

Blackpool Council

5 February 2020

To: Councillors Clapham, D Coleman, Collett, Critchley, Farrell, Mitchell, Owen, Stansfield and Wing

Ms Sage and Dr Allen, Co-opted Members

The above members are requested to attend the:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 February 2020 at 6.00 pm
in
Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

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

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

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

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2020 (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee held on 9 January 2020 as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

4 FORWARD PLAN (Pages 7 - 12)

To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, March-June 2020, within the remit of the Committee.

5 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT AND RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOME PROVISION (Pages 13 - 24)

To inform the Scrutiny Committee of the financial profile of Children's Social Care and Early Help services in 2020/2021, explore the reasons for the current spending levels and inform the Committee of what is being done to support positive change.

6 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN (Pages 25 - 32)

To consider the contents of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Committee as Thursday 23 April 2020 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 Elaine Ireland, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: (01253) 477255, e-mail: Elaine.ireland@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.

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020

Present:

Councillor Collett (in the Chair)

Councillors

Clapham
D Coleman

Critchley
Farrell

Mitchell
Owen

Stansfield
Wing

Dr Elaine Allen, Roman Catholic Co-opted Member

In Attendance:

Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools, Education and Aspiration

Mr Robert Arrowsmith, Head of Performance and Systems

Mrs Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services

Mrs Jeanette Richards, Head of Partnerships and Improvement

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Mrs Elaine Ireland, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Ms Helen Sage, diocesan co-opted member.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Debbie Coleman declared a personal interest in Item 6 Forward Plan 'Review of Residential Children's Home Provision', the nature of the interest being that she was employed by a residential children's home which dealt with Blackpool children.

Councillors Coleman, Critchley and Stansfield all declared a personal interest in Item 9 'Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report' due to their positions on the Corporate Parent Panel.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2019

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 October 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Committee noted that there were no applications to speak by members of the

**MINUTES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING -
THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020**

public on this occasion.

4 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Committee agreed to approve the appointment of Dr Elaine Allen as a Roman Catholic co-opted member to the Committee.

5 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Committee noted the Executive decision on the 'School Organisation Pupil Place Plan 2020-2028' which had been taken since the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools, Education and Aspiration responded to a question regarding the size of classrooms and whether the schools would physically be able to accommodate the potential increase in pupils, assuring Members that the room sizes were sufficient.

The Committee was informed that schools were consulting on the proposals and that a flexible approach with annual review would be necessary due to the unpredictable mobility of pupils year on year.

6 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, January – April 2020 relating to the portfolio of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Children) and the Cabinet Member for Schools, Education and Aspiration. Members noted that the Forward Plan contained three items relevant to the Committee: To progress the Acquisition of the former Job Centre Plus building at 43 Queens Street to accommodate Children's Services in a single location, in line with the preferred delivery model following the Ofsted review; The implementation of a regional adoption agency with Lancashire County Council in November 2019, in accordance with the regionalising adoption agenda and Review of residential children's home provision.

In response to the Committee's previous request that the outcome of the review of residential children's home provision be reported to this meeting, Mrs Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services informed Members that the findings of the independent review had been received and would form the basis of an action plan. Mrs Booth agreed to present the resulting plan at the next meeting of the Committee.

The implementation of a regional adoption agency with Lancashire County Council had been delayed and as a result Mrs Booth informed Members that she would provide an update within her Children's Social Care Improvement report at the next meeting of the Committee.

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Discussions were held around the proposed acquisition of the former Job Centre Plus building to accommodate Children's Services in a single location, with questions raised on why that particular building had been identified as a suitable venue. Mrs Booth advised that from the limited options available, the Job Centre Plus building was centrally located and of an appropriate size. Members questioned whether Children's Services could be housed together within Bickerstaffe House, with Mrs Booth advising that she did not believe there was enough room within that building and that the needs of other partners would also need to be considered when choosing the shared location.

The Committee agreed that further information should be sought from Councillor Cain prior to him taking the decision. The Committee specifically requested information on:

- 1) Whether any other suitable venues had been identified;
- 2) Whether Bickerstaffe House had enough room to accommodate the move as an alternative to the Job Centre building;
- 3) Further details as to the anticipated costs involved.

7 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT

Mrs Booth presented the Committee with an update on the progress and implementation of developments within the "Getting to Good" Journey for Children's Social Care. She identified that the service was facing three particularly pressing issues in the form of the volume of presenting concerns from partner agencies (Health Services, the police and schools) felt to require Children's Social Care input and assessment; the quality of work undertaken with children and families across the partnership to remedy concerns and to prevent escalation and the quality of partnership support for those children and families; and the number of children open to Children's Social Care, in particular those in local authority care and the financial pressure this placed on the Council.

Mrs Booth further explained that all three of these issues were intrinsically related to each other, with the volume of new work placing pressure on the capacity of the service and the time social workers had to build the effective relationships with children and families to support positive change. This then led to less effective interventions and long-term escalation of some children and families, which, in some cases, led to entry of children into the Council's care. Equally, the high numbers of children in the Council's care was placing significant constraints on the local authority's ability to provide other services.

