

# Blackpool Council

3 April 2018

To: Councillors Collett, Critchley, O'Hara, Owen, Rowson, D Scott, Mrs Scott, Stansfield and L Taylor.

Co-opted Members: Mrs Frances McErlane and Mr Sam Johnson.

The above members are requested to attend the:

## **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 12 April 2018 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

### **A G E N D A**

#### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

- (a) personal interest
- (b) prejudicial interest
- (c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

#### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 08 FEBRUARY 2018** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 February 2018 as a true and correct record.

**3 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

To consider any applications from members for the public to speak at the meeting.

**4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS** (Pages 7 - 12)

To consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the remit of the Resilient Communities and Children's Scrutiny Committee.

**5 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 13 - 18)

To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, April 2018 – July 2018, relating to the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary.

**6 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN** (Pages 19 - 32)

The Committee to consider the Workplan, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review.

**7 KEY PRIORITY REPORT: COMMUNITY** (Pages 33 - 40)

To present performance against the Community suite of indicators for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st December 2017.

**8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** (Pages 41 - 50)

To present an update from the Community Engagement team on Resident Engagement, Staff Engagement, Blackpool Fairness Commission and Future Engagement.

**9 CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE REPORT** (Pages 51 - 56)

To inform the Committee of the work undertaken by Children's Services on a day to day basis and to update on the progress and implementation of developments.

**10 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CHILD PROTECTION** (Pages 57 - 62)

To provide an overview of the status of Looked After Children and Child Protection in Blackpool.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting of the Committee as Thursday, 07 June 2018, commencing at 6pm.

**Venue information:**

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01253 477213, e-mail [sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk)

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# Agenda Item 2

## MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2018

### Present:

Councillor Rowson (in the Chair)

Councillors

Collett

O'Hara

D Scott

Stansfield

Critchley

Owen

Mrs Scott

L Taylor

### In Attendance:

Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary for Resilient Communities

Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning

Mrs Cindy Hunter, Head of Social Services

Mrs Louise Storey, Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager, Blackpool Council

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

### 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 07 DECEMBER 2017

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting of the Resilient Communities and Children's Scrutiny Committee held on 7 December 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

### 3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Committee noted that there were no applications from members of the public to speak at the meeting.

### 4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Committee noted that one decision had been taken by the Cabinet Secretary for Resilient Communities to revise the terms of reference for the Corporate Parent Panel.

### 5 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the item contained within the Forward Plan, February 2018 – June 2018, 'Development Proposals for Improvements at Carleton Cemetery' that related to the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary and requested that an update be provided.

Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary for Resilient Communities advised that the decision related to the expansion of the Crematorium. In addition, the Council was also seeking a tenant for the empty café on site.

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## **6 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN**

The Committee considered its Workplan for the remainder of 2018. The Chairman, Councillor Kath Rowson, advised that an item would be added to the Workplan on 'School Improvement' for November 2018, which would also incorporate the validated GCSE results. She also noted that the Committee would consider a report on Looked After Children and Child Protection in April 2018 and suggested that Members may wish to consider setting up a one off in depth meeting for further consideration of the topic following discussions.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the 'Implementation of Recommendations' table and noted that a number of actions had been completed. She requested that a more detailed update on the meeting with newly qualified teachers be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee agreed:

1. To update the Workplan to include an item on School Improvement in November 2018.
2. To receive a more detailed update on the meeting with newly qualified teachers at the next meeting of the Committee.

## **7 CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE REPORT**

Mrs Louise Storey, Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker and Mrs Cindy Hunter, Head of Social Services presented the report to Committee and advised that the main emphasis of the Children's Services Update Report was on demand management and performance against targets.

The Committee discussed the high number of Looked After Children and noted that although the figure had not decreased it appeared to have steadied. Mrs Hunter advised that the current focus was on working with children in care in order to move them to permanence such as adoption. It was queried if the target set for the number of Looked After Children was realistic and in response Mrs Hunter advised that the target had been set by considering every individual child and determining potential discharges from care. She added that the target was ambitious but based on analysis.

Members raised concerns that a review was required to ensure that school initiatives on literacy and work ongoing in the community was joined up. It was considered that there were a large number of ongoing schemes in place to improve literacy such as those being undertaken by Head Start and Better Start. Mrs Storey acknowledged that there was a significant amount of funding which was being utilised to provide a large number of schemes. It was agreed that the Committee receive a report to a future meeting detailing the expected outcomes and monitoring framework of schemes such as the Opportunity Areas in order to be assured that funding was achieving outcomes.

Members went on to focus on the work being undertaken by Better Start to ensure children were 'school ready' and queried work being carried out on the subsequent steps from primary to secondary school and then from school to work. Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning Reported that schools worked with colleges and

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businesses to give aspiration and confidence to young people. She added that preparing young people for work was a priority of the Opportunity Areas.

In response to further questioning regarding the transition between primary and secondary schools, Councillor Benson advised that in her opinion the environment in 2018 was vastly different to the environment a number of years ago. She commented that there was more pressure on young people and that children and young people were considered generally to be not as resilient. She added that children did spend a week at secondary school whilst still at primary school and that further detail on transitions could be provided within the report to be received on School Improvement in November 2018.

Concern was raised that the poor performance of secondary schools had been known for a number of years and queried when improvements would be made. Councillor Benson advised that it was not an easy task to make vast and wide ranging improvements quickly, but that she hoped some improvement in attainment would soon be seen. She highlighted the recent improvements made at Highfield Academy and the latest Ofsted inspection of Unity Academy in achieving a 'good' outcome.

Asked about potential impact the Council could have on academies, Councillor Benson reported that all academies were attending and involved in the School Improvement Board and that they were committed to making improvements. The Chairman requested that the report to be provided on School Improvement also included reference to how initiatives had affected results.

Members considered whether it would be possible to ascertain the impact on attainment and performance of academisation of schools and requested that an analysis be undertaken of attainment before and after each school had become an academy. In addition, Members queried whether the performance of lower achievers and children with Special Educational Needs had been analysed to determine whether improvement could be demonstrated at any level. Councillor Benson agreed to report back to the Committee following the meeting on both queries.

The Committee discussed the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and queried the number of Looked After Children who had participated. Further detail was also requested regarding the number of young people who had not completed the Award and the reasons why. Councillor Benson agreed to provide a full response following the meeting.

The Committee went on to consider the performance data provided in relation to demand management and queried the dramatic increase in the number of Section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 population from March 2016 to March 2017. Mrs Hunter agreed to investigate the increase and provide a response following the meeting.

In response to questioning, Mrs Hunter advised that the Police would create a Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) referral when a young person was identified as at risk of criminal activity and submit it to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub for dissemination and support from partner agencies. In order to keep vulnerable young people out of prison, the Police often worked with young people in order to prevent them from receiving a criminal record. Members discussed Youth Justice in detail, Early Help in place around young people at risk of committing crimes and court directives and agreed to add a future

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item on Youth Justice to the workplan for detailed consideration.

The Committee agreed:

1. To receive a report to a future meeting detailing the expected outcomes and monitoring framework of schemes such as the Opportunity Areas in order to be assured that funding was achieving outcomes.
2. To receive regular updates on the progress of the Opportunity Areas Delivery Plan.
3. To include detail on how initiatives had impacted upon attainment and the impact of work on Transitions within the report on School Improvement to be received in November 2018.
4. To receive an analysis of attainment before and after each school had become an academy following the meeting.
5. To receive an analysis of the attainment of lower level achievers and children with Special Educational Needs to determine if improvement could be demonstrated following the meeting.
6. To receive detail regarding the number of Looked After Children participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the number of young people who did not complete with the reasons why.
7. To receive detail on the increase in the number of Section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 population from March 2016 to March 2017.
8. To add Youth Justice to the Workplan.

## **8 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE**

Mrs Louise Storey, Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker highlighted the arrangements and range of activities in place in order to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and abuse and to protect children and young people. She highlighted that work was multi-agency and that the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board had a Sub-Group dedicated to the consideration of CSE and related concerns.

