

<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.