



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

**REMOTE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 2020**

PRESENT: Councillor Murphy (in the Chair)
Councillor Carragher (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Cluskey, Evans, Keith, Pitt, Yvonne
Sayers, Thomas and Webster

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. M. Byrne, Healthwatch Representative
Ms. K. Christie, Healthwatch Representative
Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative
Ms. C. McDonough, Parent Governor
Representative
Councillor J. J. Kelly, Cabinet Member – Children,
Schools and Safeguarding

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Father D. Seddon,
Archdiocese Representative.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Council's Code of Conduct, the
following declaration of personal interest was made, and the Member
concerned remained in the meeting during the consideration of the item:

Member	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Ms. M. McDermott	Minute No. 17 – Parent Governor Representative	She is affected by the outcome of the decision.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020, be confirmed
as a correct record.

**11. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
(CAMHS) ACROSS SEFTON - UPDATE REPORT**

Further to Minute No. 27 of 12 November 2019, the Committee considered
the report of the Children and Young People Commissioning Manager,

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NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG. The report provided an update on CCG commissioned provision of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), focussing on the response and performance of Sefton's mental health services, specifically in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges this presented. The report also highlighted new services and initiatives which were contributing to improvements in the mental health offer for the children and young people of Sefton, together with developments.

The report set out details of the following:

- CCG Commissioned Services 2020/21
- Mental health system-wide response to Covid-19
- CAMHS performance – including an overview of performance pre and post Covid-19
- Impact of Covid-19 on demand for mental health services
- Eating Disorder Service
- 24/7 Crisis Care Service
- Service activity
- Mental Health Support Teams
- Access targets
- Future developments

Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; Peter Wong, Children and Young People Commissioning Lead, South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; Lisa Cooper, Director of Community and Mental Health Services, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust; and Vicky Killen, CAMHS Clinical Lead, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, were in attendance to present the report to the Committee; to highlight aspects of it; and to respond to questions put by Members of the Committee.

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

- The impact of Covid-19 on services and waiting times.
- Any additional funding provided for services. Information would be obtained and shared with Members of the Committee.
- Monitoring of the services offered by the Mental Health Support Teams for schools and colleges.
- The age range able to access the online counselling platform.
- The availability of the freephone telephone number for crisis care services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update report on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services be noted; and

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- (2) the Chief Officer of the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups be requested to provide information on any additional funding available for services to the Senior Democratic Services Officer, for circulation to Members of the Committee.

12. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE.

Further to Minute No. 30 of 12 November 2019, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education presenting the final version of the Children and Young People's Plan, 2020 – 2025.

The final draft of the Plan was received at the meeting in November 2019 and the Plan went on to gain Cabinet approval in January 2020 and was adopted as the Children and Young People's Plan for Sefton with effect from 1 March 2020. The report presented a Delivery Plan to accompany the document and to support the communication of the Plan's key priorities. The report also provided an overview of a recent review of the "Heard" priority of the Plan at the Children's Partnership Board. The report set out information on the Delivery Plan; communication of priorities; and the "Heard" priority in that children and young people would always be central to decisions made about them and their journeys would be shaped by their voice.

Copies of the final published version of the Children and Young People's Plan; the Delivery Plan; and an example of a Children's Service Dashboard were attached to the report.

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

- Concerns held regarding the data contained within the Dashboard attached to the report. Investigations would be held to determine whether Covid-19 has affected the data and the results would be circulated to Members of the Committee. In the event that the data is accurate, consideration could be given to holding an informal workshop session to explain the detail to Members of the Committee.
- Improvements made regarding the backlog for Education, Health and Care Plans.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the Integrated Social Care and Health Manager be requested to investigate whether Covid-19 has affected the data contained within the Dashboard attached to the report and provide the results to the Senior Democratic Services Officer for circulation to Members of the Committee. In the event that the data is accurate, consideration

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be given to holding an informal workshop session to explain the detail to Members of the Committee.

13. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

Further to Minute No. 18 of 24 September 2019, the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education setting out a summary of the progress in relation to the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan and activity for the year end 2019/2020.

