



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town Hall, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA10 1HP

Telephone: 01744 673289 (Mrs S Frayne)

Agenda

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 21 March 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Room 10

Membership

Lab 7 Councillors Barton-Ainsworth, A Johnson, T Long (Chair), McDonnell, Osundeko, Preston and Sweeney

LD 1 Councillor Sims

Con 1 Councillor Mussell

Inds 1 Councillor Greaves

Co-opted (Voting)	Mr D Thorpe	(Church of England)
	Mr C Williams	(Roman Catholic)
	Miss A Kirman	Parent Governor (Primary)
	Vacancy	Parent Governor (Secondary)
	Vacancy	Parent Governor (Special School)

<u>em</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
2.	<u>Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2022</u>	3
3.	<u>Declarations of Interests from Members</u>	
4.	<u>Declarations of Party Whip</u>	
5.	<u>NHS St Helens CCG Response to Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Spotlight Review Report</u>	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Suzanne Rimmer, St Helens CCG, has been invited to attend the meeting.	
6.	<u>Quarter 3 Performance Report 2021/22</u>	15

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
7.	<u>Support for Schools</u>	To Follow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jo Davies, Assistant Director - Education & Learning, has been invited to attend the meeting.	
8.	<u>Children's Services Improvement Journey Progress</u>	45
9.	<u>Scrutiny Work Programme</u>	55

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of this Committee held on
31 January 2022

(Present) **Councillor T Long (Chair)**
Councillors Greaves, McDonnell, Mussell, Osundeko, Preston and Sweeney

(Also Present) **Miss A Kirman (Parent Governor – Primary)**
Councillor Charlton (Portfolio Holder, Children and Young People)

(Not Present) **Councillors Barton-Ainsworth, A Johnson and Sims**
Mr Williams (Roman Catholic Church Representative)
Mr D Thorpe (Church of England Representative)
Mrs P Lawson (Parent Governor – Secondary)

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sims, Mr Thorpe and Mrs Lawson.

29 MINUTES

* **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2021, be approved and signed.**

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of interest from Members were made.

31 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

No Declarations of party whip were made.

32 SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS

The Chief Executive of St Helens Carers Centre, and the Service Manager Vulnerable Adults Integrated Commissioning, were invited to attend the meeting to provide a report on the support available for young carers within the borough, particularly in respect of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and its impact.

As of 1st November 2021, the St Helens Carers Centre actively supported 576 young carers. The Council commissions an all-age Carers Services, which includes Young Carers. The current service providers were St Helens Carers Centre and St Helens Young Carers Centre. The service identifies, assesses, and supports young carers including the provision of respite breaks and individual breaks when appropriate. They also organise training and awareness raising within all secondary and several primary schools within the borough.

The Carers Centre had established excellent working relationships with many of the secondary schools, with many schools having a member of staff dedicated to being their 'Young Carers Champion'. Some schools were better than others in respect to reaching out to the Carers Centre when they were worried about a Young Carer registered with the service eg. poor school attendance. In these cases, the Carers Centre worked closely with schools to put the right support in place.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Carers Centre had built up strong relationships with many primary schools; however, they recognised there was more work needed in this particular area. The Carers Centre had recently sent out an E-Bulletin to both primary and secondary schools so that they were fully aware of the service delivery, detailing their contact details and referral process should they need to make contact with them.

As a service, the Carers Centre also send regular reports to schools informing them of the Young Carers in their school who were registered with the service (providing there is parental consent). This enabled schools to see if their Young Carers were accessing the activities programme and made them fully aware of their role so that they could provide extra support (if needed). Some schools had now started to return information such as school attendance for the Young Carers they had in their school which helped them in prioritising their support and they receive referrals into the service from schools on a regular basis.

It was queried who is the lead officer who has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of the children who are found to live in circumstances of domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and chaotic lifestyles and struggle with their own mental health due to this. It was also questioned whether reassurance could be given that children found to be in inappropriate circumstance are not left in those situations.

It was confirmed that there is a Head of Service at the Young Carers Centre who would take that responsibility in their organisation. In terms of the statutory responsibility within the Council that would ultimately be the Assistant Director of Children's Services. It was also confirmed that children found to be in circumstances which were inappropriate or where there were concerns for the child's wellbeing then those children are never left in those circumstances and safeguarding referrals are made.

It was questioned whether in terms of training and awareness, whether there was a target number of schools hoped to achieve the Young Carers in School Award and what action could be taken to engage more schools.

It was confirmed that initially secondary schools were targeted for this initiative and there were 4 who currently had different levels of the award – 4 were accredited and the others were working towards the award. Primary schools weren't targeted initially for the award process as this wasn't the priority in terms of resources. Schools weren't obliged to take part in this kind of award but funding has just been granted for Young Carers Action Day and young carers themselves will be running a training day and all schools will be invited to send a representative to the training.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) a date be arranged for Members of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee to visit the Carers Centre;**
- (3) an update on the progress of the Young Carers in School Award and the Champions initiative be brought to a future meeting of the CYPS Committee;**
- (4) the Scrutiny Support Officer to gather information about the Young Carers in School Award and circulate this to Members and Headteachers for them to raise at the relevant forums.**

33 CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES SPOTLIGHT REVIEW REPORT

Members were presented with the Spotlight Review Report which was held in December 2021 to review the Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Services in the borough commissioned by NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

At the spotlight review, Members of the spotlight review group (the Group) received a presentation led by the Senior Transformation & Commissioning Manager (Children and Young People's Mental Health) for NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The presentation was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

A presentation was also shared by the Council's Interim Public Health Specialist, which was attached as Appendix 3. The second presentation detailed how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes, as well as the rising numbers of school children with social, emotional and mental health needs, which had been coupled with a reduction in safeguarding referrals with children being out of school exposing some to an increased level of potential harm. The presentation further updated the Group on recent progress and developments including the immediate action taken, as well as the longer-term strategic plan.

Following both presentations, the Group welcomed the comprehensive range of children's mental health and wellbeing support in the borough, commenting that in their opinion, partner organisations had risen to the challenges of the unprecedented effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Group expressed concern around the sharp increase in the number of young people suffering from eating disorders, which had a clear impact on mental health and wellbeing. Members commented that this was clear in their work with young people generally, alongside reports that the pandemic had had massive impact on this already growing problem.

Overall, the Group welcomed the improvements made regarding the access to, and provision of, children's mental health and wellbeing services within the Borough. However, the Group wished for this topic to remain on the Committee's work programme, and for a further update be provided to this Committee in the next 12 months, which should include progress on the initiatives discussed, as well as case studies and examples of what had not gone well and lessons learned.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the CYPS Committee note the comprehensive range of children's mental health and wellbeing support commissioned by St Helens CCG in the borough, and the progress that had been made with partner organisations rising to the challenges of the unprecedented effects of the Covid-19 pandemic;**
- (2) **Children's mental health and wellbeing services remain on the CYPS work programme, with an update to be provided to this Committee in the next twelve months; and**
- (3) **the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1 be submitted to NHS St Helens CCG for comment and response within the defined timescales.**

34 RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FOSTER CARERS REPORT

At the beginning of the 2021/22 municipal year, Members of the Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) Scrutiny Committee were concerned about whether there was a sufficient supply of foster carers within the borough to meet the needs of children and young people that required foster care. During the CYPS Committee's work programme planning session held in Summer 2021, Members committed to holding a Task Group to explore the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

The Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee held a Task Group between August to December 2021 into the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers. The Task Group's Report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report covered the following:

- Fostering in St Helens;
- Current practice in St Helens;
- Marketing methods;
- Challenges and barriers to recruitment;
- Retention of current Foster Carers; and
- Foster Carers Survey;

The Task Group made 13 recommendations in total with a request for the CYPS Scrutiny Committee to approve the recommendations for submission to Cabinet for a response within the defined timescale.

* **Resolved that:**

(1) the CYPS Committee approve the Task Group Report and recommendations as set out in Appendix 1; and

(2) submit the recommendations to Cabinet for response.

35 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME


The Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Work Programme was attached to the agenda for consideration by Members. The items scheduled for the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 21 March 2022 were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

* **Resolved that:**

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the items for the next scheduled meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee be agreed.

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 <p>ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>	<p align="center">Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee</p> <p align="center">21 March 2022</p>
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Report Title:	Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Spotlight Review Report – CCG Response to Recommendations
Cabinet Portfolio	Children and Young People
Cabinet Member	Councillor Nova Charlton
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Report of	<p>Mark Palethorpe Executive Director Integrated Health and Social Care and Clinical Commissioning Group Accountable Officer markpalethorpe@sthelens.gov.uk</p>
Contact Officer	<p>Suzanne Rimmer Assistant Director Children’s Health (Integrated Commissioning) NHS St Helens CCG suzanne.rimmer@sthelensccg.nhs.uk</p>

Borough priorities	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	X
	Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities	X
	Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	
	Be a responsible Council	

1. Summary

- 1.1 In December 2021, Members of the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee held a spotlight review to consider children’s mental health and wellbeing services in the borough that are commissioned by NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
- 1.2 The Review’s report and recommendations were agreed at a meeting of the CYPS Scrutiny Committee held on 31 January 2022 and submitted to NHS St Helens CCG following the meeting. The CCG’s response to the recommendations is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations for Decision

The Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- i) Note the CCG’s response to the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1; and**
- ii) Note that children’s mental health and wellbeing services remains on the CYPS work programme, with an update to be provided to this Committee in the next twelve months.**

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 This report presents the response from NHS St Helens CCG to the recommendations of the CYPS Scrutiny Committee’s report into Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Services in the borough commissioned by NHS St Helens CCG. The CCG’s response to the recommendations is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

4. Background / Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 As a part of the CYPS Scrutiny Committee’s *Mental Health Services for Children and Young People with SEND* spotlight review held at the end of 2020, Members expressed interest in scrutinising the mental health and wellbeing services available to children without SEND, particularly due to the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, the 2021/22 CYPS Scrutiny Committee agreed to hold a further spotlight review to provide Members with an

opportunity to be informed of the mental health and wellbeing services available to children in the borough commissioned by St Helens CCG.