Members noted that the report highlighted difficulties in engaging with a small number of large organisations operating within Blackpool and queried the reasons why the difficulties had emerged. Councillor Cain, Cabinet Secretary for Resilient Communities reported that progress had been made with the organisations concerned and that there was a rolling programme of training and development in place. He also highlighted the importance of training for Members. Mrs Storey added that lack of engagement was often related to lack of knowledge and awareness of the subject matter and that the CSE Awareness Week and the Prevention Campaign had brought CSE to the forefront.

It was noted that late night takeaways were often a concern and Mrs Storey advised that the Licensing Department was very active and had already closed a number of late night takeaways. Premises were constantly monitored for signs of CSE activity. The Council employed a Child Protection Licensing Officer, which was a rare role and one specific to meet the needs of Blackpool. It was also reported that the Awaken Team and the Police worked closely to coordinate action against premises, including hotels.

The Committee observed that the data relating to the age range of victims and perpetrators of CSE demonstrated that a large number of offenders were less than five years older than their victims. It was queried whether there was any evidence to suggest



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that there was a link between being a victim of CSE and becoming a future perpetrator. Mrs Storey advised that she was not aware of any evidence demonstrating a link and would investigate further following the meeting.

In response to questioning, Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning advised that all Schools should have policies on safeguarding and child protection and agreed to investigate if such policies covered CSE and Sexual Health and where parents could obtain such policies. Members considered that awareness and understanding of parents was of paramount importance. Councillor Benson added that schools had 'safe spaces' where pupils could share experiences. It was noted that the majority of young people would not find it an easy subject to talk about and that schools included topics such as appropriate relationships and sexting within PHSE classes.

Members noted that 86% of staff within Children's Services had undertaken the CSE Training module and felt that 100% of staff should have completed the training.

Members went on to consider the differences between CSE, Child Sexual Abuse and Interfamilial abuse. It was reported that emphasis had been placed on CSE and that had ensured it was at the forefront. Work was being undertaken to ensure Child Sexual Abuse was equally regarded. Mrs Storey highlighted that training and support was a priority. Appropriate staff must be given the support and tools to spot the signs of abuse and given the confidence to deal with offenders. The Committee requested that regular updates be provided on raising the profile of Child Sexual Abuse and Interfamilial Abuse.

The Committee noted that Ofsted was undertaking a series of Joint Targeted Area Inspections on subjects including CSE and queried if partners would be ready for such an inspection. Mrs Storey advised that the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board regularly audited cases and that an authority should always be prepared for an inspection of any kind.

In response to questions, Mrs Cindy Hunter, Head of Social Services reported that there was a positive emphasis on prevention which demonstrated that Services were both proactive and reactive. She added that prevention of CSE was well resourced in Blackpool and that partners worked well together and were committed to resourcing provision.

Concern was raised that there was not a clear, easy to follow pathway for a member of the public to raise concerns about suspected CSE or abuse. Mrs Storey agreed to consider the feedback and investigate the obvious route that a member of the public might take in order to identify any improvements that could be made.

The Committee agreed:

1. To receive information relating to a potential link between being a victim and subsequently becoming a perpetrator of CSE following the meeting.
2. To receive feedback on school policies and how parents accessed policies.
3. To receive regular updates on raising the profile of Child Sexual and Interfamilial Abuse.
4. That Mrs Storey consider the route that a member of the public might take when raising concerns related to CSE or abuse in order to identify any improvements.

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**9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee agreed to note the date of the next meeting as Thursday, 12 April 2018, commencing at 6.00pm.

**Chairman**

(The meeting ended at 7.59 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Tel: 01253 477164

E-mail: [sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk)

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 April 2018

## EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the remit of the Resilient Communities and Children's Scrutiny Committee.

### 2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the Cabinet Secretary or the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to the decisions taken.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the opportunity is given for all Executive and Cabinet Member decisions to be scrutinised and held to account.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'.

### 5.0 Background Information

5.1 Attached at the appendix to this report is a summary of the decisions taken, which have been circulated to Members previously.

5.2 This report is presented to ensure Members are provided with a timely update on the decisions taken by the Executive and Cabinet Members. It provides a process where the Committee can raise questions and a response be provided.

5.3 Members are encouraged to seek updates on decisions and will have the opportunity to raise any issues.

## **6.0 Witnesses/representatives**

6.1 The following Cabinet Members are responsible for the decisions taken in this report and have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Third Sector Engagement and Leisure Services
- Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 4(a): Summary of Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken.

## **7.0 Legal considerations:**

7.1 None.

## **8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

8.1 None.

## **9.0 Equalities considerations:**

9.1 None.

## **10.0 Financial considerations:**

10.1 None.

## **11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 None.

## **12.0 Ethical considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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**APPENDIX 4(a)**

<b>DECISION / OUTCOME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>
<p><b>BLACKPOOL SCHOOLS FUNDING ALLOCATION 2018/19</b>            The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendation namely:            To approve the local authority's schools funding formula for 2018/19, <i>Local Authority Proforma 2018/19</i>, containing the proposals developed in consultation with schools including the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt the National Funding Formula values.</li> <li>• Set a minimum funding guarantee of 0.5%.</li> <li>• Transfer 0.5% of the total Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block.</li> <li>• Set the mobility factor unit value at £624.</li> </ul> <p>Set the capping and scaling levels at 0.97% and 100% respectively in order to facilitate moving to the national funding formula and ensure that the formula is affordable overall.</p>	<p>To present the local authority's schools funding formula for 2018/19.</p>	<p>PH6/2018</p>	<p>8 February 2018</p>	<p>Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning</p>
<p><b>FEES AND CHARGES FOR LEISURE AND PARKS SERVICES 2018/19</b>            The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendations namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To agree the Community and Environmental Services proposed fees and charges for Leisure and Parks Services 2018/19.</li> <li>2. To agree that the Leisure Management team continue to explore alternative, flexible pricing models through 2018/19 including options to price based on demand and ability to pay.</li> <li>3. To agree that the Parks Service will review the pricing model for sports pitches to ensure a consistent town wide approach that supports local sports clubs.</li> </ol>	<p>The proposed Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Leisure and Parks Services for 2018/19.</p>	<p>PH19/2018</p>	<p>19 February 2018</p>	<p>Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Third Sector Engagement and Leisure Services</p>

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p><b>FEES AND CHARGES – REGISTRARS AND BEREAVEMENT SERVICES 2018/ 2019</b>            The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendations namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the fees and charges for Registrars with effect from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, excluding those set by the General Registrar’s Office.</li> <li>2. To note the fees and charges outlined in Appendix A set nationally by the General Registrar’s Office and included for completeness.</li> <li>3. To approve the fees and charges for Bereavement Services with effect from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.</li> </ol> <p>To agree that the fees agreed in 2.1 and 2.3 above can be reduced from these rates on the publication of an officer decision of the Director for Governance and Partnerships, for one off events or a set period of time, following consultation with the Cabinet Member.</p>	<p>To consider and determine the fees and charges for the Registrars and Bereavement services for the financial year 2018/2019.</p>	<p>PH24/2018</p>	<p>26 February 2018</p>	<p>Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Third Sector Engagement and Leisure Services</p>
<p><b>SPECIAL SCHOOL PROVISION NEXT STEPS</b>            The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To agree the provision of a new 48 place social, emotional and mental health school on a Blackpool Council owned site on Langdale Road Blackpool which was previously the site of the Langdale Adult Training Centre.</li> <li>2. To agree that the new school is delivered via the self-delivery model with the Council being responsible for the development of the new school, with funding being provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.</li> </ol>	<p>To approve the provision of a new social, emotional and mental health Free School in Blackpool and that the delivery is via the Local Authority self-delivery model.</p>	<p>EX15/2018</p>	<p>12 March 2018</p>	<p>Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning</p>



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager.
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 April 2018

## FORWARD PLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, April 2018 – July 2018, relating to the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary.

### 2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to items contained within the Forward Plan within the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary.

2.2 Members will have the opportunity to consider whether any of the items should be subjected to pre-decision scrutiny. In so doing, account should be taken of any requests or observations made by the relevant Cabinet Member.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

3.1 To enable the opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny of the Forward Plan items.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'.

