

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Mhairi Doyle</b>	<b>Children Social Care</b>	<b>31 January 2023</b>

## **1. Children's Social Care**

- As our Quality assurance framework begins to embed we are beginning to see the impact with evidence of good practice in recent work. There is still a long way to go but positive practice is now being seen.
- Increased senior management oversight and line of sight on practice has supported this improvement. All services have weekly performance meetings with increased scrutiny and support available.
- Oversight supported by increasing performance management which is supporting both Service managers and Team managers to keep a track on performance.
- Regular scrutiny of children subject to unregulated provision – This is a major concern for Sefton and we have high numbers of children in these provisions. These are extremely high cost placements and require increased oversight to ensure risks have been assessed. Ofsted notifications are always completed in these situations.
- Quality assurance has identified the need to strengthen support and development of our first line managers. This programme is being developed in conjunction with our Leeds Partners and will commence Feb/March.
- Interviews have been held in respect of permanent recruitment to Practice Improvement Manager posts. Some strong applications have been received to a post that has been problematic to recruit to
- Interviews scheduled for end of Feb to recruit to 20 intentional social workers, these should begin to arrive in April, supporting workforce pressures
- *PLO peer review was undertaken by Stockport Council with the aim to understand how well we work with families in the court arena. A task and finish working group has been running since October to embed the Merseyside agreed framework. Feedback from the peer review highlighted areas of development but also strength relating to the enthusiasm and quality of our staff.*
- Care experienced Christmas meal took place, over 20 of our Care Experienced young people attended - the event was a huge success
- Cared for New Year film presentation attended by over 80 of our young people and their carers

## **2. Youth Justice - Prepared by Ros Stanley**

### **YJS Performance**

- Sefton's YJS performance data is not available until after 31<sup>st</sup> January, at which point it will be shared with Cabinet Member.

### **3. YJS Practice Improvement - Audit Plan**

- An audit on Children Transitioning to Probation has been completed and the findings will be shared at a workshop for the team in January. In short, to ensure consistency of transition all children who reach 17years with an order that will take them beyond 18years, will be discussed at Transitions Panel well in advance of any planned transition. The findings revealed that all children were transitioned within timeframe with exception with one child where there was some delay, however since that point additional processes had been put in place to manage this.
- A further audit on Out of Court Disposals is underway and a workshop has been arranged for early February to share findings with the team.

### **4. Turnaround Project**

- The mobilisation phase for this project is underway, we have successfully recruited two staff who will arrive shortly. Referral pathways and intervention plans are developing and referrals are already coming through. Given this is a new project there will be an element of trial and error, however we will share learning with other local authorities and look for good practice from Youth Justice Services who already have a prevention teams.

### **5. Community Connectors**

- We are in the process of recruiting to new posts to deliver this project. The new post holders will be partially based in school and will work with children between 8 – 15years old. We have arranged a partnership wide Suicide / Mental Health awareness session for 13<sup>th</sup> March. This will be delivered by AFTA Thought who are a training company who deliver sessions via drama. Sefton and our partners have benefited from previous training delivered by this company who will deliver three sessions on 13<sup>th</sup> March at Bootle Town Hall (morning, afternoon and evening).