- 4.2 In December 2021, Members of the Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee held a spotlight review to consider children’s mental health and wellbeing services in the borough that are commissioned by NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
- 4.3 The Group welcomed the comprehensive range of children’s mental health and wellbeing support in the borough commissioned by the CCG, commenting that partner organisations had risen to the challenges of the unprecedented effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.4 Whilst acknowledging that there existed a dedicated webpage on the CCG’s website that listed all the support available in the borough, the Group agreed that there would be merit in the production of an easy-read (and downloadable) leaflet, which should detail the range of mental health and wellbeing services; the support offered by each service; and the thresholds for referral to each service. This leaflet would be useful to those who make referrals such as GPs, social workers, teachers, and play-group staff etc. Members commented that it was important to build in a way of updating the leaflet as required.
- 4.5 Members expressed concern regarding the sharp increase in the number of young people suffering from eating disorders. The Group agreed that consideration should be given to address the growing issue of eating disorders amongst children and young people as set out within the spotlight review’s report.
- 4.6 The report’s recommendations were agreed at a meeting of the CYPS Scrutiny Committee held on 31 January 2022 and were submitted to NHS St Helens CCG following the meeting under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards, and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. Appendix 1 to this report provides the CCG’s response to the recommendations.
- 4.7 NHS St Helens CCG would like to assure committee members that CYP’s Mental Health needs and provision remains a key priority for commissioning intentions for 2022/2023. In addition, the CCGs children’s commissioning team continue to contribute to, and align local place work streams to the CYP Programme priority of Mental Health provision under the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), which it is anticipated will formally replace the CCG in July 2022. A focus for the ICB and Provider lead throughout 2022/23 will continue to be the appropriately resourced provision for CYP who require support from Community Eating Disorder Services across the region.
- 4.8 NHS St Helens CCG have also noted that there are currently several workstreams across the wider St Helens Cares system which are considering the issue that easily accessible, up to date information is made readily available to both service users and partners. The CCG feels it is important that work to address information needs is not done in isolation but aligns with current system wide thinking and proposals and so will ensure that the recommendations from the committee are included. The information currently available through the CCG website Children’s services contains information, which is downloadable and printable if required.
- 4.9 Members of the Committee should note that it was agreed that children’s mental health and wellbeing services remain on the CYPS work programme, with an update to be provided to this Committee in the next twelve months.

5. Community Impact Assessment

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5.1 No community impact assessment was carried out for the purposes of the spotlight review into the services available for children's mental health and wellbeing.

6. Consideration of Alternatives

6.1 N/A

7. Conclusions

7.1 Following the approval of the spotlight review report at the CYPS Scrutiny Committee meeting on 31st January 2022, the report was submitted to NHS St Helens CCG and the response to the recommendations are provided at Appendix 1.

7.2 Members of the Committee should note that it was agreed that children's mental health and wellbeing services remain on the CYPS work programme, with an update to be provided to this Committee in the next twelve months.

8. Implications

8.1 Legal Implications

8.1.1 There are no legal implications as a part of the purpose of this spotlight review.

8.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications

8.2.1 Social Value

8.2.1.1 There are no social value implications as a part of the purpose of this spotlight review

8.2.2 Sustainability and Environment

8.2.2.1 There are no sustainability or environment issues as a part of this spotlight review.

8.2.3 Health and Wellbeing

8.2.3.1 The spotlight review considered the mental health and wellbeing support available to children and young people within the borough.

8.2.4 Equality and Human Rights

8.2.4.1 The spotlight review did not consider quality and human rights implications as a part of its review.

8.3 Customers and Resident

8.3.1 The direct customer or resident implications arising from this spotlight review include continued provision of enhanced Community Eating Disorders resources and the continued provision of the range of services as outlined in the review.

8.4 Asset and Property

8.4.1 There are no asset or property implications as a part of this spotlight review.

8.5 Staffing and Human Resource

8.5.1 There are no staffing or human resources implications as a part of this spotlight review for St Helens Council.

8.6 Risks

8.6.1 There are no risks identified as a part of this spotlight review.

8.7 Finance

8.7.1 There are no financial implications as a part of this spotlight review for St Helens Council

8.8 Policy Framework Implications

8.8.1 The spotlight review report forms a part of the achievement of the Borough Priority 1 - Ensuring children and young people have a positive start in life, and Borough Priority 2 – Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities.

8.9 Impact and Opportunities on Localities

8.9.1 No localities implications were identified as a part of this spotlight review for St Helens Council.

9. **Background papers**

9.1 Mental Health Services for Children and Young People with SEND Spotlight Review – CYPS Scrutiny Committee meeting, 31st January 2022

10. **Appendices**

10.1 Appendix 1 – Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Spotlight Review Report– CCG’s Response to Recommendations


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Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Spotlight Review Report – Recommendations

Rec No	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Agreed Action and Date of Implementation
A	Consideration be given by the CCG to address the growing issue of eating disorders amongst children and young people as set out within this report at section 4.9-4.10 of the report.	Assistant Director Children’s Health (Integrated Commissioning) St Helens CCG	<p>St Helens CCG has committed an additional recurrent investment to the service to ensure there is capacity within the service to meet the needs of St Helens CYP. It should also be noted that under the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, which will replace the CCG in July 2022, the ICB CYP regional programme will continue to lead on, and direct, the MH priority programme, working with Lead Providers and Place Commissioners.</p> <p>St Helens Place will continue to lobby the ICB CYP programme to include provision for Children’s Community Eating Disorder Services and will continue to work with services to ensure an appropriate local provision.</p>
B	Consideration be given to the production of an easy read leaflet for those who are likely to make referrals, containing, along with contact details, information on the range of mental health and well-being services commissioned by St Helens CCG, the support each offers and the thresholds for each service.	<p>Assistant Director Children’s Health (Integrated Commissioning) St Helens CCG</p> <p>Communications Team St Helens CCG</p>	<p>The information that is contained on the CCG website contains links to individual service providers where relevant information can be downloaded and printed. The CCG will also ensure that this website contains an overarching summary of currently commissioned services which can be downloaded and printed.</p> <p>There is also the Council Local Offer which stakeholders are signposted to for service information for Children and Young People from which information can be downloaded.</p>

Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Spotlight Review Report – Recommendations

Rec No	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Agreed Action and Date of Implementation
			<p>The requirement for a digital platform for CYP MH services across Cheshire and Merseyside ICB has also been identified under the St Helens Cares priority of emotional wellbeing through the ICB CYP Programme Board Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health workstream and the St Helens Cares Mental Health and Wellbeing group. Therefore, there will continue to be local input to this workstream by CCG representatives to ensure the needs of St Helens population are addressed.</p>

 <p>ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>	<p align="center">Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee</p> <p align="center">21 March 2022</p>
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<p>Report Title:</p> <p>Cabinet Portfolio</p>	<p>Quarter 3 Performance Report 2021/22</p> <p>Children and Young People and Education, Skills and Business</p>
<p>Cabinet Member</p>	<p>Councillor Nova Charlton and Councillor Kate Groucutt</p>
<p>Exempt Report</p> <p>Reason for Exemption</p>	<p>No</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Key Decision</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Public Notice issued</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Wards Affected</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Rob Huntington Assistant Chief Executive robhuntington@sthelens.gov.uk</p>
<p>Contact Officer</p>	<p>Chris Collinge Performance, Strategy & Information Manager chriscollinge@sthelens.gov.uk</p>

Borough priorities	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	X
	Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities	
	Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	
	Be a responsible Council	

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Quarter 3 Performance Report 2021/22 provides an analysis of progress and performance over the period. The report reflects the new Performance Framework and targets aligned to the priorities and outcomes of the Borough Strategy as agreed by Cabinet on the 21st of April 2021. This framework provides the basis for quarterly performance reporting to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny during 2021/22.

The Council acknowledges that effective performance management arrangements are critical to supporting decision making during these challenging times and work continues to ensure the development of the Performance Framework and performance management processes across the Council.

There are 79 performance indicators where data is available to be reported at Quarter 3 2021/22. Of these:

- **66%** of indicator targets have been either exceeded, met fully, or met within 95% of target. This compares to 60% in Quarter 2 2021/22.
- **34%** of indicator targets were not met. This compares to 40% in Quarter 2 2021/22.

The trend measure indicates over the course of the last 12 months:

- **55%** of indicators showed improvement,
- **9%** of indicators maintained the same performance
- **36%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory.

The position is broadly in line with that at Quarter 3 2020/21.

Approximately a third of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, whilst 32% are in the bottom quartile. The position remains in line with that at Quarter 2 2021/22.

Improvement action to address the summary position above is set out within the body of the Quarter 3 Performance Report under the respective priorities and outcomes sections of the report.

- 1.2 The report takes the format of an executive summary of performance, followed by a more detailed breakdown for each priority and their respective outcomes. Tables have been included to highlight performance against outcome areas, along with a summary of actions that are being taken to improve performance.

2. Recommendations for Decision

The Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- i) **Note the performance position at Quarter 3 2021/22 for Priority 1 – Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life;**
- ii) **Note the actions planned by the Children and Young People & Integrated Health and Social Care Directorates to address specific areas for performance improvement in relation to Priority 1; and**
- iii) **Consider whether there are any potential items for further scrutiny as a part of the Committee’s work programme based on performance information received.**

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 The Council remains committed to the regular monitoring and reporting of performance information to ensure the delivery of efficient, effective and value for money services that meet the needs and expectations of the customers and communities it serves. The purpose of the report is to present a summary of performance against its priorities and respective outcomes.

- 3.2 The format of the report is split into 2 distinct parts:

Part 1 of the report is a statistical analysis of the performance position at Quarter 3 2021/22.

Part 2 of the report is a commentary on performance against delivery of the 6 Borough Strategy priorities and their respective outcomes, summarising current performance within the quarter and action being taken to improve performance where required. Scorecards for each priority area are included to provide further information on individual performance measures.

4. Background /Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 The Quarter 3 Performance Report 2021/22 reflects performance during April to December of the current financial year against the Council’s new Performance Framework. To measure performance in Quarter 3 2021/22, the Council is reporting against 79 performance indicators. Additional indicators linked to the outcomes of the 6 priorities will be reported over the course of the year as and when data is available as not all data is available on a quarterly basis. The indicators reported are split between Tier 1 and Tier 2:

Tier 1 – A set of high-level strategic indicators and targets that constitute the Outcomes Framework of the Borough Strategy 2021-2030.