In response to a question about the previous issues experienced with police referrals, Mrs Booth confirmed that the new arrangements whereby informed consent would be required for all referrals had been implemented that week and that the Council was providing full support to the police as they adjusted to the change. Performance data resulting from the new practices would be reported to the Committee at its next meeting.

**MINUTES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING -
THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020**

The Committee asked whether any progress had been made on recruitment to the post of Head of Service for Strengthening and Supporting Families. Mrs Booth advised that a number of applications had been received and the closing date had not yet been reached. She stressed the importance of finding the right person for the role. The Committee was informed that with regards to the use of agency staff, permission had been granted for the recruitment of higher graded social workers at H3 level in order to attract better qualified and experienced colleagues. In response to the retention issues identified, Mrs Booth acknowledged that agency staff often preferred to work for shorter periods and that there was competition across the North West for experienced social workers with the result being that other areas increased their hourly rate in order to secure agency staff. Mrs Booth made it clear however that Blackpool offered very competitive rates of pay along with financial travel incentives for applicants living outside the area.

The Committee raised concerns over the service's budget overspend as well as the seemingly open-ended nature of the budgetary increase. Questions were asked as to timescales for anticipated improvements and a reduction of the required overspend. Mrs Booth highlighted the scale of the improvement journey and as such was unable to identify a specific date for improvement. The Committee requested that going forward future Children's Social Care updates included detailed financial projections with target dates and identified risks.

Discussions were held over the high cost of children's residential placements, with a request made that a detailed breakdown of costs per placement and numbers of children placed in Blackpool from other authorities be included in the report of residential children's home provision due to the next meeting of the Committee. Members also questioned the feasibility of the Council providing its own residential provision as a means of reducing expenditure in this area. Mrs Booth identified that other Local Authorities had also recognised these costs as prohibitive and as a result the National Association of Children's Services was examining the issue. She agreed to share the findings with the Committee once the study had been concluded.

Members heard that there were 180 known Looked After Children (LAC) currently placed in Blackpool from other areas. Members requested that information on children placed in Blackpool from other authorities be included in the forthcoming report on residential children homes provision. In addition, Mrs Booth cited an anticipated impact study being undertaken by the Department for Education on the impact of placing young people in out of area residential placements, the results of which she agreed to bring back to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to consider a detailed report of residential children's home provision at its next meeting.

8 YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM IMPROVEMENT

**MINUTES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING -
THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020**

Mrs Booth introduced a progress report on the implementation of developments within the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and informed the Committee that a re-inspection was anticipated to occur anytime from April 2020, with the resulting findings to be reported back to the Committee once received.

The Committee was informed that there were 62 young people working with the YOT with just under a quarter of the caseload being young people who had transferred to Blackpool from other local authorities on a caretaking basis. Members questioned whether Blackpool residents were prioritised over those coming from other authorities, noting that Blackpool young people were often sent to placements out of the area due to a lack of suitable spaces in Blackpool. Mrs Booth stated that whilst legally it was not possible to prevent other authorities from placing their young people here, if the Council was notified of cases then a letter would be sent requesting justification for the proposed placement and challenging the decision. She pointed out however that the Council did not always receive advance notification of the placements.

Further discussion was held around the potential safeguarding concerns of placing vulnerable young people together in Pupil Referral Units as well as the recharge costs to other local authorities who utilised Blackpool's facility.

[Dr Allen left the meeting during consideration of this item.]

9 CORPORATE PARENT PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Members considered the Corporate Parent Panel (CPP) Annual Report and congratulated the young people and officers involved for their efforts and positive impact. The merits of holding a special meeting of the Committee and inviting young people to attend was discussed and agreed.

Mrs Booth provided information on the new Blackpool Families Rock model of working, with Members requesting a presentation at a future meeting of the Committee.

[Mr Arrowsmith left the meeting on conclusion of this item.]

10 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Committee Members considered their annual workplan and agreed a number of changes to the content of meetings for February and April 2020.

It was noted that three Members were required to take part in a piece of work to produce a policy on community engagement, with the Committee agreeing that Councillors Critchley, Farrell and Wing be nominated.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**MINUTES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING -
THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday, 13 February 2020, commencing at 6pm.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.30pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Elaine Ireland, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
Tel: (01253) 477255
E-mail: Elaine.ireland@blackpool.gov.uk

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting:	13 February 2020

FORWARD PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan March to June 2020, relating to the portfolios of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the Deputy Leader of the Council and/or the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to items contained within the Forward Plan within the portfolios of the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Schools, Education and Aspiration.

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 recommendation(s):

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: 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 4(a) is a list of items contained in the current Forward Plan. Further details appertaining to each item is contained in the Forward Plan, which has been forwarded to all Members separately.

