0	42.0	48.2	48	↑	
Percentage of assessments completed within 45 days (rolling 12 months)	81-89	90+	81	72	73.0	70.0	75.0	76.4	76	↑	
Percentage of assessments audited that meet or exceed good (audit measure)	61-80	81+	61	30.9			40.9				Audit measures are sourced from audit reporting - The 'Child in Need' quality audit findings are currently being analysed. Initial findings from the audit indicate in 56% of cases audited outcomes for children and families
Percentage of assessments that are completed as NFA	49-26	>25	50	57.0	57.0	54.0	52.0	49.5	49.5	↓	The NFA assessment rate has decreased by 7.5% over the reporting year
The proportion of Children Looked After (CLA) who have had an assessment completed within the latest 12 month period	61-80	81+	60	44	47.0	44.0	44.5	43.0	43	↓	Ensuring that all looked after children have an annual health assessment remains a priority for CSC, CCG and North West Boroughs, particularly as there has been a further 1.5% decrease reported since Q3. This has also been identified as a recommendation by the LGA team.
The proportion of Children with Disabilities who have had an assessment completed within the latest 12 month period	61-80	81+		18	23.0	35.0	36.0	38.0	38	↑	The LSCB has undertaken a multi agency audit focused on children with disabilities and has reported the findings to the March '18 LSCB Performance & Quality Assurance Sub Group. Ensuring that children with a disability have at least an annual assessment remains a priority for the Children with Disabilities Team.
Percentage of supervisions that met the practice standard for frequency (audit measure)	75-89	90-100	70	71.0		45.0					The next Supervision Audit will be undertaken during July 2018
Percentage of supervisions that met the practice standard of good quality and reflective (audit measure)	75-89	90-100	70	57.0		85.0					
Percentage of staff report that supervision is beneficial to them with supervision from the annual survey	75-89	90-100	70	57.0		69.0					
Percentage of cases that meet good for Management Oversight and Effective Decision Making (audit measure)	75-89	90-100	65	33.0			45.5				Audit measures are sourced from audit reporting - The 'Child in Need' quality audit findings are currently being analysed. Initial findings from the audit indicate that ensuring management oversight of Child In Need cases needs to remain as a service priority.
The proportion of all CLA 5 and over who participate in the annual pledge survey	34-66	67-100	25	26							
The percentage of cases closed in Early Help because we have not engaged the family (rolling 12 months)	20-16	<15	20	25.4	22.3	19.0	17.0	21.0	21.0	↓	The Early Help closure rate because of the lack of ability to engage families has decreased by 4.4% throughout the reporting year. An audit to understand the reasons for this has been undertaken by Early Help Lead and MASH. The Audit findings have been reported to the LSCB Performance and Quality Assurance & Early Help Sub Groups and informed the Early Help Sub Group Development Day discussions (15th May) and the revised LSCB Early Help Strategy and associated updated Action Plan.
Percentage of cases that met good work is child centered (audit measure)	76-89	90-100		40.0	80*		59.1				Audit measures are sourced from audit reporting - The 'Child in Need' quality audit findings are currently being analysed. Initial findings from the audit indicate in 31% of cases included in the audit the standard of child centered involvement met a good standard.
Percentage of plans meet or exceed good across all service areas (audit measure)	80-89	90-100	65	20.0			23.8				
Percentage of children and young people with an up to date plan in line with practice standards CIN * excluding CWD	80-89	90-100	80	87.3	82%	86%	67%	91%	91%	↑	Performance has increased by 3.7% throughout the year. This issues was highlighted as a service priority for January '18, this has resulted in a marked 24% improvement (91%) recorded at the end of Q4.

	Good	Outstanding	Year End Target	Baseline outturn 2016/17	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	17/18 Outturn	DoT	Comments
Proportion of care plans completed within 10 days of LAC review	80-89	90-100		23%	6%	13%	15%	17%	17%	↓	Ensuring childrens Care Plans are updated by their Social Worker after the child's LAC Review remains a service priority. There has been a 3% decrease in performance throughout the year. Due to the increased capacity in the Corporate Parenting Teams this performance is forecasted to improve.
Percentage of children and young people with an up to date plan in line with practice standards CP	80-90	90-101	80	84.0	82%	85%	100%	94%	94%	↑	Throughout the year 2017/18 performance has improved by 10%. It is recognised that the workforce restructure, specific to the Locality Teams, has impacted during the middle part of 2017/18 however there has been a 10% increase in performance overall. This will be monitored during Q1 2018-19 to ensure this performance dip is not sustained.
Rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 population	40-44	<40	44	43.9	39.8	42.6	49.6	44.9	44.9	↓	There has been a 1% increase throughout the year. Analysis of the Child Protection Plans commencing each month evidences that January and February 2018 had the lowest CP Plan commencement rate in the year. Analysis has also been undertaken of children ceasing to be subject of a CP Plan, to ensure their Plans are not ceasing too early. This evidenced that the length of children's CP Plans is increasing, as IROs increase their challenge and scrutiny of recommendations to cease a child protection plan at an early stage, before change has been sustained. in line with the LSCB CP Re-Plan Review recommendations.
Percentage of children and young people subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time (rolling 12 month period)	19-16	<15	19	21.5	20.5	27.8	27.7	27.1	27.1	↑	Throughout the reporting period this figure has increased by 6%. This performance remains a a focus for Children's Social Care, Independent Safeguarding Children Unit and the LSCB. The LSCB commissioned an Independent Review, which was shared at March LSCB. The recommendations are due to be discussed with the workforce at the June 2018 Practice and Performance Meeting, in order to further develop the CSC Service Improvement Plan. The Independent Safeguarding Unit IROs have only ceased 1 child's child protection plan during Q4 at the first review stage, apart from the children who have become looked after, in line with LSCB CP Re-Plan review recommendations.
Percentage of statutory CLA visits completed within timescale increases	85-94	95-100	85	87.6	83%	83%	83%	84%	84%	↓	This performance has decreased by 2.6%. Ensuring that social workers record that they have undertaken a visit to a looked after child within statutory timescales remains a service priority for the increased Corporate Parenting management oversight.
Percentage of statutory CP visits completed within timescale increases	85-94	95-100	85	93.0	90%	82%	91%	80%	80%	↓	There was a 13% decrease in performance of recording visits to children subject of a CP Plan throughout 2017/18, with locality teams reporting this is due to their current higher caseloads which has been an initial reaction to the service restructure, as this beds in. Ensuring that visits to children are undertaken and recorded within statutory timescales remains a service priority.
Number of notifications of cases of suspected private fostering (rolling 12 month period)	Increase			5	5	7	6	10	10	↑	The number of Private Fostering notifications received by the MASH increased by 6 throughout 2017/18 to 10, this is as a result of the work undertaken by the LSCB Private Fostering Task & Finish Group
Percentage of visits and initial assessment in suspected private fostering cases undertaken within 7 days	70-79	80	70	60%	NA	NA	50%	50%	50%	↓	This figure has decreased by 10% over the reporting period and should be monitored going forward. An Audit of all new Private Fostering notifications is currently being undertaken by the IRO Manager to inform Social Care Annual Private Fostering Report to the LSCB.
Number of 16 and 17 year olds who presented as homeless who progressed to referral (YTD)	Increase			19	1	4	3	2	10	↓	The number of young people presenting as homeless has significantly decreased by 47% throughout 2017/18
Percentage of cases judged as meet or exceed good for risk (audit measure)	80-89	90-100	80	50.0	80.0*		54.5				Audit measures are sourced from audit reporting - The 'Child in Need' quality audit findings are currently being analysed. Initial findings from the audit indicate in 44% of cases included in the audit the standard of understanding of risk met good. Initial findings from the audit also indicate 50% of cases included in the audit the standard of care the child recieved where they lived was good.
Percentage of cases judged to meet good or exceed good for quality of placement (audit measure)	80-89	90-100	80	53.0	73.3		92.3				
Rate of children looked after per 10,000 population	80-84	<80	84	85.4	86.5	89.0	89.0	89.9	89.9	↑	The rate of looked after children has continued to increase 4.7% throughout 2017/18. Social Care SMT have implemented a Placement Panel, to ensure that appropriate support is in place to support the child / young person, this includes support to remain at home where it is safe an appropriate to do so or to plan admissions into care ensuring the most appropriate placement is sourced, reduce emergency admissions and focus on the outcomes to be achieved for the child / young person. The panel considers all admissions into care under s20, and those were proceedings are being considered for ICO s38 of Children Act for children over the age of 10 years. Any emergency placements that have been made and have not been presented to panel will be considered at the next available panel. The panel also considers requests for changes of placements.
Proportion of children and young people looked after with 3 or more placements in a 12 month period	10-5	<5	7	11.8	9.3	9.0	9.0	10	10	↓	
Proportion of children placed on a full care order at home with parents	6-15	0-5	10	14.0	16.0	11.0	10.5	11.6	11.6	↓	The performance regarding children who are placed at home on a Full Care Order has decreased by 2.6% throughout 2017/18 to 11.4%. The number of children placed at home on a FCO & ICO has decreased by 2% to 17%. All historical cases of Placed with Parents (PWP) have been assessed, with appropriate discharge applications actioned. All PWP Care Plans being presented to the Court now have clear management oversight and IRO scrutiny, have been appropriate to the individual child's situation and have a clear future plan of support with an intended discharge application due at 12 month point.
Proportion of children placed on a care order at home with parents interim or full	6-15	0-6	15	19.0	20.0	19.0	18.2	16.8	16.8	↓	
Percentage of statutory visits for children placed at home with parents completed in timescales	80-94	95-100	80	87.4	86%	81%	81%	87%	87.0%	↔	Ensuring that social workers record that they have undertaken a visit to a looked after child within statutory timescales has very slightly decreased -0.4%, this remains a service priority.
Percentage of LAC persistantly absent from education	10-19	<10	<20	24.0							Ensuring looked after children attend and receive education has been priority for all looked after children's care plans. There is an indicated 11% reduction in looked after children reported as absent from last years performance baseline.
A reduction in Practice Alerts generated by IRO's (Number in QRT)	Decrease			407	135	77	78	101	391	↓	This measure has focused on the proportion of LAC / CP cases which have had a formal practice alert. This figure has decreased by -0.4% throughout 2017/18. This measure will change from Q1 2018-19, to evidence the total number of formal alerts made by IROs re: Looked after children and separately children subject of a Child
Percentage of cases that meet good for review in audit (audit measure)	80-89	90-100	65	58.8	46.7*		40.0				Audit measures are sourced from audit reporting - The 'Child in Need' quality audit findings are currently being analysed. Initial findings from the audit indicate in 44% of cases included in the audit the standard of case review met good.
Percentage of cases that meet or exceed good for impact in audit (audit measure)	80-89	90-100	65	60.0	80*		59.1				
Percentage of Initial Health Assessment's completed (rolling 12 month period)	80-89	90-100	80	62.4	77.0	69.0	83.0	81.0	81.0	↑	This performance has remained a focus for the Corporate Parenting Board, the CCG and Northwest Boroughs provider, as a result performance has started to notably improve Throughout 2017/18 the number of intial health assessments undertaken has risen by 15.9%. LAC. Sefton CCG has appointed full time Designated Nurse for LAC capacity to oversee this continued improvement as a priority. The number of looked after children aged under 5 with a completed health check within 12 months has decreased by 20%. However the nuber of looked after
Percentage of Children Looked After Under 5 (for 12 months or more) with a health check completed within 12 months	80-89	90-100	80	68.0	36.0	42.0	50.0	66.7	66.7	↓	