Tier 2 – A set of performance indicators and targets to address key priority areas of performance within Directorates / Departments linked to the business planning process and many of the wide-ranging impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. During this unprecedented period, it is more critical

than ever that the Council has a clear understanding of what it needs to measure and how it is performing to inform effective decision making.

- 4.2 Annual targets have been set where possible within the context of national, North West, and local authority comparator group data. Equally targets aspire to be challenging but achievable within the context of the available resources. The targets also take account of performance during 2020/21, which was an unprecedented year due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on performance within St Helens, be it direct or indirect, was highlighted within the 2020/21 Performance Outturn Report.
- 4.3 The impact of the pandemic in Quarter 3 2020/21 needs to be considered when reviewing the 12-month performance trend in Quarter 3 2021/22. Equally in many areas the impact of the pandemic on performance is yet to be fully realised and understood. However, given the effect of the pandemic on St Helens to date there is the strong likelihood that existing inequalities may be widened, presenting potential risks for future performance in relation to the outcomes the Council is seeking to deliver.

5. Community Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Not required as the report has no direct impact on the community.

6. Consideration of Alternatives

- 6.1 None

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The Quarter 3 Performance Report 2021/22 – Priority 1 focus for Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee at Appendix 1 provides an assessment of the Council's performance during April to December of the current financial year. The impact of the pandemic continues to pose significant challenges for the Council and St Helens Borough. Robust and appropriate performance management arrangements continue to be critical to support effective decision making and enable the delivery of the Council's desired outcomes across the borough and its communities.

8. Implications

8.1 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications

Not required as the report has no direct impact on the community.

8.1.1 Social Value

- 8.1.1.1 None

8.1.2 Sustainability and Environment

- 8.1.2.1 None

8.1.3 Health and Wellbeing

- 8.1.3.1 None

8.1.4 Equality and Human Rights

8.1.4.1 None

8.2 Customers and Resident

8.2.1 None

8.3 Asset and Property

8.3.1 None

8.4 Staffing and Human Resource

8.4.1 None

8.5 Risks

8.5.1 The regular monitoring and reporting of performance to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny is undertaken to mitigate the risk of underperformance.

8.6 Finance

8.6.1 None

8.7 Policy Framework Implications

8.7.1 None

8.9 Impact and Opportunities on Localities

8.9.1 None

9. Background papers

9.1 None

10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – Quarter 3 Performance Report 2021/22 – Priority 1 Focus for Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee.

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QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22



Contents

1. Our Borough Strategy 2021-30 Priorities	3
2. Borough Strategy Priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.....	4
3. Purpose of the Report	5
3. Executive Summary	6
4. Part 1 - Statistical analysis.....	7
4.1 Performance Against Target	8
4.2 The Performance Trend.....	8
4.3 Inter Authority Comparison	9
4.4 Summary and conclusion of statistical analysis	10
5. Part 2 - Commentary on performance against priority and outcome	11
Priority 1 - Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life.....	11

1. Our Borough Strategy 2021-30 Priorities

Performance Management in St Helens Borough Council is focused around achieving the 6 strategic priorities outlined in Our Borough Strategy 2021/30.



Priority 1 - Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life

Priority 2 - Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities

Priority 3 - Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all

Priority 4 - Support a strong, thriving, inclusive, and well-connected local economy

Priority 5 - Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture

Priority 6 - Be a responsible council



2. Borough Strategy Priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. Making progress towards the global goals by 2030 depends on local action. SDGs fit with Our Borough Strategy Vision and the Council's approach to Reset and Recovery. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals have been mapped against the 'Our Borough Strategy' priorities and outcomes.

24

 <p>ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE START IN LIFE</p>	     	 <p>SUPPORT A STRONG, THRIVING, INCLUSIVE AND WELL-CONNECTED LOCAL ECONOMY</p>	          
 <p>PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE AND CARE ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES</p>	   	 <p>CREATE GREEN AND VIBRANT PLACES THAT REFLECT OUR HERITAGE AND CULTURE</p>	      
 <p>CREATE SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR ALL</p>	  	 <p>BE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL</p>	       

3. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to inform and update Elected Members on performance against the 6 priorities of the Our Borough Strategy 2021/30 and respective outcomes as set out above. The report covers the period Quarter 3 2021/22 providing the performance position reported over the course of the period. The reporting format splits the report into 2 distinct parts:

Part 1 of the report is a statistical analysis of the performance position at Quarter 3 2021/22.

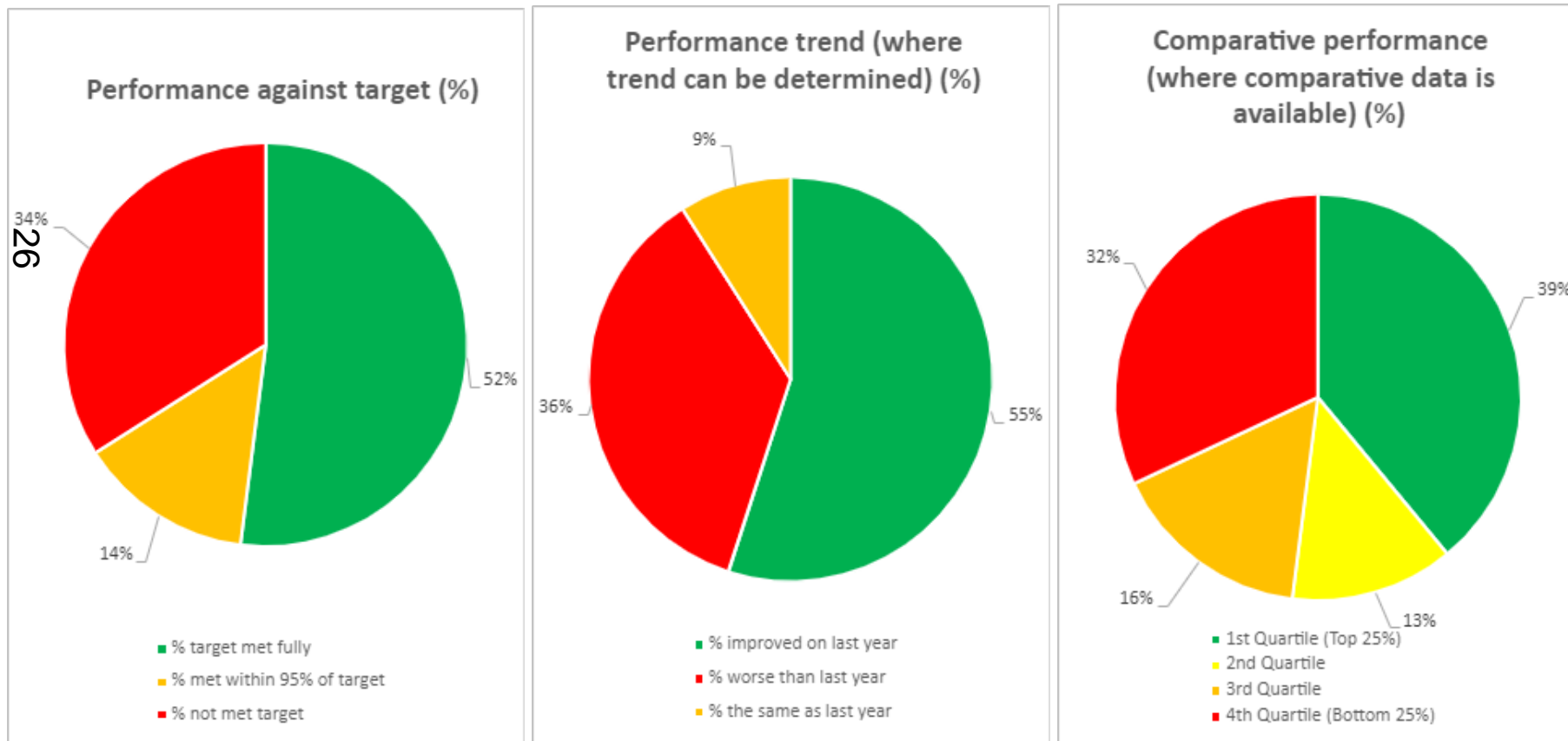
Part 2 of the report is a commentary on performance against delivery of the 6 strategic priorities and their respective outcomes summarising current performance within the quarter and action being taken to improve performance where required.

3. Executive Summary

The charts below provide an overview position of all performance measures across all 6 Borough Strategy priorities as at Quarter 3 2021/22, examining:

- Performance against target.
- Trend - whether performance has improved / worsened since the position 12 months ago.

Inter Authority performance - how St Helens' performance compares to that of a family group of authorities similar to St Helens.



4. Part 1 - Statistical analysis

To measure performance in Quarter 3 2021/22, the Council is reporting against a total of **79** performance indicators. Additional indicators linked to the outcomes of the 6 strategic priorities will be reported over the course of the year as and when data is available as not all data is available every quarter. The indicators reported are split between Tier 1 and Tier 2:

Tier 1 – A set of high-level strategic indicators and targets that constitute the Outcomes Framework of the Borough Strategy 2021-2030.

Tier 2 – A further set of performance indicators and targets to address key priority areas of performance within Directorates / Departments.

In the supporting scorecards for each priority area, this distinction is maintained and both tiers are shown as they are all relevant to an understanding of overall performance.

The Quarter 3 report statistical analysis looks at performance under 3 areas:

1. Performance against targets
2. Trend over 12-months
3. Inter-authority comparison

4.1 Performance Against Target

This measure sets out:

- The percentage of indicators by priority where targets have been fully met or exceeded.
- The percentage of indicators by priority that have not fully met target but are within 95% of target.
- The percentage of indicators by priority that have failed to meet the target by more than 5%.

In the supporting scorecards for each priority area, green, amber, and red colours are used to depict indicators in each of the above three bullet point situations.

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
1. Ensure children and young people have a positive start	31	52% (16)	10% (3)	38% (12)
2. Health, independence, and care	20	40% (8)	30% (6)	30% (6)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	13	69% (9)	0% (0)	31% (4)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	5	60% (3)	% (0)	40% (2)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	5	100% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	5	0% (0)	40% (2)	60% (3)
Total	79	52% (41)	14% (11)	34% (27)

A listing of indicators, which have met or exceeded target, have met within 95% of target, or have failed to meet target by more than 5% are shown within each of the 6 priority scorecards.

