

Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022 - 2023

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

Next Meetings		
Date: 9 th January 2023	Date: 24 th April 2023	
Time: 10am	Time: 10am	
Venue: Room 10	Venue: Room 10	

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
Children's Services Improvement Plan Report to committee	Ofsted ILACS Inspection took place 23 rd Sept -4 th Oct 2019. Ofsted gave an inadequate rating requiring Council to produce Action Plan for improvement. The committee will monitor the improvement process on an ongoing basis, including the outcomes and action arising from Monitoring Visits.	To monitor the Council's progress in improving Children's Services including Ofsted monitoring visit feedback.	Children and Young People Cllr Charlton Cabinet Member	Director Children's Services Hilary Brooks	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee Standing Committee Agenda Item	Future meetings: 9 Jan 23 24 April 23
Quarterly Performance Report Report to committee	Scrutiny Committees are responsible for reviewing the performance reports for priorities relevant to their remit.	To monitor the performance of services within portfolios and to hold Cabinet	Children and Young People Cllr Charlton	Director Children's Services Hilary Brooks	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee Standing Committee Agenda Item	Future Meetings: 9 Jan 23 24 April 23

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
		Members to account.	Economy, Business and Skills Cllr Groucutt Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Burns Cabinet Members	Director Public Health Ruth du Plessis			
Children and Young People's Social Care Workforce Development Report to committee	Social Care workforce stability is at the heart of the provision of quality care and support for looked after children and young people. To improve the quality of care and to address feedback given by our looked after children and young people, and our care leavers, it is essential that this issue is addressed by the whole Council and scrutinised for effectiveness.	To improve the quality of care and to address feedback given by our looked after children and young people, and our care leavers, it is essential that this issue is addressed by the whole Council and scrutinised for effectiveness.	Children and Young People Cllr Charlton Cabinet Member	Director Children's Services Hilary Brooks	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	Monitoring date and method: July 2023 via report to committee

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
<p>Improving children and young people's access to healthy food</p> <p>Report to committee</p>	<p>Children and young people's access to healthy food, especially in the context of the cost-of-living crisis, and childhood obesity, are an area of concern in St Helens, threatening the future mental and physical health of too many children. Work on childhood obesity is part of the People's Plan strategy.</p>	<p>To monitor the progress and impact of the Healthy Weight Strategy to address childhood obesity in St Helens.</p>	<p>Children and Young People Cllr Charlton</p> <p>Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Burns</p> <p>Cabinet Members</p>	<p>Public Health Consultant Shirley Goodhew</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Report to committee</p>	<p>10 Oct 2022</p>
<p>Review of (provisional) Outcomes 2021 – 22 and action for 2022 – 23.</p> <p>Presentation to committee</p>	<p>Members are concerned about the impact of Covid on the educational outcomes for children and young people in St Helens. It is therefore important to understand how attainment has changed in 21/22 and to explore what actions are needed to help mitigate or reduce potential widening inequalities.</p>	<p>To review educational (provisional) outcomes at the end of the academic year 21/22 and to be clear about strategies and actions to ensure pupils can flourish, achieve and progress well in their next steps, despite the pandemic.</p>	<p>Children and Young People Cllr Charlton</p> <p>Cabinet Member</p>	<p>Assistant Director, Education and Learning Joanne Davies</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Presentation to committee</p>	<p>10 Oct 2022</p>

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
<p>Improving School Attendance</p> <p>Spotlight Review</p>	<p>At 22.3%, pupil absenteeism in St Helens is higher than the national average in England of 19%. Absenteeism affects learning, well-being, life chances and is a factor in safeguarding issues.</p>	<p>To contribute to strategies to improve school attendance rates in St Helens thereby improving pupil achievement, well-being, life chances and reducing the potential of children and young people's vulnerability to harm.</p>	<p>Children and Young People Cllr Charlton</p> <p>Cabinet Member</p>	<p>Jo Davies Assistant Director Education and Learning</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Spotlight Review</p>	<p>3 November 2022, tbc</p> <p>10am – 2.30pm</p>
<p>Reducing teenage pregnancy</p> <p>Spotlight Review</p>	<p>National 2020 teenage conception data show that teenage pregnancy rates remain very high comparatively in St Helens. The Nuffield Trust has recently reported (March 2022) that research shows that teenage pregnancy is associated with poorer outcomes for both young parents and their children.</p>	<p>To clarify the data in relation to St Helens and explore how teenage pregnancy rates can be reduced.</p>	<p>Children and Young People Cllr Charlton</p> <p>Cabinet Member</p>	<p>Shirley Goodhew Public Health Consultant</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Spotlight Review</p>	<p>5 December 2022.</p> <p>10 am – 2 pm</p>