	Good	Outstanding	Year End Target	Baseline outturn 2016/17	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	17/18 Outturn	DoT	Comments
Percentage of Children Looked After ≥5 (for 12 months or more) with a health check completed within 12 months	80-89	90-100	80	70.0	73.0	65.0	69.0	89.0	89.0	↑	children aged over 5 has increased by 13.7%
Reduction in highest average caseloads	25-20	19-10	25				24.0	21.8	21.8	↓	Average caseloads across the service have decreased. Service restructure and the appointment of additional social workers are supporting this service priority. Locality Teams currently report higher than whole service average caseloads, this has been a focus of May's Performance Meeting discussion.
Reduction in IRO caseload	50-70	<50	70	86.0	79.0	75.0	84.6	84.4	84.4	↓	The IRO average caseload remains higher than the nationally recommended rate, but has slightly decreased over the 12 month reporting period -2.7%. An 12 month extension of the additional 12 month temporary IRO capacity has been agreed. Agency recruitment is current been undertaken to cover a maternity vacancy.
Number of children waiting to be placed for adoption	Decrease			16	20	14	11	7	7	↓	
Number of children placed for adoption	Increase			7	7	14	15	15	15	↑	The number of children wating to be adopted has decreased as Adoption Hearings have not been undertaken. A total of 13 children were adopted during the annual year period. The number of children who have care plans to be adopted during the next 6 months will increase next years adoption permanent outcomes.
No of children adopted (cumulative)	Increase			10	3	5	9	13	13	↑	
Number of adoption disruptions (rolling YTD)	Reduction			1	0	1	2	0	0	↓	There have not been any adoption disruptions in Q4.
Percentage of care leavers living in suitable accommodation (19-21)	90-94	95-100	90	92.7		95.0	95.0	91.2	91.2	↓	This performance has decreased throughout 2017/18 by 6.2% and should be closely monitored. Should performance continue to dip then an audit should be undertaken by the QA Manager and Corporate Parenting Team managers to better understand where we can improve our practice
Number of care leavers being accommodated in emergency accommodation YTD	Reduction			9		0	0	0	0	↓	
Percentage of Care Leavers who are in Education, Training or Employment (19-21)	45-55	55+	60	45.1		48.5	51.0	51.5	51.5	↑	There has been a marked improvement of 9.1% in ensuring Sefton's Care Leavers engage in Education, Training and Employment remains a priority for the Leaving Care Team, who as a result of the service restructure have increased management capacity to monitor this performance.

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Agenda Item 8

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	3 July 2018
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)		10 July 2018
Subject:	NEET		
Report of:	Executive Director	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Regeneration & Skills		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No.
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To satisfy the request from Overview & Scrutiny Committee for progress reports against each recommendation of the NEET Working Group Final Report in 2013

Recommendation(s):

That Members:

1. Note the progress achieved against the agreed objectives in the current reporting period.
2. Agree that future reporting on this issue forms part of the reporting framework to be devised once the Council adopts the forthcoming Sefton Economic Strategy, as this will supercede and update the recommendations of the NEET Working Group dating back to 2013

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

As this is an update report on activities, no alternative options have been considered.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no cost implications to this report. It provides Members with an update on existing activities.

Implications of the Proposals:

Agenda Item 8

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications:
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: This report focuses wholly on services targeting the most vulnerable young people in Sefton.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The participation of young people in education and employment prevents further social and economic disenfranchisement and promotes resilience.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The prevention of young people being NEET is covered by a range of statutory duties placed upon the Council
Place – leadership and influencer: The Council acts in a key leadership role in the provision of services to NEET young people.
Drivers of change and reform: The Council is driving forward aggressive and innovative approaches to the future procurement and deliver of IAG services for NEET young people with local partners.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The engagement of young people in skills development has a fundamental bearing on their future economic prosperity and their ability to achieve their personal and earnings potential .
Greater income for social investment: The Council is leading on the development of a number of methods to lever in additional income for NEET services through social investment bonds.
Cleaner Greener Economic engagement of young people is widely recognised as having an impact on the overall appreciation of place, respect for neighbourhoods and community cohesion.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD5070/18) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4354/18) 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 Committee / Council meeting.

