

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 31 January 2023
Subject:	Children's Services Improvement Programme Phase 2		
Report of:	Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Children's Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	N	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	N		

Summary:

To present the draft of the Improvement Plan for Phase 2.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Consider and comment on the draft Improvement Plan.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To gain feedback.

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

NA

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct revenue implications with this report. Members will be aware that there is significant financial pressure in the service within the current year in respect of

agency costs and accommodation costs. Remedial action plans have been presented and approved by Cabinet and Council. Work will continue during the current year on budget monitoring within the service and any additional financial pressure or additional expenditure will need to be met from savings elsewhere within the Council. The Council's next three year Medium Term Financial Plan will take account of this Improvement Programme and the resources required to support it; this will be informed by the Executive Director of Children's Services.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): To support the implementation of the Family Valued model the Council has been approved to receive £3m. To date £447k has been received.</p> <p>Following a successful bid to the Department for Education a further £300k has been approved to support the implementation of the Social Work Academy.</p>									
<p>Legal Implications:</p>									
<p>Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.</p>									
<p>Climate Emergency Implications:</p> <p>The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>		Have a positive impact	No	Have a neutral impact	Yes	Have a negative impact	No	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
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Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: The Improvement Programme seeks to deliver change across Children's Services whose activity protects and supports those children and young people who have complex care needs.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Children's Services work with partners to support families in need of support and improve resilience.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: Children's Services work with partners to support families in need of support and improve resilience.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: The Council will take a lead role in work with partners</p>

to deliver change in Children's Services.
Drivers of change and reform: The Council will work with partners to deliver change in Children's Services.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: NA
Greater income for social investment: NA
Cleaner Greener NA

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7100/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5300/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

The Executive Director Children's Service and Education and his leadership team engage with partners across Sefton with regard to the Improvement Programme. The voice of children, young people and their families will be integral to delivering change.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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Appendices:

Draft Improvement Plan Phase 2

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Phase 2 of the Children's Improvement Programme will continue to comprise of four themes;

- Quality - Ensuring the right staff are in the right place at the right time to deliver a consistent standard of good quality safeguarding services to children and families.
- Improving Implementation of Learning - Using what we know and learn to continuously improve and enhance the services we deliver for children and families.
- Improving Tools - Ensuring we have the right tools to enable the workforce to deliver good quality services for children and families.
- Improving Strategic Partnerships - Effective partnership working to enable the delivery of common goals and a high quality multi-agency response for children and families.

1.2 The draft Improvement Plan also now identifies four key areas that will be strengthened through the actions included; -

Corporate Leadership
Governance & Partnerships
Practice
Enablers & Resources

1.3 The draft Improvement Plan now includes milestones and measures for the four themes that will be monitored and reported on.

1.4 The Improvement Plan is a live document that will be updated on a regular basis.

1.5 Members of the Committee are asked to consider and comment on the draft Improvement Plan.