OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
(CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)  
MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 2019  

PRESENT:  
Councillor Murphy (in the Chair)  
Councillor Carragher (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Cluskey, Evans, Keith, J. Kelly  
(Substitute Member for Councillor Thomas), Michael  
O’Brien (Substitute Member for Councillor Webster)  
and Yvonne Sayers  

ALSO PRESENT:  
Mr. Maurice Byrne, Healthwatch Representative  
Ms. Machalla McDermott, Parent Governor  
Representative  
Councillor J. J. Kelly, Cabinet Member – Children,  
Schools and Safeguarding  

22. INTRODUCTIONS  
Introductions took place.  

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pitt and his  
Substitute Councillor Dutton; Councillors Thomas and Webster; Karen  
Christie, Healthwatch Representative; and Sandra Cain, Independent  
Advisory Member.  

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal  
interests were received.  

25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING  
RESOLVED:  
That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2019, be confirmed  
as a correct record.  

26. BREASTFEEDING UPDATE  
Further to Minute No. 11 (3) of 9 July 2019, the Committee received a  
presentation by Philippa Caldwell, Infant Feeding Co-ordinator, and  
Colette Palin, Infant Feeding Lead, North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS  
Foundation Trust, proving an update on breastfeeding. The presentation  
outlined the following:
• Benefits of breastfeeding;
• Policy and Advocacy in England;
• How does Sefton compare?
• What are we doing to improve?
• Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI): A Global Programme;
• BF Support in Sefton;
• Specialist Service;
• Collaboration; and
• Local Challenges.

The representatives of North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust reported that:

• Breastfeeding was a significant public health priority;
• Sefton’s breastfeeding rates were below the regional and national averages and maintenance was an issue;
• Sefton women were not able to access additional peer support services commissioned by Liverpool City Council at Liverpool Women’s NHS Foundation Trust.

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

• Could GP surgeries be better utilised to direct individuals to sources of support, such as the Netherton Feelgood Factory, a community-led, Healthy Living Centre, operating in Sefton? It was anticipated that more collaborative working would take place with GPs in the future.

• Experience indicated that conflicting advice was offered by some professionals. It was hoped this would reduce.

• Advice and support was more readily available to those individuals who could afford to pay for it. Equity was important and the NHS Plan stated that all Trusts should be “Baby Friendly”.

• Concerns were expressed regarding the disparity in support services experienced by women from different local authorities at Liverpool Women’s NHS Foundation Trust, with some new mothers unable to access certain maternity services depending on where they live. The Cheshire and Mersey Infant Feeding initiative had identified this disparity and the matter would be discussed at a meeting of the initiative at the beginning of December 2019.

• A further update on breastfeeding in Sefton would be useful for the Committee to receive in about twelve months’ time.

RESOLVED: That
(1) the presentation be noted and the representatives of North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust be thanked for their attendance;

(2) A further update on breastfeeding be included in the Committee’s Work Programme for 2020/21.

27. SEFTON COMMUNITY CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) - UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 11 (2) of 9 July 2019, the Committee considered the report of the Children and Young People Commissioning Manager, NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, providing an update on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The report set out the Model of Provision, indicating that the THRIVE Model would provide the future pathway for the service. The report also set out details on CCG Commissioned Services; Accessing CAMHS; CAMHS Performance; and future developments.

Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, was in attendance to present the report to the Committee; to highlight aspects of it; and to respond to questions put by Members of the Committee. She reported on the following and indicated that further detailed information would be provided to Members of the Committee in due course:

- CCG Commissioned Emotional Health and Wellbeing Support – The different services to be pictorially mapped against the THRIVE model, to show the differing levels of support they offer;
- CCG Commissioned Services – Amendments to figures set out within the report; and
- Data provided by Venus on referral sources and staff employed.

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

- Local data was used to predict the suggested prevalence of children and young people accessing support. This was a new indicator.

- What support was available to children and young people affected by suicide and other traumatic events? Self-referral to counselling services was available; the School Nurse Service could be approached; and the Amparo organisation also offered support following suicide. Members were aware of instances when support has been available via schools.

- The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) pathway was considered to require review and be strengthened. A presentation on the ASD Pathway could be provided, if requested by the Committee.
If parents opted out of ASD pathways, were the figures affected and could parents opt back in? Information would be provided in due course.

Waiting times for referrals appeared to fluctuate. Would the new model make a difference? The service was now fully staffed and the services commissioned aimed to support the THRIVE model. This could be reflected in future update reports to the Committee.

Schools were acknowledged to be an important factor in terms of referrals, although they were not the only source of referrals.