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- The Not in Employment Education or Training (NEETs) Working Group was jointly established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) to undertake a review of issues surrounding the delivery of the NEETS service within the Borough. The Final Report of the Working Group was received by Cabinet on 28th March 2013.
- Members requested an annual progress report to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Since the Senior Management Review in 2015, responsibility for NEETs, and youth transitions to work generally, have been redistributed from Head of Schools & Families to the Head of Investment & Employment. Therefore this progress report is addressed to the two relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committees as has been requested.
- Schools continue to be under a statutory duty to provide a universal Careers Education and Information Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) service to all students. It has to be both impartial and independent i.e. not wholly delivered by school staff, though a teacher may co-ordinate activities.
- Sefton Council commissions a full service contract to track the NEET cohort and those at risk of NEET, through an annual Activity Survey and a continuous monitoring system that embraces all sources and destinations for 16-18 year olds (18-25 year old for those with Special Educational Needs)
- Sefton Council also commissions an Information Advice and Guidance service for NEETs, with a view to maximising their participation and reducing the NEET rate.

Agenda Item 8

This necessarily involves close working relationships with Youth Offending Team, Leaving Care teams, health services, Sefton Turnaround etc and external partners.

- The Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation has been completely implemented, and since 2015, all 16-18 year olds must be in education, training or in employment with training.
- The academization of schools has moved the fulcrum of relations between the schools and the Council from legal oversight and educational improvement to provision of back-office services and pathway planning.
- The government has imposed a funding obligation on training providers that learners with a grade D in Maths and English must continue to study these subjects in their post-GCSE programme, in effect generating an extra volume of resits and drop-outs in FE. This has a significant impact on the learning experience of young people.
- For independent training providers, the impact of the Maths/English requirement on achievement rates has come on top of difficult trading conditions, leading to poor Ofsted scores, cash flow issues, and in several cases, closure and loss of provision for 16-18 year olds in Sefton.
- The Council is a founding partner of the Sefton Education Business Partnership that exists to develop school/industry links and to prepare young people for the world of work by engaging employers and motivating students.
- Sefton Council's commitment to this agenda is clear and is at the highest level of the Council. Cllr Maher, Leader of the Council has undertaken the portfolio of Employment & Skills for the Combined Authority and has taken a specific responsibility as the chair person for the Area Based Review of Post 16 Skills Provision. Cllr Atkinson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Skills also sits on the LCR Employment & Skills Board as Sefton's representative.

3. The evolving Context for NEET Support

3.1 LCR Careers Hub

Schools, colleges and training providers all have a statutory responsibility for delivering independent careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) to all their learners. Ofsted ensures this duty is delivered effectively and supports the best interests of the learner in their next steps. In addition, the Careers and Enterprise Company, the National Careers Service and the DWP all fund national careers support programmes, delivered by local partners, supporting schools in delivering their careers IAG and enterprise duties. There is also a range of commercial providers in the market able to supply independent careers advice and guidance support on direct contracts to schools and colleges.

However, feedback from stakeholders involved in the LCR Area Based Review of 16+ skills Provision undertaken in 2016/17 indicated a failure in the market in terms of the perceived impartiality of careers advice and guidance being provided and the quality and

local relevance of materials being used. It has therefore been agreed that The Combined Authority will establish a sub-regional careers hub to bring cohesion and better alignment with growth opportunities to the provision of careers information.

3.4 LCR Apprenticeship Hub

Sefton has expressed its full commitment as part of the LCR Combined Authority to the expansion of Apprenticeships. As a large scale employer in Merseyside, it also leads by example by creating a wide range of apprenticeship places across its departments spanning a number of occupational areas.

Apprenticeships form a key component of the LCR Devolution Deal with government and external funding has been made available to support the creation of the LCR Apprenticeships Hub. The Hub provides a range of promotional events in each LA area, hosts a number of high profile Skills Shows and undertakes ongoing engagement with employers to promote the benefits of creating apprenticeships within the workforce together with a web based resource for young people , training providers, employers and advisers. Further details on the Hub can be found here:

<http://apprenticeshipswork.org.uk/apprentices/>

3.5 LCR Apprenticeship Growth Plan

In January 2018, the LCR Employment & Skills Board agreed the LCR Apprenticeship Growth Plan. This Plan has been widely consulted upon and expresses a desire for the City region to deliver a step change in both the quality and quantity of Apprenticeship opportunities with an objective to create 20,000 Apprenticeship starts by 2020.

The Plan identifies the key challenges that without collective and collaborative action could inhibit programme delivery and future growth. These include:

- The impact of apprenticeship reforms;
- Apprenticeship awareness and understanding amongst employers;
- Falling 16-18 apprenticeship participation and local demographic impact;
- An imbalance between employer demand and the availability of provision;
- The issue of low attainment of English and maths at age 16 compared to national averages in some areas;
- The technical skills gap that exists across Liverpool City Region; and
- The complexity and fragmentation of the local skills system.

3.6 National Careers Strategy

Updated guidance was published by DfE following the unveiling of the government's long-overdue national careers strategy in December 2017, which requires schools and colleges to meet eight "Gatsby Benchmarks".

It states that providers are expected to work towards these standards, which have been designed over the past three years to ensure they succeed in a post-16 setting, as early as possible and meet them by the end of 2020. Colleges risk losing their grant funding if the demands are not met in that timescale but this constraint does not at this time appear to apply to schools.

The careers strategy also includes £4 million to support every school and college to have a careers leader, and a further £5 million funding to develop 20 careers hubs.

Agenda Item 8

One of the Gatsby benchmarks is called “encounters with employers and employees”. The DfE expects every school or college to begin to offer every learner at least two “meaningful encounters” with an employer each year and this could, for example, involve students attending careers events, participating in CV workshops and mock interviews, mentoring, employer-delivered employability workshops, or business games and enterprise competitions.

From September 2018, every school or college should also appoint a named person to the role of “careers leader” to lead the in-house programme which should be published. An online self-evaluation tool, Compass, will be available in September 2018 for colleges to “assess” how their careers support compares against the Gatsby Benchmarks and the national average.

The eight benchmarks are:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each student
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

3.7 Provision for SEND

Since the Children and Families Act 2014 came into force local authorities and their partner commissioning bodies have had a range of new responsibilities to develop joint arrangements to secure effective provision for children and young people with SEND. The provision of information, advice and support for children, their parents and young people is a specific responsibility that is additional to other information responsibilities and arrangements, such as the Local Offer. The primary purpose of such joint arrangements is to improve outcomes for 0 to 25-year-old children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities, including those with Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. Sefton has recently developed a number of service options to provide placements with sympathetic employers and providers to enable SEND young people opportunities to experience local workplaces. This has included the procurement of a specialist provider to assist in the co-ordination of these placements.

3.8 Youth Employment Initiative through Sefton@work

- The target group for Youth Employment Initiative has been young people aged between 16 and 29 years and NEET. YEI encapsulates a wider age cohort than other NEET interventions as it has included Universal Credit claimants under Live service and Full Service, young people claiming Income Support (largely the Leaving care group), young people affected by ill health claiming Employment Support Allowance and those who are non-claimants. As the funding is from the EU, the overriding eligibility criteria has related to residency and rights to take up work in the EU.

- The six city region local authorities have formed a consortium under the LCR Combined Authority to bid for and deliver a large-scale enhancement to the Youth Employment Gateway, called **Ways to Work** delivered by **Sefton@work**. This project has offered a local, intelligence-driven, comprehensive and integrated programme for young people and adults, designed to improve personal resilience and progress to sustainable employment.
- A key Feature of the Ways to Work Project , in addition to the individual support supplied through casework advisers, has been the provision of a significant number of paid work placements (or ILMs), enabling clients to access support in the workplace to help overcome barriers to sustainability. Local employers are invited to take part in this initiative by offering opportunities at least at the national minimum wage rate over and the placements need be in addition to their existing workforce to draw down funding to contribute towards wage costs. These ILM placements enable those with little or no work experience to understand better the world of work and develop relationship with an employer. In-work support is available through Sefton@work to help sustain clients in work for the duration of the placement opportunity and to locate progression employment after the completion of the supported placement.
- To date, more than 100 ILM opportunities have been created with local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) deemed in a growth sector, or through other organisations where the job has a clear community benefit. These employment opportunities are across a range of sectors and have provided participants with a high quality experience where the rate of retention after the funding period completes has been in excess of 70%. The breadth of the ILM offer has been worked up by Sefton@work to appeal to many different groups of clients and spark the interest and motivation of disadvantaged groups to become re-engaged in the world of work:

This programme works in synergy with other Council services and initiatives, such as Sefton Turnaround and the Leaving Care teams. Specific opportunities with employers, including paid work placements, will be ring-fenced to clients also accessing support in these areas, thus adding value to the existing service offers to these clients

4 Local Impacts

- Taking these structural, organisational and curricular changes into account, the patterns of provision and progression are certainly challenging for today's young people. Some of these impacts are captured in the headline performance measures on NEET reported to government and accessible through the Council's data Portal for NEETs:
- The last activity survey (for year 11 leavers) undertaken showed that 96.3% of the total cohort were meeting the duty to participate. This includes attendance at school sixth form, Sixth Form College, Further Education, Higher Education, Other Post 16 Education, independent specialist providers or custodial institutions. It also incorporates those in full time training including Traineeships, EFA delivered work based learning, supported internships, study programmes etc, as well as those in Apprenticeships or full time education with accredited training.

