

Report to:	Health and Wellbeing Board	Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 8 September 2021
Subject:	Sub Group Updates		
Report of:	Director of Public Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	N	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	N		

Summary:

This report is to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board a summary of activity from the five identified sub groups. This is activity since the last report received by the board on the 9th June 2021.

Recommendation(s):

(1) The updates are received and noted by the Board

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Board is asked to routinely receive and note updates to ensure compliance with required governance standards.

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

Not applicable

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no additional revenue costs identified within this report

(B) Capital Costs

There are no additional capital costs identified within this report

Implications of the Proposals:

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

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Legal Implications:**Equality Implications:**

There are no equality implications. / The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated. / The equality Implications have been identified and risk remains, as detailed in the report.

(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y

The report details updates of the subcommittee activity which in themselves have no specific impact negatively or positively on Climate Change

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Ensure the Health Wellbeing Board has oversight of Subgroup activity and its impact

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Ensure the Health Wellbeing Board has oversight of Subgroup activity and its impact

Commission, broker and provide core services: Ensure the Health Wellbeing Board has oversight of Subgroup activity and its impact

Place – leadership and influencer: Ensure the Health Wellbeing Board has oversight of Subgroup activity and its impact

Drivers of change and reform: Ensure the Health Wellbeing Board has oversight of Subgroup activity and its impact

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable

Greater income for social investment: Not applicable

Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6498/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4699/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Board

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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 As agreed at the December 2019 meeting of the Health and Wellbeing board the Board has agreed to receive a standard agenda item of summarised activity of its formal sub groups.
- 1.2 The subgroups are identified as: the SEND Continuous Improvement Board, the Children & Young People Partnership Board, the Adults Forum, the Health and Wellbeing Board Executive and the Health Protection Forum

2. Updates

2.1 SEND Continuous Improvement Board (SENDICIB)

At the last Health and Wellbeing Board a report was provided on the meetings that had taken place since the previous update. Since that report there have been two further meetings of SENDICIB these were on 25th May 2021 and 29th June 2021.

At the May meeting the following items were discussed: Short Breaks, Re-visit by the DfE planned for 22.06.21, the Ofsted Focused Visit outcome.

The report on Short Breaks updated the Board on the progress of the review of Aiming High and Springbrook services. This review had included the processes that determine how many nights a child would benefit from Springbrook overnight short breaks. It was reported that on the whole parents were supportive, some children will still access 28 nights, but others may have less. It was noted that Aiming High did not run timetabled sessions for a period due to Covid, however, outreach support was delivered which was welcomed by parents. The Board was informed that a blended approach will be

delivered going forward of timetabled sessions and outreach as there are some young people who don't want to attend in person at the moment.

A discussion took place on the approaching DfE visit (to be held by Microsoft Teams) and the evidence that was to be provided in advance of the meeting. It was also confirmed who would be attending the meeting as officials did not want a full Board but rather representatives of the various sectors e.g. Parent/ Carers, Schools, Health.

Vicky Buchanan informed the Board of the outcome of the Ofsted Focused visit that had taken place earlier in the year as we had received the letter. It was noted whilst there were areas of strength there were two priority actions and three areas for improvements. An action plan will be drawn up to respond to the findings.

On 22nd June 2021 we had a further meeting with the DfE/ NHSE to review the progress of the SEND Improvement Plan and following the visit we received notification that the Improvement Notice has been lifted. The letter noted:

The evidence from the review demonstrates the significant progress Sefton and partners has made and its success in addressing and embedding the improvements identified in Ofsted's/CQC revisit in 2019. Leadership has improved its operational oversight, the workforce is dedicated and engaged in delivering quality outcomes, there is improved partnership working and there is a collective commitment across the council to improve and achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Whilst this is a good outcome in terms of the improvements made in the lead up to the visit members of SENDCIB had discussed what would happen if the notice was lifted and it was unanimously agreed that the Board would continue in order to maintain the focus on this area of work.

