Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee
8 January 2024

Report Title	**Cabinet Response to the Spotlight Review of Alcohol and Drug Use in Pregnancy - Collective Action to Reduce Risk and Harm to Children**
Cabinet Portfolio	Children and Young People Wellbeing, Communities and Culture
Cabinet Member	Councillor Nova Charlton Councillor Anthony Burns
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Report of	Hilary Brooks Director of Children's Services Hilarybrooks@sthelens.gov.uk Ruth du Plessis Director of Public Health Ruthduplessis@sthelens.gov.uk
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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 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee (CYPS) held a spotlight review of Alcohol and Drug Use in Pregnancy - Collective Action to Reduce Risk and Harm to Children, on 28 April 2023. The purpose of the spotlight review was to enable Members, relevant services and key partners to:

- Understand the impact of alcohol and drugs use in pregnancy on the child;
- Share the relevant work that is already underway to prevent and reduce harm;
- Work together to identify gaps and opportunities to improve our collective response;
- Commit to the delivery of agreed actions for improvement.

1.2 Drinking alcohol or taking drugs during pregnancy, even in small quantities can be harmful for the baby and have long term effects on the child and into adulthood.

1.3 The report of the spotlight review and its recommendations for action were formally agreed by CYPS Scrutiny Committee on 6 of September 2023 and was submitted to Cabinet for responses at their meeting held on 25 October 2023 as per the Council's constitution.

2. Recommendation for Decision

Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1)   Note the Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 that sets out the recommendations approved by Cabinet.

3. Purpose of this report

3.1 This report provides Members with the Action Plan response to the recommendations of the Task Group, which had been agreed by Cabinet at their meeting held on 25 October 2023.

4. Background / Reason for the recommendations

4.1 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Workshop carried out a spotlight review of Alcohol and Drug Use in Pregnancy - Collective Action to Reduce Risk and Harm to Children on 28 April 2023.

4.2 The focus of the spotlight review was shaped by concerns regarding high levels of teenage pregnancy and alcohol related harm in the borough, including significantly high rates of alcohol hospital admissions due to alcohol.

5. Consideration of Alternatives

5.1 N/A

6. Conclusions

6.1 The Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 sets out the Cabinet response to the recommendations from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Task Group.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

8. Financial Implications

8.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

9. Equality Impact Assessment

9.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

10. Social Value

10.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

11. Net Zero and Environment

11.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

12. Health and Wellbeing

12.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

13. Customer and Resident

13.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

14. Asset and Property

14.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

15. Staffing and People Management

15.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

16.   Risks

16.1   As detailed in Appendix 1

17.   Policy Framework Implications

17.1 As detailed in Appendix 1

18.   Impact and Opportunities on Localities

18.1   As detailed in Appendix 1

19.   Background Documents

19.1 None

20.   Appendices

20.1 Appendix 1 – Cabinet Response and Action Plan