Agenda Item 8

- An additional 1.3% of this cohort were working towards participation such as re-engaging in activities, and those with a start date agreed. 0.2% of the cohort were taking a temporary break from learning, such as those with caring responsibilities, pregnancy, teenage parents or illness.
- This leaves just 2.2% of this cohort not meeting the duty to participate but does include those that may be in employment (but without learning) or undertaking voluntary work. There are a variety of reasons why a young person is not participating, and these can often be temporary in nature. It is important for this reason to undertake detailed tracking of these individuals, to provide specific assistance through our IAG contract to supporting individuals into EET.
- As at December 2017, for 16 and 17 year olds (the 18 year old rate no longer requiring to be reported nationally), Sefton's NEET rate was 3.5%. This ranks Sefton 30/152 nationally (1 being the worst and 152 the best). Sefton's Not Known rate is considerably better and sits at 1.3% ranking us 120/152. The combined NEET and Not Known rate is 4.8% which ranks Sefton 107/152. This clearly indicates that the systems that we have in place for data tracking are effective.
- In terms of Liverpool City Region, Sefton are ranked 5/6 (1 being worst and 6 the best) for the combined NEET and Not Known figures.
- Other impacts relate to learners' experiences of the local educational and skills system. Where providers have withdrawn from the market due to commercial concerns or inadequate quality, students in PRUs or Impact find alternative provision less attractive or accessible. Conversely, colleges regard this cohort as not ready to progress, and the drop-out rate has increased for those who do make the transition.
- The English/Maths requirement deters progression from schools to FE, generates high levels of re-sits, which do not improve grades, and lead to higher drop-out rates and learner frustration. In addition, lower achievement rates in English & Maths damage the formula funding on which Colleges rely and risk provider contraction. This has been exacerbated by the requirements for English and Maths which create a rotating effect of resits for young people not able to progress to the required standard.
- Some SEND learners with Education & Health Care Plans cannot find a suitable local provider, and all schools have struggled to supply information on SEND students to training providers in a timely manner. This inhibits their capacity to respond with bespoke offers which may be required by the learners.
- Flowing from the recommendations of the LCR Area Based Review into FE, Hugh Baird College and South Sefton College is planned to be a type B merger involving the transfer of property, rights and future liabilities of South Sefton College (an LA maintained 16 to 18 school) to Hugh Baird College. The support of Sefton Council is critical to the success of this merger which is unique in bringing together a foundation school with a general further education college. Southport College and King George V College (KGV) is also planned to be a type

B merger involving the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities of KGV to Southport and the subsequent dissolution of the KGV Corporation. The second stage bringing together the 2 merged colleges is likely to involve the creation of a new governing board and a new management structure.

- The Sefton Employment & Skills Partners Group connects the colleges, training providers, Jobcentre Plus, economic development and the VCF sector, to receive youth entrants to the adult world of work.
- The re-convened Sefton Participation Group supervises the RPA tracking system and sets the agenda for 18-29 provision and progression, escalating issues as required.
- The LCR PASS Group co-ordinates action on post 16 issues among the LA officers and, has direct connection to the LCR working Group on NEETS convened as a result of the Area Based Review.

5. Progress on the Working Group Recommendations

Updates are provided as follows against each of the recommendations in the original O&S report.

Recommendation 1

To request head-teachers, and chairs of governors of high schools (including academies and free schools) within the Borough to consider increasing the breadth, range and quality of impartial advice and guidance provision for young people in schools, prior to leaving year 11, to receive advice on the full range of options available to them, and for information to also be made available to parents.

The September Offer was made in 2016 and 2017 and Career Connect Ltd have reported the results of their Activity Survey report

Schools, colleges and training providers are in the process of being issued with a customised extract from the Survey so they can assess their relative contribution to meeting the Participation Duty.

Sefton Education Partnership Board has initiated a conversation with the heads of Sefton's primary and secondary schools to improve pre-16 standards of English and Maths.

Career Connect Ltd, the Council's appointed CEIAG partner, are also commissioned by 11 Sefton Secondary schools, to deliver CEIAG services and are in regular dialogue with Head Teachers regarding the different services they offer, including a range of specialist programmes for students who are at risk of NEET. The Career Connect offer is designed to meet and exceed school's statutory responsibility to provide impartial information advice and guidance for students in Years 8 to 13.

Career Connect Ltd are also licensed providers of the nationally validated quality award, the Quality in Careers Standard, for schools and colleges. This enables schools to achieve a quality kitemark for CEIAG. Achieving a quality award is strongly

Agenda Item 8

recommended by the Government as it enables schools and colleges to review the effectiveness and impact of the CEIAG they offer. Four Sefton schools currently hold the Quality Award with one more school working towards accreditation.

Recommendation 2

To request head-teachers of high schools and principals of colleges within the Borough to consider increasing the level of mentoring support and guidance for young people , in order for them to be more aware of the range of options available to them, prior to leaving school and college.

- Approximately 4 in 5 schools are contracted to Careers Connect for their Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) service. Schools regularly evaluate the effectiveness and Value for Money of their CEIAG support.
- In addition, schools are purchasing additional services to extend the offer to students e.g. employer participation in mock interviews (SEBP), or extra-curricular support for 15-16 year olds at risk of NEET (Career Connect).
- The National Careers Service has let a contract for Careers Enterprise Co-ordinators to target NEET “cold spots” in the Liverpool City Region, and The Work Company is developing an action plan with five schools and colleges in Sefton: Chesterfield, Maghull, Stanley, SSSFC and KGV.
- Sefton EBP has recruited a panel of industry mentors to work with young people in school to support and prepare them for further education and work.
- Career Connect is to re-engage with schools about the need to forward school-leaver information to the learner’s destination.
- Members will also note that the introduction of the Gatsby benchmarks as a quality standard for information advice and guidance in schools and colleges includes one area which specifically relates to “ Personal Guidance “.

Sefton Council has also co-invested in the Unlocking Potential social Impact bond delivered by Career Connect in schools. This programme is aimed at 14/15 year olds and 16/17 year olds developing their individual resilience, raising their aspirations, coping with stress and supporting students to achieve goals and outcomes. The key focus is on developing good mental wellbeing, improving attitude to learning, behaviour and attendance. This 13 week programme involves:

- Access to a personal resilience coach for up to a year.
- Weekly coaching sessions for 13 weeks in school or college.
- Mental Toughness and Carrus Assessment.
- Managing Stress, relaxation and self-control.
- Improving behaviour and developing a positive attitude to learning.
- Addressing attendance issues.
- Goal setting and personal action planning.
- Employability skills if appropriate.

- Opportunity to undertake an Entry Level Award or Level 1 Certificate in personal effectiveness.

Recommendation 3

To produce a follow-up report, to be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) in twelve months' time, to include (i) whether the Council is receiving best value for money in terms of services provided within the NEETS area; and (ii) monitoring of looked after young people leaving Council care and their achievements or whether they subsequently fall into the NEETS category.

The Council has endeavoured to achieve best value by openly procuring an Information Advice and Guidance service in line with Contract Procurement Regulations.