A similar report format would be retained for future reporting of CAMHS Services to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the update report on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services be noted; and

(2) the Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, be requested to provide further information outlined within the presentation of the report, together with information on opt in/out of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Pathway.

28. PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY FOR SEFTON 2020-2025

Further to Minute No. 29 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) of 15 October 2019, the Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health providing an update on the development of a new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Sefton for 2020 – 2025, that was a legal duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Development of the Strategy was shared by both the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and was overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The report set out the background to the matter, together with the process and progress of the new Strategy; the policy context; public engagement; the proposed structure and content of the Strategy; areas that could benefit from further development; underlying assumptions and principles; the proposed outline; implementation, governance and oversight; and the next steps to be taken.

Margaret Jones, Public Health Consultant, attended the meeting to present the report to the Committee; to highlight aspects of it; and to respond to questions put by Members of the Committee.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:
• Sefton was a particularly diverse Borough. There were always variations and inequalities in health. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identified needs and assets and assisted in targeting interventions and support.

• Was there any evaluation of goals and targets from the previous Strategy? The Health and Wellbeing Board had a key role in reflecting on progress made.

• Would the lessons that had been learnt from the previous Strategy feed into the new Strategy, particularly given that the same themes, such as health inequalities, re-occurred? This observation could be reported back to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Progress on health inequalities within the Borough, such as life expectancy, was stalling and would require monitoring.

RESOLVED:

That the continuing development of the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy be supported and promoted.

29. SEND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Further to Minute No. 17 of 24 September 2019, the Committee considered the report of the Interim Director of Children’s Social Care and Education, providing the Committee with an update on activity since its last consideration in September 2019 of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Continuous Improvement Agenda. The Committee was also provided with the final version of the SEND Improvement Plan which had been agreed by the Department for Education (DfE) and had now been published on the Local Offer. The SEND Improvement Plan was attached to the report. Progress against the Plan would be monitored by this Committee on a quarterly basis commencing in January 2020. The Improvement Notice issued to the Council by the DfE would remain in place for a minimum of 18 months. The report set out the background to the matter and outlined recent activity regarding SEND Continuous Improvement.

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

• The rating key used within the Improvement Plan referred to “Business as usual”. This reported on education statistics examined on a regular basis and informed on the current status of progress.

• Disappointment was expressed that the Improvement Plan had not been presented to this Committee sooner.

• What developments would occur to engage with parents? A survey had been co-produced with the Sefton Parent Carer Forum and would be circulated to as many relevant parents and carers as
possible. The closing date for the survey was just prior to Christmas 2019, as a re-inspection was due in January 2020. Findings and lessons learnt would be considered by the SEND Continuous Improvement Board (SENDCIB).

- Could the Improvement Plan be amended if necessary? Yes, the plan in its current form provided a base line.

- This Committee was committed to the establishment of a co-production working group to consider the matter in more detail, in the future.

- Was a Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) now in place to support children and young people with SEND and their families? Yes, a DCO had been in post since December 2018 and was well established and had good relationships with user groups.

- Uptake of Personal Health Budgets had not been significant and targets had not been reached. Work to promote Personal Health Budgets was on-going and the Sefton Parent Carer Forum had been requested to assist with this.

- Any concerns expressed by Committee Members would be reported to the SENDCIB. Regular monitoring reports would be submitted to this Committee.

- Membership of the SENDCIB did not include child minders. This would be reported back to the SENDCIB and consideration would be given as to how this category could be represented.

- The Recovery Plan, to reduce waiting times to access health services, had been put in during October 2019.

- The House of Commons Education Select Committee had recently published a report on SEND and details would be provided to Members of the Committee in due course.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the progress to date on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Continuous Improvement be noted;

(2) the final version of the Improvement Plan be noted;

(3) the first performance framework against the Improvement Plan be received by this Committee in January 2020; and

(4) the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to circulate details of the House of Commons Education Select Committee report referred to, to Members of the Committee, in due course.
30. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN

Further to Minute No. 46 of 19 March 2019, the Committee considered the report of the Interim Director of Children’s Social Care and Education presenting the most recent draft of the proposed Children and Young People’s Plan 2020 – 2025. The report detailed the steps taken to produce the draft, the ongoing work, and the process to agree a final version before approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Cabinet was sought and the plan became operational on 1 April 2020. The report was presented to the Committee to gain feedback before the final version was produced.

The current plan had four key priorities which were:

1. Ensure all children and young people have a positive educational experience.
2. Ensure all children have a healthy start in life and a healthy adulthood.
3. Improving the quality of lives of young people with additional needs and vulnerabilities, to ensure they are safe and fulfil their individual potential.
4. Ensure positive emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people is achieved.

