

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Delyth Curtis, Director of People
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Graham Cain/Councillor John Jones
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	5 November 2015

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT REPORT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To allow effective scrutiny of the work undertaken by Children's Services on a day to day basis and to update on the progress and implementation of developments within the area.

### 2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1
- To note the contents of the report and to ensure that current work continues to meet statutory obligations and that work to prepare for external inspections continues.
  - To continue to meet statutory monitoring, challenge and support obligations
  - To work with schools to support improvement and preparation for external scrutiny and support the work of the Blackpool Challenge Board in order to improve the progress and attainment of Blackpool Children especially at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

- 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. The Local Authority retains a statutory responsibility to monitor all schools in order to support improvement and raise the attainment and progress for all children in the area.

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:

Services are subject to national and statutory frameworks.

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is;

- Tackle child poverty, raise aspirations and improve educational achievement
- Safeguard and protect the most vulnerable
- Improve health and well-being especially for the most disadvantaged
- Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

#### **5.0 Reports**

##### **5.1 Blackpool Challenge Board- Autumn 2015 Summary**

The Blackpool Challenge Board is currently finalising its four year improvement plan. This has been iteratively developed with Leaders across Blackpool. The focus areas for the Board over the next 12 months are transition, data and evidence, teaching and learning and behaviour, attendance and inclusion. The Improvement Plan will be submitted for Scrutiny upon completion.

Individual School Governing bodies and Trusts have been asked to sign up to a Blackpool Challenge pledge with specific priorities and targets linked to their school development plans. These are currently being refined and, in the case of secondary schools, link to external funding philanthropy from the Right to Succeed Programme and additional funding from the Schools Forum.

##### **5.1.1 Transition:**

All Secondary schools have been provided with improved Year 7 baseline data from the Management Information Team to help with early assessment and target setting. Currently the Challenge Board has approved a pilot bid focused on South Shore and local feeder primaries in order to target Year 5 children at risk of exclusion.

Transition Project work and collaboration between schools has been developed with the following Schools.

- Montgomery and Unity with Westcliff
- St Marys with St Cuthberts and Christ the King
- Highfield and Broughton with Roseacre, St Nicholas and Hawes Side

Projects will focus on Year 7 curriculum redesign, assessment, marking, book scrutiny and presentation, teaching and learning practices.

It has also been agreed that the move from Year 6 to Year 7 will be addressed through resilient learners/learning environments which shall be linked through the Head Start Project in the medium term.

### 5.1.2 **Data and Evidence Sub Group**

Over the past few years Blackpool secondary schools have provided a range of GCSE data to the local authority using different methodologies which have had varying degrees of validity and reliability. The process of predicting at an individual student basis has led to a significant variance between the predictions made and actual outcomes. To address these issues and allow summative assessment to be used as a means of leveraging further opportunities for learning, the Blackpool Challenge Data & Evidence Sub Group have agreed the following:

At GCSE/BTEC:

1. In a given subject students will complete all the examination papers and associated controlled assessments/coursework, from a single examination season. Where an element is not taken a mark of zero will be given.
2. The papers and associated controlled assessments/coursework will be marked using the examination board's mark scheme or evaluation criteria/assessment objectives as appropriate.
3. Teacher's marking will be internally moderated and, where possible, appropriately externally moderated.
4. A final mark will be determined using the examination board's methodology and converted into a GCSE grade using the grade boundaries published by the examination board for the specific examination season.

The following key performance measures will be submitted to the Blackpool Challenge Board in January and April for Year 11 students and September for Year 10 Students.

- Progress 8
- Attainment 8
- %A\*-CEM
- 5%+A\*-CEM
- %A\*-CEM
- %EM (Pass)

- % E-Bacc

This will allow for reduced variation and robust challenge by Board Members with regard to academic progress.

#### 5.1.3 **Teaching and Learning Sub Group**

Two weekly meetings/telephone conferences have been arranged to speed up action at school level.

Priority has been given to:

- An audit of professional development linked to identified priorities.
- Quality Assurance of Continual Professional Development (staff training) to ensure that attendance at development events is having an impact upon learning.
- The selection and standardised Quality Assurance Model between the Council, Teaching School and Trusts.

