

# Blackpool Council

17 January 2017

To: Councillors D Coleman, Collett, Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Scott, Stansfield, L Taylor and T Williams

The above members are requested to attend the:

## **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 26 January 2017 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; 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 8 DECEMBER 2016** (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 December 2016 as a true and correct record.

#### **3 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

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

#### **4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS** (Pages 9 - 14)

The Committee to consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the remit of the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee.

**5 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 15 - 20)

The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, January 2017 - April 2017, relating to the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary.

**6 CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW REPORT** (Pages 21 - 28)

To inform Scrutiny 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 within the areas.

**7 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN** (Pages 29 - 40)

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

**8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting of the Committee as Thursday, 9 March 2017, 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 Chris Kelly, Acting Scrutiny Manager, Tel: 01253 477164, e-mail [chris.kelly@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:chris.kelly@blackpool.gov.uk)

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at [www.blackpool.gov.uk](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk).

# Agenda Item 2

## MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2016

### **Present:**

Councillor D Coleman (in the Chair)

Councillors

Collett	O'Hara	Scott
Critchley	Owen	L Taylor

### **In Attendance:**

Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)  
Councillor Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning  
Councillor Amy Cross, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health  
Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Third Sector Engagement and Leisure Services

Mrs Delyth Curtis, Director of People  
Ms Josephine Lee, Interim Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker  
Ms Kate Aldridge, Service Manager, Care and Support, Adult Social Care.  
Mr David Sanders, Independent Chairman of Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board  
Ms Wendy Casson, Head Teacher, Educational Diversity  
Mrs Ruth Henshaw, Delivery Development Officer  
Mr Chris Kelly, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser (Scrutiny)

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2016**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 October 2016 were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

### **3 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The Committee noted that there were no applications for public speaking on this occasion.

### **4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Committee considered the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary, taken since the last meeting of the Committee.

## **MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2016**

Members raised questions in regards to decision number EX44/16 'Secondary School Places and the Proposed Demolition of the Former Bispham High School', with a particular focus on the future use for the land at the site of the former school. Councillor Cain advised that consideration would be given to a number of options for the site, including the possibility of creating allotments. It was explained that the land would be retained in the short term for educational purposes until approval was received from the Department for Education to change the use of the site.

### **5 FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the items contained within the Forward Plan, December 2016 – March 2017 within the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary and requested further details relating to the Headstart funding bid. Mrs Curtis, Director of People, advised that the £10 million funding bid had been successful and commissioning was underway to establish mental health and resilience programmes.

Members agreed to request that an update report be presented to the Committee providing feedback on the Headstart programmes, at a future meeting once they had commenced.

### **6 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2016/2017**

Mrs Ruth Henshaw, Delivery Development Officer presented the performance against the Council Plan 2015/2020 for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016 and highlighted the key exceptions.

Mrs Henshaw reported that a number of the Council Plan indicators for 'Resilient Communities' that were due to be considered by the Committee were either annual or bi-annual and therefore could not be reported on for the quarter.

Of the indicators where data was available, it was reported to the Committee that there were three indicators in which performance had deteriorated in Quarter 2 2016/2017:

- Achievement of five or more A\* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths
- Number of referrals / rate of referrals to social care per 10,000 children; and
- Number of looked after children / rate of looked after children per 10,000 population.

The Committee raised a number of questions relating to the number of referrals to Children's Social Care and the number of Looked After Children. Mrs Curtis advised that an audit process ensured that every child in care was appropriately placed, but that unfortunately Blackpool had the highest rate of referrals in the country, which was as a result of various factors. Members queried whether the picture in Blackpool was distorted

**MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 8  
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through having a significant number of large families from which a high number of children were Looked After and queried whether data was available to show the number of families of Looked After Children. Ms Lee, Interim Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker advised that she would investigate whether that data could be made available. It was however noted that the current indicator used to measure Looked After Children rates was a national indicator and that the data requested would be limited as sibling groups did not always come from the same household and there were various examples of different family dynamics.

The Committee raised questions relating to the extent to which different ethnicity demographics had an impact on the numbers of looked after children in a local authority area. Mrs Curtis advised that she was unaware of a link but noted that there could be differences in the number of looked after children as a result of the size of the wider family support network. She reported that the context of looked after children in Blackpool had changed slightly over recent times and that a significant number of children were now coming into care from intergenerational Blackpool families.