4.2 The Performance Trend

This measure compares performance at Q3 2021/22 with performance at Q3 2020/21 by setting out:

- The percentage of indicators where performance compared to last year has improved.
- The percentage of indicators where performance compared to last year has declined.
- The percentage of indicators where performance compared to last year is the same.

In the supporting scorecards for each priority a black arrow pointing up, downwards or sideways is used to depict indicators in each of the above 3 scenarios.

NB. There are a total of 11 new indicators for 2021/22, where performance data in 2020/21 is not available and therefore it is not possible to show a performance trend.

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
1. Ensure children and young people have a positive start	26	61% (16)	31% (8)	8% (2)
2. Health, independence, and care	19	37% (7)	47% (9)	16% (3)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	12	67% (8)	33% (4)	0% (0)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	4	25% (1)	50% (2)	25% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	5	100% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	7	43% (3)	43% (3)	14% (1)
Total	73	55% (40)	36% (26)	9% (7)

4.3 Inter Authority Comparison

This measure shows how performance in St Helens compares to the performance of a family group of authorities similar to St Helens. It does this by ranking each authority's performance by quartile. The top performing 25 % are in the first quartile and the bottom 25% in the fourth quartile. Authorities in between are placed in either the 2nd or 3rd quartiles. Comparative national data is only available to be used for **38** indicators.

In the supporting scorecards for each priority, where this measure is used, green indicates that St Helens is in the top best performing quartile, red that it is in the bottom quartile or yellow/amber that St Helens is in either the 2nd or 3rd quartile).

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
1. Ensure children and young people have a positive start	17	41% (7)	12% (2)	6% (1)	41% (7)
2. Health, independence, and care	13	55% (7)	15% (2)	15% (2)	15% (2)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	0	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	2	50% (1)	0% (0)	50% (1)	0% (0)

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	4	0% (0)	25% (1)	50% (2)	25% (1)
6. Responsible Council	2	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (2)
Total	38	39% (15)	13% (5)	16% (6)	32% (12)

The latest available picture of inter authority performance largely relates to the 2020/21 financial year.

4.4 Summary and conclusion of statistical analysis

- **66%** of indicator targets have been either exceeded, met fully, or met within 95% of target. This compares to 60% of indicators at Quarter 2 2021/22.
- **34%** of indicator targets were not met. This compares to 40% of indicators at Quarter 2 2021/22.
- The trend measure indicates over the course of the last 12 months **55%** of indicators showed improvement, **9%** of indicators maintained the same performance and **36%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory. The position is broadly in line with that at Quarter 3 2020/21.
- 39% of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, compared to 34% in Quarter 2, whilst 32% are in the bottom quartile, compared to 29% in Quarter 2.
- Annual targets have been set where possible within the context of national, Northwest, and local authority comparator group data. Equally targets aspire to be challenging but achievable within the context of the available resources. The targets also take account of performance during 2020/21 which was an unprecedented year due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on performance within St Helens whether direct or indirect was highlighted within the 2020/21 Performance Outturn Report. The impact of the pandemic in Quarter 3 2020/21 needs to be taken account of when considering the 12-month performance trend in Quarter 3 2021/22. Equally in many areas the impact of the pandemic on performance is yet to be fully realised and understood. However, given the effect of the pandemic on St Helens to date there is the strong likelihood that existing inequalities may be widened. This presents risks for future performance, but particularly in areas such as public health, education and schools and children's services where current performance is already challenging.

5. Part 2 - Commentary on performance against priority and outcome

Priority 1 - Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life



Outcomes

- Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve
- Children and young people's aspirations, attainment and opportunities are raised
- Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential

Overview of Priority Performance

The tables below show provide an overview of performance at Quarter 3 for the indicators reported

Performance Against Target

Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
31	52% (16)	10% (3)	38% (12)

The Performance Trend

Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
26	61% (16)	31% (8)	8% (2)

Inter Authority Comparison

Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
17	41% (7)	12% (2)	6% (1)	41% (7)

Priority 1 - Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life

Tier 1

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-01	Percentage of re-referrals into Early Help Services which were within 12 months of a previous early help episode	Quarterly	Lower	19	16	15	17	15	6.25%	↑	N/A
	CYP-02	The number of early help episodes that have been closed and stepped down to universal services (or as a % of total closures)	Quarterly	Higher	70	73	64	67	73	8.96%	↑	N/A
	CYP-03	The number of early help episodes that have been closed and stepped up to social care services (or as a % of total closures)	Quarterly	Lower	24	21	28	21	18	10%	↑	N/A
	CYP-05	The percentage of early help audits completed that have been graded as good or outstanding	Quarterly	Higher	N/A	50		4	10	-75%	N/A	N/A
	CYP-06	Rate of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000	Quarterly	Lower	54.3	52.5	57	63.4	58.3	-7.96%	↑	2nd Quartile

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
33	CYP-07	Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plans (CPPs) for a second or subsequent time within two years of last plan ending	Quarterly	Lower	14	14	10	15.1	16.6	-18.57%	↓	N/A
	CYP-08	Children looked after rate (per 10,000 0–17-year-olds)	Quarterly	Lower	129.6	116.6	129	127	128.2	-5.95%	↓	4th Quartile
	CYP-09	Percentage of All looked after children who are placed with in house foster carers (including Kinship Carers)	Quarterly	Higher	44.0	47	40	39	39	-15.22%	↓	N/A
	CYP-10	Percentage of All looked after children who are placed with Independent Fostering Agencies	Quarterly	Lower	28	25	28	29.5	28	-7.69%	↔	N/A
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-11	Percentage former care leavers aged 19-21 years with whom the LA is in touch	Quarterly	Higher	96	96	100	100	99	3.12%	↑	1st Quartile
	CYP-12	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	Quarterly	Higher	94	93	97	93	95	2.15%	↑	1st Quartile

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-13	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 years in employment, education, or training	Quarterly	Higher	60.3	60	60.6	53	54	-10%	↓	1st Quartile
34 Children and young people's aspirations, attainment and opportunities are raised	CYP-14	Percentage of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans completed within a 20-week period	Quarterly	Higher	92	85	100	100	97.53	14.74%	↑	1st Quartile
	CYP-15	Percentage of audits where the voice of the child was graded as good/outstanding	Quarterly	Higher	60	65	54	53	50	-23.08%	N/A	N/A
	E&S-05	Percentage of young people academic age 16-17 not in education, employment or training and not known combined	Quarterly	Lower	4.4	5.2	5.3	17.35	4.1	21.73%	↑	1st Quartile

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sep	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
35 Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-04	Under 18 conception rate per 1000 15–17-year-old (single year rate).	Quarterly	Lower	27.8	28	27.8	29	30.1	-7.5%	↓	4th Quartile
	SC-01	Number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system who receive their first substantive outcome or court disposal per 100,000 population aged 10-17	Quarterly from Q2	Lower	132	174	N/A	25	63	27.59%	↑	1st Quartile
	SC-02	Percentage of children re-offending	Quarterly from Q2	Lower	47.4	43	N/A	46.8	40	6.59%	↑	4th Quartile

Tier 2

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-16	% of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (ever)	Quarterly	Lower	25.7	21	15	29	28	-33.33%	↓	4th Quartile
	CYP-17	Percentage of Children in Foster Care who are placed in borough	Quarterly	Higher	54	58	53	53	54	-5.26%	↔	N/A
	CYP-18	Percentage of children who have been open to the edge of care service who have not become looked after within 12 months of the services ending	Quarterly	Higher	N/A	90		73	83	-7.78%	N/A	N/A
	CYP-19	Percentage of looked after children who have a ratified 'primary' permanence plan	Quarterly	Higher	100	95	99.3	100	100	5%	↑	N/A
	CYP-20	Percentage of looked after children who are in their "forever placement"	Quarterly	Higher	66	66		67	64	-3.03%	TBC	N/A
	CYP-21	Percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year.	Quarterly	Lower	8.3	9	5.7	6.8	7.8	13.33%	↓	1st Quartile

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-22	Percentage of social work assessments graded good or better through the Audit process.	Quarterly	Higher	53	60	54	40	45	-25%	N/A	N/A
	CYP-23	Average number of cases per children and family social worker	Quarterly	Lower	16.7	18	18.3	17.2	16.4	8.89%	↑	N/A
37 Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-13	Percentage of infants being breast-fed at 6-8 weeks	Quarterly	Higher	28	29	28.9	31.6	30.2	4.14%	↑	4th Quartile
	PH-14	Smoking status at time of delivery	Quarterly	Lower	15.7	14	15.7	11.7	13.7	2.14%	↑	4th Quartile
	PH-15	Under 18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons	Quarterly	Lower	72.3	79	78.6	72.3	67.8	18.31%	↑	4th Quartile
	PH-17	Percentage of children who received a 2-21/2 year Healthy Child Programme review	Quarterly	Higher	77	84	77	84.6	85.3	1.55%	↑	3rd Quartile

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	PH-18	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 - 21/2 years	Quarterly	Higher	89.1	94	89.1	88	86.1	-8.4%	↓	2nd Quartile

Summary of performance against outcome and action for improvement

Outcome – Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve

Current Performance

38

- Early Help performance indicators have shown improvement in Quarter 3. Positively, the number of Early Help episodes closed and stepped down have increased and Early Help episodes closed and stepped up to statutory services have reduced. Both indicators are meeting target and have shown strong improvement since Quarter 1. Re-referrals over 12-months into Early Help have also shown improvement and are now performing better than target. The majority of Early Help audits are graded as requiring improvement and although performance has improved in Quarter 3 the indicator still requires significant improvement if the annual target is to be met.
- The 3 indicators monitoring the rate of children subject to a child protection plan and the percentage of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, either over 2 years, or ever remain below target at Quarter 3. The rate of children in St Helens supported with a child protection plan continues to be higher than the comparable national average (41 per 10,000 children). however, in line with the most recently published, comparable Ofsted statistical neighbour average (58 per 10,000 children). The 3 indicators monitoring the rate of children subject to a child protection plan continue to be tracked through regular auditing. The recent audit completed to understand the rates in St Helens being higher than regional and national average, concluded that the threshold application was appropriate, and all children audited who had recently become subject to CP planning were assessed to be at risk of significant harm. St Helens continues to report a higher than average percentage of children experiencing repeat Child Protection Plans. Repeat planning relates predominately to domestic abuse.
- There were 473 children looked after at Quarter 3, compared to 470 in Quarter 2 2020/21. Rates remain significantly higher than regional and national averages. There has been a small reduction in the rate since outturn 2020/21 equating to 4 fewer children looked after. The annual target is challenging, equating to an in-year reduction of approximately 48 children.
- All looked after children have a plan for permanence following their second looked after child review and placement stability for looked after children, i.e., those having 3 or more placements over 12 months, continues to be strong and better than the national average.

