

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 Time: 10am Venue: Room 10	Date: 24 th April 2023 Time: 10am Venue: Room 10	Date: 24 th July 2023 Time: 10am Venue: Room 10

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
Children's Services Improvement Plan	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	Director Children's Services Hilary Brooks	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee Standing Committee Agenda Item	9/1/23 24/4/23
Quarterly Performance Report	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	9/1/23 24/4/23

Appendix 1

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			
Improving School Attendance	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.	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.	Children and Young People Cllr Charlton Cabinet Member	Jo Davies Assistant Director Education and Learning	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Spotlight Review	Task Group Report to Committee 9 January 23

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Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
Reducing teenage pregnancy	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.	To clarify the data in relation to St Helens and explore how teenage pregnancy rates can be reduced.	Children and Young People Cllr Charlton Cabinet Member	Shirley Goodhew Public Health Consultant	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Spotlight Review	Monday 5 December 2022. Tasks Group Report to Committee 24 April 23
Improving School Attainment	Overall secondary school attainment, pre-Covid was below the England average in St Helens.	To scrutinise strategies to improve secondary school attainment and raise pupil aspirations.		Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Task and Finish Group	TBC 2023
Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers Task Group – Progress following Task and Finish Group recommendations	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	To monitor the implementation of the action plan to increase the number of foster carers and quality foster care placements in St Helens.	Children and Young People Cllr Charlton Cabinet Member	Paula Swindlehurst /Fiona Woods	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	9 Jan 2023

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Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
	for children looked after. The recommendations were approved by Cabinet in March 2022.						
Improving Employment for Care Leavers – Progress following Task and Finish Group recommendations	Care leavers face enormous barriers to accessing education, work or training with the consequent adverse impacts on their life chances. In 2019, care 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..	To monitor the implementation of the action plan to improve employment opportunities for care leavers in St Helens.	Children and Young People Cllr Charlton Economy, Business and Skills Cllr Groucutt Cabinet Members	Assistant Chief Executive Rob Huntington Director Children’s Services Hilary Brooks Director Children’s Services Hilary Brooks	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	24 April 2023

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Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
Listening to the Voices of Children and Young People	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.	To review progress in relation to the action plan developed in response to the Good Childhood Enquiry	Children and Young People / Economy, Business and Skills / Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Charlton Cllr Groucutt Cllr Burns) Cabinet Members	Assistant Chief Executive Rob Huntington Senior Commissioning and Transformation Manager Julie Dunning Head of Send and Inclusion Sharon Fryer	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	TBC
Reducing alcohol and substance misuse during pregnancy	To understand the serious harm done in uterus 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	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.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Public Health Consultant Michelle Loughlin	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Spotlight Review	Commence 20 March 2023

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Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
	undertaken by the Council and partner agencies to address this issue.						
Reducing Self Harm in young people aged 10 – 24 years old.	St Helens is in the 4 th quartile, the highest in the northwest and second highest nationally for admissions to hospital for self-harm.	To review and monitor the impact of work being done to address self-harm in young people in St Helens.	Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)	Director of Public Health Ruth Du Plessis Assistant Director Education and Learning Jo Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	24 April 23
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	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

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Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
	children and young people needing support and an update on provision to be provided in twelve months.						

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