The Committee agreed to request information to be presented to the Committee relating to the number of families of children that were Looked After, rather than the absolute numbers of children.

Further questions were raised by the Committee in relation to free breakfasts in schools and potential links to childhood obesity. In response, Councillor Cross reported that schools were now considered to be ordering the correct amount of food and that it was the responsibility of the headteacher in each school to ensure appropriate monitoring of the scheme to prevent children having more than one breakfast.

The Committee agreed to note the report and request information to be presented to the Committee relating to the number of families of children that were Looked After.

Background papers: None.

## **7 BLACKPOOL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr Sanders, Independent Chairman of Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board, presented the Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, which provided evidence of the activity of the Board during 2015/2016.

Mr Sanders reported that the implementation of the Care Act 2014 had provided a formal statutory base for safeguarding adult boards, which had helped to strengthen the role of the Board “to safeguard vulnerable adults from harm and abuse by working effectively together”.

The Committee was advised that alongside the challenges identified within the report for safeguarding of domestic violence, modern day slavery, self-neglect and the ‘Prevent’

## **MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2016**

agenda, there were also challenges relating to the issues of mental health and substance abuse, which provided an opportunity for joint work with the Safeguarding Children Board.

The Committee also noted that the training offer of the Safeguarding Adults Board had increased and additional resources for the Board had been made available from partners. The Committee queried whether more training could be offered regarding dementia care. Mr Sanders advised that there was due to be a Board Development Day during the following week, in which the training offer would be considered in detail.

Mr Sanders highlighted the four key priorities for the Board that were contained within the Business Plan, which covered the proposed activities of the Board until 2018. The Committee also noted the Care Quality Care inspection grading for contracted services were 20% better than the average for the rest of the country.

Members raised questions regarding the threats to the financial stability of care homes in light of recent budgetary pressures, for example the introduction of the National Living Wage. Mr Sanders advised that the issue was not as acute in the local Blackpool context as it was in the national context and Mrs Curtis advised that there were no current concerns over the ongoing viability of any care home in Blackpool. However, it was noted that some care at home providers may have issues regarding the viability of their contracts in the future, as was the case nationally.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

Background papers: None.

### **8 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT**

The Committee considered a report on the work undertaken by Children's Services on a day to day basis and progress and implementation of developments within the service.

The Committee noted that Blackpool was in the top quintile for re-engaging 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) young people back into learning but raised concerns regarding dropout rates. Mrs Curtis advised that there were a number of different reasons for young people dropping out and that a workshop had been planned for later in December between the Children's Services and the College to review case studies of learners who dropped out, in order to identify potential improvements in systems support.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the high level of referrals to Children's Social Care and noted that one in 14 children in Blackpool had a social worker. Ms Lee advised Members of the work that was being undertaken to reduce numbers of children in social care, with specific reference to Early Help and attempts to put services in place for targeted interventions. The Committee was also advised of pre-birth intervention and the PAUSE programme, which provided support for women who had experienced or were at risk of, repeat removals of their children into care.

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The Committee questioned whether vacant social worker posts had now been filled and Mrs Curtis advised that whilst some positions had been filled, many social workers were choosing agency employment, which was regarded as a regional issue across the North West.

Members also questioned the reasons for the increasing diagnosis of autism and Mrs Curtis explained that reasons could include a greater general awareness of autism so parents were more likely to push for a diagnosis and a greater number of babies with complex needs surviving birth.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

Background papers: None.

## **9 ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

Councillor Cross provided the Committee with an update on the work undertaken by Adult Services. She drew Members attention to the Care Quality Commission Residential Care Inspection Outcomes Update, which demonstrated that Blackpool care homes were rated better than the national average.

Councillor Cross reported details of a respite pilot that was currently being run and for which an interim evaluation process had recently been completed. She noted that the contracts and commissioning team would continue to work with people to access suitable respite care. It was noted that there had been issues relating to pre-booking beds for respite care and Councillor Cross advised that it would be considered further as part of the pilot evaluation to investigate potential solutions.

