



**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee

**6 December 2021**

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Children Improvement Board Update</b>
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Children and Young People
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Nova Charlton
<b>Exempt Report</b>	No
<b>Reason for Exemption</b>	N/A
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Public Notice issued</b>	N/A
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Report of</b>	Jim Leivers Director of Children's Services <a href="mailto:Jim.Leivers@sthelens.gov.uk">Jim.Leivers@sthelens.gov.uk</a> 01744 671802
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Jim Leivers Director of Children's Services <a href="mailto:Jim.Leivers@sthelens.gov.uk">Jim.Leivers@sthelens.gov.uk</a> 01744 671802

<b>Borough priorities</b>	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	X
	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	X

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the CYPS Scrutiny Committee with an up to date position regarding service improvement.

## 2. Recommendations for Decision

**The CYPS Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:**

### i) Note the Children's Improvement Action Plan

## 3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 To update on progress made since September 2021 as part of Children's Services improvement journey.

## 4. Background /Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 Following the inadequate judgement by Ofsted, the Council were require to report on a regular basis to an improvement board approved by the Department for Education (DfE). Initially this identified six key areas for improvement. They were

- Priority1 – improving permanency arrangement
- Priority 2 – continuous practice development and improvement
- Priority 3 – Delivering peoples issues including recruitment and retention, staff development
- Priority 4 – delivering service improvement in particular edge of care, placement options
- Priority 5 – quality assurance / performance framework delivering improvements
- Priority 6 – early help

- 4.2 In May 2021, the Council received a Focus Visit from Ofsted which formed the basis of a Restart Inspection. This identified three key areas for improvement:

- The quality of decision-making to progress plans for children within the pre-proceeding's element of the Public Law Outline, and the management oversight of this.

- The quality and effectiveness of the case audit activity to inform leaders of the impact of social work interventions on children's progress and lived experience.
- The balance of social workers' workloads and the prioritisation of tasks by social workers and managers to avoid any unnecessary drift and delay for children in need of support, help and protection.

4.3 As a consequence the improvement has been updated by the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) that reflects the latest inspection outcome. This is updated fortnightly by Heads of Services from across the department and is presented monthly to DLT.

## **5. Community Impact Assessment**

5.1 N/A

## **6. Consideration of Alternatives**

6.1 N/A

## **7. Conclusions**

7.1 The report updates the CYPS Scrutiny Committee on progress made since September 2021 as part of Children's Services improvement journey.

## **8. Implications**

### 8.1 Legal Implications

8.1.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. The improvements assist to discharge the Council's statutory duties.

### 8.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications

#### 8.2.1 Social Value

8.2.1.1 N/A

#### 8.2.2 Sustainability and Environment

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 In delivering the required improvement agenda, significant training and staff development arrangements have been identified. In the medium term, there will be a need to change the ways in which staff are currently working.

8.6 Risks

8.6.1 N/A

8.7 Finance

8.7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the Children's Improvement Action Plan report.

8.8 Policy Framework Implications

8.8.1 Improvement to Children's Services accords with the delivery of wider Council priorities.

**9. Background papers**

9.1 None

**10. Appendices**

10.1 Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Services – Ofsted Restart Action Plan, October 2021