## **5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 The Forward Plan is prepared by the Leader of the Council to cover a period of four months and has effect from the first working day of any month. It is updated on a monthly basis and subsequent plans cover a period beginning with the first working day of the second month covered in the preceding plan.
- 5.2 The Forward Plan contains matters which the Leader has reason to believe will be subject of a key decision to be taken either by the Executive, a Committee of the Executive, individual Cabinet Members, or Officers.
- 5.3 Attached at Appendix 5(a) is a list of items contained in the current Forward Plan. Further details appertaining to each item contained in the Forward Plan has previously been forwarded to all members separately.

## **6.0 Witnesses/representatives**

- 6.1 The following Cabinet Members are responsible for the Forward Plan items in this report and have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 5(a) – Summary of items contained within Forward Plan.

## **7.0 Legal considerations:**

- 7.1 None.

## **8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 8.1 None.

## **9.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 9.1 None.

## **10.0 Financial considerations:**

- 10.1 None.

**11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Ethical considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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## **EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS**

**(APRIL 2018 TO JULY 2018)**

**\* Denotes New Item**

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<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
* May 2018	Youth Justice Plan 2018/2021	14/2018	Council	Cllr Cain

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for Decision</b>  <b>*Ref N° 14/2017</b>	Youth Justice Plan 2018/2022
<b>Decision making Individual or Body</b>	Council
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	April 2018
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	Consultation is to be undertaken internally with Senior Officers.  Youth Justice Board for England
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	In writing to the responsible officer, at the address shown below, by 1 May 2018.
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Report
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Diane Booth, Director of Children' Services, Blackpool Council, Number 1 Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool, FY1 3AH.  e-mail:diane.booth@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 476558

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager.
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 April 2018

## SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Committee to consider the Workplan, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review.

### 2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 To approve the Committee Workplan, taking into account any suggestions for amendment or addition.
- 2.2 To monitor the implementation of the Committee's recommendations/actions.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

- 3.1 To ensure the Workplan is up to date and is an accurate representation of the Committee's work.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.'

## **5.0 Background Information**

### **5.1 Scrutiny Workplan**

- 5.1.1 The Scrutiny Committee Workplan is attached at Appendix 6(a). The Workplan is a flexible document that sets out the work that the Committee will undertake over the course of the year.
- 5.1.2 Committee Members are invited, either now or in the future, to suggest topics that might be suitable for scrutiny in order that they be added to the Workplan.

### **5.2 Scrutiny Review Checklist**

- 5.2.1 The Scrutiny Review Checklist is attached at Appendix 6(b). The checklist forms part of the mandatory scrutiny procedure for establishing review panels and must therefore be completed and submitted for consideration by the Committee, prior to a topic being approved for scrutiny.

### **5.3 Implementation of Recommendations/Actions**

- 5.3.1 The table attached to Appendix 6(c) has been developed to assist the Committee to effectively ensure that the recommendations made by the Committee are acted upon. The table will be regularly updated and submitted to each Committee meeting. An additional set of written answers to some of the questions raised at the previous meeting of the Committee has been included at Appendix 6(d).
- 5.3.2 Members are requested to consider the updates provided in the table and follow up questions as appropriate.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

#### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 6(a): Resilient Communities and Children’s Scrutiny Committee Workplan

Appendix 6(b): Scrutiny Review Checklist

Appendix 6(c): Implementation of Recommendations/Actions

Appendix 6(d): Responses provided to queries

## **6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 None.

## **7.0 Human Resources considerations:**



7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

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<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2018/2019</b>	
8 Feb 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Children's Services' Update Report</b> – to include Demand Management Plan</li> <li>2. <b>Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</b> – to include inter-familial abuse</li> </ol>
12 April 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Children's Services' Report</b> - including MASH update, LAC Strategy development</li> <li>2. <b>Looked After Children and Child Protection</b></li> <li>3. <b>Key Priority report: Community</b></li> <li>4. <b>Community Engagement, Volunteer Strategy and Fairness Commission</b></li> </ol>
7 June 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Annual Council Plan Performance report on relevant Priority Two projects</b> - complete with 'Blackpool Outcomes'</li> <li>2. <b>Leisure Services Update Report</b></li> <li>3. <b>Children's Services' Update Report</b> – including Opportunity areas update, neglect update</li> <li>4. <b>Youth Justice</b> – including PVP, Early Help, non-criminalising young people, required support, community orders/court involvement. Joint report with Police.</li> </ol>
13 September 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Children's Services Update Report</b> – including MASH update, Demand Management Plan update</li> <li>2. <b>Parks, Ecological Areas, Grounds Maintenance and Friends Groups</b></li> <li>3. <b>SEND and Inclusion Strategy</b></li> <li>4. <b>Key priority report:</b> to be determined</li> </ol>
15 November 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Children's Services Update Report</b> – including Opportunity areas update, Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report</li> <li>2. <b>School Improvement</b> – to include latest attainment data, have the short term goals been met, progress against long term planning, school readiness, employment readiness, transition to secondary school</li> <li>3. <b>Key priority report:</b> to be determined</li> <li>4. <b>Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report</b></li> </ol>
Est. January 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Leisure Services Update Report</b></li> <li>2. <b>Children's Services Update Report</b> – including MASH update, Demand Management Update</li> <li>3. <b>Key priority report:</b> to be determined</li> </ol>
Est. March 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Community Engagement, Volunteer Strategy and Fairness Commission</b></li> <li>2. <b>Children's Services Update Report</b> – including Opportunity Areas update</li> <li>3. <b>Key priority report:</b> to be determined</li> </ol>
Est. June 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Annual Council Performance Plan</b></li> <li>2. <b>Children's Services Update Report</b> – including MASH Update</li> <li>3. <b>Leisure Services Update Report</b></li> </ol>

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**SCRUTINY SELECTION CHECKLIST****Title of proposed Scrutiny:**

The list is intended to assist the relevant scrutiny committee in deciding whether or not to approve a topic that has been suggested for scrutiny.

Whilst no minimum or maximum number of 'yes' answers are formally required, the relevant scrutiny committee is recommended to place higher priority on topics related to the performance and priorities of the Council.

Please expand on how the proposal will meet each criteria you have answered 'yes' to.

	Yes/No
The review will add value to the Council and/or its partners overall performance:	
The review is in relation to one or more of the Council's priorities:	
The Council or its partners are not performing well in this area:	
It is an area where a number of complaints (or bad press) have been received:	
The issue is strategic and significant:	
There is evidence of public interest in the topic:	
The issue has potential impact for one or more sections of the community:	
Service or policy changes are planned and scrutiny could have a positive input:	
Adequate resources (both members and officers) are available to carry out the scrutiny:	

**Please give any further details on the proposed review:**

**Completed by:**

**Date:**

**MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

	DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
1	29.06.17	To request that a precis of school Ofsted reports be sent to Members outside of Committee meetings.	Ongoing	Director of Children's Services	Recommendation amended following Committee meeting December 2017. First document received.	Green
2	07.09.17	To request that the Committee be kept informed as to the outcome of Mrs Booth's meeting with the newly qualified school teachers.	April 2018	Director of Children's Services	Small amount of information contained within Children's Services report in February 2018. Diane Booth requested to give more detailed update at the next meeting.	Amber
3	07.09.17	To request that MASH performance and the work being done to improve matters be reported to every other Committee meeting.	Ongoing	Director of Children's Services	To be included regularly in the Children's Services Overview Report.  Recommendation amended following Committee meeting December 2017. Added to workplan for every other meeting.	Green
4	07.12.17	The Committee agreed to receive a report from Leisure Services in six months focussing on income generation (including funding applications), maintenance of equipment and facilities and patronage.	June 2018	Director of Leisure Services	Not yet due.	Not yet due
5	08.02.18	To amend the workplan to include a report on School Improvement in November 2018 looking at attainment and achievement of short term goals and a future item on Youth Justice.	09.02.18	Scrutiny Manager	Workplan updated accordingly.	Green

	DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
6	08.02.18	To receive regular updates on the Opportunity areas including details of how the £6 million funding has been spent and what has been achieved.	Ongoing	Director of Children's Services	Added to workplan to receive updates every other meeting.	Green
7	08.02.18	To receive information following the meeting about the number of LAC who participated in DofE and the reasons why a large number of young people did not complete the award.	28 February 2018	Director of Children's Services	Information circulated by email following the meeting.  Response appended to Workplan item on April 2018 Committee Agenda.	Green
8	08.02.18	To receive a comparison of attainment at GCSE before and after academies to see if any impact has been made, following the meeting.	28 February 2018	Director of Children's Services	Information circulated following the meeting.  Response appended to Workplan item on April 2018 Committee Agenda.	Green
9	08.02.18	Following the meeting to receive any data to demonstrate what improvements have been made at the lower level of attainment and any data to demonstrate any improvements made with children with SEND.	28 February 2018	Director of Children's Services	Information circulated following the meeting.  Response appended to Workplan item on April 2018 Committee Agenda.  School Improvement Plan and Inclusion Strategy to be included in item on School Improvement to be considered in November 2018.	Amber
10	08.02.18	To investigate the reasons behind the large jump from March 2016 to March 2017 of the number of s.47 enquiries started and report back with findings.	28 February 2018	Director of Children's Services	Information circulated following the meeting.	Green



	DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
11	08.02.18	To find out if the Council has worked with Lionel Vinyl and Nori Ascroft on anti-bullying.	28 February 2018	Director of Children's Services	The Council's lead has met with Nori and asked for details of what is on offer and is exploring ways in which to get him involved with staff training around anti-bullying. He has been invited him to the next Anti Bullying Ambassador training scheduled for 14 March 2018. (as an observer)	Green
12	08.02.18	To receive a description of how the targets for the performance indicators are set following the meeting.	28 February 2018	Director of Children's Services	Information circulated following the meeting.  Response appended to Workplan item on April 2018 Committee Agenda if necessary.	Green
13	08.02.18	To receive assurance following the meeting that all schools have CSE/A policies and that parents are able to easily acquire them.	28 February 2018	Director of Children's Services	These are included in the school safeguarding policy / CP policy, which is statutory and are a part of the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education.	Green
14	08.02.18	To investigate the route for a member of the public to raise concerns regarding potential CSE/A and determine if it could be made easier for people to highlight concerns and report back on findings.	28 February 2018	Director of Children's Services	Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse and any professional or member of the public should respond to and report it on this basis. This could include concerns about a premises or a location, even if the details of the children involved are not known. Members of the public can find out more information about CSE and how to report any form of abuse on the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board website <a href="https://www.blackpoolsafeguarding.org.uk/worried-about-a-child">https://www.blackpoolsafeguarding.org.uk/worried-about-a-child</a> and can always contact the Local Authority Duty and Assessment 01253 477299 or <a href="mailto:duty.assessment@blackpool.gov.uk">duty.assessment@blackpool.gov.uk</a> to make a referral or for more advice if they are not sure. If a child is in immediate danger, contact should always be made with the Police on 999.	Green

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**Responses provided to queries raised at the previous Committee meeting:**

- **The number of Looked After Children who participated in the Duke of Edinburgh awards.**
- **More detail about the reasons why so many young people did not achieve the DofE award who participated.**

The number of Looked After Children who have participated in the Award (under Blackpool Council's Licence) within the last 18 months is nine. Please note that the National Statistics show that out of all the young people who register onto the Award only 47% actually complete.

There are a number of reasons why young people in Blackpool have not yet completed their Award:

- Some young people require a lot more support and it can take up to 18 months to complete a Bronze Award
  - It can take between two to three years to complete the Silver and Gold Awards
  - Some young people give up due to changes in personal circumstances
  - Many young people start the award and realise after some of the expedition training elements that it isn't for them
  - There is a small window of six months to deliver expeditions. If an expedition is not successfully completed then a group may have to wait up to six months before they can complete that section and get their Award signed off.
  - There are a number of young people within our centres that have completed most of their award and who are waiting to go out on expeditions this March/April. Once they have successfully achieved this, their Award will be completed.
- **A comparison of attainment at GCSE before and after academies to see if any impact has been made.**

2012 English % A\*-C = 61%

2012 Maths % A\* - C = 55.8%

2017 English % 4-9 = 57.9%

2017 Maths % 4-9 = 57.9%

Outcomes are roughly comparable before and after Academisation.

- **Is there any data to demonstrate what improvements have been made at the lower level of attainment i.e. have the lowest attainers improved rather than looking at the high attainers. Also, any data to demonstrate any improvements made with children with SEND.**

The data suggests that there are issues across all cohorts and that historical leadership in some secondary schools has failed to develop a strategy for not only our vulnerable children and young people but those that could achieve have not been stretched. In respect of SEND there appears to be a low level of aspiration previously about what they might achieve with more than national numbers of SEND in special schools.

The school improvement plan and inclusion plan can be circulated if Members require. There are some early predictions of some expected small improvements in GCSE results this year but outcome of mock exam results not yet available.

- **Description of how the targets for the performance indicators are set.**

Aspirational targets are set by measuring ourselves against other authorities and statistical neighbours, whilst developing and understanding of the challenges facing Blackpool and the historical impact of previous leaders and managing a change programme safely. The targets set in the score card presented to the last scrutiny committee are not the end target. They are short term targets that we feel are aspirational and send clear messages to the workforce of the challenges ahead and are used to engage with the workforce to break down barriers to not only meeting targets but improving quality.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Ruth Henshaw, Delivery Development Officer
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	12 April 2018

## KEY PRIORITY REPORT: COMMUNITY

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To present performance against the Community suite of indicators for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 December 2017.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the content of the report and highlight any areas for further scrutiny, which will be reported back to the Committee.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of performance against the Council Plan 2015-2020.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered: N/A

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:

- Communities – create stronger communities and increase resilience

### 5.0 Background information

5.1 Performance against the priorities in the Council Plan 2015 – 2020 is measured using a core set of key performance indicators, developed in consultation with the Corporate Leadership Team.

5.2 To allow for sufficient time and attention to be given to performance against the Council Plan 2015 – 2020, the Committee will consider a series of themed reports over the course of the year. The theme of this report is Community.

**6.0 Overview of Community Performance**

6.1 There are only two indicators within the performance basket for Community, both of which are reported on a quarterly basis.

6.2 In Quarter 3, performance for both indicators had improved compared with the same period in 2016/2017. Further information on these indicators can be found in Appendix 7(a) – Community Exception Reports.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a): Community Exception Reports

**7.0 Legal considerations:**

7.1 None

**8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

8.1 None

**9.0 Equalities considerations:**

9.1 None

**10.0 Financial considerations:**

10.1 None

**11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Ethical considerations:**

12.1 None

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 N/A

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None

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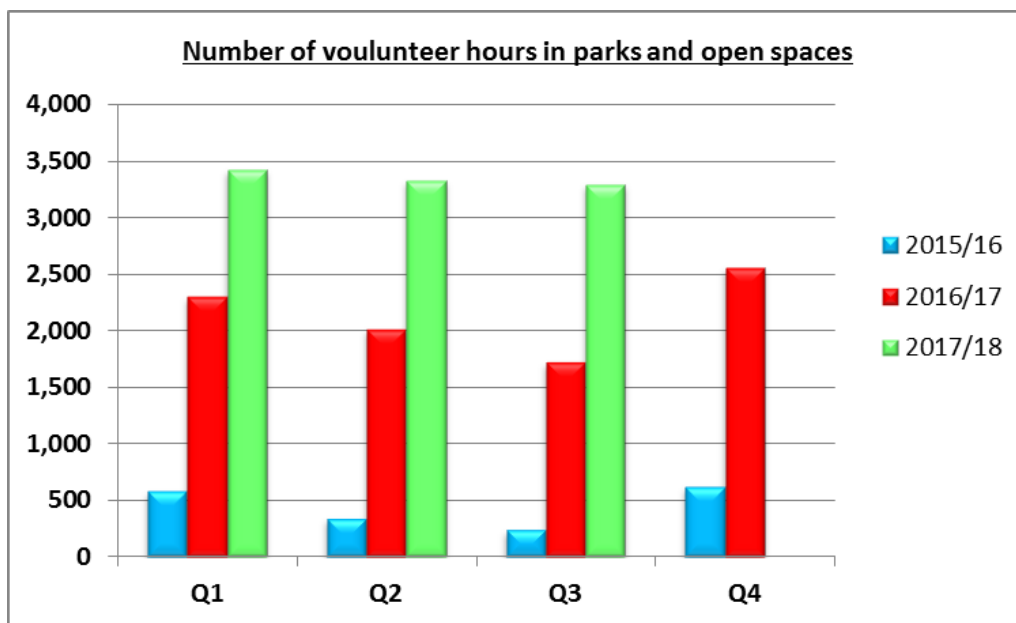


**COMMUNITY**

Indicator Description	Better to be?
Number of volunteer hours in parks and open spaces	High

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18				Target
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1,783.50	8,586.40	3,422.75	3,325.15	3,292.55		10,000

The number of volunteer hours in parks and open spaces has continued to increase over the last year. The total number of volunteer hours in parks and open spaces between 1st April and 31st December 2017 was 10,040.45. This has exceeded the annual target of 10,000.