An invitation to tender in 2013 attracted four applications from different companies. Following scrutiny of the applications and interviews, Career Connect Ltd were appointed and have been providing this service since then.

However, following extensive consideration of these issues through Informal Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills, the Cabinet has taken the decision to explore a new approach for the future direction of IAG NEET services for Sefton. Focusing on service improvement and achieving best value, it has been resolved to shift towards an Outcomes based commissioning model which can secure additional resource through the inclusion of social investment. As a result, a contract extension has been arranged with the current provider so that a specification of a new service can be developed which secures these aims.

The Council has secured some Development Funding from the Life Chances Fund to undertake a Feasibility study intended to explore and test the key metrics of this Outcomes Based commissioning approach and help the Council identify suitable social investment partners. The intention is to develop an IAG service offer that comprises re-engagement support and market-focused careers guidance activity to prevent long term exclusion from learning and work, rolling this provision back to an earlier age than 16 so as to address issues for younger people before they fall into the 16/17 NEET categories for reporting under the LA's statutory duty.

Monitoring of Looked After Children and Care Leavers takes place quarterly at the Corporate Learning Board. A detailed report is submitted to the Board which now includes young people up to the age of 22. Further to this, Career Connect provide a dedicated resource working with the Corporate Parenting team, with a series of support activities and interventions. The council also provides a specific employability scheme of its own to give maximum support to those Care Leavers who are considered furthest from the employment market, provision which is monitored by the Corporate Parenting Board.

Furthermore, The Sefton Participation Group has asked Career Connect to:

- Map 14-29 providers and intermediaries, to establish Sefton's current strengths and weaknesses
- Organise (with partners) a meet-the-provider event for young people

Agenda Item 8

- Contact employers of young people in employment but not in receipt of training, to remind them of their statutory obligations under RPA (the Council does not have an enforcement role as such)
- Survey the young people not currently meeting their duty to participate on what would draw them back into education, training or employment
- Data tracking systems that have been adapted specifically for LAC have become integral to the Early Help Intervention & Prevention practice in Sefton. These requirements will be incorporated into the Procurement of a new service offer going forward for 2018 and beyond.

Recommendation 4

To produce six monthly reports, to be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, outlining the latest position with regard to the NEETS.

Reports have been provided on a six monthly basis in accordance with the requests of the Scrutiny Committee. However, with the re-organisation of responsibility for NEETs, the subsequent deletion of the post of Head of Service for Investment & Employment and the forthcoming adoption of the Sefton Economic Strategy, it is recommended that future reporting be undertaken as part of the Performance reporting system to be put in place once the Council formally adopts the Strategy, which is expected in 2018.

Recommendation 5

That the Council and its partners be encouraged to use all available statistical evidence to identify NEET hotspots and agree robust intervention targets to reduce numbers in these areas, together with agreed robust systems for monitoring and evaluating the impact of joint interventions.

The use of robust data and tracking systems has enabled the Council to identify “hotspots” for NEET. Joint work with projects such as Troubled Families, Youth Contract, Sefton Education Business Partnership, along with schools, colleges and training providers has taken. Sefton training providers have secured opportunities to meet directly with young people in order to better understand their needs in a variety of locations across the Borough.

Monthly contract management meetings with the current supplier are undertaken and this allows service delivery to be flexed in accordance with patterns of demand as they emerge.

A post-16 Participation Group supports joint working and an agreed system between the council, schools and Career Connect continues to provide an interchange of information designed to enable the swift “pick up” and tracking of NEET young people. This process could benefit from more resource to improve the flow of information between the Council commissioned NEET tracking system, Council departments and providers in order to provide more responsive, targeted provision.

Agenda Item 9

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) **Date of Meeting:** 12 June 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) 10 July 2018

Subject: Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group Final Report – June 2018 **Wards Affected:** (All Wards);

Report of: Head of Regulation and Compliance

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No
Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To provide a monitoring report setting out progress made against each of the recommendations formulated by the Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group and approved by Cabinet.

Recommendation:

That the report setting out progress made against each of the recommendations formulated by the Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group and approved by Cabinet be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To comply with a decision of Cabinet to submit monitoring reports on a six monthly basis setting out progress made against each of the recommendations.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options were considered. Cabinet has requested the submission of monitoring reports.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report. The implementation of recommendations that result in efficiency savings and any necessary financial investment will be the subject of separate reports.

(B) Capital Costs

Agenda Item 9

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report. The implementation of recommendations that result in efficiency savings and any necessary financial investment will be the subject of separate reports.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Financial		
Legal		
Human Resources		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose

Protect the most vulnerable:

The terms of reference and objectives of the Working Group were selected to:-

- review the Council's legal and safeguarding position in relation to the issue of any licence following allegations of child sexual exploitation;
- consider whether all relevant pathways, methods of referral are sound with respect to escalation of CSE referrals;
- ensure that key sectors are informed, aware of how to raise concerns concerning CSE; and
- liaise with the Home Office and lobby for legislative change should the need arise.

The Working Group's recommendations have been formulated with the aim of strengthening the existing Regulations regarding personal licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003; to ensure that Care Providers who offer residential placements for 16 – 18 year old children and young people are inspected by a regulatory body; and to make parents/guardians in Sefton aware of an online learning tool that amongst other things, provides them with a valuable source of information to learn the signs and indicators of when a child might be being exploited. It is anticipated that the recommendations will help to protect the most vulnerable in Sefton.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

The Working Group's recommendation to make parents/guardians in Sefton aware of

an online learning tool to learn the signs and indicators of when a child might be being exploited will create the capacity and motivation for parents/guardians to get involved and create an environment in which they are less reliant on public sector support.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5141/18) has been consulted and has no comments on the report.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4365/18) is the author of this report

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Contact Officer: Paul Fraser

Tel: 0151 934 2068

Email: paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

Introduction/Background

At its meeting held on 21 June 2016 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) approved the establishment of a Joint Working Group to review the topic of Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation with the following objectives:-

To review the Council's legal and safeguarding position in relation to the issue of any licence following allegations of child sexual exploitation;

To consider whether all relevant pathways, methods of referral are sound with respect to escalation of CSE referrals;

To ensure that key sectors are informed, aware of how to raise concerns concerning

Agenda Item 9

CSE; and

To liaise with the Home Office and lobby for legislative change should the need arise

Accordingly, the Working Group met on numerous occasions to gather evidence and produced its [Final Report](#) with associated recommendations; and which Cabinet approved at its meeting held on 5 October 2017. The approved recommendations are as follows:-

- (1) Sefton's Members of Parliament be requested to lobby the Home Secretary to strengthen the existing Regulations regarding personal licences to Include:-
 - a) A national data base of personal licences
 - b) A fit and proper persons test
 - c) In particular provision to allow a Council to defer determination of a personal licence where the Individual is currently involved in a Police Child Sexual Exploitation investigation where a licenced premises is central to those investigations;
- (2) Sefton's Members of Parliament be requested to lobby the Secretary of State for Education to ensure that Care Providers who offer residential placements for 16 – 18 year old children and young people are inspected by a regulatory body;
- (3) in order to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation issues with Sefton parents, the Head of Schools and Families promote the Child Sexual Exploitation e-learning tool with all schools and governing bodies and with a request that school e-newsletters contain a hyperlink to the e-learning tool; and
- (4) the Head of Regulation and Compliance and the Head of Children's Social Care submit a joint monitoring report to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Resources) and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) to be held on 16 and 30 January 2018 respectively, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations set out in the report and that thereafter, monitoring reports be submitted to the Committees on a six monthly basis.

In accordance with recommendation (4) above the table attached to the report sets out progress made against each of the recommendations.

