

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: 31 st January 2022 Time: 10:00 am Venue: Room 10	Date: 21 st March 2022 Time: 10:00 am Venue: Room 10	Date: TBC Time: TBC Venue: 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	Report to Committee	31 st Jan 2022 Agenda deadline: 21 st Jan
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 NHS St Helens CCG 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)	James Hardy-Pickering (St Helens CCG)	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Spotlight Review's Report to Committee	31 st Jan 2022 Agenda deadline: 21 st Jan

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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	Task Group's Report to Committee	31 st Jan 2022 Agenda deadline: 21 st Jan
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	21 st March 2022 Agenda deadline: 11 th March

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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
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 were published in Oct 2020 with recommendations for the Council and its Partners on how to address issues identified.	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 who carried out the Enquiry.	Children and Young People / Education, Business and Skills / Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt/ Cllr Burns)	Rob Huntington / Julie Dunning / Sharon Fryer	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	21 st March 2022 Agenda deadline: 11 th March
Council's School Improvement Offer	The Council provides a school improvement service aimed at improving school performance including	To review progress of plans	Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Groucutt)	Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	21 st March 2022

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	improving pupil/student attendance, emotional well-being, and inclusivity support.						Agenda deadline: 11 th March
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	February 2022 (TBC)
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

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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
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	To scrutinise the impact of these services in reducing numbers of	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)

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	families have recently been introduced.	children becoming looked after.					
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 Create safe and strong communities for our residents	Report to Committee	TBC
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