**Service Response:**

The Parks Service engages with volunteers of all ages and abilities to co-ordinate and organise a wide variety of activities and events. Whilst the events and activities can be organised regularly and annually, the service also has a regular weekly programme of volunteering opportunities which are attended by a consistent number of volunteers. The opportunities provided can range from outdoor highly physical activities to indoor small group sessions preparing and organising events. All volunteers are given the opportunity to become involved in whichever activity they have the ability to undertake and the interest to become involved in; a variety of tasks is always offered.

At Marton Mere there is a strong group of volunteers who carry out heavy physical management of the ecological areas, which involves wearing waders and working in the water area clearing the reed beds to encourage habitats, and also volunteers who are equally as happy running the visitor centre and informing visitors of the current wildlife sightings (again details of which are provided by the volunteers).

Some of our other volunteer groups work to raise funds through arranging events for the local community from small jumble sales to large Christmas fairs. For these events volunteers not only spend their time preparing activities for the event but also work at the events to ensure that they are successful.

## Appendix 7(a) – Community Exception Reports

The nature work all the volunteers undertake in many cases does allow for a visible difference to be seen of what has been done at the end of the day – the hard work put in can clearly be seen when a new 'dead hedge' has been built and the volunteers do appreciate this.

Social media is used to communicate what events are on offer and what has been completed – this is successful in sharing details of the activities and promoting the opportunity to become involved. Junior volunteering is also encouraged in many aspects of our groups.

Officers from the team work hard to maintain contact and communication with the volunteers – support, encouragement, empowerment and training is always provided, and the ability to learn new skills is appreciated by the volunteers. A friendly and welcoming environment is offered to the volunteers with a brew and a biscuit always available. This allows the volunteers to bond as a group and share experiences. A thank you message is given to the volunteers for all activities by the Officers as it is recognised that the work our volunteers do is invaluable and it is appreciated. In many cases this is now developing into the volunteers meeting socially 'outside the volunteering' environment – building a community around our volunteering.

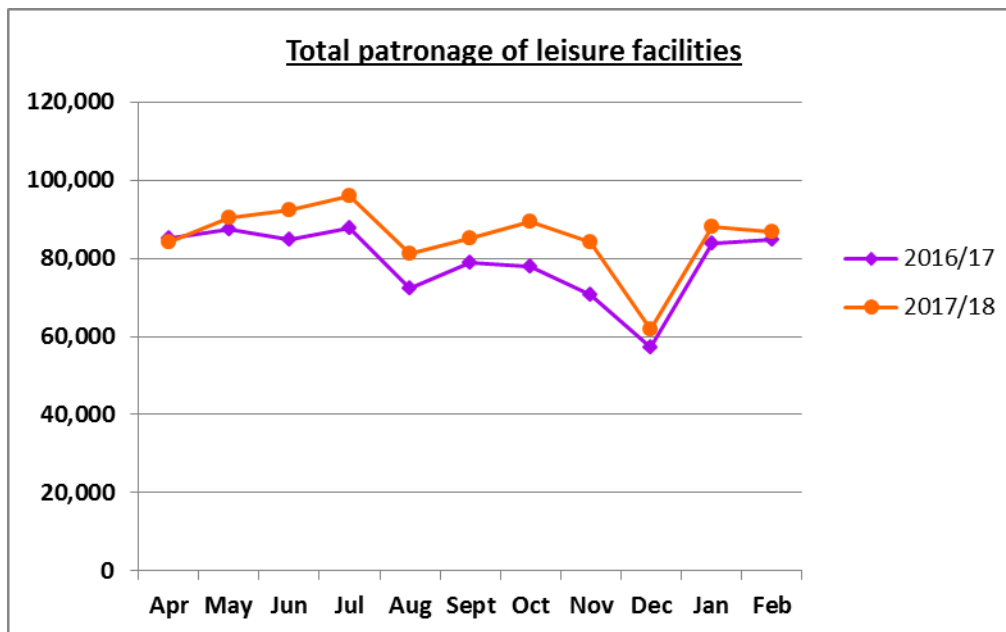
Our volunteers often note the benefit to their wellbeing – and find that the activities offered are good for both their mind and body!

## Appendix 7(a) – Community Exception Reports

Indicator Description	Better to be?
Total patronage of leisure facilities	High

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18				Target
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
946,650	941,994	266,997	262,420	235,591		<b>No Target Set</b>

Performance for this indicator has continued to improve. The graph below shows the total patronage of leisure facilities up to the end of February 2018. Total patronage over this period was 940,004; an increase of 69,348 when compared to the same period in 2016/17.



Sites	2016/17*	2017/18*
Blackpool Sports Centre	235,781	258,716
Palatine	311,646	328,353
Moor Park	323,229	352,935

\* Data as at 28th February 2018

### Service Response:

Performance in 2017/18 has improved across all sites for a number of key areas.

- The learn to swim programmes across Moor Park and Palatine Leisure Centres have improved significantly compared to the previous year. Part of this is due to a new system introduced 18 months ago which has altered the way in which patronage is counted, making it more accurate. However, the biggest reason for this increase is changes to the programme which increased the number of weeks it operates to 50 weeks of the year (previously it only operated for 42 weeks) and providing a direct debit payment option for customers, which has made it more affordable and accessible for a number of parents and has increased our retention rates across the scheme.

## Appendix 7(a) – Community Exception Reports

- The Feel Good Factories at both Moor Park and Palatine Leisure Centres have continued to grow. This facility is aimed at both males and females who are inactive and would like to improve their fitness in a relaxed and supported environment. The facilities target predominantly women aged 50+, although following a review and changes in 2017, the facilities are open to both males and females. The retention rates within the Feel Good Factories are high, with a social atmosphere and relaxed environment being the key to success.
- Climbing at Blackpool Sports Centre has seen an increase in the previous 12 months, with a key focus being placed on growing the junior and adult coaching programmes. The growth has been achieved through a mixture of social media advertising and word of mouth as well as introducing a direct debit payment option and increasing the programme to run over 50 weeks per year which has improved retention and transition through the programme.
- Active Blackpool which provides a hand held approach to supporting individuals who would benefit from leading a healthier lifestyle into exercise and has traditionally attracted an older client group. Over the last twelve months a focus has been placed on growing the programme through developing relationships with a range of partners, such as the Stroke Association, Cancer service and Musculoskeletal service to encourage referrals from a broader range of pathways and raise awareness of the programme. This has resulted in the continued growth in the programme including referrals for working aged individuals who would benefit from leading a healthier lifestyle. The service has grown the range of activities available to ensure it continues to meet the demand and provide opportunities for a wider age range.
- The service as a whole has focused on developing digital opportunities to improve and enhance the customer experience, which has overall contributed to the increase in patronage. From introducing an online portal as part of the learn to swim direct debit option, launching the Sport Blackpool App which has enabled customers to book activities online and find out information easily and conveniently and introducing online referrals and bookings for the Active Blackpool programme, enabling the customer to enrol on the programme at their convenience.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 April 2018

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To present an update from the Community Engagement team on Resident Engagement, Staff Engagement, Blackpool Fairness Commission and Future Engagement.