At the SENDCIB meeting in June 2021 items for consideration were the Passenger Transport Framework, Day Service Opportunities, Supported Living and Transitions. There was also a discussion on the likely outcome of the visit by the DfE/ NHSE that had taken place the previous week.

The report on the Passenger Transport Framework was to inform the Board of the tender exercise to establish a Framework Agreement for transport service providers. This is part of the usual procurement and commissioning cycle as the current framework is due to expire in December 2021.

The report on Day Opportunities was to advise the Board of the long-term vision and commissioning approach for these services in Sefton building on the previous models agreed. The report also noted that we need to consider the subsequent impact of Covid 19 and the changing aspirations of young adults transitioning to Adult Social Care. The report continued in stating that to ensure the market is responsive to the needs of our communities that the council would undertake a procurement process to establish a purchasing agreement for Day Opportunities.

Supported Living was to inform the Board of the approach to the commissioning and delivery model which focusses on the asset of the individual, to maximise choice and to control and reduce reliance on long term formal care that can intentionally reduce an individual's independence and resilience. For both these reports it was noted that there

were a number of phases and throughout consultation will take place and work will start shortly.

It was agreed that we need to consider how children and young people transition into adult services and although a lot of work already takes place there needs to be discussions on what else we could do to increase capacity, it was agreed a report will be brought back to a future Board for fuller discussion.

Each meeting reviews the Risk Register and the Improvement Plan which looks at the actual data against the expected performance and targets.

Although Board meetings had been scheduled for July and August 2021 it was agreed that these would be cancelled due to the none availability of all sectors of the Board. The next scheduled meeting is now 28th September 2021. Although the Board meetings will not take place it was confirmed that this was not a suspension of activities and the various workstreams would continue.

2.2 Children and Young People Partnership Board (CYPPB):

Since the time of writing the last update to the Health and Wellbeing Board three meetings have taken place of the CYPPB on 26th May 2021, 23rd June 2021 and 4th August 2021. From June 2021 the meetings moved to bi-monthly.

At the May 2021 meeting the following items were discussed: Review of Headteachers Experiences of Covid; Ofsted Focused Visit, the Dashboard and Youth Custody data.

The Review of the Headteachers item was an open discussion with several additional Headteachers from a range of schools invited to the meeting to discuss their experiences with regard to Covid19. It was noted there had been a lot of work undertaken on the loss of learning, but the past period had also highlighted the crucial role of schools as a centre for children, young people and their families, particularly for vulnerable. Working with the School Cell has emphasised the partnership approach and they have looked at the impact on children's lives. Headteachers agreed they (schools) need to look at their practice, there is a massive focus on academic gap for children and young people in primary schools and it was felt the focus for catch up at the moment is wrong. One Headteacher commented that the loss of time in terms of academic progress is nothing compared to the work and energy that will need to go into rebuilding routines, relationship, resilience, cultural capital across all our schools and communities. Without these building blocks, 1 hour tutoring after school will not even register. Mental health was a huge issue raised as well as the impact on school budgets in delivering support to families, there was some help from government, but it did not cover costs. It was acknowledged there is work taking place with regard to mental health and it is taking time to settle children back into routine things like getting to school on time.

The Head of Children's Social Care informed the Board of the outcome of the Ofsted Focused visit that had taken place earlier in the year as we had received the letter. Whilst it was noted whilst there were areas of strength there were two priority actions and three areas for improvements. An action plan will be drawn up to respond to the findings and a Children Improvement Board has been set up to move matters along and respond to next steps.

The Dashboard for Quarter 4 was shared, and it was agreed that a more narrative style would be useful. Youth Custody data was also shared, and discussion took place on the emerging mental health crisis and the response that we give to the child. Information on young people held in custody and the reasons for it were also discussed.

