



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

**REMOTE INFORMAL MEETING HELD  
ON TUESDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Burns (in the Chair)  
Councillors Blackburne, Carlin, Dowd, Evans,  
Prendergast, Sayers, Spencer and Webster

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mrs. S Cain, Independent Advisory Member  
Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative  
Councillor Doyle – Cabinet Member – Children's  
Social Care  
Councillor Roscoe - Cabinet Member - Education

**34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Murphy; and Ms. C. McDonough, Parent Governor Representative.

**35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interest were made and the Members concerned remained in the room during the consideration of the item:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor Dowd	Minute No. 37 – Care Quality Commission – Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Sefton	She is employed by Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group

**36. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

**37. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION - REVIEW OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND SAFEGUARDING IN SEFTON**

Further to Minute No. 35 of 16 March 2021, the Committee considered the joint presentation by NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Sefton and Formby CCG, that provided an update on actions undertaken since the Care Quality Commission (CQC) review of health services for children looked after and safeguarding in Sefton.

The presentation outlined the following:

- Update March 2021:
  - All actions against the action plan completed in October 2020;
  - Lessons learned were highlighted;
  - Evidence of impact demonstrated;
- Update January 2022:
  - Whilst the CQC action plan remained complete, the CCGs continue their commitment as a statutory safeguarding partner to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within Sefton. This has included reviewing findings from subsequent inspections (JTAI, SEND and ILACS) to triangulate evidence that the CQC action plan has been embedded in practice.

Martin McDowell, Deputy Chief Officer, Sefton CCGs attended the meeting to introduce the presentation and to respond to queries/issues raised by Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the joint presentation on the Care Quality Commission review of health services for children looked after and safeguarding in Sefton, together with the fact that all actions within the action plan had been concluded in October 2020, be noted.

**38. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEFTON PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. 17 of 28 September 2021, the Committee considered the joint report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health and the Interim Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education, that provided the Committee with the latest update regarding the development of Sefton Place Based Partnership for Health and Social Care.

The report previously considered by the Committee on 28 September 2021 had outlined progress towards the implementation of the Health and Care Bill and its local arrangements; and the potential future ability to positively impact on the Health and Wellbeing of Sefton Residents.

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The report set out details of the maturity of development; ambition and vision; leadership and culture; design, delivery and governance; national updates; Start well and integrated commissioning arrangements for children; approach; timescales; progress to date; and conclusions.

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

- Assurances that further updates would be provided at future meetings.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health be requested to submit any further updates on the Sefton Integrated Care Partnership Development to future meetings of this Committee.

### **39. SEND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. 13 of 28 September 2021, the Committee considered the report of the Interim Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education that updated Members on the progress made against the actions taken and progress made regarding the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Continuous Improvement Plan.

The report set out the background to the matter; details of continued commitment to delivering improvement; and concluded that improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND remained a priority for all partners and that the work of the SEND Improvement Board would continue.

The Interim Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education reported that a consultation for parents/carers was currently on-going and that the results were likely to be reported in the Spring of 2022.

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

- Ratings given for the quality assured Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and the overall result for Education and the percentage that required improvement.
- The percentage of new assessments being completed within 20 weeks since the start of the academic year.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That it be noted:

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- (a) that robust governance around any further developments will continue to be delivered through the SEND Continuous Improvement Board with oversight being provided by the Health and Wellbeing Board;
  - (b) the increase in Education Health and Care Needs Assessments being completed which is influencing the ability to deliver a timely assessment; and
- (2) the Interim Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education be requested to consider submitting the results of a consultation for parents/carers in the Spring of 2022, once available.

### **40. IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. 7 of 6 July 2021, the Committee considered the report of the Interim Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education that provided an overview of the Children's Services Improvement Journey from June 2021 to date.

The report set out key dates of the improvement journey; details of improvement workstreams; areas of focus; the nature of the work undertaken; key priorities for 2022/23; summary of workforce support, caseloads, and outcomes of improvement; key staffing changes and impact; workforce strategy; current staff figures; and conclusions.

The Interim Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education reported that 19 children had been adopted in the last 6 months.

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

- Congratulations were extended on the number of adoptions taken place in the last few months.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

### **41. CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANALYSIS TOOL (CHAT)**

The Committee considered the latest Children's Services Analysis Tool (ChAT), showing data with narrative, attached to the agenda for information.

The Interim Director of Children's Social Care and Education reported that the ChAT was complimentary to the previous agenda item on the Children's Services Improvement Journey.

RESOLVED:

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That the data contained within the latest Children's Services Analysis Tool (ChAT) be noted.

### **42. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer submitting the most recent update reports from the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care, and the Cabinet Member – Education, whose portfolios fell within the remit of the Committee.

The Cabinet Member update report – Children's Social Care, attached to the report at Appendix A, outlined information on the following:

- Children's Services Improvement Journey;
- Children's Services Improvement Board:
  - Reports;
  - Workstreams;
- New referral pathway and single front door access:
  - Demand for services;
- Introduction of a new practice framework:
  - "Strengthening Families";
- Ofsted inspection took place at Springbrook short breaks unit;
- Recruitment of a new Director of Children's Social care and Education:
  - Martin Birch; and
- Member development session:
  - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The Cabinet Member update report – Education, attached to the report at Appendix B, outlined information on the following:

- Education Excellence:
  - Recruitment to vacant posts;
- Schools:
  - Ofsted reports;
- St Teresa's:
  - Consultation process;
- Sacred Heart:
  - Academy conversion;
- Holy Spirit:
  - Academy conversion;
- Savio:
  - Buildings issue;
- Covid:
  - Impact on schools; and
- School Attendance.

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Councillors Doyle and Roscoe attended the meeting to present their reports and to respond to any questions or issues raised by Members of the Committee.

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

- The outcome of the re-inspection of Springbrook short breaks unit.
- Academy orders received by schools.
- The proposal for Sacred Heart High School to move to the St. Joseph Academy Trust and how this would operate in practice.

RESOLVED:

That the update reports from the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care and the Cabinet Member – Education be noted.

### **43. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer reviewing the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of 2021/22; reporting on progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group; reporting on progress of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group; identifying any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan; and receipt of an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Work Programme for 2020/21 was set out at Appendix A to the report, to be considered along with any additional items to be included and agreed.

There were three Key Decisions within the latest Key Decision Forward Plan, attached to the report at Appendix B, that fell under the Committee's remit, and the Committee was invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny.

RESOLVED:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be agreed, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) the progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group be noted;
- (3) progress of the Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group be noted;
- (4) the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan for the period 1 February – 31 May 2022, be noted; and

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- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.