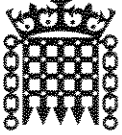
PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE LICENSING/CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION WORKIN GROUP

Recommendation	Progress Made
<p>Sefton’s Members of Parliament be requested to lobby the Home Secretary to strengthen the existing Regulations regarding personal licences to Include:-</p> <p>a) A national data base of personal licences</p> <p>b) A fit and proper persons test</p> <p>c) In particular provision to allow a Council to defer determination of a personal licence where the Individual is currently involved in a Police Child Sexual Exploitation investigation where a licenced premises is central to those investigations</p>	<p>Vicky Buchanan, Head of Children’s Social Care sent a letter to Sefton’s three Members of Parliament on 7 December 2017. A response from Mr. Dowd was received dated 6 February 2018 and which enclosed a letter from Nadhim Zahawi MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families (a copy is attached).</p> <p>The Head of Regulation and Compliance has the following comments in connection with the response from Mr. Zahawi.</p> <p>The Government consider that it would be disproportionately complex, resource intensive and expensive for the Government, local authorities, and magistrates' courts to create and administer a database of all personal licences.</p> <p>Unfortunately the letter from Mr. Zahawi does not make reference to a fit and proper person test</p> <p>The Council is well aware of the provisions that came into force on 6 April 2017 which allows the Council to revoke personal licences. One Licensing Sub-Committee hearing has taken place at which Members revoked a personal licence although the revocation did not involve CSE offences.</p>
<p>Sefton’s Members of Parliament be requested to lobby the Secretary of State for Education to ensure that Care Providers who offer residential placements for 16 – 18 year old children and young people are inspected by a regulatory body</p>	<p>Vicky Buchanan, Head of Children’s Social Care sent a letter to Sefton’s three Members of Parliament on 7 December 2017. A response from Mr. Dowd was received dated 6 February 2018 and which enclosed a letter from Nadhim Zahawi MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families</p>

	<p>(a copy is attached).</p> <p>The Government believes that it is better to maintain the flexibility of the current arrangements, while ensuring local authorities are closely held to account for the quality of the accommodation they provide. Ofsted inspections under the Single Inspection Framework cover the quality of accommodation for care leavers, and they challenge poor practice where found. The Government will continue to monitor local authorities' performance in this area, and tackle poor practice where it is highlighted.</p>
<p>in order to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation issues with Sefton parents, the Head of Schools and Families promote the Child Sexual Exploitation e-learning tool with all schools and governing bodies and with a request that school e-newsletters contain a hyperlink to the e-learning tool</p>	<p>Mike McSorley, Head of Schools and Families sent an email to all schools (including academies and independent schools) Heads and Chairs in early December 2017 in accordance with the recommendation of the Working Group.</p> <p>Following contact with schools the Head of Schools and Families can confirm that the following schools have actioned the request as indicated:-</p> <p>Hudson Primary – newsletter St. Luke's Halsall CE Primary - website Sand Dunes Nursery - website St Philip's CE Primary - Website under Parents / local training events Impact - website St Johns Crossens Primary – the link was included as a one-off item on a newsletter Christ the King High School - website Shoreside Primary - website Lander Road Primary - website Summerhill Primary - website St Philips Primary Southport - website The Grange Primary - website</p>

	<p>Woodlands Primary - website under 'Keep Them Safe: Protecting Children from CSE'</p> <p>Range High School - website</p> <p>St Nicholas Primary - newsletter and website</p> <p>St Lukes' Formby Primary - website</p> <p>Hatton Hill Primary - website</p> <p>Melling Primary - website</p> <p>Forefield Community Infant & Nursery School - website</p> <p>Greenbank High School - website</p> <p>Formby High School - website</p> <p>St Oswald's Church of England Primary - website</p> <p>Bedford Primary School - website</p>
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Peter Dowd MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Vicky Buchanan
Head of Childrens Social Care
Sefton Council
9th Floor Merton House
Bootle, L20 3JA

6th February 2018

Dear Vicky,

Following your letter sent to Peter Dowd MP on the 7th December 2017, from the Licensing/child sexual exploitation working group. One of the working group's recommendations was requesting Peter to lobby the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Education on bullet points A, B and C in your letter.

Subsequently, Peter wrote a letter to both the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Education which I shared a copy with yourself. I've attached the response received from the parliamentary under-secretary of State for Children and Families for your attention.

Please be advised, Peter hasn't seen the response yet and will see it on his return from parliament. If you have any comments or want to speak to Peter about the response letter, let me know.

Kind Regards

Anthony Lavelle

Senior Administrative officer

Bootle Constituency

Representing the communities of

Bootle, Crosby, Ford, Litherland, Netherton, Old Roan, Orrell, Seaforth and Waterloo

Agenda Item 9



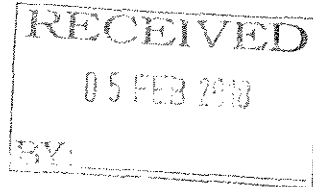
2017-0060455NZPO

Nadhim Zahawi MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Peter Dowd MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



29th January 2018

Thank you for your recent letters addressed to the previous Secretary of State and the Home Secretary, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Ms Vicky Buchanan, Head of Children's Social Care, Sefton Council, 9 Floor Merton House, Stanley Road, Bootle, L20 3JA, about the establishment of the council's joint working group to review the topic of licensing and child sexual exploitation (CSE). I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

The letter raises two issues: personal licences for the sale of alcohol, and accommodation for young people over 16 years of age. I will address each of these below.

Firstly, the government is committed to ensuring that all children in care and care leavers aged 16 and 17 are provided with suitable accommodation. Suitable accommodation is described in regulations as accommodation which: so far as reasonably practicable, is suitable for the child in light of his or her needs, including his or her health needs; where the responsible authority is satisfied with the character and suitability of the landlord or other provider; which complies with health and safety requirements related to rented accommodation; and where the responsible authority has, so far as reasonably practicable, taken into account the child's wishes and feelings, and education, training or employment needs.

Recent changes to statutory guidance make it clear that 'bed and breakfast' accommodation is not considered suitable, other than in exceptional circumstances, and that placements in such accommodation should be limited to no more than two working days.

It is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that the range of accommodation they commission for 16 and 17 year olds meet the criteria set out above. The government is not persuaded that more regulation in this area would result in better accommodation and support. It would also be very costly to introduce a regulated framework, both for the government and for providers.

Agenda Item 9

We believe it is better to maintain the flexibility of the current arrangements, while ensuring local authorities are closely held to account for the quality of the accommodation they provide. Ofsted inspections under the Single Inspection Framework cover the quality of accommodation for care leavers, and they challenge poor practice where found. The government will continue to monitor local authorities' performance in this area, and tackle poor practice where it is highlighted.

Secondly, the council's letter recommended the introduction of a new power to allow councils to defer the determination of a personal licence, where the applicant is under police investigation for CSE, and where licensed premises are central to the investigation. I understand that the former Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime wrote to the Chief Executive of Sefton Council on 18 March 2016 to inform the council that she had asked officials to consult police and licensing authority representatives about this matter. I am sorry to hear that you did not receive a follow up letter regarding the outcome of this work.

Home Office officials advise that they met national representatives of licensing authorities and the police in March and April 2016 to consider whether they felt this power was required. Participants at these meetings were not convinced that this problem was sufficiently common to necessitate such a reform. They noted that anyone under investigation who was granted a personal licence and later convicted of a relevant offence could then have their licence revoked. They also felt that a personal licence is limited in what it permits people to do, and the police can deal with any specific risk posed by suspects through the use of bail conditions or, in cases where the risk is higher, a custodial remand. Licensing authorities are under a general public law duty to take administrative action promptly. In such a scenario a council may choose to delay the granting of a licence and contact the applicant to explain their reasons where appropriate. The general view was that, even if such a case resulted in the council being taken to court, they would have a strong case. Councils would of course need to seek their own legal advice in each case.

It was also suggested that giving licensing authorities the power to revoke personal licences would solve the problem and that, if the licensing authority knew an applicant was about to appear in court for a relevant offence, it could apply to the court for a memorandum of conviction. Since this work was carried out, the government has given licensing authorities the power to revoke personal licences through the Policing and Crime Act 2017. This power has been in force since 6 April 2017. You may also have seen that, in its recent response to a House of Lords Select Committee review of the Licensing Act 2003, the government said it sees merit in the creation of a central register limited to records of refused, suspended and revoked personal licences, to facilitate more effective enforcement of the Act.