At the June 2021 meeting the following items were discussed: Passenger Transport Framework, Continuing Care Protocol, Strategic Safeguarding Arrangements and the Alan Wood Review; The Case for Change, and Services and targets on the impact of Covid.

The report on the Passenger Transport Framework was to inform the Board of the tender exercise to establish a Framework Agreement for transport service providers. This is part of the usual procurement and commissioning cycle as the current framework is due to expire in December 2021.

The report on the Continuing Care Protocol was provided for information which noted that the document had been approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board. A task and finish group will be set up to look at how we work with CAMHS and support social workers to navigate the process and make sure that the process of applying for continuing care is properly documented.

For the Case for Change item, it was noted that Josh McAllister had been appointed by Government Ministers to undertake the review which includes quite an extensive consultation and engagement process with 700 different organisations and people consulted. McAllister had chaired an independent Panel of different organisations including the voluntary sector, some public sector partners, health partners and some professional bodies. The Review concluded that Children's Social Services are bureaucratic, risk averse, financially strained and over-focused on investigation at the expense of providing practical support. There is evidence that partners do a lot of investigations but that nothing happens at the end of the process. It was noted that Organisations feel vulnerable to regulatory, public and Government scrutiny if things go wrong and this is driving some of the risk-aversion mentioned. 10% of the most deprived areas are more likely to have children on Plans. This is certainly borne out in Sefton. It was agreed that the Early Help Partnership will look at the Review with school's involvement and report back to CYPPB and this needs to look at the connection to poverty.

The Strategic Safeguarding Arrangements and the Alan Wood Review report was to inform the CYPPB of the invitation of the review to Ofsted to inspect any new safeguarding arrangements from the Autumn. A tripartite meeting has been set up to discuss how Sefton is going to work together more strategically in terms of safeguarding children. The review says that the three statutory partners must take shared accountability for multi-agency arrangements and it was noted there is a real commitment and willingness to do whatever is required in Sefton and the statutory partners were urged to grow the partnership and step up to drive things forward.

For the final item for June the Services and targets on the impact of Covid. It was noted that the Chief Executive of Sefton and the Director of Public Health are to meet to establish a call for evidence from partners to analyse and map against what is already in existence and the impact on children and families. This is important as an evidence base for good outcomes for children depending on their circumstances.

At the August 2021 meeting the following items were discussed: SEND Improvement Notice; Sefton Integrated Care Partnership; Start Well; Children Social Care Partnership; Education – Impact of Covid and Early Help Quarterly Report.

The CYPPB was informed of the outcome of the recent visit by DfE/ NHSE with regard to the SEND Improvement Notice, which was to lift the notice.

The role of the new CSC Improvement Board was also provided in the form of a presentation and Lisa Lyons, Interim Executive Director of Children's Services, provided a quick tour on the work that will take place with regard to Children's Social Care Improvement. CYPPB was informed that the new improvement board has been set up with an Independent Chair, Paul Boyce, and a DfE Advisor Clive Jones. A report is due with the DfE in November 2021. There will be an Improvement Team and a number of key changes have taken place: work is taking place on reviewing thresholds, step up and step down and exit plans as well as other areas such as team structures and data to ensure sufficient line of sight.

A presentation on the work of the Sefton Integrated Care Partnership took place which noted that this is a work in progress, however, three themes have been identified which are Mental Wellbeing, Obesity and Community Resilience. It was also noted that no targets have been set as yet but there is a focus on reducing health inequalities around early intervention. The work will be at a population level, across the life course. The Sefton ICP focused on Covid during the Pandemic and some data was not collected so they are planning to catch up and can look at what the data was before Covid to build up the picture with the assumption Covid has made health inequalities worse. There were also wider determinants such as poverty as an underlying key factor.