#### 5.1.4 **Behaviour Attendance and Inclusion Sub Group**

A new Inclusion Board chaired by Councillor John Jones has recently been agreed and established. The Inclusion Board has a specific remit to reduce the number of permanent exclusions from mainstream secondary schools and children entering elective home education; oversight of pupil movement between schools as well as raising attendance figures.

The Challenge Board has agreed to reduction targets for permanent exclusions to the Pupil Referral Unit as well as a Behavioural Transition pilot focused on South Shore Academy and a local South Shore cluster of primary schools. This will seek to target Year 5 pupils at high risk of exclusion when they reach secondary school. It will also encourage joint curriculum design, student targeting and familiarisation with South Shore as a secondary school.

#### 5.1.5 **Highfield**

Following the unannounced Ofsted inspection of Highfield Humanities College in October 2014, triggered by safeguarding concerns, the school was graded Inadequate (Special Measures) and became subject to intervention. It is important to note that the Secretary of State's preferred mechanism for intervention is Academisation with a Sponsor.

Significant resource has been committed during the last academic year to slow decline within the school which includes local authority support to governors, school leaders and staff, Curriculum Consultants, Interim Leaders from Education London,

school to school support from Preston Teaching School Alliance and the appointment of a new Headteacher. However whilst there are signs of progress in Key Stage 3, Special Educational Needs and a number of subject departments, the overall attainment of Year 11 children declined significantly in the summer 2015 examinations. This has since resulted in a Warning Notice being served on the governing body by the Local Authority which outlines the areas for immediate improvement. Also, during the summer the Secretary of State wrote to the governing body requiring Governors to work with the Regional School Commissioner in order to select an Academy Sponsor at the earliest opportunity. The Regional Schools Commissioner gave governors two choices of sponsor: the Fylde Coast Academy Trust or Tauheedal Education Trust.

The governing body chose the Blackburn-based not-for-profit organisation, Tauheedul Education Trust (TET), thanks to its outstanding track record of sustaining and improving schools.

TET currently sponsors 10 schools, has three in the pre-opening phase and works with many more through its training and support program in the North West. Many of its schools are situated in deprived areas and all that have been inspected to date are rated as “outstanding” by Ofsted. The Trust supports different types of schools, in both faith and non-faith community settings, and has a strong track record in developing great school leaders. All schools that TET works with share a commitment to a child centred vision and focus on values, educational excellence and service to local communities, which aligns with the values of Highfield.

## **5.2 Blackpool Council Children’s Centres OfSTED**

In July it was announced that the Department for Education would be consulting on the future of children’s centres. The consultation would include a discussion on the accountability framework needed to best demonstrate their effect and outcomes. In light of this, the Department for Education have agreed with Ofsted to pause the children's centre inspection cycle, pending the outcome of the consultation. They do not think it is appropriate to continue to inspect under a framework that may be subject to change.

This means that any children's centre inspections due in the 2015 to 2016 academic year under sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Children's Centre (Inspections) Regulations 2010 will not now take place until after the conclusion of the consultation.

In Blackpool there were four children’s centres due to be inspected in this period which will now be paused namely Thames, Talbot & Brunswick, Revoe and Mereside.

Children's Centres are expected to continue their work as usual during this time, including collecting and monitoring of data in preparation for inspection. Ofsted will

continue inspection of early years provision on the site of children's centres as part of the new Common Inspection Framework, and will also continue to respond swiftly to any complaints or safeguarding concerns in children's centres.

5.3 **The Autumn Ofsted Conversation** took place in October with the Regional Team. Areas of strength highlighted in their feedback included the focus on primary school performance, and reading skills and phonics in early years foundation stage, relationships with Academies and scrutiny by the Local Authority and Blackpool Challenge Board with regard to outcomes and engagement with the business community to raise aspiration and promote careers. Areas requiring improvement included Key Stage 4 (GCSE) results, middle leadership accountability in schools, outcomes for Looked After Children and links with Post 16 performance.