- Both fostering indicators remain below target at Quarter 3. 39% of looked after children live in family placements with in-house foster carers, a reduction on the 44% reported at outturn 2020/21. 28% of looked after children are placed with independent fostering agency carers, the same position as reported at outturn 2020/21.
- Performance against the 3 key outcomes for care leavers is strong, that being care leavers in suitable accommodation, care leavers the local authority is still in touch with, and care leavers in employment education and training. The percentage of care leavers in employment education and training remains below a challenging target, however the recently published 2020/21 national data sees St Helens performance well above regional and national averages and top quartile compared to comparator authorities.
- The percentage of social work assessments graded Good or Outstanding at 45% has seen a 5% improvement since Quarter 2 but requires further improvement if the target of 60% is to be met. Workforce pressures resulting in changes of Social Worker and higher caseloads in Social Work Assessment will have some impact on the quality of practice but more particularly the timeliness of assessments. Work is ongoing to drive improvement in the quality of assessments which includes a focus on managers who sign off assessments.
- Average social worker case workloads have shown further improvement over Quarter 3 and remain better than the required target level. However, this needs to be received with a level of caution as it is based on the average caseloads across the service but, caseloads for Social Workers in some areas of the service i.e., social work assessment are currently as high as 31. The strategies in place to address this are beginning to have an impact i.e., more applications and greater stability.
- The percentage of children who have been open to the edge of care service who have not become looked after within 12 months of the services ending stands at 83%, a 10% improvement between Quarters 2 and 3, but below the annual target of 90%.

39

Action for Improvement

- Early help services need to improve, embedding the things we have put in place will support us to drive continuous development and improvement in practice and service delivery and in time will reduce the escalation of concerns to statutory services. Early Help Audits are now completed as part of the quality assurance framework, and we have developed and implemented a performance data set which the service did not have. Audits and data now support managers to drive improvement in practice and performance.
- Practice is being reviewed in relation to the three child protection plan indicators to better understand the rationale for the increase. Post Covid it could be argued that there was an expectation that there would be an increase in repeat plans as family's living with Domestic Abuse, mental health problems and substance misuse has been tested by the pressures of the pandemic. Audit currently demonstrates that Domestic Abuse is the key factor within this cohort of families.
- We will keep the increase in child protection plans under review to determine whether this is a short-term volatility or could lead to repeat issues that could ultimately impact on the looked after children population? We have a number of children who are delayed in the Court process that we are tracking carefully and there are therefore dependencies between the Court timetable and meeting the target for the reduction in looked after children. Supported by the Council's legal team we will continue to work collaboratively with the Courts to improve this situation.

- We need to enhance the number of internal foster carers as we continue to have fewer internal carers than what is reported in the 2019/2020 comparator data. We have a target to recruit a further 10 fostering households in 2021/2022 to date 86 enquiries have led to the recruitment of 2 new fostering household and a further 6 are going through the assessment process at various stages. Based on these numbers there is a risk we will not reach the target of 10 new fostering households, and we need wider support.
- Social Work Assessments require improvement, and this will continue to be an area of practice improvement and we are working closely with managers to drive up practice improvement. Workforce pressures resulting in changes of Social Worker and higher caseloads in Social Work Assessment will have some impact on the quality of practice including assessments. Work is ongoing to drive improvement in the quality of assessments which includes a focus on managers who sign off assessments.

Outcome - Children and young people's aspirations, attainment and opportunities are raised

Current Performance

40

- Performance for the completion of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to timescale remains positive with 97.5% of all new EHCPs issued within 20 weeks. To date 162 new assessments have been completed and plans issued, 158 of which were completed within 20 weeks. As anticipated performance is now being impacted by delays in respect of professional advice into plans, in particular Educational Psychology and by professionals who have been required to self-isolate due to covid. A drop against this performance measure is expected into the next quarter as the Service will need to focus on ensuring that the Council meets its statutory requirement to complete all annual reviews for key transition year groups this quarter, alongside new assessments.
- Performance for the percentage of 16 17-year-olds not in Education, Employment or Training or where their status was not known for December 2020 was 4.07%, which was better than target and the previous year's performance. The latest comparative performance for 2020/21 is very strong, top quartile within the comparator group and better than both national and regional averages. NEET prevention, and engagement and tracking services have been able to provide consistent engagement with young people and families during the pandemic and additional investment into NEET prevention has led to more intensive support targeted to vulnerable groups. Underpinning this positive performance has been effective collaboration across a range of partner agencies within the borough and creative approaches from Career Connect to engage young people.
- A key target for Q3, is to ensure our young people aged 16/17 have a guaranteed offer of education or training for September and in 2021, the borough maintained performance in line with previous years: 98% of young people leaving secondary education with a post 16 offer of education or training and year 13 offers at 93.3%.
- The percentage of audits where the Voice of the Child is graded as good or outstanding is currently performing some way below target.

Action for Improvement

- To address the dip in performance in the timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans, the Council has recently engaged an independent Educational Psychology company to develop and implement a new model for the Service. Alongside this a new Principal Educational Psychologist has been

appointed who will join us later in the Spring term and to assist the Council to meet its requirements and address a backlog of assessments, the Council has appointed a number of locum EPs.

- Whilst EET Performance has remained positive, it will be a challenge to maintain this, as restrictions lift and emphasis on face to face interaction, less blended learning, and providing work experience opportunities will impact on vocational programmes and traineeships. Improvements in information sharing and more effective planning and strong relationships with partners and education providers that has made a significant impact, and it will be critical that these continue as the context changes.
- Voice of the Child Audits, learning from audits is shared and the key practice emerging in cases not judged to be good or outstanding is linked to impact and records not consistently demonstrated what actions have been taken in relation to the voice of the child. More consistency is required in relation to the nature of the concerns being discussed with children.

Outcome - Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential

Current Performance

41

- Performance within the outcome remains challenging. The latest nationally published 2019 teenage conception data show rates in St Helens remain very high comparatively. There was a total of 75 conceptions in 2019, a rate of 27.8 per 1000 15-17-year-olds. The latest rolling annual rate which includes 19 conceptions in Quarter 3 2020 takes the rate to 30.1 per 1000, the 3rd highest rate in England. In the same period, the regional and national rates both decreased, with the England rolling annual rate now less than half St Helens rate (13.6 per 1,000).
- Performance against several Tier 2 indicators including breastfeeding and under 18 alcohol related hospital admissions have shown continued improvement in Quarter 3, with the year-end targets being met. However, performance remains significantly worse than national / comparator rates.
- The percentage of children receiving a Healthy Child programme review continues to meet target. However, the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2-1/2 years is 8% below target. Comparative performance against both indicators however remain relatively strong compared to similar authorities.
- Provisional data shows the percentage of women smoking at the time of delivery has increased in Quarter 3 to by 2% to 13.7%. Comparatively, in 2020/21 St Helens has the 3rd highest rate in the region and 8th highest rate in England.
- At Quarter 3 numbers of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System in St Helens remain low and on target. Performance against the percentage of children re-offending has improved significantly in Quarter 3 and is better than target.

Action for Improvement

- The Q3-2021/22 indicator has been updated with 19 conceptions for St Helens in Q3 2020. This means the annual rolling rate up to March 2020 is 30.1 per 1000, same as the last quarter, and the 3rd highest rolling annual rate in England (although not as high as a rolling rate of 37.3 in 2019). For the same period the NW rate decreased to 17.4, whilst the England rate decreased to 13.6. Whilst services for young people have continued during the

pandemic, some of the multiagency actions have taken a back seat due some of the public health team and providers being actively involved in the pandemic response. The momentum on tackling under 18 conceptions will recommence before the end of quarter 4.

- Breastfeeding rates at 6 to 8 weeks are steadily increasing, with a rate of 30.2% in Quarter 3. The rates have increased since City Health Care Partnership took over the infant feeding service. Halton and Knowsley will continue to fund the St Helens Infant Feeding Team to support their mothers also. Work on the Lowe House Hub building is progressing, and this will provide a community provision for mums with the Infant Feeding Team including a lactation clinic.
- Young people's hospital admissions for alcohol continue to fall and are projected to be achieving target. The Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAAT) have looked at the data to understand which young people are most at risk, and then carried out preventative work and engagement with them. This approach seems to be working well. The team are delivering face to face, group sessions in schools and colleges as they were pre-Covid.
- Although we are on target there is a slight increase this quarter as compared to last quarter. To reduce smoking in pregnancy, the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance smoking in pregnancy pilot is working within the remit of NHS Long Term Plan to deliver an 'opt-out' smoke free pregnancy pathway for expectant mothers and their partners. Local evidence suggests that when women access the smoking cessation service there is nearly a 100% conversion rate to setting a quit date and going on to a 4-week quit. Thus, our emphasis is on making the service as accessible as possible. Work continues in partnership with the midwifery service to ensure accurate recording of smoking status and optimise opportunities for pregnant smokers to quit, including exploration of a Quit incentive scheme.
- Performance on the indicator of the percentage of children who received a 2-21/2-year Healthy Child Programme review has shown continuous improvement since Wirral Community NHS Trust took over the 0-19s service, Wirral Community Trust in September 2021. The national and regional data has not been published so we don't know how we are performing as compared to other areas; we are currently above our target.
- We have seen a slight decrease in the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 - 21/2 years for the last two quarters. We think this could be in part due to the impact of the pandemic and less opportunities for children to access activities outside of the home. Assessments are now back being face-to-face rather than virtual. Action continues through the Early Years Strategic Partnership to develop and implement plans to maximise a child's opportunity to be school ready. Workstreams include behaviour pathways, speech & language pathway, improving outcomes for boys and Incredible Years training.
- The Youth Justice Service (YJS) has a number of ongoing workstreams which are designed to address and reduce the level of reoffending in St Helens. The improved performance seen in Quarter 3 is evidence that they are having an impact with local children. The Service continues to commission the charitable organisation CELLS, to work with our most prolific and complex cohort of children and commissioned 2 further group programmes on this basis. The first of these began in September 2021 and will run through to December 2021. CELLS focus on addressing issues like criminal exploitation, joint enterprise, knife crime and understanding victim impact. Another cohort will commence in January through to March of 2022. The Service is also currently recruiting a pool of new community volunteers to be trained as Mentors as part of its in-house mentoring provision which aims to ensure that every child worked with has access to mentoring support to desist from offending. The Education Re-Engagement Mentor post is specifically targeting those children in our cohort who are identified as being at risk of exclusion in an effort to stabilise them within their ETE provision and thereby reduce the risk of their reoffending. YJ also continues to collaborate with the VRP in an effort to develop community resilience in relation to reoffending and is currently mapping out a 'Safer Knives' project on a regional level to target those children who are identified as being

at greater risk of offending in relation to weapons offences, The YJS is currently working to establish a procedure for collection of knives in conjunction with their own YYS police officer, which will include collection, storage, and disposal of the swapped knives (knife sleeves/bins).