The Committee noted that there had been 424 concerns referred to Adult Social Care for safeguarding consideration during the period 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016 and questioned whether data was available for the same period for the previous year. Mrs Curtis advised that she would provide that information for Members.

Members noted that nine care homes had been rated as 'Requires Improvement' and one as 'Inadequate' by the Care Quality Commission and raised questions regarding the action plan and timescales for their improvement. Ms Aldridge, Service Manager, Care and Support, Adult Social Care, advised that it depended on the particular reasons for each individual care home being rated as 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'. She explained that the Care Home and Adult Services worked with the Care Quality Commission to develop an action plan for sustainable improvement with appropriate timescales, which were usually between three and six months. The care homes would then be held to account over implementing the action plans.

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The Committee questioned the impact of the New Models of Care / Vanguard developments and Ms Aldridge advised that there was still a lot of work to be undertaken and assessments made into which services worked well, before the aim of the programme could be fully realised.

Members raised further questions relating to winter pressures and how they were being managed, particularly in relation to transitions from hospital to home. Ms Aldridge reported that Adult Services tracked delays and identified pressures, then worked with the Hospital to alleviate issues.

The Committee agreed to:

1. Note the report.
2. Request that data be provided and circulated outside of the meeting on concerns referred to Adult Social Care for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015.

Background papers: None.

#### **10 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT SCRUTINY ACTION PLAN**

The Committee considered the action plan of the Pupil Referral Unit Scrutiny Review Panel and Ms Casson, Head Teacher, Educational Diversity reported the progress made against the recommendations. Members noted that the Inclusion Board had been established and would be chaired by Councillor Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning. Members also noted that permanent exclusions had reduced and it was explained that the improvements had been as a result of greater cooperation between schools, However, referrals to the Pupil Referral Unit from out of area children remained a concern.

The Committee was advised that in relation to Recommendation Four, the bid to the Department for Education Transformation Fund had not been successful. Mrs Curtis advised however, that there would be a significant focus on building resilience as part of the Headstart programmes.

The Committee agreed to receive the report as a final update on the recommendations made by the Panel.

#### **11 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2015 SCRUTINY PANEL FINAL REPORT**

Mr Kelly, Acting Scrutiny Manager presented the final report of the Educational Attainment 2015 Scrutiny Panel to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to approve and forward the final report to the Executive.

Background papers: None.



**MINUTES OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 8  
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**12 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN**

The Chairman presented the workplan to the Committee and highlighted the Implementation of Recommendations' table. Members requested that the Children's Services Overview and Adults Services Overview reports be presented at alternate meetings of the Committee.

The Committee agreed:

1. To approve the Scrutiny Workplan, subject to the above amendment.
2. To note the 'Implementation of Recommendations' table.

**13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee noted the date and time of the next meeting as Thursday, 26 January 2017 commencing at 6pm in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool.

**Chairman**

(The meeting ended at 7.20 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Chris Kelly, Acting Scrutiny Manager

Tel: 01253 477164

E-mail: [chris.kelly@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:chris.kelly@blackpool.gov.uk)

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Chris Kelly, Acting Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	26 January 2017

## EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the remit of the Resilient Communities 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 Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
- Councillor Cross, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health

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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DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p><b>PAN-LANCASHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS</b></p> <p>The Executive resolved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support the proposals for a new pan-Lancashire model for Health and Wellbeing Board governance.</li> <li>2. To agree the draft terms of reference for the proposed Pan Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board and Local Health and Wellbeing Partnerships, which will be finalised during the shadow operation period and presented to the annual meeting of the Council for formal adoption.</li> <li>3. To note that the new pan-Lancashire model will operate in shadow form between January and March 2017 in accordance with the draft terms of reference.</li> <li>4. To support the principles for the new pan-Lancashire model for Health and Wellbeing Board governance arrangements for adoption and implementation from May 2017.</li> </ol>	<p>Earlier in the year Lancashire Leaders Group agreed that work should be undertaken to move to a new model of Health and Wellbeing Board governance, in the form of a single Health and Wellbeing Board for Lancashire, with five local area health and wellbeing partnerships, reflecting the local area health economies across Lancashire.</p> <p>A Summit was held on 26 July 2016, which allowed existing Health and Wellbeing Board members from across Lancashire, to explore how their statutory responsibilities could be jointly delivered in line with the proposed model. Subsequently, joint proposals and terms of reference have been drafted for approval by each of the upper tier authorities in Lancashire. These are set out for approval in the Executive report.</p>	EX56/2016	15 December 2016	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
<p><b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGING</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed the recommendation: To approve the Adult Social Care Charging Policy and agree that it would be effective from 1 January 2017.</p>	<p>To consider the proposed Adult Social Care Charging Policy which will replace the current Fairer Contributions Policy and set out a framework for charging for non-residential and residential care and support services provided by the Council to adults aged 18 and over.</p>	EX57/2016	15 December 2016	Councillor Cross