The Improvement Plan had identified three key objectives, as follows:

1. Ensure frontline practice is consistently good, effective and focussed on timely, measurable outcomes for children.
2. To improve management oversight at all levels to ensure effective services for children and young people receive good quality supervision.
3. Ensure that frontline services are sufficiently resourced and the workforce appropriately skilled to enable high quality work to be undertaken with children and young people.

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

- In the past the Improvement Plan had been presented as a table and this was useful in demonstrating key issues, targets, etc.
- The impact of Covid-19 in identifying suitable placements for children and young people.
- The importance of recognising the voice of the child.
- The commissioning of a time limited service to manage children in need cases.
- Progress made since the last full Ofsted inspection and the likelihood of an inspection in 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and bi-annual reports in relation to the progress of the Children's Social Care Continuous Improvement Plan be continued to be received by the Committee.

14. CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY - 10 QUESTIONS TO ASK IF YOU ARE SCRUTINISING CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer providing information contained within a document produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) entitled "10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change". The report set out the contents of the document, together with the 10 questions posed, indicating that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had requested the CfPS document to be circulated to all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members for information.

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RESOLVED:

That the Centre for Public Scrutiny document entitled "10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change", be noted.

15. CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 52 of 17 March 2020, the Committee received a presentation from Stephanie Jukes, the Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources; and Julia Thorpe, Project Officer – Climate and Environment, reporting on Climate Emergency progress by the Council. The presentation outlined the following:

- Purpose of the presentation
- Background – Climate Emergency
- Carbon footprint for Sefton
- Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Implementation Plan - Phase 1
- Covid-19
- Green Recovery
- How will progress be monitored?
- Communications Plan
- Climate Assembly UK
- Summary and next steps
- Contact details

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

- The projected timescale to achieve carbon-neutral status.
- The cost of alternative transport.
- Progress with the Sefton Clean Air Zone and heavy goods vehicles accessing the docks. An update could be obtained and forwarded to Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be noted;
- (2) Stephanie Jukes and Julia Thorpe be thanked for their informative presentation; and
- (3) the Section Manager, Energy and Environmental Management, be requested to provide an update on progress with the Sefton Clean Air Zone and heavy goods vehicles accessing the docks to the Senior Democratic Services Officer, for circulation to Members of the Committee.

16. DRAFT EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY PROTOCOL

Further to Minute No. 27 (3) of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 July 2020, the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer presenting a draft Executive/Scrutiny Protocol to the Committee for consideration and comment. The development of an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol aimed to improve the quality of relationships between Cabinet and Scrutiny Members; clarify respective roles; and contribute towards more effective scrutiny in Sefton. The draft Protocol was attached to the report.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Executive/Scrutiny Protocol, as attached to the report, be endorsed and submitted to the Cabinet for approval, in due course.

17. PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer indicating that the term of office for one of the current Parent Governor Representatives on the Committee was due to expire in November 2020. The report sought to formally agree extending the term of office of the Parent Governor Representative concerned.

RESOLVED:

That the term of office for the Parent Governor Representative concerned be extended for a period of no more than two years, up to November 2022.

18. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer seeking the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/21; reporting on progress of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group; consideration of the potential selection of a new topic for a further Working Group review, following the completion of the current Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group; identification of 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, and the Terms of Reference for the Committee were set out at Appendix B to the report.

The report set out progress to date made by the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group. Further to Minute No. 7 (3) of 22 September 2020, the Committee was requested to consider a new topic for a review, to commence following the completion of the Working Group. A criteria

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checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics for review was attached to the report at Appendix C.

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

The report set out an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Further to Minute No. 16 (2) of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board of 10 November 2020, the Chair reported that Members of the Committee would be invited to serve on the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group, established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), and a copy of the draft Scoping Document would be circulated to Members to aid them in their deliberations on this matter.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed;
- (2) the progress of the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group be noted;
- (3) in the event that Members of the Committee agree to serve on the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group, established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), updates on the progress of the Working Group be included in future Work Programme reports for this Committee;
- (4) the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2020 – 31 March 2021, be noted; and
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.