### 2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the content of the report and highlight any areas for further scrutiny which will be reported back as appropriate.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 To ensure robust scrutiny of those areas where Community Engagement activity is essential to council plans.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered: None

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

### 5.0 Background Information

5.1 Following the successful allocation of £300,000 in the Fylde Coast Vanguard for

Community Engagement, in December 2016, the Community Engagement team moved across to Public Health.

5.2 In late 2017 there were changes in staffing with both staff members leaving the organisation for new opportunities. The position of Community Engagement and Partnership Manager has been filled by Chloe Shore who will be splitting her time between Jobs, Friends and Houses and Council Engagement. The position of Community Engagement and Development Officer is currently out for recruitment.

### 5.3 **Opportunities**

Embedding a strategic approach to engagement into the Council's policy and strategy formation processes will support departments in meeting best practice, prevent over engagement and allow clear reporting outcomes. In addition there is an opportunity for Councillors to support engagement within their wards allowing the team to connect their community knowledge into council processes to encourage development and more open communication.

### 5.4 **Risks**

With limited available resource the team will operate at a strategic level, facilitating other departments in effective engagement and working to embed best practice and basic reporting. The lack of current strategic Key Performance Indicators and engagement specific reporting doesn't allow the Council to clearly report overall resident engagement or progress against council objectives.

## 6.0 **Community Engagement Activity**

### 6.1 **Residents Engagement**

As part of the Council's obligation and commitment to consult with residents on proposed changes to the local area, a number of projects and events have taken place.

- **Commissioning Consultation**

As part of ongoing commissioning within public health, consultation will take place regarding any proposed changes to services to ensure service users are able to shape their services.

- **Town Development**

As part of the 'Make Blackpool Better' campaign there has been extensive work within communities to consult and inform. This includes the recruitment of a Public Liaison Officer, business visits, trailer events, the use of the highways consultative forum and monthly business meetings. In addition to this social media and print advertising have been used to inform residents of work plans.

- **Residents Research**

Regular surveys and research with local residents to understand their perceptions of the local area and feedback on council services. This includes an on-going rolling street survey across town centre locations and a representative resident survey commissioned every few years to benchmark progress and performance.

- **Infusion**

The Council has an in-house research service called Infusion which delivers a range of research and consultation projects for departments using its local fieldwork capacity and team of researchers.

- **Social Media**

Social media engagement is increasingly relevant allowing for timely dissemination of news. The council has over 12,000 likes on Facebook and 19,500 twitter followers, with posts cover a wide range of topics including events, local information and job opportunities.

- **Vanguard project**

Members of the Public Health team are working to make sure that people and communities are at the heart of current and future planning of services. The ambition is to fully incorporate coproduction. They have facilitated discussions between the NHS and wider partners, such as my Council colleagues and the voluntary, community and faith sectors, to ensure that all are aware of the plans and ambitions with these new models of care.

## **6.2 Staff Engagement**

- **Budget Consultation**

Eight budget engagement events took place across Blackpool prior to the Council's budget setting process. To encourage attendance times and locations were mixed. The meeting aimed to understand priorities ahead of reductions being identified. A Chief Officer was in attendance at each event.

- **Staff Volunteering Time**

Plans are underway to encourage staff to donate their time to support local projects throughout the year. A trial took place at Kingscote park in late 2016, focussing on tidying the space and creating a welcoming environment for residents.

- **Lancashire Volunteering Partnership**

The Lancashire Volunteer Partnership was established in 2016 between public services who wanted to provide one gateway into public service volunteering. The aim is to make volunteering for public services rewarding and to provide opportunities for people to make a real difference in their local communities. The Infusion Team is working to add all council volunteers onto the system

### 6.3 **Blackpool Fairness Commission**

- **Grange Park CLC and Community Farm Development**

The building is now open with a launch event and Community fun day planned for the 13 and 14 of April 2018. Consultation took place on the rename and branding, the final choice was '@TheGrange' in a mixture of primary colours. Community engagement and consultation will continue to ensure the building is community focused with planned events and free room hire for community groups.

- **Dementia Friendly Town Status**

Blackpool has now achieved this status with press planned to promote the success in the run up to Dementia Awareness Week. The Fairness Commission helped to set up the Dementia Action Alliance in Blackpool and supported the Dementia Hubs activity, signposting support, engaging with those living with the disease and their carers, working alongside multiple partners.

- **Fairtrade**

Blackpool has now achieved Fairtrade Town Status through extensive work with local schools and businesses. Work will continue in this area through a sub-committee to ensure Fairtrade status is maintained.

### 6.4 **Blackpool Youth Council**

The Youth Council has been undertaking extensive engagement through the 'Make your mark' ballot and following Youth summit whereby the opinions of over 4,700 young people in Blackpool were collected and reported on to local stakeholders. Prominent issues included mental health and curriculum for life and work experience hubs.

### 6.5 **Future Engagement**

With engagement going on throughout various council departments there is the need for a best practice 'tool kit' to encourage positive engagement and ensure best practice is followed. The focus for the community engagement team in the upcoming year will be to develop and roll out a tool kit to ensure consistency in messaging and prevent over engagement and disillusionment.

As mentioned above Council Members are in a strong position to support engagement. To support this the Corporate Performance and Delivery Team have planned Social Media training for Councillors in the coming year.

Engagement will continue around the 'Make Blackpool Better' campaign to maintain strong levels communication and increase awareness of the positive effect of this work.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No



**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 8(a) Ladder of Engagement

Appendix 8(b) Youth Council Report on Make Your Mark ballot

Appendix 8(c) '@TheGrange' final logo

**7.0 Legal considerations:**

7.1 The Council has an obligation to consult with residents and a commitment to engage. As such it makes sense to outline best practice with the use of a Community Engagement Strategy/Toolkit to ensure the Council is consistent in its perception of minimum engagement across all directorates. Currently services manage their own engagement and consultation resulting in varied experiences. This leaves us open to criticism.

**8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

8.1 Despite moving to Public Health there is significant cross over between Community Engagement and the work of the Corporate Performance and Delivery Team. As such a representative from the Engagement team will attend team meetings to ensure robust information sharing and internal awareness. The relative lack of resource within the team means that it will operate at a more strategic level and support facilitation of engagement with other departments.

**9.0 Equalities considerations:**

9.1 None

**10.0 Financial considerations:**

10.1 Council Community Engagement funding comes from the managing directorate.

10.2 The Fairness Commission has a budget of £5,000 to support its activity.

10.3 The Vanguard Project has a £300,000 grant assigned to Community Engagement activities across the Fylde Coast this financial year.

**11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 Possible legal challenge if adequate consultation isn't undertaken.

**12.0 Ethical considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Not applicable.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

**A ladder of stakeholder management and engagement (*Friedman and Miles 2006:162*)**

		<b>Stakeholder management tool and nature of response</b>	Intention of engagement	Level of influence	Style of dialogue and associated examples	
Degrees of stakeholder power	Proactive or responsive/trusting	<b>12. Stakeholder control</b>	Majority representation of stakeholders in decision-making process	Forming or agreeing to decisions	Multi-way dialogue e.g. community projects	
		<b>11. Delegated power</b>	Minority representation of stakeholders in decision-making process		Multi-way dialogue e.g. board representation	
		<b>10. Partnership</b>	Joint decision-making power over specific projects		Multi-way dialogue e.g. joint ventures	
		<b>9. Collaboration</b>	Some decision-making power afforded to stakeholders over specific projects		Multi-way dialogue e.g. strategic alliances	
Degrees of involvement		<b>8. Involvement</b>	Stakeholders provide conditional support; if conditions are not met support is removed. The organisation decides the extent of the conformity	Having an influence on decisions	Multi-way dialogue e.g. constructive dialogue	
		<b>7. Negotiation</b>	Organisation has the right to decide. Stakeholders can advise. Appease the stakeholder		Multi-way dialogue e.g. reactive bargaining	
Degrees of tokenism		Responsive/neutral	<b>6. Consultation</b>	Stakeholders can hear and be heard but have no assurance of being heeded by the organisation	Being heard before a decision	Two-way dialogue e.g. questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, task forces, advisory panels
			<b>5. Placation</b>	Educate stakeholders		
	<b>4. Explaining</b>		Knowledge about decisions	Two-way dialogue e.g. workshops		
<b>3. Informing</b>	One-way dialogue e.g. verified corporate reports					
Non-participation	Autocratic/cynical	<b>2. Therapy</b>	'Cure' stakeholders of their ignorance and preconceived beliefs	One-way dialogue, e.g. briefing sessions, leaflets, magazines, newsletters, corporate reports other publications		
		<b>1. Manipulation</b>	'Misleading' stakeholders, attempting to change stakeholder expectations			

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## **Report from Mark Your Mark Ballot**

Make Your Mark, the annual national ballot of all young people aged 11-18 took place from August to October this year. 4773 young people from Blackpool made their voices heard by voting on the issue that they felt most passionate about. The 10 possible issues were: A Curriculum to prepare us for life; Votes at 16; Protect LGBT+ People; Support for Young Carers; Transport; First Aid Education for All Young People; Mental Health; Make Invisible Disabilities Visible; Protecting School Budgets from Damaging Cuts; Work Experience Hubs for 11-18 year olds.