The item on Start Well was connected to the Sefton Integrated Care Partnership in that it was around the Children's Integrated Commissioning Group and the work on the priorities of the Sefton Integrated Care Partnership. This also follows a life course approach and it was noted that a lot of commissioning is not condition specific but there are thematic items, mental health, complex needs vulnerable groups etc. and information was provided on the services against these headings. The report provided a list of cross cutting themes as well as enablers such as improvement and actions plans.

The Early Help Partnership Quarterly Report was provided to the CYPPB for information.

The final written report for August was a report to inform the Children and Young People Partnership Board (CYPPB) on the impact of Covid on schools and settings. The report highlighted a number of issues which included:

- throughout this period the LA has operated a first day response for all vulnerable pupils who did not attend school.
- In partnership with schools, social care and early help all children were visited on the first day of absence. As a result of the partnership working attendance for our most vulnerable children was generally above local and national averages throughout. This is continuing although in a less intensive way.
- Since April 2021 all schools within Sefton have had at least one bubble closed due to a child or member of staff testing positive.
- The number of pupils self-isolating at any one time has reached over 3000 on any one day.

- Schools have worked extremely hard to ensure that all the measures are in place to keep staff, pupils, parents and visitors safe.
- Throughout Covid we have operated a Schools and Social Care Cell on a weekly and latterly monthly basis. This has been invaluable in ensuring that excellent communications between schools, LA and organisations has been two way. Issues and concerns have been swiftly dealt with and schools have benefitted from the opportunity to discuss at first hand key issues.
- As a result of the general feeling amongst attendees the meetings will continue on a termly basis with a different focus.
- Ofsted undertook remote visits in the autumn term 2020 to gain an understanding of remote learning.
- In the spring term remote monitoring visits took place in several of our schools. No grade was given for these visits. The focus was on the curriculum and how far the schools were ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils whether at home or in school. All letters were positive.
- In the summer term 2021 full onsite monitoring visits were undertaken in a range of schools, grades were given. All schools were able to demonstrate positive aspects and the letters received reflected this.
- In September 2021 full inspections will resume,
- From September 2021 all restrictions are being lifted in schools, although this could change if advised by the government and Public Health. Many schools however have found benefits in some of the measures in place and will continue to use them.
- The LA has worked with schools to provide free school meal vouchers and food parcels throughout lockdown and when bubbles have closed.
- All pupils entitled to free school meals have received vouchers for the summer holidays,
- Our early years partners in nurseries and childminders have remained open throughout Covid. Many have struggled financially as parents/carers were working from home and did not send their children. They have managed to continue despite additional pressures of staff self-isolating. The majority of our settings have also seen bubbles close and children and staff needing to self-isolate
- The out of hours provision has also been badly impacted on by Covid particularly financially. Many providers found that due to lockdown, bubbles and parents/carers that they were not required. There is a concern that provision will not be there when required/

At every meeting the Risk Register is reviewed.

The Board also receives notes from the following groups, if they have met, for information:

SEND CIB

Early Help

Emotional health and Wellbeing Group

Community Safety Partnership

Provider Alliance

The next Children and Young People Partnership Board (CYPPB) is scheduled for October 2021.

2.3 Adults Forum

The Adults forum terms of reference and membership is under review as part of the design of the Sefton Integrated Care Partnership

2.4 Health and Wellbeing Executive

The Executive has met once since the last report on the 17th June 2021. The Better Care Fund performance and financial reporting was received and noted. The proposal for Governance support from Hill Dickinson was reviewed and emerging principles for the financial management within a integrated system were considered.

There is a meeting scheduled for the 26th August were proposals for potential Sefton Integrated Care Partnership Governance will be discussed and an item on GP offer as forward planning for the December Board will also be considered.

2.5 Health Protection forum

The health protection forum's work has been superseded during this time by the outbreak board. It is anticipated that the Health Protection Forum will reconvene in 2021, developments on this will be reported to the HWBB.

3. Conclusion

The Board is asked to receive and note the contents of the report and to await further updates as part of the standard agenda going forward.