

## **CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
(Children's Services and Safeguarding)  
6 July 2021**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
<b>Mhairi Doyle</b>	<b>Children's Social Care</b>	<b>June 2021</b>

In Children's Social Care, following the Ofsted focused visit a notice of improvement was issued by the Department of Education (DfE). An Improvement Board is being established which will be chaired by Paul Boyce. Details have been provided in the report submitted to Overview and Scrutiny, this will also result in a Children's Social Care improvement plan.

Councillor Doyle and Roscoe are newly appointed Cabinet members and are currently undergoing an induction process which has involved meeting with staff, senior managers, teams, visiting school and observing staff engagement sessions.

There has been a series of staff engagement events led by Lisa Lyons, newly appointed Interim Director for Children's Services and Laura Knights, Head of Children's Social Care. These have enabled staff to share their thoughts and views about the establishment and structure of Children's Social Care. Staff have been invited to express an interest in becoming part of the Improvement Board; there has been a fantastic response to this and we are considering developing a 'staff engagement board' which will feed and disseminate information.

In corporate parenting, we are looking at ways of expanding the participation of our children and young people, especially for those care leavers who may not be as visible.

We are in the process of recruiting to posts across the service and have successfully recruited a number of service managers, team managers and newly qualified social workers. It is, however, acknowledged that we need to recruit more social workers and look at our recruitment and retention strategy.

Staff continue to be based between the office and at home, however, gradually we are considering ways in which there can be a more physical presence in the office, remaining in line with Covid safe guidance.