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p><b>DOMESTIC ABUSE AND INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2016/2020</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely: To approve the Blackpool Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Partnership Strategy.</p>	<p>To seek approval of the draft Blackpool Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Partnership Strategy. The purpose of the Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence is to support the Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence multi-agency Partnership Board to embrace national and local principles and vision to ensure a systemic approach to commissioning and service delivery.</p>	<p>EX58/2016</p>	<p>15 December 2016</p>	<p>Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)</p>



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Chris Kelly, Acting Scrutiny Manager.
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	26 January 2017

## FORWARD PLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, January 2017 – April 2017, 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 Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 5(a) – Summary of items contained within Forward Plan  
January 2017 – April 2017.

**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****(JANUARY 2017 TO APRIL 2017)****\* Denotes New Item**

<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
January 2017	Headstart Round Three Funding Bid Result and Future Action	7/2016	Executive	Cllr Cain

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for Decision</b> Ref N° 7/2016	Headstart Round Three Funding Bid Result and Future Action
<b>Decision making Individual or Body</b>	Executive
<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>	January 2017
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	N/A
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	Representations were sought in writing to the responsible officer, at the address shown below, by 1 June 2016.
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Report
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Neil Jack, Chief Executive e-mail: neil.jack@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 47 7006

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Delyth Curtis, Director of People
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	26 January 2017

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW REPORT

1.1 To inform Scrutiny 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 within the areas.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 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 KS3 and KS4.
  - To identify any further information and actions required.

### 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. The LA remains and retains a statutory responsibility to monitor all schools in order to support improvement and raise the attainment and progress for all children in the Local Authority 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 considered:

Services are subject to national and statutory frameworks.

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

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

#### **5.0 Background Information**

##### **5.1 Connexions**

5.1.1 Connexions and the Virtual School are continuing to work together to provide all 16-24 year old Looked After Children who are in education with specialised Careers Guidance, financial advice and early intervention for those at risk of disengaging. This project has also allowed us to know what the current destination of each of Our Children is, including the qualifications they are undertaking and progress against them. Currently 11 of Our Children are undertaking degree level qualifications. Blackpool Council's Connexions service has continued the delivery of its pre-traineeship programme 'Advance' for long term NEET 19-24 year olds with the support of the Adult, Community and Family Learning team. The 2016/17 academic year has started well with nine young people completing the first programme and the second programme now delivering to ten young adults. To date, 37% have found employment following the courses with a further 14% undertaking further training and 3% undertaking volunteering.

##### **5.2 Adult Learning**

5.2.1 A review has been undertaken of the 2015/16 Skills For Employment Programmes to assist development in 2017. A pathway is provided which particularly targets individuals furthest away from the labour market. Courses are provided at a variety of venues across Blackpool and are delivered by Blackpool Council Adult Learning Tutors and through sub-contracting arrangements with Blackpool and the Fylde College and UR Potential. In 2015/16, 796 learners participated in short courses with 82% progressing into further training, volunteering or employment. Developments planned include aligning new courses as part of the new Health Works offer and refining courses to meet the needs of JobCentre Plus service users following meetings with JobCentre Plus managers.

##### **5.3 High Needs Block Funding**

5.3.1 The Department for Education consultation on the new High Needs Block financial allocation has been published in the second stage. The High Needs Block funds, special educational needs and disability funding in schools and colleges for children with an Education Healthcare (EHC) Plan. Proposed figures for each Local Authority



do not show an increase for Blackpool's block of funding despite increasing need within the town. Blackpool is investigating further as to why this is the case but it may be based on overall demographic changes in area populations. The budget to meet high needs will have to be maintained within the allocated High Needs Block.