The Local Government Association, the Institute of Licensing, and the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) recently announced a project aimed at developing a national register of taxi and privately hired vehicles, and licence refusals and revocations. This particular register will be maintained and hosted by the NAFN on behalf of all local authorities and will be accessible to 86 per cent of English and

Agenda Item 9

Welsh councils at no extra cost. The government has committed to working with these partners to examine the prospects of adding records of refused, suspended, and revoked personal licences to the national register of taxi and privately hired vehicles refusals and revocations in order to address the problem of individuals making applications in different licensing authority areas following a refusal or revocation elsewhere. We consider it would be disproportionately complex, resource intensive and expensive for the government, local authorities, and magistrates' courts to create and administer a database of all personal licences.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a large loop at the end of the signature.

Nadhim Zahawi MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	10 July 2018
Subject:	Cabinet Member Report – June 2018		
Report of:	Head of Regulation and Compliance	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children's Services and Safeguarding		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member - Children's Services and Safeguarding report relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member - Children's Services and Safeguarding report relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

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

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

Any financial implications associated with the Cabinet Member report, which are referred to in this update, are contained within the respective reports.

(A) Revenue Costs – see above

(B) Capital Costs – see above

Agenda Item 11

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications:
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. The Cabinet Member update provides information on activity within Councillor John Joseph Kelly's portfolio during a previous two month period. Any reports relevant to his portfolio considered by the Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Committees during this period would contain information as to how such reports contributed to the Council's Core Purpose.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
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: As above
Greater income for social investment: As above
Cleaner Greener: As above

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

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

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2254
Email Address:	debie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendix is attached to this report:

- Cabinet Member - (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Update Report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Attached to this report, for information, is the most recent Cabinet Member report for the Children's Services and Safeguarding portfolio.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) 10 July 2018		
Councillor	Portfolio	Date
John Joseph Kelly	Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Safeguarding	June 2018

Schools Funding

During 2017/18 Maintained schools balances increased. In the year, 64 Schools, including special schools and maintained nurseries, had increased balances during 2017/18; whilst 30 schools saw balances decrease. Two Schools have a licensed deficit balance to carry forward.

The High Needs funding block overspent by £1.9m and this was covered by underspends from previous years and moving funding between the blocks.

A full report is available at the Schools Forum section of the Council’s website.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/schools-learning/schools-forum.aspx>

Academy Conversions

Litherland Moss and Shoreside primary schools are in the process of converting to become academies by 1 September. Kew Wood and Churchtown primary schools have applied to become Academies but no conversion date has been set.

Sefton School led School Improvement System

The school led system of school improvement in Sefton has been officially launched by schools and they are now working in 8 school improvement groups to support and improve. In their mission statement schools stated that: ‘We are committed to providing the best possible outcomes for all Sefton’s children and young people through the raising of standards and the elimination of underperformance in our schools. We believe that school leaders are the best people to meet this challenge and achieve our vision. A collective moral purpose, commitment to excellence and learning through partnership will underpin our approach”.

Free School Meal Eligibility Changes

In April 2018, the criteria used to determine which pupils are eligible for free school meals was updated to reflect the introduction of Universal Credit and the phasing out of other income-based benefits. The updated criteria were introduced following a public

Agenda Item 11

consultation. Under the updated criteria, government estimate that by 2022 around 50,000 more pupils will benefit from a free school meal compared to the previous benefits system. However, other reports suggest that will not be the case.

In the short term there is protection in place for those currently receiving FSM but the impacts over the longer term are not fully known.

SEND Inspection Letter

The local authority received a letter from Minister Nadhim Zahawi following the first 12 months monitoring following our SEND inspection. In the letter the Minister stated 'I am pleased to see evidence of strong progress with your Written Statement of Action over the last 12 months. I am encouraged by the commitment to joint working across partners, including with schools, to improve attainment of children and young people with SEND.....I am reassured that SEND services in Sefton are improving and grateful to you, your colleagues and partners, including schools and families, for the energy and commitment you are showing to continuing the progress you have made so far.'

The Minister asked for an annual update on progress against the action plan. A full copy of the letter is available on the local offer

<https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

School Absence

The latest school attendance data shows that absence figures have improved slightly over the last period. Overall absence in primary schools is 4.3% (compared with 4.4% in the previous year) which is the best in the LCR but still above the national figure of 4.0%. Overall absence for secondary schools is 5.6% which is the joint best in the LCR but still above the national figure of 5.4%. This figure is the same as the previous year but LCR and national figures have worsened.

Family Care Associates

Authority was sought to approve the 12month block contract with 2 x 12 month extensions for the Family Care Associates, at the annual value £311,272 per annum. Family Care Associates currently deliver a SEN residential provision from a Sefton owned property in Links Avenue, Southport. They are a provider who has consistently delivered high quality care to our most vulnerable young people.

They are in the final process of moving their venue from our property to one which they are purchasing in Formby. The current property is too small; it does not have sufficient space for adaptations to meet the needs of physically disabled children.

The approval is to block purchase 2 beds as a minimum. This would be filled through the existing two placements, and for Sefton to have first option to spot purchase the other beds when required. If due to compatibility it is not possible for Sefton to take the placement, the option would be put out to Liverpool City Region Commissioners.

Enhancing Elected Members Involvement with Children's Social Care

During April 2018, the Local Government Ombudsman undertook a Care Practice Diagnostic into Children's social Care. They made the following recommendation,

Provide opportunities for a wider range of members to engage with children's social care, to enhance understanding of front-line delivery, and take advantage of the intake of new councilors following the elections to further raise the profile of the corporate parenting role.

Proposals to develop a regime of elected member undertaking visits to frontline teams put forward to ensure that members understand the work of the service.

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Agenda Item 12

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	10 July 2018
Subject:	Work Programme 2018/19, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Head of Regulation and Compliance	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2018/19; identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group appointed by the Committee; and identify any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan.

Recommendation:

That:-

- (1) the Work Programme for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) The Committee is requested to consider any potential scrutiny review topics for 2018/19, including the proposal put forward by the SEND Working Group, to establish a Working Group for the chosen topic; and to appoint at least 3 Members of the Committee to the Working Group;
- (3) the Committee is requested to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix C to the report, that fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above; and
- (4) Following the outcome of the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) review, the Committee is requested to note the possibility of a future site visit to the Dewi Jones Unit, Waterloo.

Agenda Item 12

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2018/19 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny “adds value” to the Council.

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

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

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

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

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

(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.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report but reference in the Work Programme to various reports could impact on the Council's Core Purposes in which case they will be referred to in the report when submitted.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As Above
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: As Above
Greater income for social investment: As Above
Cleaner Greener: As Above

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

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

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2254
Email Address:	debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:-

- Appendix A - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2018/19
- Appendix B - Criteria Checklist For Selecting Topics For Review
- Appendix C - Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2018/19 is set out in **Appendix A** to the report. The programme has been produced in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.
- 1.2 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2018/19 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.3 **The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for 2018/19 and note that additional items may be added to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.**

Agenda Item 12

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2017/18

- 2.1 It is usual practise for the Committee to appoint a Working Group to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 A criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at **Appendix B**, to assist the Committee in selecting topics and appointing Working Group(s) for the Municipal Year.
- 2.3 The Special Educational Needs and Disability Process of Assessment Working Group has a provisional recommendation requesting the Committee to consider the establishment of a Working Group, in the future, to examine post-19 provision for SEND. This could be a Joint Working Group with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills).
- 2.4 Members of the Committee may have alternative suggestions for a working group review.
- 2.5 **The Committee is requested to consider any potential scrutiny review topics for 2018/19, including the proposal put forward by the SEND Working Group, to establish a Working Group for the chosen topic; and appoint at least 3 Members of the Committee to the Working Group.**

3. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

- 3.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan, which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four month period.
- 3.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.
- 3.4 The latest Forward Plan is attached at **Appendix C** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 3.5 Should Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan, would they please contact the relevant Officer named against the item in the Plan, prior to the Meeting.
- 3.6 **The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix C to the report, that fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.**

4. POSSIBLE SITE VISIT

4.1 The Committee's former Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Working Group included a recommendation as follows:-

“(7) the Head of Regulation and Compliance be requested to approach Alder House with a view to extending an invitation to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) to attend a site visit to Alder House;”

4.2 Further investigations have revealed that Alder Hey Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has a Unit, known as the Dewi Jones Unit, based in Park Road, Waterloo, that provides an in-patient mental health facility for children and young people aged 5 – 14.