5.4 **Child Protection Activity – Safeguarding Quality & Review**

5.4.1 **Performance**

The number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) per 10,000 of population continues to remain high and rose throughout June (176.7) and July (188.1). This remains significantly higher than the England average (56.8) and our Statistical Neighbours (83.3), and is the highest figure since 2012 when we started to report on this information.

The number of children subject to Child Protection Plans for the month of July 2015 was 357. The high number of initial conferences and the continuing high number of children on child protection plans continues to place pressure on council services and external partners who work in the safeguarding children arena.

In July 2015, 91.0% of ICPC's were held within 15 working days of the start of the section 47 enquiry. This means that nine cases were not held within statutory timescale during the month of July. However, as a service it performs significantly higher than the England average (69.3%) and Statistical Neighbours (74.6%).

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 100% of review child protection conferences have been held within timescale, which is excellent when considering the high throughput of work.

An audit is currently being undertaken with regard to the percentage of children who became subject to a child protection plan for a 2nd or subsequent time. In May 2015 performance was 17.2%. In June there was an increase to 22.4% and then a slight decrease in July to 20.4%. Whilst this remains higher than Statistical Neighbours (12.6%) and England (15.8%) previous performance had remained fairly

constant at between 17.2% and 18.4% since 2012 until the increase in June 2015 which is of concern.

#### 5.4.2 **Data**

The Safeguarding Service are working with the Management Information Service to collate more detailed information from the service quality assurance form, in order to demonstrate improvement in social work and partner agency practice. This data will include information such as partner agency attendance at core groups and conferences, utilisation of the child protection conference work book and inclusion of parents.

#### 5.4.3 **Key Developments**

Within the service there are a number of new service developments taking place:

- CP-IS – This project has been in development since April 2015. CP-IS will allow data to be shared between the NHS and Blackpool Council Children's Services in relation to children who attend emergency care settings who are either 'looked after' by the local authority or subject to child protection plans. It is anticipated that the project will 'go live' before the end of 2015, if not earlier.
- A new consultation document for children who are the subject of child protection plans is being devised by a small working group within Children's Social Care.
- The Safeguarding Service is also in the process of reviewing the Pan-Lancashire Safeguarding Procedures in relation to 'People who Pose a Risk' to ensure that they take into account recent case law.
- The new Adult & Children Safeguarding Board went live on the 5<sup>th</sup> October. Website <http://www.blackpoolsafeguarding.org.uk/>
- All Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board (BSAB) training can now be booked on-line. Training; <http://www.blackpoolsafeguarding.org.uk/training>
- The BSCB are currently looking for lay members to join the Strategic Safeguarding Board. Closing Date - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015  
<http://www.blackpoolsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-childrens/lay-members-wanted>

- *The Revised Prevent Duty Guidance 'Guidance for Specified Authorities in England & Wales on the duty in Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into Terrorism' (March/July 2015)*

The guidance details the responsibilities of all agencies in relation to the 'Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015'. In response to this the Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board is rolling out Prevent and Wrap 3 Training for all Schools in Blackpool from October to December 2015. A multi-agency programme of activity will also commence later in the year.

#### 5.4.4 **Safeguarding, Quality and Review**

##### **Performance**

The number of children who are 'looked after' per 10,000 of population also continued to be high throughout June (151.3) and July (152.7). Again this is significantly higher than the England average (60.0) and Statistical Neighbours (89.9). This presents a significant challenge for the Council, Children's Services and partner agencies, in meeting the needs of this highly vulnerable group in times of financial austerity.

The 2014/15 aggregate figure of Looked After Children (LAC) Review in timescale for the year was 97.9% and performance so far this year is consistent with this performance, slightly exceeding the 2015/16 target of 98% at 98.9%. 100% was attained for April and July with 98.9% for June and 98.7% for May which again is excellent performance from the Independent Reviewing Officers.

The 2015/16, % of LAC Reviews where the young person was consulted prior to the review has a mean average of 97.4% which has significantly increased since the 2013/14 figure of 75.4%. Mean monthly figures for April to May 2015 are below this average at 94.8%. Instances not meeting this standard have generally stood at between 1 and 3 cases a month in 2015 and usually reflect exceptional circumstances pertaining to the child that precludes the IRO contact. This figure is kept under constant scrutiny by the Service Manager for this area.