The draft Children’s and Young People’s Plan for 2020 – 2025 was attached to the report.

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

- Of the headings listed within the draft Plan, could “Heard” be listed first, as experience suggested that young people tended to consider that they were not heard. This could be considered.
- The wording associated with children with Autism known to schools was unclear. This would be checked.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board would continue to monitor progress against the Plan, although reports on the matter would continue to be submitted to this Committee.
- How did the Children and Young People’s Plan Performance Dashboard fit into the Plan? The Dashboard showed performance based on data. It was unlikely to be included within the final Plan.
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- Parts of the Plan were considered to be rather “wordy”. Young people would consider the final version of the Plan and a youth-friendly version could be considered.

- It was encouraging to see a vision for young people.

- Was the work undertaken by Family Centres and the support they offered for families working, in terms of getting young children ready for school? Yes, although there was always more that could be achieved. Much of this work relied on families engaging with the Family Centres.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the draft Children’s and Young People’s Plan for 2020 – 2025 be noted; and

(2) the comments made on the draft Children and Young People’s Plan 2020 – 2025 by the Committee, be considered by the Interim Director of Children’s Social Care and Education in informing the final version of the Plan.

31. MULTI-AGENCY JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION (JTAI) – OUTCOME

The item was withdrawn from the agenda.

32. STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN LOCAL AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

Further to Minute No. 22 of 25 September 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee’s inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny.

The report indicated that the Government’s Statutory Guidance was comprehensive and was set out within the following chapters:

- Culture;
- Resourcing;
- Selecting Committee Members;
- Power to Access Information;
- Planning Work; and
- Evidence Sessions.

The report drew Members’ attention to “Maintaining the interest of full Council in the work of the scrutiny committee” and “Communicating
scrutiny’s role to the public” where recommendations for change had been made.

The report concluded by detailing the up-to-date position regarding progress being made regarding the recent Local Government Association peer review in relation to Overview and Scrutiny receiving performance reports.

A copy of the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was attached as an appendix to the report.

A Member of the Committee asked a question on the following issue:

- How would public consultation be undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny working groups? Each working group had its own culture, dependent on the subject being reviewed, and it would be for individual working groups to consider whether it was appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration.

RESOLVED: That

1. the statutory guidance and the measures the Council takes in relation to the issues covered in the guidance be noted;

2. Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports and recommendations be submitted to Cabinet and then Council for final approval;

3. updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting; and

4. each Overview and Scrutiny Working Group consider if it is appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration.

33. CABINET MEMBER REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer in relation to the most recent report of the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Safeguarding for the period September – October 2019. The report outlined information on the following:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND);
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of services for children in Sefton;
- Strengthening Families; and
- Education Excellence.
RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member update report be noted.

34. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer, seeking the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for the remainder of 2019/20; noting the progress to date by the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group; identifying any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and noting the progress to date in appointing a replacement Parent Governor Representative.

A Work Programme for 2019/20 was set out at Appendix A to the report, to be considered, along with any additional items to be included and agreed.

The Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, offered to submit reports on the following to future meetings of the Committee:

- Formal Performance Report on the CCGs;
- Review of LAC Safeguarding; and
- 5 Year Plan.

The report set out progress to date made by the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group, comprised of Councillors Bennett, Carragher (Lead Member), Keith and Mrs. Cain, Independent Advisory Member.

There were two Decisions 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 items for pre-scrutiny.

A Member of the Committee commented on the following:

- A report on the Hired Passenger Transport Framework Agreement, listed on the Key Decision Forward Plan, could be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

The report advised that one of the former Parent Governor Representatives had resigned and that the Governor Services Team had sought nominations from interested parents for the vacancy. Two individuals had expressed an interest and an election would take place to determine the outcome. The count for the result was anticipated to take place on 25 November 2019. The Committee would be advised once a replacement Parent Governor Representative had been appointed.

RESOLVED: That
(1) the Work Programme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed;

(2) the Chair of the Committee be requested to consider whether the following items should be included within the Committee’s Work Programme:

- Formal Performance Report on the CCGs;
- Review of Looked After Children Safeguarding; and
- 5 Year Plan;

(3) progress made to date by the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group be noted;

(4) the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2019 – 31 March 2020, be noted;

(5) a report on the Hired Passenger Transport Framework Agreement, listed on the Key Decision Forward Plan, be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee; and

(6) progress made to date in appointing a replacement Parent Governor Representative be noted.