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
<p>Improving School Attainment</p> <p>Task and Finish Group</p>	<p>Overall secondary school attainment, pre-Covid was below the England average in St Helens.</p>	<p>To scrutinise strategies to improve secondary school attainment and raise pupil aspirations.</p>		<p>Jo Davies</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Task and Finish Group</p>	<p>Jan - Feb 2023</p>
<p>Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers Task Group – Progress following Task and Finish Group recommendations</p> <p>Report to committee</p>	<p>In the context of the national crisis in recruiting and retaining foster carers, a CYPs Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, in January 2022, made a number of recommendations to address the shortage of foster carers in St Helens to ensure quality placements were available for children looked after. The recommendations were approved by Cabinet in March 2022.</p>	<p>To monitor the implementation of the action plan to increase the number of foster carers and quality foster care placements in St Helens.</p>	<p>Children and Young People Cllr Charlton</p> <p>Cabinet Member</p>	<p>Paula Swindlehurst</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Report to committee</p>	<p>9 Jan 23</p>
<p>Improving Employment for Care Leavers – Progress following Task and Finish Group recommendations</p>	<p>Care leavers face enormous barriers to accessing education, work or training with the consequent adverse impacts on their life chances. In 2019, care</p>	<p>To monitor the implementation of the action plan to improve employment opportunities for</p>	<p>Children and Young People Cllr Charlton</p> <p>Economy, Business and Skills</p>	<p>Assistant Chief Executive Rob Huntington</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Report to committee</p>	<p>9 Jan 23</p>

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<p>Report to committee</p>	<p>leavers aged 19-21 in England were over three times more likely to be NEET than their peers, made more difficult by the twin impacts of the pandemic and Brexit. In February 2020, a CYPS Scrutiny Task and Finish Group made a number of recommendations to help the children and young people, for whom St Helens Council is a corporate parent, prosper when they leave our care..</p>	<p>care leavers in St Helens.</p>	<p>Cllr Groucutt Cabinet Members</p>	<p>Director Children's Services Hilary Brooks Director Children's Services Hilary Brooks</p>			
<p>Listening to the Voices of Children and Young People Report to committee</p>	<p>Commissioned by the Council, The Good Childhood Enquiry reported, in October 2020, on young people's views of life in St Helens and a consequent set of recommendations on how to address issues identified.</p>	<p>To review progress in relation to the action plan developed in response to the Good Childhood Enquiry</p>	<p>Children and Young People / Economy, Business and Skills / Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Charlton Cllr Groucutt Cllr Burns)</p>	<p>Assistant Chief Executive Rob Huntington Senior Commissioning and Transformation Manager Julie Dunning</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Report to Committee</p>	<p>9 Jan 23 tbc</p>

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
			Cabinet Members	Head of Send and Inclusion Sharon Fryer			
<p>Reducing alcohol and substance misuse during pregnancy</p> <p>Spotlight Review</p>	<p>To understand the serious harm done in utero as a result of parental alcohol and substance misuse and the consequent impact on child development and life chances, families and services; and to scrutinise the work currently undertaken by the Council and partner agencies to address this issue.</p>	<p>To raise awareness of this issue to result in more healthy pregnancies so that more children have the best start in life and life chances.</p>	<p>Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)</p>	<p>Public Health Consultant Michelle Loughlin</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Spotlight Review</p>	<p>March 2023 Tbc by Michelle Loughlin</p>
<p>Reducing Self Harm in young people aged 10 – 24 years old.</p> <p>Report to committee</p>	<p>St Helens is in the 4th quartile, the highest in the northwest and second highest nationally for admissions to hospital for self-harm.</p>	<p>To review and monitor the impact of work being done to address self-harm in young people in St Helens.</p>	<p>Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)</p>	<p>Director of Public Health Ruth Du Plessis</p> <p>Assistant Director Education and Learning Jo Davies</p>	<p>Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life</p>	<p>Report to committee</p>	<p>24 April 23</p>

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
Mental Health and Well Being Services for Children and Young People – Progress following recommendations	In December 2021, members of the committee conducted a spotlight review of children’s mental health services in St Helens. Several recommendations were agreed in January 2022. It was agreed that this topic remain on the Scrutiny Work programme in view of the increase in children and young people needing support and an update on provision to be provided in twelve months.	To monitor the provision to ensure timely and appropriate support for children and young people.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Director of Public Health Ruth Du Plessis	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Briefing via email tbc at CYPS meeting on 10/10	24 April 23