#### 5.4 **Special Free School Bid**

5.4.1 The bid for the special free school which would provide 48 places for pupils aged 10-16 years with social, emotional and mental health needs has been submitted to the Department for Education. Many other Authorities have bid for this also within the limited national resource. The Blackpool case is that there is not enough local provision to meet need and increasingly we are using expensive out of borough provision. Blackpool special schools have seen real pressure on places with few currently having any available.

#### 5.5 **School Improvement**

##### 5.5.1 **The School Improvement Board:**

The Blackpool School Improvement Board Executive Group met on Monday 9 January 2017 to set the agenda for the next Board meeting. Sub groups for each priority will meet before the next Board meeting to focus on actions from the previous meeting and agree success criteria and ways forward to achieve possible outcomes. The sub groups are made up of educational representatives from across Blackpool including MATS, Academies, Maintained Schools, Trusts, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Inclusion, Teaching Schools, Regional School Commissioner and the Local Authority. Each sub group has a lead who will report back to the Blackpool School Improvement Board on agreed outcomes and progress in relation to their priority. The next Blackpool School Improvement Board Meeting is on 1 February 2017.

The Priority areas are:

- Priority 1: Aspiration and Achievement
- Priority 2: Developing Leadership
- Priority 3: Teaching and Learning
- Priority 4: Inclusion and Support
- Priority 5: Effective Transition.

##### 5.5.2 **Inspections:**

Since the last report the following schools have received a HMI Monitoring visit:

South Shore Academy – outcome is yet to be published

Aspire Academy – Requires Improvement

The following schools have received a full inspection:

Revoe Learning Academy – Requires Improvement (was Serious Weaknesses)

St Bernadette’s RC Primary School – Good (was Good).

St George’s Academy – Requires Improvement (was Requires Improvement)

## 5.6 **Inspection of SEN and Disability**

5.6.1 Preparation for a potential inspection of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disability in the area continues. The most recently published inspections have seen a more critical stance being taken by OFSTED/ CQC and lessons are being learnt from these.

## 5.7 **Director of Children’s Services Recruitment**

5.7.1 Mrs Delyth Curtis has been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive at Cheshire West and Chester Council and will leave Blackpool Council on the 31 January 2017. The interviews for her replacement will take place on the 24 and 25 January 2017.

5.7.2 Depending on the notice period of the successful candidate, an interim Director of Children’s Services will be needed for approximately a three month period. Following a review of suitable candidates, taking into account recommendation from other Authorities, the Cabinet Secretary and Chief Executive met with the preferred candidate this week, with a view to making an interim appointment in time for a handover period with Delyth Curtis. An update will be provided at the meeting.

5.7.3 The Committee will also be aware that Amanda Hatton, Deputy Director of People, has also been successful in achieving the position of Director of Children’s Services at Lancashire County Council and will leave Blackpool Council on the 14 February 2017. The arrangements for replacing Amanda will begin once a new Director of Children’s Services has been appointed, in order for them to influence the process. An interim arrangement will be put into place, whilst recruitment continues, which should be agreed by the time of the meeting. An update on this issue will also be provided.

## 5.8 **Key Initiatives**

5.8.1 There are a number of key initiatives underway at the moment, which address significant areas of need. The project leads will attend to present information relating to the areas below, along with intended outcomes and timescales.

### 5.8.2 New Opportunities Area

In October 2016 the Education Secretary announced the first six “opportunity areas” in England in a £60m scheme to promote social mobility, supporting schools and links with employers.

The first areas will be Oldham, Blackpool, Derby, Norwich, Scarborough and West Somerset. Plans will be developed to ensure that pupils will get the best start in life, regardless of background.

Education and businesses in the opportunity areas will be expected to work together to “create opportunities outside of school that will raise sights and broaden horizons for young people” with a greater focus on links with industry and better careers guidance.

Graham Cowley, Vice Chair of the Lancashire Economic Partnership will be leading on this initiative across the Borough, supported from a Local Authority perspective by Alan Cavill, Director of Place.