The % of young people with a LAC review who were consulted on Date, Time, Venue, Agenda, Participants of Review Meeting for 2014/15 was 90.7% as compared with 71.22% for 2013/14 and 58.42% for 2012/13 demonstrating significant team progression in the area of children's participation. Consolidating on this



improvement remains a priority for 2016/17.

The % of LAC Reviews where the young person participated for 2014/15 was 95.6% as compared with 86.9% for 2013/14 and 90.9% for 2012/13, with continuous development and improvement demonstrated.

### **Key Developments/Activity**

The JustUz Group continues to grow and develop. There have been a number of activities which have taken place in the past month and more planned.

- The Mini Festival took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015, with over 100 children, carers and professionals in attendance.
- A residential weekend at Borwick Hall took place from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
- Care Leavers week commences on the 21<sup>st</sup> October. A number of activities are planned across the town. This includes a 'taster' day at UCLAN, Care Leavers Road Show and a Pasta/Pizza Night.
- The Just Uz Website will be officially launched on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015. This will be the first time Blackpool has had a dedicated website for our looked after children.
- A Corporate Parent Conference is being arranged for December to create a care partnership offer for our children and young people

## **5.5 Business Support and Resources**

At its meeting of 17th September 2015, the Scrutiny Committee received the Annual Customer Relations Feedback Reports for Children's Services and for Adult Services. A question was raised regarding how the services encourage feedback from service users, and the following paragraphs therefore set out examples of the measures that are taken in order to ensure that people who use our services and their families know how to let us have their views.

The Council's website contains a page dedicated to Social Services Complaints. This incorporates details of how to make a complaint, and provides access to the online complaint facility, feedback forms to download, and contact details, as well recent feedback reports. The forms are reproduced in more straightforward styles for adolescents and also for the younger child. The significant majority of complaints are received into the team via e mail or the online form, either directly from complainants or by referral from social care staff.

As well as publicly available information on how to complain, children are given feedback forms in the pack they received when they first become looked after, and social care staff will signpost people to the Customer Relations Team if they wish to give feedback. Anyone under the age of 18 who makes a complaint is asked if they

want to access a Children's Advocate to help them to put their views across. The Looked After Children Engagement Officer actively supports and encourages young people to feed their concerns through to the Council, by any means that they feel comfortable with, whether this is by e-mail, using the standard forms, or by phone.

## 5.6 Children's social care

- Contact and referral – the Front Door

Referral rates to social care services continue to fall – in March 2014 (on a rolling year) 3610 and in July 2015, 2381. Repeat referral rates remain at a constant level and are comparable with the England average which suggests that decision making and planning remains appropriate. However, there has been a recent spike in activity in late September early October and the reasons for this are currently being examined. Contact levels continue to be very high and conversion to referral remains very low. This indicates that agencies may be making referrals at the wrong level and cases should be being managed in early help processes. The front door review and action plan has now been presented to the BSCB (Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board). The MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub) and Getting it Right Steering group have now been combined and they have been given a mandate by the BSCB to review the threshold document and training to ensure multi agency understanding of appropriate intervention at all levels of need. Staffing within the MASH and Duty teams has also been reviewed and additional resource put into the MASH team to support improved feedback and support to other agencies where cases do not need social care intervention and support. There has been some sickness in the duty teams which has resulted in high caseloads but this is now stabilizing.

- Child Protection activity

The number of section 47s (child protection enquiries) remains high with an increase in both actual numbers and the rate per 10,000. The reasons for this are subject to multi agency audit. Numbers of children subject to a child protection plan has reduced (363 in May 2015 October 2015, 342). However, the number on a temporary plan (i.e. moved in from another area) has increased (doubled in recent months) this is unusual and an audit has been requested. There has also been an increase in the numbers of children who are subject to a second plan (from 22 in June to 31 in July). Audit activity is also underway to review those cases where children have been subject to a plan for 18 months plus.

