

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding
26th January 2021**

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Joseph Kelly	Children, Schools and Safeguarding	Nov / Dec 2020

Cabinet Member Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding).

SEND

An Improvement Progress visit was undertaken by DfE and CQC with members of the SEND Children's Improvement Board. The feedback was positive in relation to the significant progress that has been made. An update on SEND progress and the drive for continuous improvement is available for committee today. The SEND continuous Improvement Board has continued to meet throughout the pandemic.

Updates have been received in relation to Aiming High and Springbrook short break offer during the pandemic.

Springbrook has offered overnight stays though reduced the offer to two children per night to maintain social distancing.

The Aiming High service has continued to offer support, recognising that some families are very anxious about attendance in groups and the team have maintained contact families. Approximately 60 children benefited each week from 173 hours of delivery.

A Joint position statement was agreed in relation to children with Pathological Demand Avoidance which was co-produced between Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Education (Liverpool and Sefton) and Parent Carer Forums (Liverpool & Sefton)

Commissioning

A report was received and agreed regarding the award of contract for supported lodgings, until such services can be re-procured using the established North-West Placements Purchasing system, which is expected to be available from July 2021.

Response to Covid 19 Pandemic

At the time of writing the LA and all partners are responding to the impact of the National Lockdown announced on 4th January 20. All schools and nurseries remain open to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children, SMART testing is being implemented in secondary schools and we are working through issues as they arise collaboratively with School Leaders and Partners. Children's social care and Early Help services continue to operate to support families and ensure they are safeguarded.

CLLR John J Kelly BA(Hons) M.Sc. DASS CQSW DMS