#### 5.8.3 Vulnerable Adolescent Hub

The Vulnerable Adolescent Hub model is now developing at pace. The management structure has been agreed and appointed to and a change management team is now in place to ensure implementation and delivery. It is anticipated that by bringing five to six services together, duplication will be reduced and young people will have a single point of contact and access.

Pathways are now being developed and priorities around skill mix and training requirements are being taken forward. Accommodation options have been explored and there are plans to co-locate all staff to enable full integration, whilst retaining a young person’s facility on Market Street.

#### 5.8.4 PAUSE Project

PAUSE has been commissioned by the NSPCC via the Better Start Programme to carry out a detailed data analysis of repeat removals of children into care in Blackpool with a view to securing funding locally to set up a Pause Practice. The Scoping Exercise/cost analysis has now been completed and is due to report on the 20 January 2017.

#### 5.8.5 Edge of Care Model

Argosy Children’s Home is now nearing the end of a significant service redesign, whereby it will become a four bedded respite unit for young people on the edge and precipice of care, available Friday to Monday each week. The aim of the new model is to prevent placements at home breaking down and young people being accommodated. The objectives of the new service are to:-

- Prevent the breakdown of a family unit
- Reduce the number of children in the care system
- Promote and encourage young people in making informed choices
- Ensure interventions are structured and time limited.

**6.0 Children’s Social Care**

6.1 Demand for Children’s Social Care remains high, with 499 children in care and 2,050 current allocated cases. As part of the strategy around demand management, the initiatives described, namely PAUSE, Vulnerable Adolescent Hub and the Edge of Care service model will start to impact on this as they each come on line. Significant improvements have also been made in the following areas, including:-

- Staffing – extensive work has taken place with regard to the recruitment of new staff and the creation of a micro-site. This has resulted in the service having substantive staff now in post along with a corresponding reduction in agency spend.
- Additional Social Work posts have been appointed to into Duty and Assessment and the Safeguarding Teams to manage demand and reduce caseload sizes.
- The development of a placement tracking officer to reduce drifts and costs is now in place.
- Analysis and renegotiation around the top twenty high cost placements has commenced.

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 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Chris Kelly, Acting Scrutiny Manager.
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	26 January 2017

## 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 7(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 7(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 7(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.

5.3.2 Members are requested to consider the updates provided in the table and ask questions as appropriate.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a): Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee Workplan

Appendix 7(b): Scrutiny Review Checklist

Appendix 7(c): Implementation of Recommendations/Actions

**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 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2016/2017</b>	
9 June 2016	Children's and Adults Overview Report PRU Scrutiny update Introducing Infusion
14 July 2016	Council Plan – End of Year Performance Monitoring - Communities Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Thematic Discussion: Early Help
1 September 2016	Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Blackpool Challenge Board Report Children's and Adult's Customer Feedback Reports
13 October 2016	Council Plan – Q1 Performance Monitoring - Communities Thematic Discussion: Youth Justice System BSCB Annual Report
8 December 2016	BSAB Annual Report Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Council Plan – Q2 Performance Monitoring - Communities
26 January 2017	Children's Overview Report
9 March 2017	Adults Overview Report Thematic Discussion: Intermediate Care Thematic Discussion: Care at Home Council Plan – Q3 Performance Monitoring - Communities
27 April 2017	Children's Overview Report Adults Overview Report Update on Volunteer Strategy/Action Thematic Discussion: Community Engagement and the Infusion

Thematic Discussion: Looked After Children

Joint item with Health Scrutiny Committee

Thematic Discussion: Transforming Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Winterbourne View)

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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
02.07.15	Summary of all Ofsted inspection reports within the Children's Services Improvement Report and to receive full Ofsted inspection reports outside of the Committee meeting as and when they are published.	Ongoing	Del Curtis/Sharon Davis	A summary of Ofsted Inspection reports is included in every Children's Improvement report. Full inspection report links to be circulated via the Chairman.	Green
05.11.15	To monitor the developments made in relation to a central database for volunteers, a policy for recruitment and a potential corporate celebration event.	April 2017	Councillor Kirkland	To be received 12 months after date of meeting.	Not yet due
05.11.15	All Councillors be requested to attend dementia awareness training.	31 May 2016	Sharon Davis	Update on attendance: 27 Nov 2015 – Cllrs Maycock, Cain, Mitchell, Humphreys, Critchley 13 Jan 2016 – Cllrs Cross, Ryan, O'Hara, G Coleman, Benson, L Taylor, Galley 28 Jan 2016 – Cllrs Adrian, D Coleman, Campbell 2 Feb 2016 – Cllrs Kirkland, Smith 12 April 2016 – Hunter 11 May 2016 - Jim Hobson, Derek Robertson, Lynn Williams, Tony Williams	Amber
10.12.15	That the overview of complaints and compliments as provided to the Corporate Parent Panel be circulated to Members of the Committee outside of meetings.	Ongoing	Sharon Davis	First paper circulated. At the previous Corporate Parent meeting, the annual customer feedback reports were presented. The reports are attached to the 1 September agenda.	Green