- Our children ( formally known as looked after children)

Numbers, although reducing, remain high (currently 447) this is still significantly higher than our statistical neighbours. Although numbers are stable this disguises a high level of activity with an average of 18 children becoming and ceasing to be looked after each month. Accessing appropriate placements remains a significant challenge. Although numbers placed 20 miles from home has decreased ( from 10.7% in March 2015 to 9.7% ), and number in foster care increased, we have a small group of young people for whom finding a placement which will meet their needs is extremely difficult. This group have very high level need, often significant mental health and behavioral needs and there are very few (and sometimes no providers) who are willing to offer placements. When placements can be found they are extremely high cost and often of poor quality. We are therefore reviewing commissioning arrangements and looking at a full range of options to deliver these placements in a more cost effective and high quality way. Our in house services continue to perform well, Argosy Avenue has been re inspected by Ofsted and we are hopeful that we have maintained a rating of good.

The Council has strengthened the quality assurance of in house provision by moving the monthly independent reviews (regulation 44s) from an external provider to our in house review service. This will mean a more robust approach and that members can once again be part of the review process. We are also looking at models that support young people to act as peer inspectors.

The service continues to have high performance in measuring the health needs of our children (98.3% have had an annual health assessment). Performance in education planning has been very poor, with only 44% of children having a personal education plan on the system in summer of this year. This figure is now over 50% and will rise significantly as plans have been completed but are yet to be uploaded onto the system. The service has a target of 90% by the end of this term.

The Council is also planning to have a Christmas dinner for children who have left care. At the recent social work conference Lemm Sissey (himself a care leaver and now Chancellor of the University of Manchester) talked of the loneliness of Christmas day as a care leaver. Prompted by this Blackpool Council will be having the first care leaver's dinner on Christmas Day this year and hope that this can be undertaken in the new drop in building.

## 5.7 Nurseries

All children who required places have been able to secure alternative provision. This is 41 children in Grange Park and 59 in Talbot and Brunswick. There have been four requests for transport, two of which were withdrawn due to families finding closer places and two were approved. Work is continuing with Better Start to develop new services within the Surestarts. The Baby Steps Programme and Family Nurse Partnership (enhanced) are now operating out of the Surestarts. Also, activity based programmes for local parents, run and devised by them, are due to commence. From early next year Safecare, VIG (parental attachment) and PUP (Parents Under Pressure) will be delivered through the Centres and from mid-year Survivor Mums will start to run.

## 5.8 Youth Offending Team (YOT)

Blackpool had, in 2009, the highest youth re-offending rate in the country. Data now available through the national re-offending project for 2014-15 shows that the rate of youth re-offending and the average number of further offences committed by young people in Blackpool are now below the national average. According to the latest historical data available, between 2009/10 and 2012/13 the Youth Offending Team reduced the number of reoffenders per year by 64% from 241 to 87 and the number of re-offences by 46% from 775 to 420.

The success of the YOT Partnership's prevention strategy to provide viable and effective alternatives to prosecution has resulted in the diversion of younger, less serious offenders into alternative provision. This has reduced 'First Time Entrants' to the youth justice system by 80% over the last five years. A partnership of the the YOTs in Lancashire has been more successful than other YOTs in the region in gaining external funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for a Youth Justice Triage Service, with whom the YOT has worked closely to drive and sustain the improvement in performance.

The strategy has raised the age of the current YOT cohort, so that 82% are now aged 15-18. The needs of an older YOT cohort are now more complex and the risks they pose are greater so that:

- 56% are assessed as posing a 'high' or 'very high' risk of causing harm.
- 93% are receiving YOT interventions at the higher Scaled Approach levels of 'enhanced' or 'intensive', of a minimum of 3 contacts per week.
- 45% are assessed as a 'high' or 'very high' risk of suffering harm themselves.

- 80% have a special educational need.
- 75% have an emotional or mental health need.
- 50% of over 16s are NEET.

The vulnerability and challenges of this cohort have resulted in a higher than average number of Community Safety/Public Protection Incidents during YOT supervision, which must be reported to the Youth Justice Board. (one victim of rape, one victim of sexual offences, three suicide attempts, one rape offence and one manslaughter since January 2014). Critical Learning Reviews prepared by the YOT are presented at the Safeguarding Board Serious Case Review Sub-group and the YOT Partnership Management Board and the Lancashire Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Strategic Management board to facilitate learning, improved safeguarding and public protection.

