

Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2024

Corporate Priority	Next Meetings	
Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Date: 25 March 2024 Time: 10:00am Venue: Room 10, Town Hall	

Title	Description	Purpose	Portfolio	Lead Officer	Corporate Priority	Method	Date
Director's Report/ Children's Services Improvement Plan	Ofsted ILAC Inspection took place 23rd Sept - 4th 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 Ofsted monitoring visits.	To monitor the Council's progress in improving Children's Services including Ofsted monitoring visit feedback.	Children and Young People Cllr Nova 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	6 Sept 2023 (Completed) 16 October 2023 (Completed) 8 January 2024 (Completed)

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Quarterly Performance Reports	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 Members to account.	<p>Children and Young People Cllr Charlton</p> <p>Economy, Business and Skills Cllr Groucutt</p> <p>Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Anthony Burns</p>	<p>Director Children's Services Hilary Brooks</p> <p>Director Public Health Ruth du Plessis</p> <p>Public Health Consultant Shirley Goodhew</p>	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	<p>Report to committee</p> <p>Standing Committee Agenda Item</p>	<p>6 Sept 2023 (Completed)</p> <p>16 October 2023 (Completed)</p> <p>8 January 2024 (Completed)</p> <p>25 March 2024</p>
Update on Progress towards the SEND inspection	Provision of effective services for children and young people with SEND is critical in ensuring that those children and young people are included, can thrive, have high aspirations and can progress. This means that need is identified accurately and early, and the right interventions are	The purpose of the report is to ensure that Scrutiny members are clear about the strengths, the areas for development and associated actions, and impact of services for children and young people with SEND in St Helens; they understand the new inspection framework; and are	Children and Young People Cllr Nova Charlton	<p>Assistant Director, Education and Learning, Jo Davies</p> <p>Head of SEND and Inclusion Tom Howard</p>	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	<p>6 Sept 2023 (Completed)</p> <p>25 March 2024</p>

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	put in place early so that children and young people have the best possible chance to succeed in their learning; their well-being is supported; they have the best possible chances in life; and that their families are confident in the support provided.	updated on preparation for inspection.					
Alcohol and Drug Use in Pregnancy - Collective Action to Reduce Risk and Harm to Children Spotlight Review	This Spotlight Review was held on 28/4/23, attended by members of the committee, officers and partners, to scrutinise work to reduce risk and harm to children arising from alcohol and substance use in pregnancy.	To present the draft report and findings to the CYPS Scrutiny Committee to seek approval to submit to Cabinet.	Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Anthony Burns	Director Public Health Ruth Du Plessis Public Health Consultant Michelle Loughlin	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee	6 September 2023 (Completed)
Improving School Attendance Rates	This Spotlight Review was held	To present Cabinet's response	Children and Young People	Assistant Director,	Ensure children and young	Report to Committee.	6 September 2023

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in St Helens Spotlight Review – Cabinet Response	on 3/11/23, attended by members, officers and staff from local schools, to scrutinise action to improve the borough's school attendance rates, which for the 21/22 Autumn and Spring Terms were lower than national and regional averages.	to the report and recommendations.	Cllr Nova Charlton	Education and Learning, Jo Davies	people have a positive start in life		(Completed)
Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Rates in St Helens' Spotlight Review	This Spotlight Review was held on 5/12/22 and 1/26/23, attended by members of the committee, officers and partners, to scrutinise work to reduce teenage pregnancy rates in St Helens.	To present Cabinet's response to the report and recommendations.	Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Anthony Burns	Director Public Health Ruth Du Plessis Public Health Consultant Shirley Goodhew	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee.	6 September 2023 (Completed)
Update on the Education, Health and Care Plan Process and Its	Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are legally binding documents	To understand and scrutinise the EHCP process, its strengths, the areas for	Children and Young People Cllr Nova Charlton	Assistant Director, Education and Learning Joanne Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Presentation to Committee	16 October 2023 (Completed)

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Impact in St Helens.	intended to ensure that the needs of children, young people and adults up to 25, who require support beyond that which an educational setting can provide at SEN level, are clearly identified in a timely manner; with input from all partners including the child or young person and their family; that plans are in place to ensure needs are met; and reviews take place to ensure all appropriate action is taken.	development, the actions to address these areas, and impact on children and young people in St Helens.		Head of SEND and Inclusion Tom Howard			
Listening to the Voices of Children and Young People in St Helens	Listening to children and young people and ensuring their views are valued and acted upon in terms of shaping	The purpose of this report is to understand and enable scrutiny of the feedback from and actions arising from the Bright	Children and Young People / Economy, Business and Skills /	Director of Children's Services Hilary Brooks	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	8 January 2024 (Completed)