04.02.16	To receive any action plans developed from the Serious Case Reviews and the details of lessons learnt for detailed consideration.	Tbc	Del Curtis	To be received at a future meeting. Members to determine if the item should form the basis of a thematic discussion.	Not yet due
04.02.16	To receive regular updates regarding the Pilot Scheme for Respite Provision including occupancy rates and how the results of the pilot would inform future respite provision.	May 2016	Karen Smith	To receive regular updates, first one received for May 2016 and included in report.	Green
17.03.16	The Committee agreed to receive a CSE update report once the Ofsted inspection had been undertaken.	Following inspection	Philippa Holmes	Date for update to be received once inspection has been undertaken.	Not yet due
17.03.16	The Committee agreed to receive the analysis of contacts received from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.	Tbc	Amanda Hatton	Date to be confirmed once timescale for analysis is identified.	Not yet due
06.04.16	The draft domestic abuse strategy be considered at a future meeting of the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee, once it was available.	Tbc	Amanda Hatton	To be added to workplan when date for completion is known.	Not yet due
06.04.16	That the strategy and action plan for preventing and dealing with homelessness be presented to the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee, once it had been drafted.	Tbc	Andy Foot	To be added to workplan when date for completion is known.	Not yet due
06.04.16	To receive a report containing further information regarding health issues for homeless people, with a particular focus on their access to healthcare.	Tbc	Andy Foot/Arif Rajpura	Further report to be requested.	Not yet due



12.05.16	The Committee agreed to receive a detailed update in approximately six months on Intermediate Care.	November 2016	Karen Smith	Added workplan for March 2017	Amber
12.05.16	To receive further details of the consultation event to be held regarding the review of Speech, Language and Communication across Blackpool and the strategic group established to implement the transformational plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder following the meeting.	31 October 2016	Val Raynor	Information to be circulated.	Not yet due
12.05.16	To receive a comparison of the uptake of Pupil Premium by early years settings attached to Children's Centres and settings unattached.	30 September 2016	Del Curtis	Information to be circulated.	Not yet due
09.06.16	To receive a thematic discussion paper on Care at Home to a future meeting of the Committee.	January 2017	Karen Smith	Added workplan for March 2017	Amber
09.06.16	To receive a report in approximately nine months on developments in community engagement, including an update on the work carried out by the Infusion Service.	9 March 2017	Andy Divall	Added to workplan for April 2017.	Amber
09.06.16	To receive an update on Recommendation Four of the PRU Scrutiny Panel following the outcome of the funding bid.	8 December 2016	Del Curtis/Sonia Blandford	Reported at the December meeting of the Committee.	Green

14.07.16	To hold a thematic discussion on the number of looked after children and the response to the increasing number at a future meeting.	31 January 2016	Sharon Davis/Amanda Hatton	Added to the workplan.	Not yet due
01.09.16	A final written response to be circulated by Mrs Curtis following the meeting, to the Pupil Referral Unit Scrutiny Panel recommendations that they be signed off as completed.	30 October 2016	Del Curtis	Provided at the last Committee meeting in December 2016.	Green
01.09.16	The Committee agreed to receive further detail on the upheld complaint regarding maladministration and injustice following the meeting.	Tbc	Hilary Wood	Detailed information requested from Hilary Wood to be circulated outside of Committee as soon as available.	Not yet due
13.10.16	To consider the new Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan following its approval by the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board.	Tbc	David Sanders / Paul Threlfall	To be added to workplan.	Not yet due