For more information about individual performance indicators that support the achievement of these outcomes please see the scorecard.

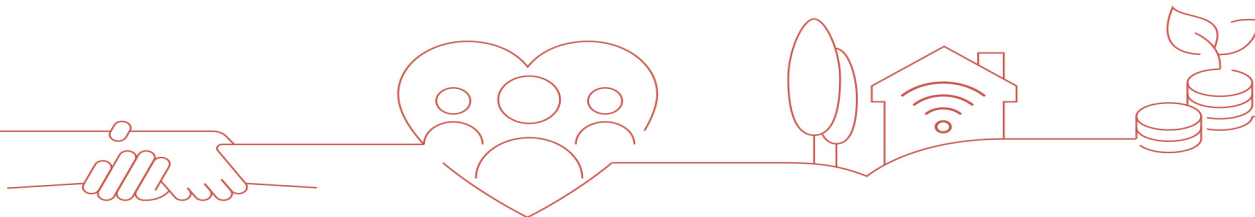
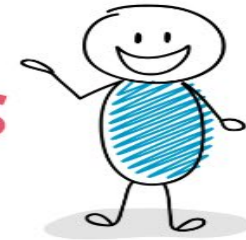
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Improvement plan 2022

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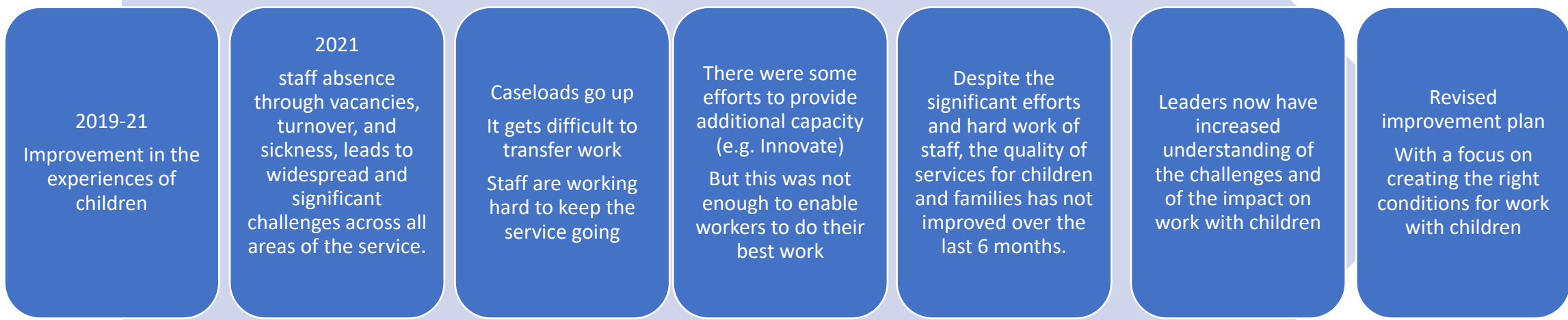


Improvement Plan Priorities



Key findings

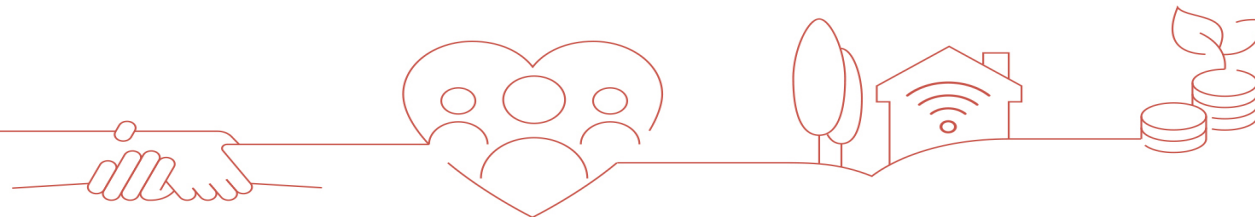
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Four key priorities

1. Create an **environment that supports practice** improvement
2. **Improve** the quality of key aspects of **practice**
3. Leaders, managers and front-line staff have an **accurate understanding of practice** that is used to drive improvement
4. **Develop key areas of service**

47

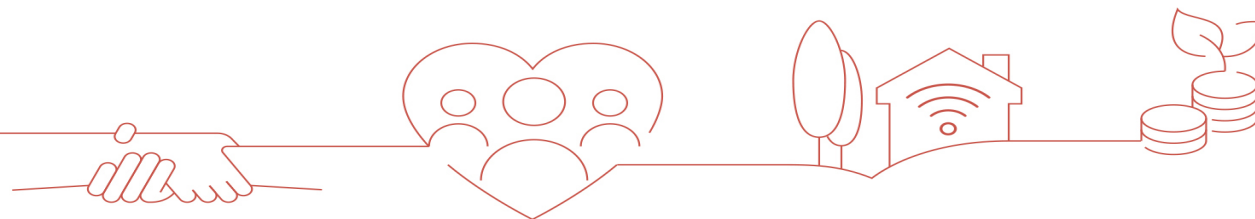


Priority 1: Create an environment that supports practice improvement

What needs to improve....?

- ❑ The service has **sufficient, suitably qualified staff** to deliver high quality services for children and families.
- ❑ **Workloads are managed** effectively, & staff are provided with the working conditions that enable them to deliver high quality services to children
- ❑ **Communication** across the whole workforce to ensure a shared, clear vision of the values and practice being sought to deliver good quality service for children.
- ❑ The **organisational structure** of the service to supports enable workers to **develop and maintain relationships with children and families**

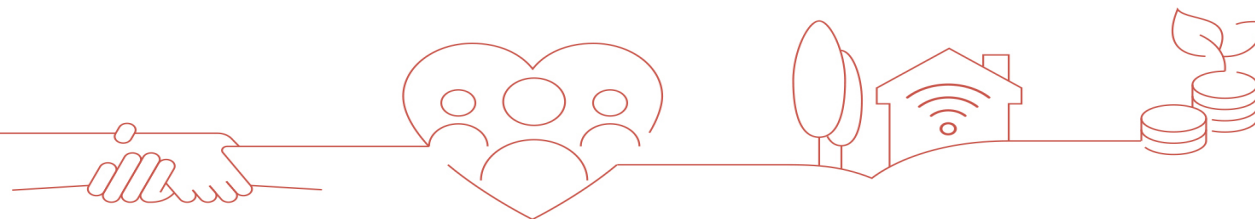
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Immediate action

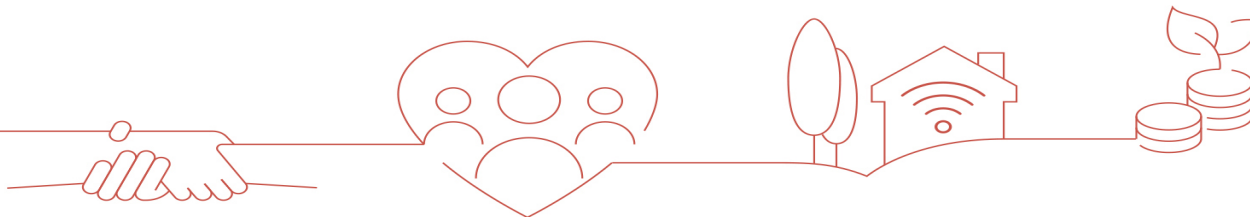
- Work to support staff and address recruitment and retention
- Work to have plan to get staff hybrid working and time in the office in a structured way
- ASYE: review of the cohort newly qualified social workers and their experiences to evaluate the current situation and what is needed- report shared today
- Practitioner forum/ consultation with front line staff
- Practice model- review implementation

49



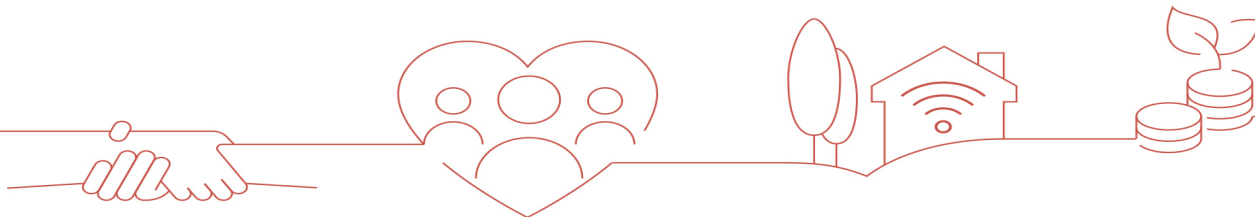
What's gone well in February?

