

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding) 15th March 2022		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Cllr. Mhairi Doyle	Children's Social Care	March 2022

Ofsted update

Children's services received their notice of inspection on the 14th February, which was a 3 week inspection under the ILAC (Inspection of Local Authority Children's services) framework. The report will be published in May 2022.

The feedback has highlighted the dedication of the workforce and our thanks is given to all staff who have supported throughout the inspection.

Recruitment

Lisa Lyons, the interim (DCS) Director of Children's services and Education left post on 4th March 2022. Martin Birch who was appointed permanently will commence in April 2022, in the interim Hilary Brooks will be the acting DCS.

Caroline McKenna who was the interim Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance left on the 4th March 2022. Joe Banham will commence in post in May and is permanent. In the interim, Risthardh Hare will cover the role.

Recruitment across all levels of the service is currently underway including social workers, team managers and service managers. Recruitment events take place monthly, with market supplements in order to retain existing staff and golden hellos for new people joining sefton.

Social work week

Social work week commences 14th-18th march, with a focus on 'social work and me'. There is a week of events and a celebration at the Plaza Community Cinema for our Children's Social Care staff on 15th march. This event is a thank you for all staff across the service.

Leeds Family values model of practice

Sefton has been exploring the introduction of a new practice framework and approach based upon 'Strengthening Families' principles which aim aims to bring significant change to the quality of practice and responses to children and family's needs across the organisation and partnership. Our vision and scope of planning will be a great opportunity for Sefton to develop a strengths-based approach and to begin to safely improve the high number of children who are in local authority care and those in need of a social work service. The launch event took place on the 9th February, which was well attended across many members of our partners.