The issue that young people across Blackpool voted as their top priority was 'Mental Health' which received 15.3% of total ballots. 'A Curriculum to prepare us for life' was second with 14.7% and in third was 'Work Experience hubs for 11-18 year olds' with 11.4%.

Blackpool Youth Voice will be working with local organisations including schools, colleges and youth groups in order to make a difference for young people based upon the result of this ballot. We aim to meet with many of these organisations during our annual Youth Summit to discuss these key issues.

Each vote cast is one young person making their voice heard to change their lives and their town for the better. We would like to thank every organisation, school, college, youth group and young person that took part in this important vote to change the lives of the young people in our town.



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mrs Diane Booth, Director of Childrens Services
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 April 2018

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

1.1 To inform Scrutiny Committee of the work undertaken by Children's Services on a day-to-day basis and to update Members on the progress and implementation of developments.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the contents of the report, provide challenge and identify any issues for further scrutiny.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 For Members of the Scrutiny Committee to be fully informed as to the day to day work of the Children's Services Directorate and have assurance that Blackpool is continuing to meet its statutory obligations for future inspection requirements.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options considered:

Not applicable.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

## **5.0 Background Information**

### **5.1 Multi agency safeguarding hub**

5.1.1 The Police Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub review team (Futures Team) and health partners have been working with Social Care to remodel the approach to information sharing and focused shared decision making and have made considerable strides in reforming the approach to deliver performance improvements, which are being monitored weekly.

5.1.2 There is now a step in the police process before information on a Protecting Vulnerable People referral is shared to consider whether the threshold for intervention is met. So far in March, the police have reduced by 30% the proportion of Protecting Vulnerable People referrals generated by their officers that are shared with Children's Social Care/Early Help.

5.1.3 Weekly meetings are in place with police, social care and early help to monitor improvements and audit decision making.

#### **5.1.4 A new Front Door, and a strengthened approach to managing vulnerability.**

5.1.5 Two projects are currently underway with the Service focusing on strengthening the approach across social care, health and the police to children and young people who are vulnerable to exploitation, and redesigning the "front door" to make it truly multi-agency and with a clear preventative approach.

5.1.6 A new "hub" of expertise is being developed, building on the Awaken model and widening the definition of exploitation to offer support to victims whatever the form exploitation appears to take. The new hub will bring together all statutory partners alongside expertise from other areas of the authority to address behaviour which is impactful on communities, but is also highlighting vulnerability in young people.

5.1.7 Innovative new approaches are being developed to working with children and young people. The Service is developing peer support and reflecting relatable experience in work engaging with them, ensuring that children and young people are supported to have access to positive trusted relationships so that they are less vulnerable to exploitation.

5.1.8 The project is currently on track to have a system designed and through consultation ready for implementation by June 2018.

5.1.9 The new Front Door will receive concerns about children and young people across Blackpool and will quickly identify what, if any, background information will aid decision making before determining whether the response required is advice and



guidance, a single agency response from a partner agency, an offer from our early help service or a statutory assessment from Childrens Social Care.

- 5.1.10 Building on the learning from the MASH review, the new “front door” will be a key resource in understanding and managing demand, making sure there is no unnecessarily intervention in families’ lives but that interventions that are demonstrably effective in reducing risk and vulnerability are offered.
- 5.1.11 Engagement with the relevant agencies has been made, and detailed plans are now being developed to explore the practicalities of implementation with a view to delivering change in June 2018.

## **5.2 Secondary Admission Offers for September 2018**

- 5.2.1 The national statutory secondary offer date was 1 March 2018. Offers were issued to all parents who applied for a Blackpool secondary place by / on the statutory date. In total 1,334 offers were issued as follows:-

1,105	first preferences	(83%)
120	second preferences	(9%)
45	third preferences	(3%)
64	non-preferences	(5%)

- 5.2.2 Therefore 1,270 (95%) who wanted a Blackpool secondary academy received an offer for one of their preferences.
- 5.2.3 In addition, there were 238 offers for Blackpool residents who were allocated Lancashire schools /academies. This represents around 15% of total secondary offers made (a reduction in cross border drift of around 6% from 2017).
- 5.2.4 Overall 83% of Blackpool residents applied using the Council’s on-line system.

## **5.3 Headstart**

- 5.3.1 Resilient Therapy training has been developed to work alongside the risk sensible model, and the training is being rolled out for all children’s social care staff. Delivery of this mandatory training is now well under way.
- 5.3.2 This has been a fantastic opportunity for all Social Workers to take time out of their busy schedules to focus on changes to their practice, which in turn will improve outcomes for the children and families of Blackpool.
- 5.3.3 There will be further opportunity for Social Workers to gain support to embed the training into practice, by working with their managers in supervision and having

access to Learning Circles.

#### **5.4 December 2017-March 2018 School Ofsted Inspections**

Our school inspections continue to be positive:

##### **5.4.1 Baines Endowed Primary School and Children's Centre**

Inspected: 31/1/18 and 1/2/18

Judgement: Good (previously inspected prior to academisation on 9.12.14 with overall effectiveness Requires Improvement.)

##### **5.4.2 Marton Primary Academy and Nursery**

Inspected: 6/2/18 and 7/2/18

Judgement: Good (Previously inspected prior to academisation on 25.3.14 with overall effectiveness Good)

##### **5.4.3 Waterloo Primary Academy**

Inspected: 20/2/18

Judgement: Good (previously inspected on 26.2.14 with overall effectiveness Good)

##### **5.4.4 St John Vianney Catholic Primary School**

Inspected: 14/03/18

Judgement: Not published (previously inspected on 11.06.14 with overall effectiveness Good)

#### **5.5 Children looked after strategy**

5.5.1 In order to support the "Blackpool Journey of the Child", a suite of strategies are being developed which underpin the approach to supporting children and young people and their families

5.5.2 The Early help Strategy is being developed across the partnership in Blackpool to ensure that everyone who works with children has a strong and robust approach to recognising early signs of risk, and, through an engaging process of assessment and coordinated response managing and reducing it wherever possible.

5.5.3 Where it is not possible to manage and support families without a statutory framework, our Looked After Strategy will give our commitment to the support, which will be available at the edge of, and during, any period of care. It will describe how we will support and engage children and young people through the assessment, planning and placement system, our commitment to supporting children in family environments wherever possible and our commitment to providing security and continuity of care, education and peer support. It will also describe our commitment to our Corporate Parenting role for children who have left care moving to

independence with our support and encouragement, and a safety net.

5.5.4 The sufficiency strategies and plans will support this work by describing the framework of principles which will guide our commissioning and delivery plans, ensuring that a strong “local offer” is being developed which increases the ability to meet the needs of children and young people from Blackpool in Blackpool.

**6.0** Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

None.