- We now have good quality workforce data in place and are able to monitor this effectively
- We have completed significant preparation to be able to consult with staff on potential organisational change.
- We have agreed arrangement for teams to spend time in the offices with a service wide rota.
- We have met with all ASYE, evaluated their experiences and put a plan in place to provide them with regular group and individual support.
- We have met with practitioners and agreed changes to the way the practitioners forum operates. They will meet with the chair of the CIB and the DfE advisor on 12 April to discuss their relationship to the CIB.
- We have created a workforce development plan to progress and implement the changes required.
- We have undertaken an evaluation of the practice model to inform improvement planning.
- We have planned a thank you event for front line staff for World SW day that included the launch of the improvement plan and seeking ideas about how to deliver priority one.
- The improvement team have developed a model of delivery for working with the service.



What are we worried about?

- Working in a way that makes staff feel that the council listens to them and takes their views on board.
- Getting the balance right between taking action and taking time for effective reflection and planning.
- The potential impact of any organisational change and the risks to the workforce if we do not get it right.
- The challenge of access to suitable rooms to meet with children and families
- The continuing challenge of the volume of work in the duty teams and the impact of this on staff and managers.
- The challenge of delivery during March (end of leave year in St Helens) and April (easter holidays).



What needs to happen ?

WE
CAN
DO

MANAGE
PERFORMANCE

52

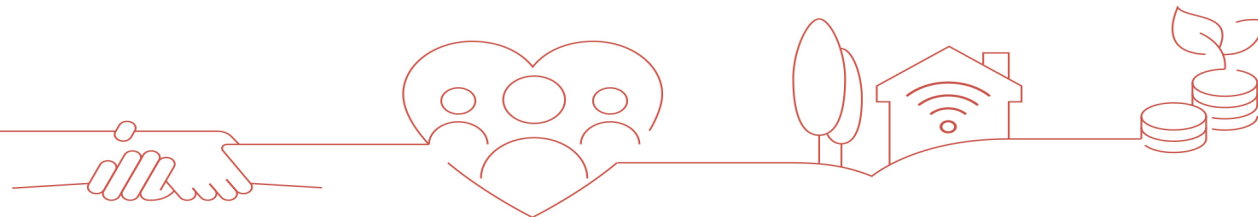
“Create an atmosphere
of growth”

YOU ARE
VALUED
(REWARD)


I AM HERE
I CARE
I AM ACCESSIBLE



Questions ?



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 <p>ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>	<h2>Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee</h2> <p>21 March 2022</p>
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Report Title:	Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Cabinet Portfolio	Finance and Governance
Cabinet Member	Councillor Martin Bond
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Report of	Jan Bakewell Director of Legal & Governance janbakewell@sthelens.gov.uk
Contact Officer	Dominic Rowan Scrutiny Support Officer dominicrowan@sthelens.gov.uk

Borough priorities	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	X
	Promote good health, independence and care across our communities	
	Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	
	Be a responsible Council	

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides information to the Committee about the work programme setting process. Managing the work programme is an important part of an efficient and effective Overview & Scrutiny Function.

2. Recommendations

- (i) **The Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to review the items listed within the work programme document in light of the current, and likely continuing, Covid pressures and agree priorities and timescales.**

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 To present the Scrutiny Committee with the revised Work Programme document for review to prioritise items for future consideration.

4. Background

- 4.1 A comprehensive work programme is fundamental to the effectiveness of the Scrutiny Committees as it enables them to plan and manage their workloads to make best use of the available time and resources, ensure a focus on the Borough's priorities and add the most value to the performance of the Council and outcomes for residents.
- 4.2 The attached work programme document is designed to record and monitor the activity for the Committee to effectively manage the workload and plan for future meetings. Each column of the work programme table provides key information about each item including a description of the issue and purpose of scrutinising it. The document lists each of the items agreed by the Committee during the work programme setting process undertaken in July 2021.
- 4.3 Members are requested during this unprecedented period of demand on officer time caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic to give particular consideration to the resource implications and

requirements of the work programme decisions.

5. Reviewing the Work Programme

- 5.1 When reviewing the work programme, new items can be added and items that no longer require scrutiny or are not considered to be a priority for action or monitoring can be removed.
- 5.2 When considering whether to add, remove and prioritise items for consideration Members should be mindful of the following:
- Would the Committee be able to add value through its work on the issue?
 - Is the issue linked to a Borough Priority?
 - Is the issue a priority/concern for partners, stakeholders and the public?
 - Is the issue related to poorly performing services?
 - Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends?
 - Are there significant levels of public/service user dissatisfaction with the service?
 - Has there been media coverage of the issue?
 - Is the issue related to new Government guidance?
 - Would consideration of the issue be timely?
 - Are there sufficient resources to effectively consider the issue at this time?
 - Would Scrutiny be duplicating work being undertaken elsewhere?
 - Is the matter subject to judicial review (sub judice)?
- 5.3 The Work Programme Prioritisation Aid attached to this report is designed to assist members in considering whether a suggested addition to the work programme is suitable and meets the necessary criteria. If members consider that a suggestion would not be suitable for scrutiny, the Scrutiny Committee could choose to refer the matter elsewhere. If an item is considered to be an important issue but not a priority at this time an item may be added to the end of the work programme to be monitored for further consideration in the future.

6. Consideration of Alternatives

- 6.1 None

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to discuss its work programme and set priorities for future Committee meetings and agree any review work (i.e. task and finish) to be commenced in the near future or scheduled for a later date.

8. Implications

8.1 Legal Implications

- 8.1.1 N/A

8.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications

8.2.1 Social Value

- 8.2.1.1 N/A

8.2.2 Sustainability and Environment

9

8.2.2.1 N/A

8.2.3 Health and Wellbeing

8.2.3.1 N/A

8.2.4 Equality and Human Rights

8.2.4.1 N/A

8.3 Customers and Resident

8.3.1 N/A

8.4 Asset and Property

8.4.1 N/A

8.5 Staffing and Human Resource

8.5.1 N/A

8.6 Risks

8.6.1 Failure to effectively manage the work programme could lead to inefficient use of the Committee's time and resources, negatively affecting the Committee's ability to add value and help the Council achieve its priorities. By examining the work programme regularly and following the prioritisation aid as recommended, the Committee should minimize the risk of using time and resources on ineffective items.