As Chair of the YOT Partnership Management Board, the Chief Executive received a letter and visit from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Head of Operations in January 2015 because of persistently poor performance in relation to re-offending rates and concerns about governance. Amongst other actions, it was agreed that Blackpool YOT would join the YJB's national reoffending project, supported by their regional team, to provide tools and data to monitor current re-offending rates.

On 22nd September 2015, the Chief Executive hosted a visit from the Chair of the YJB for England and Wales, Lord McNally, the YJB Head of Operations for England and Wales and our Head of Business Area for the North West to recognise the performance improvements achieved by the service; notably the reductions in First Time Entrants to the youth justice system, the use of custody, and the re-offending rate. This visit was preceded by a meeting between the YJB Head of Operations and Business Area with the Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services, Deputy Director of Children's Services and the Youth Offending Service Manager to review and sign off improvement actions agreed in January 2015; including the development of a YOT Partnership Management Board improvement plan engaging partners in governance and performance improvement.

### **Emergency Duty Team (Children and Adults)**

The current Emergency Duty Team provision in Blackpool has been put under considerable pressure recently due to an increase in the complexity of calls in respect of Safeguarding Children and Young People and a substantial increase in the volume of Mental Health calls, leading to Approved Mental Health Practitioner assessments.

An audit of cases over the first 4 months of this year has identified the following volume of calls, this has then been multiplied by 3 to give an approximate yearly figure:-

Child Care	1085	x3	3255
Mental Health	293	x3	879
Adult	608	x3	1824
Other	127	x3	381

The last time a full audit of cases took place was for the year March 2012 – end of February 2013, the figures at that time showed the following volume of calls:-

Child Care	3081
Mental Health	420
Adult	2174
Other	217

These figures show a huge increase in **Mental Health calls of just over 100%**, in other calls of 70%, in Child Care of 5%, with the only reduction in Adult calls of 15%. This considerable increase in Mental Health calls and associated AMHP assessments has in some part led to a recent decline in the number of AMHP call outs being attended to within timescales. There were 9 out of timescale within a 6 week period in July and August. This has not been an issue within the service prior to this period.

EDT will need to continue to meet the current demands placed upon it and will be shortly subject to a service review and redesign which shall look at all attributable factors and current staffing and skill mix.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

Yes/No

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 The statutory obligations are monitored and continue to be met.

With regard to **School Performance**, compliance with the statutory obligations under the schools Standards and Framework Act and the 2014 Schools Causing Concern Guidance to Local Authorities should be observed.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 With regard to the **Children's and Families Act** and under the Equalities Act the needs of those with disabilities are met. Race/gender/free school meal data is kept to ensure no discrimination occurs

With regard to **School Performance**, the needs of individual pupil groups are routinely monitored.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 With regard to the **Children's and Families Act**, the obligations are met within budget and the two new burdens grants from central government to all local authorities (covering the financial years 2014/5 and 2015/6).

For **Schools Performance**, obligations are met within S251 budget and the Delegated Schools Grant.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 If we fail to meet statutory obligations in terms of **Children's and Families Act**, the authority would be at risk from individuals taking legal action and/or central government / OFSTED taking action.

If we fail to meet statutory obligations or raise standards of attainment and progress for Blackpool Schools the Local Authority is at risk of negative Ofsted Commentary and Secretary of State powers of intervention.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 With regard to the **Children's and Families Act and Schools Performance**, the needs of a vulnerable group within the town continue to be met appropriately.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 There is a duty under the **Children's and Families Act** to co-produce all policies with

parents and children/ young people (CYP). Positive feedback has occurred from parent and charity groups to the DFE about parental engagement and engagement with children/ young people was seen as not being a major concern on a DFE monitoring visit. However, it has been highlighted by internal self-evaluation that engagement with CYP could be better and work is ongoing with the Chief Executives department to put in further structures to enable this to improve. It was also recognised that “hard to reach” parents views have not been obtained and a parent telephone survey is proposed.

There is a requirement under **the 2011 Education Act** to progress a School Led System. This is achieved through the work of the Challenge Board, School Federation and School Forum.

### **13.0 Background papers**

None