**8.0 Legal considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Human Resources considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Equalities considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Financial considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Risk management considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Ethical considerations:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Background papers:**

15.1 None.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mrs Diane Booth, Director of Childrens Services
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 April 2018

## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CHILD PROTECTION

1.1 To provide an overview of the status of Looked After Children and Child Protection in Blackpool.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the information, provide challenge and identify any areas that require further scrutiny.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure Members are informed about the ongoing work in relation to Looked After Children and Child Protection and are able to hold services to account.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options considered:

Not applicable.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

### 5.0 Background Information

5.1 Blackpool continues to address the high demand for services, which are amongst the highest in the country. Blackpool has a high rate of referrals, assessments, Section 47

Enquiries, Child Protection (CP) Plans and children looked after. In ensuring any reductions are managed safely social work practices have been reviewed, a risk sensible operating model has been recently introduced to assist in the effective management of risk as well as introducing improved care planning and management oversight in respect to decision making. All children looked after cases have been reviewed as well as children subject to Child Protection Plans to ensure those in place are appropriate and effective. Work continues with partners via the Improvement Board to monitor the effectiveness of plans to manage demand and, through the Board, challenging targets have been set to bring Blackpool more in line with national, regional and statistical neighbours.

5.1.1 Blackpool has safely looked at all aspects of interventions from contacts through to adoptions and reductions in significant areas have been seen.

5.1.2 The following outlines performance against key indicators in respect of looked after children and child protection. This gives an indication of progress against targets and this in conjunction with audit findings gives a holistic picture of quantitative and qualitative outcomes.

## 5.2 Child Protection

5.2.1 Children become subject to Child Protection Plans following a Section 47 (s47) enquiry having established a child(ren) are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and are in need of protection via a Child Protection Plan. Not all Section 47 enquiries result in the need for a child(ren) to become subject to Child Protection Plans.

- The number of Section 47s remains high, but there has been a significant reduction of 55% from a high in May (167) to the lowest in January (76). There were 90 in February. Over the year there has been a 21% reduction in Section 47 enquiries completed.

### Number of Section 47 Enquiries

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
No of S47 (Month)	153	167	158	145	140	119	100	99	120	76	90	
No of S47 (Rolling Year)	1968	1952	1900	1854	1859	1815	1749	1684	1669	1609	1558	
No of S47 (Rate Per 10k)	688.0	682.4	664.2	648.1	649.9	634.5	611.4	588.7	583.5	562.5	544.7	

- The number of children and young people subject to a Child Protection Plan has reduced to 309 in February 2018 from a high of 387 in August 2017. This is a 20% decrease and the numbers continue to fall month by month. 82% of children subject to a CP Plan are aged under 13.

### Number of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
No of CP Plans (Snapshot)	368	383	374	379	387	378	360	367	353	331	309	
No of CP Plans (Rate Per 10k)	128.6	133.9	130.7	132.5	135.3	132.1	125.9	128.3	123.4	115.7	108.0	

### Number of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan Aged 13+

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
No of CP Plans (Snapshot)	368	383	374	379	387	378	360	367	353	331	309	
No Aged 13+ (Snapshot)	76	77	75	86	90	80	74	77	71	64	57	
% Aged 13+ (Snapshot)	20.7%	20.1%	20.1%	22.7%	23.3%	21.2%	20.6%	21.0%	20.1%	19.3%	18.4%	

- The % of Child Protection plans three months or less have reduced to 11.5% which is a significant reduction and below most local authorities in the region.

### Child Protection Plan Categories

- The number of children and young people currently subject to a Child Protection Plan has further reduced to 294 (as at 23 March 2018).
- A breakdown of Child Protection Plan Categories is shown below:

CP Plan Category	Number	%
Emotional abuse	157	53.4%
Neglect	133	45.2%
Physical abuse	45	15.3%
Sexual abuse	19	6.5%
Total CP Plans	294	

5.2.2 Note - the sum of Categories is greater than the sum of Child Protection Plans because a child on a Child Protection Plan can have more than one category. The majority of children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of Emotional Abuse will be in relation to the impact of domestic abuse upon the child(ren).

### 5.3 Looked After Children

- For the first time in a number of years the number entering care has remained stable at 15/16 per month.
- The number exiting care has slowed in recent months. There is a Discharge Plan in place looking at discharge of care orders for those children in placements with parents or looked after children who are in long term foster care who could secure permanence via a Special Guardianship Order (SGO). In

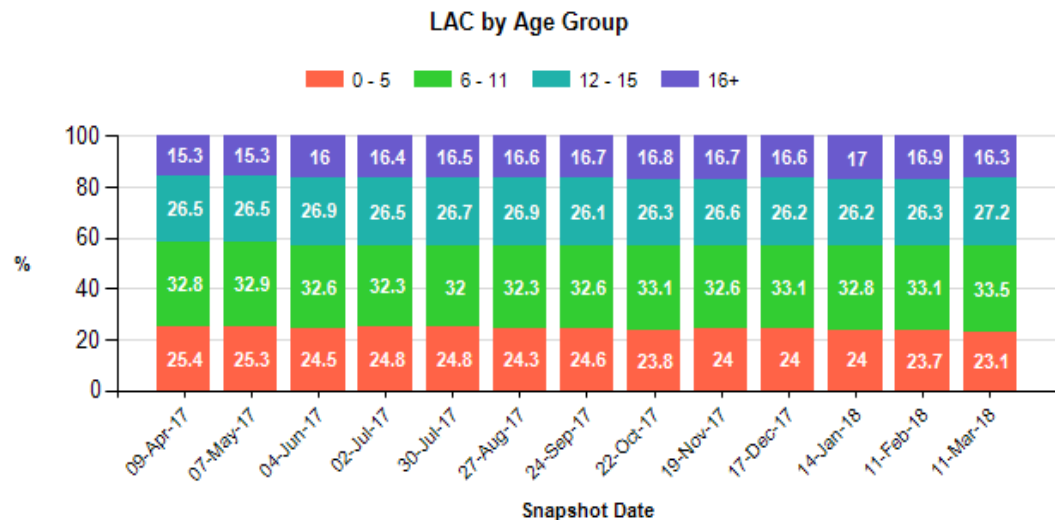
addition to those who are subject to a care order we are also considering those children who are presently subject to care proceedings and looking at where appropriate to do so a disposal of an SGO or plan for adoption. We project 80-100 children and young people exiting care in the next three to nine months through any of the above routes. This will provide a secure and permanent placement for these children.

- The total number of looked after children has fallen (548 in June 2017 – 526 in February 2018 (22 less)).

**Number of Looked After Children**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
No of LAC (Snapshot)	543	546	548	539	531	531	530	534	536	529	526	
No of LAC (Rate Per 10k)	189.8	190.9	191.6	188.4	185.6	185.6	185.3	186.7	187.4	184.9	183.9	

- Placement stability of CYP experiencing three or more placements remains a challenge. This is due to the availability of placements for adolescents exhibiting challenging behaviour
- The breakdown of looked after children by age below shows that 56% of looked after children are aged 11 and under. A number of those aged between 0-5 will have a plan for adoption and will cease being a looked after child once the adoption order is granted



**5.4 Open Cases**

- The number of cases open (including Child Protection and Looked After Children) has decreased by 12% from a high in April (2,070) to a low in January (1,820). This represents 250 less cases open.



- Excluding Child Protection and Looked After Children there has been an 18% decrease (212 less) from a high in April 1193 to a low in January of 981.

**Number of Open Cases (Including CP and LAC)**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
No of Open Cases (Snapshot)	2070	2065	1969	1986	1951	1927	1887	1928	1878	1820	1892	
No of Open Cases (Rate 10k)	723.6	721.9	688.3	694.3	682.0	673.7	659.7	674.0	656.5	636.3	661.4	

**Number of Open Cases (Excluding CP and LAC)**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
No of Open Cases (Snapshot)	1193	1157	1080	1093	1055	1040	1015	1037	1053	981	1078	
No of Open Cases (Rate 10k)	417.1	404.5	377.6	382.1	368.8	363.6	354.8	362.5	368.1	342.9	376.9	

**6.0** Does the information submitted include any exempt information? **No**

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

None.

**8.0 Legal considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Human Resources considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Equalities considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Financial considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Risk management considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Ethical considerations:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Background papers:**

15.1 None.