8.7 Finance

8.7.1 N/A

8.8 Policy Framework Implications

8.8.1 N/A

8.9 Impact and Opportunities on Localities

8.9.1 N/A

9 Background papers

9.1 None

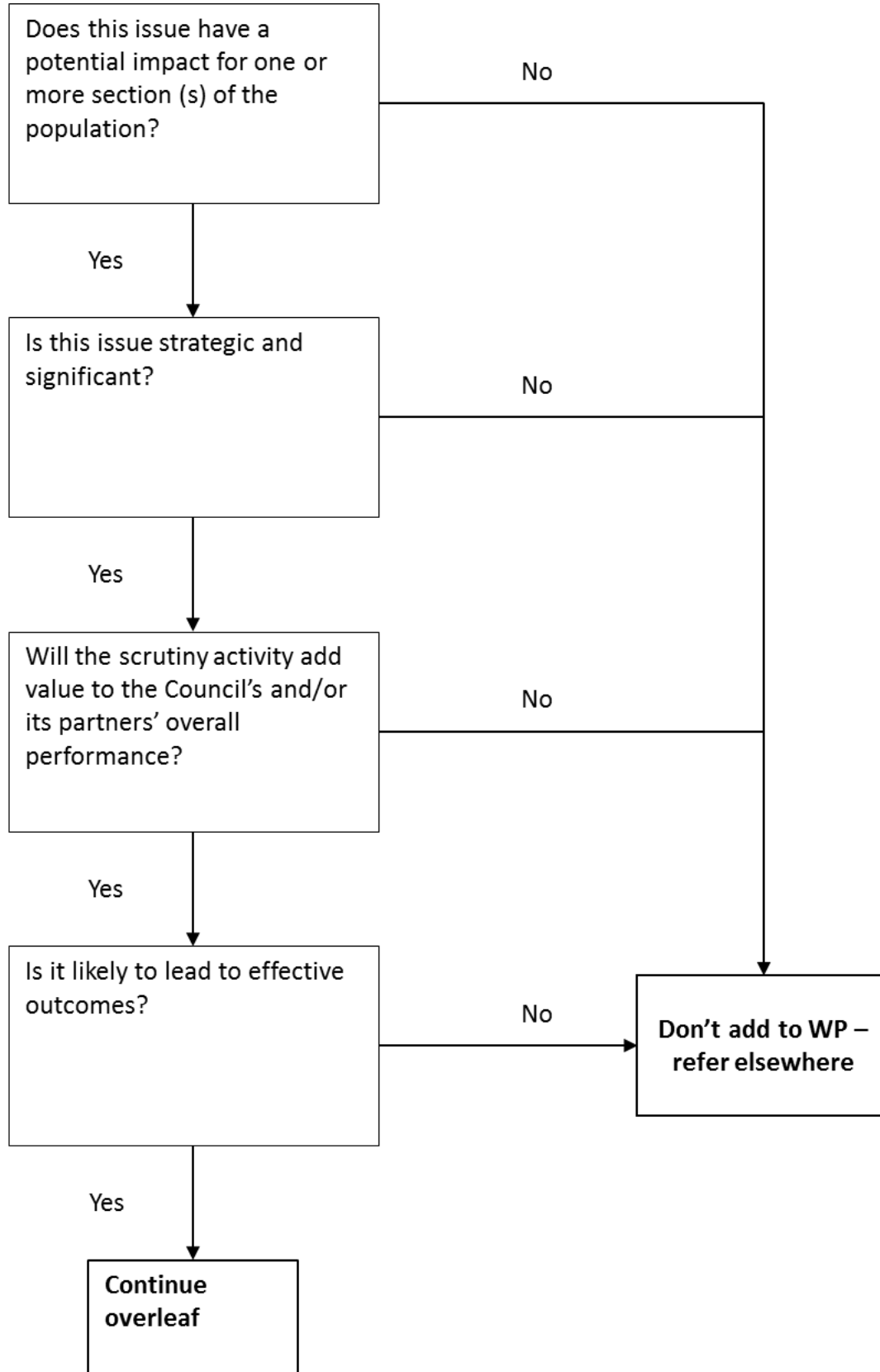
10. Appendices

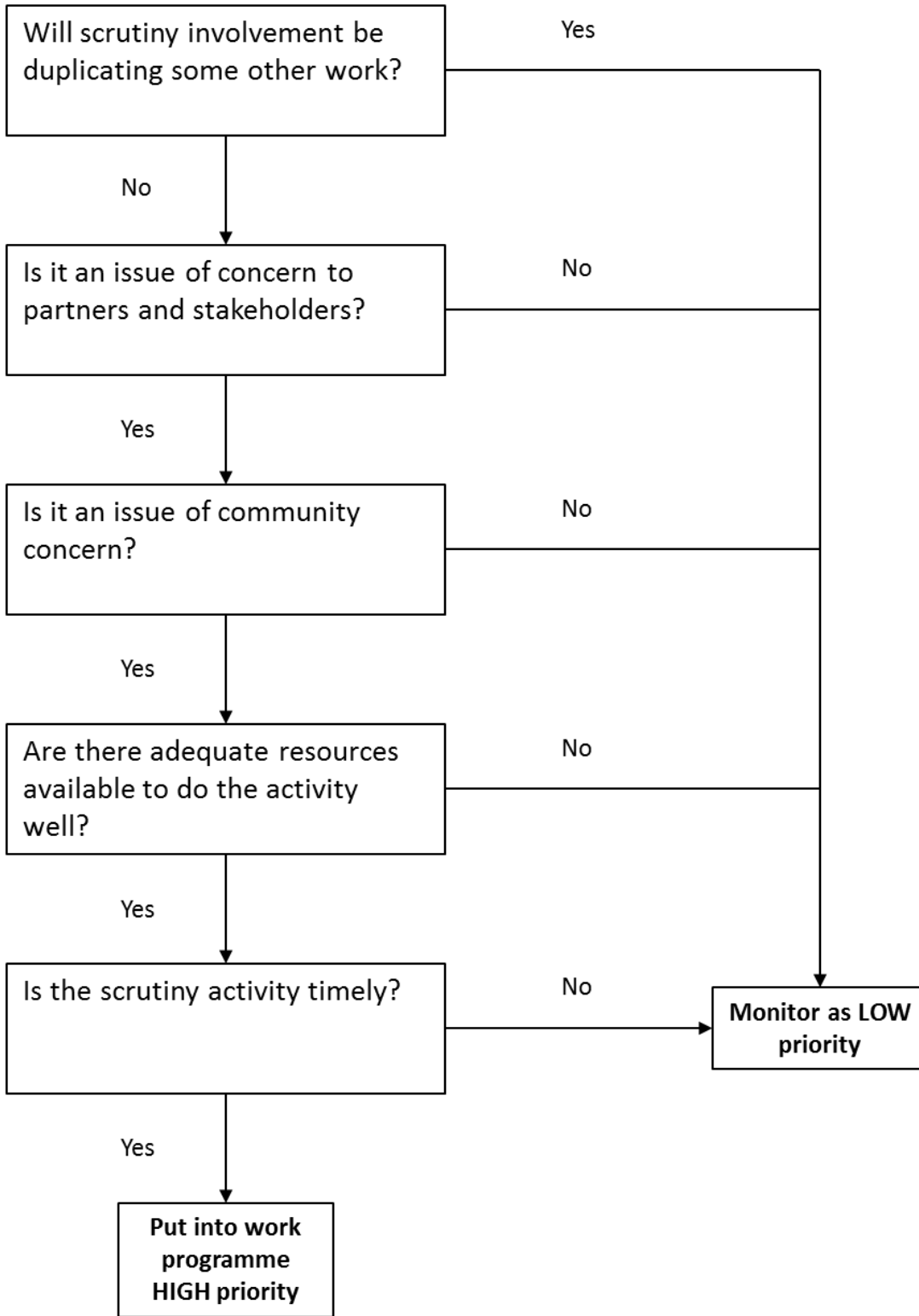
10.1 Work Programme Prioritisation Aid

10.2 Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Appendix 1

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Prioritisation Aid





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Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

<u>Corporate Priorities</u>
Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life

<u>Next Three Meetings</u>		
Date: 21 st March 2022 Time: 10:00 am Venue: Room 10	Date: 25 th July 2022 Time: 10:00am Venue: Room 10	Date: 10 th Oct 2022 Time: 10:00am Venue: Room 10

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Aims/Purpose</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Corporate Priority</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Date</u>
Children's Services Improvement Plan	Ofsted ILACS Inspection took place 23 rd Sept -4 th Oct 2019. Ofsted gave Inadequate rating requiring Council to produce Action Plan for improvement. Committee will monitor improvement process on ongoing basis.	To continue monitoring the Council's progress with improvements to Children's Services including Ofsted's feedback on their most recent focussed visit.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Jim Leivers	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Standing Item on Committee Agenda - Presentation	21 st March 2022 Agenda deadline: 11 th March
Performance Reports	Scrutiny Committees are responsible for reviewing the performance reports for priorities relevant to their remit.	To use performance reports to monitor the performance of services within portfolios and hold Cabinet Members to account.	Children and Young People / Education, Skills and Business / Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt / Cllr Burns)	Jim Leivers / Ruth du Plessis	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Q3 Report to Committee	21 st March 2022 Agenda deadline: 11 th March

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Aims/Purpose</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Corporate Priority</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Date</u>
Support for Schools	The Council provides a school improvement service aimed at improving school performance including improving pupil/student attendance, emotional well-being, and inclusivity support.	To review progress of plans.	Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Groucutt)	Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Presentation to Committee	21 st March 2022 Agenda deadline: 11 th March
Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing	The pandemic has impacted on children's education and personal lives and in some cases impacted negatively on their mental health. Councillors are concerned to know what the level of impact has been and what services are doing to tackle this.	To review initiatives that Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and other partners are putting in place in schools and communities across St Helens to support children and young people with their mental resilience and care needs.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Suzanne Rimmer (St Helens CCG)	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	CCG's response to Recommendations	21 st March 2022 Agenda deadline: 11 th March
Good Childhood Enquiry	Good Childhood Enquiry was commissioned by the Council to find out from young people what aspects of life children in St Helens are doing well in and where they are not doing so well. The findings	To receive a overview of the findings of the Enquiry and assess the response of the Council and its Partners to the recommendations of the Children's Society	Children and Young People / Education, Business and Skills / Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage	Rob Huntington / Julie Dunning / Sharon Fryer	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	25 th July 2022 Agenda Deadline: 15 th July

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Aims/Purpose</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Corporate Priority</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Date</u>
	were published in Oct 2020 with recommendations for the Council and its Partners on how to address issues identified.	who carried out the Enquiry.	(Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt/ Cllr Burns)				
Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers Task Group	St Helens Council recruits foster carers to care for children who need foster care. When there are not enough foster carers to meet demand agency carers can be used however they can cost more so ensuring there are sufficient "in-house" foster carers can reduce pressure on budget.	To review current practice and practice in other local authorities to ensure most effective approach is taken to recruit foster carers. To ensure there are sufficient foster carers in St Helens to meet demand and provide good placements for children looked after.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Linda Evans	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Cabinet Response to the Task Group's Recommendations	25 th July 2022 Agenda Deadline: 15 th July
School Readiness Strategy	A new strategy is being developed to ensure every child gets the best possible first 1001 days from birth. Strategy will include how parents are supported with their child's development and the provision of high-quality early learning.	To review the new strategy to assess its aims and objectives and implementation plan which the Committee can subsequently monitor the achievement of.	Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Groucutt)	Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Spotlight Review	TBC

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Aims/Purpose</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Corporate Priority</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Date</u>
Support for Young Carers	Councillors have expressed concerns about the needs of young carers. In 2013 a task group conducted a review of support for young carers. Members of the Committee wish to revisit this piece of work to see what has changed since.	To ensure young carers are supported and receive equality of support in relation looked after children to fulfil their potential.	Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage (Cllr Burns)	Ruth du Plessis	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Update to Committee	2022/23
Schools' use of Catchup Funding	Government has provided additional funding to schools to support initiatives to help pupils where their academic progress has been negatively impacted by school/bubble closures during the pandemic.	To scrutinise the use of catchup funding to ensure plans are in place to support those children most affected by the pandemic to make up for lost learning. Presentation delivered to Committee in December 2021.	Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Groucutt)	Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Presentation to Committee or Spotlight Review	TBC
Cabinet Response to Apprenticeships for Looked After Children Cabinet Response	Report with recommendations was submitted to Cabinet for consideration on 23 rd Sept 2020 with response provided at Cttee on 7 th Dec 2020. Several actions were due to be completed during 2021.	To receive an update on progress in relation to actions that were planned to be completed by March 2021.	Children and Young People / Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt)	Linda Evans/Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Email to Members	TBC

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Aims/Purpose</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Corporate Priority</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Response to County Lines Task Group	Report with recommendations was submitted to Cabinet for consideration on 23 rd Sept 2020 with initial response provided at Cttee on 7 th Dec 2020. Several actions were due to be completed during 2021.	To receive an update on progress in relation to actions that were planned to be completed by March 2021.	Safer, Stronger Communities / Children and Young People (Cllr Bell/ Cllr Charlton)	Sam Murray / Linda Evans	Create safe and strong communities for our residents Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Email to Members	TBC
Cabinet Response to Improving Work Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People Task Group	In its Interim Report the previous Task Group made recommendation regarding what a further Task Group should be established to do to complete the review	To respond to the recommendations of the previous Task Group and continue its review	Children and Young People / Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt)	Linda Evans	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Update on progress made against recommendations (via email)	TBC
Edge of Care Services	A range of services for children who could potential become in need of social care and their families have recently been introduced.	To scrutinise the impact of these services in reducing numbers of children becoming looked after.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Linda Evans	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	July 2022 (TBC)
St Giles Trust	The County Lines Task Group recommended that the Safer Communities OSP invite the St Giles Trust to a future meeting to discuss initiatives to reduce CCE.	To understand the effectiveness of various initiatives to tackle CCE to make suggestions about the possible implementation of any initiatives in St Helens	Children and Young People / Safer, Stronger Communities (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Bell)	Linda Evans / Sam Murray	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	TBC

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Aims/Purpose</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Corporate Priority</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Date</u>
					Create safe and strong communities for our residents		
NHS Response to Mental Health Services for CYP with SEND Spotlight Review	Committee received a response from NHS bodies to spotlight review report on 12 th July 2021. There is potential for this to be followed up at a later date.	To monitor the implementation of the response to the recommendations from the spotlight review.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Suzanne Rimmer (CCG)	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	TBC