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	<p>services for them, and the decisions and actions that affect their lives, is central to creating meaningful engagement and trust, enabling positive change, keeping them safe and providing the best possible services for them.</p> <p>The Report to include – Aspiration and employment opportunities for Children and Young People in St Helens</p>	Spots Survey of children we look after and care leavers in St Helens, carried out between December 2022 and February 2023. This will allow Members to assess the degree to which services listen to children and young people and whether they use those views effectively to shape services, in decisions and actions about children and young people's lives and to keep them safe.	<p>Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage</p> <p>Cllr Charlton Cllr Groucutt Cllr Burns</p>				
Alcohol and Drug Use in Pregnancy - Collective Action to Reduce Risk and Harm to Children Spotlight Review – Cabinet Response	This Spotlight Review was held to scrutinise work to reduce risk and harm to children from alcohol and substance use in pregnancy.	To present the Cabinet's response to this Spotlight Review report and recommendations	<p>Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage</p> <p>Cllr Anthony Burns</p>	<p>Director Public Health Ruth Du Plessis</p> <p>Public Health Consultant Michelle Loughlin</p>	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to Committee.	8 January 2024 (Completed)

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Spotlight Review to scrutinise the TESSA process and contribution to its evaluation	TESSA was introduced to provide schools with a streamlined system to use to request support for children and young people with SEND.	To consider the impact of the TESSA process, contribute to its evaluation and make appropriate recommendations.	Children and Young People Cllr Nova Charlton	Assistant Director, Education and Learning Joanne Davies	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Spotlight Review Report to Committee	5 February 2024 (Completed) 25 March 2024
A review of the strategy and collective action to address child neglect in St Helens.	Child neglect is a form of abuse which can impact on a child's physical and mental health and can lead to long term adverse consequences. It arises from many complex issues including parental mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and poverty.	The purpose of this Spotlight Review will be to scrutinise the strategy and collective action to reduce child neglect in St Helens.	Children and Young People Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Nova Charlton Cllr Anthony Burns	Director of Children's Services Hilary Brooks SCP Business Manager Andrew Patty	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Spotlight Review	4 March 2024
Reducing Harm Caused by under-age Alcohol Consumption in St Helens	The rate of under 18 hospital admissions for alcohol specific reasons in St Helens is significantly higher	The purpose of this report is to give an understanding of the extent of underage drinking in St Helens; its impact on young	Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Anthony Burns	Director Public Health Ruth Du Plessis Public Health Consultant	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Presentation to Committee	25 March 2024

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	<p>than regional and national averages and will impact negatively on the health, well-being and life chances of too many of our children and young people.</p> <p>Underage drinking prevents children from having the best start in life because it can impact on the development of the body's organs and functions and is associated with wider health risks.</p> <p>Beginning to drink in early teenage years is associated with violent behaviour, mental health issues, suicidal thoughts and attempts, employment problems and risky behaviour in later</p>	<p>people; the collective action, together with its effectiveness, to address the issue; and to make appropriate recommendations.</p>		<p>Michelle Loughlin</p>			

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	life such as drink driving and other forms of criminal behaviour.						
Review of the provision of mental health services for young people in St Helens.	Research, such as the DfE State of the Nation Report (published 2023) and recent anecdotal reports to Council from local Head Teachers, indicate that significant numbers of children and young people continue to experience challenges with their mental health. Half of all life-time mental health illnesses start in teenage years although treatment is often received only many years later. Mental health is also an equalities issue with the poorest	In the light of continuing mental health challenges experienced by children and young people, it is essential that the accessibility and effectiveness of mental health services for them, including those with SEND, are scrutinised to understand the support available, its strengths and the challenges within the provision.	Children and Young People and Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Charlton Cllr Groucutt Cllr Burns	Head of Children's Health and Maternity Commissioning Matt Davies Public Health Consultant Shirley Goodhew	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	22 July 2024

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	fifth of the population being twice as likely to develop mental health problems in adulthood.						
Reviewing progress of action plans arising from the previous municipal year's Spotlight Review recommendations .	<p>To date, Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of two of the following three spotlight reviews carried out in the municipal year 2022 to 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving Attendance Rates in St Helens (<i>To include- Severe Pupil absenteeism rate monitoring and actions update</i>) Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Rates in St Helens 	The purpose of the review is to enable scrutiny to understand how services have improved following critical friend recommendations arising from the spotlight reviews carried out in 2022 – 2023.	Children and Young People / Economy, Business and Skills / Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Charlton Cllr Groucutt Cllr Burns	Jo Davies Shirley Goodhew	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Report to committee	22 July 2024

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Reviewing progress of action plans arising from the previous municipal year's Spotlight Review recommendations .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing risk of harm to children arising from alcohol and substance use in pregnancy. 	The purpose of the review is to enable scrutiny to understand how services have improved following critical friend recommendations arising from the spotlight reviews carried out in 2022 – 2023.	Children and Young People Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage Cllr Charlton Cllr Burns	Michelle Loughlin Public Health Consultant	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	Update to committee	14 October 2024