4.3 At the time of drafting this report attempts are being made to investigate the possibility of a potential site visit for Members of the Committee to visit the Unit. The General Manager of the Unit has indicated that a visit by Members would be welcomed and a date for a visit is being determined. This is likely to be held after mid-September and Members will be advised of arrangements once they are finalised.

4.4 **Following the outcome of the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) review, the Committee is requested to note the possibility of a future site visit to the Dewi Jones Unit, Waterloo.**

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

WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Date of Meeting	10 JULY 18 Re-Arranged from 19 June 2018	25 SEPTEMBER 18	13 NOVEMBER 18	29 JANUARY 19	19 MARCH 19
Regular Reports:-					
Cabinet Member Update Report	X	X	X	X	X
Work Programme Update (Debbie Campbell)	X	X	X	X	X
Service Operational Reports:-					
Public Health Annual Report "Mental Health and Wellbeing" (M. Ashton/S. Gowland)	X				
Development of Family Well-Being Service – Progress Report (Jacqueline Finlay)	X				
Children's Social Care Annual Report (Vicky Buchanan)	X				
CAMHS Working Group - Interim Report (Mike McSorley)	X				
Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) Working Group - Implementation of Recommendations (Claire Maguire)	X				

	10 JULY 18 (Re-Arranged from 19 June 2018)	25 SEPTEMBER 18	13 NOVEMBER 18	29 JANUARY 19	19 MARCH 19
Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group - Monitoring Report (Paul Fraser)	X				
Special Educational Needs and Disability Service Process of Assessment Working Group – Final Report (Debbie Campbell)	X				
Adoption Service (Annual Report) (Vicky Buchanan)		X			
Fostering Service (Annual Report) (Vicky Buchanan)		X			
Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees – Government Response to DCLG Select Committee Report (Paul Fraser)		X			
Corporate Parenting Board (Annual Report) (Karen Gray)				X	
School Performance and Attainment Update (Annual Report) (Mike McSorley)				X	
School Organisation and School Places (Annual Report) (M. McSorley)					X

CRITERIA CHECKLIST FOR SELECTING TOPICS FOR REVIEW

Criteria for Selecting Items
▪ Issue identified by members as key issue for public (through member surgeries, other contact with constituents or volume of complaints)
▪ Poor performing service (evidence from performance indicators/benchmarking)
▪ Service ranked as important by the community (e.g. through market surveys/citizens panels)
▪ High level of user/general public dissatisfaction with service (e.g. through market surveys/citizens panels/complaints)
▪ Public interest issue covered in local media
▪ High level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area (as percentage of total expenditure)
▪ Pattern of budgetary overspends
▪ Council corporate priority area
▪ Central government priority area
▪ Issues raised by External Audit Management Letter/External audit reports
▪ New government guidance or legislation
▪ Reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on key issue
▪ Others

CRITERIA FOR REJECTION

Potential Criteria for Rejecting Items
▪ Issue being examined by the Cabinet
▪ Issue being examined by an Officer Group : changes imminent
▪ Issue being examined by another internal body
▪ Issue will be addressed as part of a Service Review within the next year
▪ New legislation or guidance expected within the next year
▪ Other reasons specific to the particular issues.

SCRUTINY CHECKLIST DO'S AND DON'TS

DO
◆ Remember that Scrutiny
◆ Is about learning and being a "critical friend"; it should be a positive process
◆ Is not opposition
◆ Remember that Scrutiny should result in improved value, enhanced performance or greater public satisfaction
◆ Take an overview and keep an eye on the wider picture
◆ Check performance against local standards and targets and national standards, and compare results with other authorities
◆ Benchmark performance against local and national performance indicators, using the results to ask more informed questions
◆ Use Working Groups to get underneath performance information
◆ Take account of local needs, priorities and policies
◆ Be persistent and inquisitive
◆ Ask effective questions - be constructive not judgmental
◆ Be open-minded and self aware - encourage openness and self criticism in services
◆ Listen to users and the public, seek the voices that are often not heard, seek the views of others - and balance all of these
◆ Praise good practice and best value - and seek to spread this throughout the authority
◆ Provide feedback to those who have been involved in the review and to stakeholders
◆ Anticipate difficulties in Members challenging colleagues from their own party
◆ Take time to review your own performance
◆ DON'T
◆ Witch-hunt or use performance review as punishment
◆ Be party political/partisan
◆ Blame valid risk taking or stifle initiative or creativity
◆ Treat scrutiny as an add-on
◆ Get bogged down in detail
◆ Be frightened of asking basic questions
◆ Undertake too many issues in insufficient depth
◆ Start without a clear brief and remit
◆ Underestimate the task
◆ Lose track of the main purpose of scrutiny
◆ Lack sensitivity to other stakeholders
◆ Succumb to organisational inertia
◆ Duck facing failure - learn from it and support change and development
◆ Be driven by data or be paralysed by analysis - keep strategic overview, and expect officers to provide high level information and analysis to help.

KEY QUESTIONS

Overview and Scrutiny Committees should keep in mind some of the fundamental questions:-

Are we doing what users/non users/local residents want?
Are users' needs central to the service?
Why are we doing this?
What are we trying to achieve?
How well are we doing?
How do we compare with others?
Are we delivering value for money?
How do we know?
What can we improve?

INVESTIGATIONS:-

To what extent are service users' expectations and needs being met?
To what extent is the service achieving what the policy intended?
To what extent is the service meeting any statutory obligations or national standards and targets?
Are there any unexpected results/side effects of the policy?
Is the performance improving, steady or deteriorating?
Is the service able to be honest and open about its current performance and the reasons behind it?
Are areas of achievement and weakness fairly and accurately identified?
How has performance been assessed? What is the evidence?
How does performance compare with that of others? Are there learning points from others' experiences?
Is the service capable of meeting planned targets/standards? What change to capability is needed.
Are local performance indicators relevant, helpful, meaningful to Members, staff and service users?

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 JULY 2018 - 31 OCTOBER 2018

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

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

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

As a matter of local choice, the Forward Plan also includes the details of any significant issues to be initially considered by the Executive Cabinet and submitted to the Full Council for approval.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item 12

Appendix C

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

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

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

NOTE:

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

Margaret Carney
Chief Executive

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Kew Woods and Churchtown Primary Schools - Approval of Legal Documentation for Academy Conversions	Mike McSorley mike.mcsorley@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3428
Special Educational Needs and Disability Process of Assessment Working Group - Final Report	Debbie Campbell debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2254

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p>Kew Woods and Churchtown Primary Schools - Approval of Legal Documentation for Academy Conversions</p> <p>To inform Cabinet that on 24th May 2018, the Regional Schools Commissioner has issued an academy order to enable Kew Woods Primary School to convert to an academy. The governing body of Churchtown Primary School has also informed the Local Authority of their intention to convert to an academy. Authorisation is requested for officers to sign the documentation required by the Government's academy conversion process.</p>			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	26 Jul 2018			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	None			
Method(s) of Consultation	The Secretary of State has the powers to direct that the academy conversion process can continue if the agreements are not signed			
List of Background Documents	Approval of Legal Documentation for Academy Conversions			

to be Considered by Decision-maker	
Contact Officer(s) details	Mike McSorley mike.mcsorley@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3428

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Special Educational Needs and Disability Process of Assessment Working Group - Final Report To submit the findings of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Process of Assessment Working Group			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	26 Jul 2018 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/04/2018 to 26/07/2018. Reason: The Working Group is still considering evidence for the review			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Elected Members and key Stakeholders			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and correspondence			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Special Educational Needs and Disability Process of Assessment Working Group - Final Report			
Contact Officer(s) details	Debbie Campbell debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2254			