5.4 Witnesses/representatives

5.4.1 The following Cabinet Member is responsible for the Forward Plan items in this report and has been invited to attend the meeting:

- Councillor Lynn Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council (Children)

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 4(a) Summary of items contained within Forward Plan March to June 2020.

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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APPENDIX 4(a)

EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS

(MARCH TO JUNE 2020)

Anticipated Date of Decision	Matter for Decision	Decision Reference	Decision Taker	Relevant Cabinet Member
March 2020	To progress the acquisition of the former Job Centre Plus building at 43 Queens Street to accommodate Children's Services in a single location, in line with the preferred delivery model following the Ofsted review	35/2019	Executive	Cllr L Williams
March 2020	The implementation of a regional adoption agency with Lancashire County Council in November 2019, in accordance with the regionalising adoption agenda	16/2019	Executive	Cllr L Williams

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Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services
Date of Meeting	13 February 2020

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT AND RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOME PROVISION

1.1 To inform the Scrutiny Committee of the financial profile of Children's Social Care and Early Help services in 2020/2021, explore the reasons for the current spending levels and inform the Committee of what is being done to support positive change.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1
- To note the contents of the report.
 - To continue to meet statutory monitoring, challenge and support obligations.
 - 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 about the spending profile across Children's Social Care and Early Help and support effective monitoring and scrutiny in 2020/2021.

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:

- Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Introduction

Blackpool Council is currently looking after 623 children and young people and the number of children in care continues to slowly rise. The number of children per 10k population who are looked after, subject to a child protection plan, identified as a “child in need” and those who are identified by partner agencies (such as the Police, health and schools) as being in need of a statutory assessment are all higher in Blackpool than in any other local authority in England.

5.1.1 The current situation in Blackpool has been arrived at steadily over a long period. Blackpool’s children’s social care statistical profile began to move decisively away from the pattern in similar authorities more than a decade ago. While there have been periods where the divergence has been arrested, the underlying trend has consistently reasserted itself. It is the very degree of difference of Blackpool to similar areas that points out that alternative scenarios are possible. The degree of divergence from similar areas must reflect the long term ineffectiveness of all local services in collectively addressing the challenges faced by local children and families to enable more positive outcomes to be achieved.

5.1.2 Blackpool’s children’s social care services face three particularly pressing issues which were found to be impactful prior to and at the point of the inspection in 2018:

1. The volume of presenting concerns from partner agencies felt to require children’s social care input/assessment.
2. The quality of work undertaken with children and families to remedy concerns and to prevent escalation and the quality of partnership support for those children and families; and
3. The number of children open to children’s social care, in particular those in local authority care and the financial pressure this places on the Council.

5.1.3 All three of these issues are intrinsically related to each other. The volume of new work places pressure on the capacity of the service and the time it has to build the effective relationships with children and families to support positive change. This then leads to fewer and less effective interventions at an early point and long-term escalation of some children and families, which in some cases leads to entry of children into care. Equally, the high numbers of children in care places significant constraints on the local authority’s ability to provide other services.

5.1.4 Significant progress has been made to address the way that children’s services work with families and partners and this is starting to have an effect. The numbers of children entering care in 2019/2020 is relatively low – the trend in the year to date suggests the lowest number entering care in the past six years, with between 40 and 50 children fewer entering care, 20% lower than the average annual figure for the past five years. The pattern of entry by age is also of note: a similar number of very young children are entering care as in the past five years, but only 70% as many children aged between 3 and 11 and only half as many children and young people aged 11 or older. It is worth reiterating that the rate of entry in 2019/2020 is still a third higher than the average for similar authorities.

The reason that the number of children in care continues to rise is that the number of children leaving care has been even lower. The projection for the full year, based on the first eight months is for the lowest rate of exit in a decade, although still markedly higher than in similar authorities.

5.1.5 The rising number of children in care is putting pressure on placements (and stability) and is leading to an increasing number of children in care placed in Independent Fostering Agency Placements

5.1.6 The steady, slow increase in the number of children in care is having less impact on the number of children living in children's homes, or in care but placed at home with parents, both of which have been relatively steady since March 2019. The number of children placed in children's homes is still very high when scaled per head of child population – an issue related particularly to a group of young people taken into care in their teenage years during 2016/2017.

5.1.7 So, the fall in the number of children entering care is to be welcomed and there are some positive signs in the profile of entry and the speed of exit for the very young. However, exits from care need to accelerate children through to permanent exits from care and will be a key area of focus over the next six months.

5.1.8 The costs of supporting children and young people in care are high but there is no drive to reduce the number of children in care because of the cost. The drive to reduce the number of children in care is a reflection on the focus to ensure that children are well supported and only in care when it is the right outcome for them and that the people working with them are constantly working to find a long term, safe and stable home for them. Equally, there is an increased focus on ensuring that the quality of service that is provided to children in care is high and offers value for money.

5.1.9 The partnership with Lancashire to develop a Regional Adoption Agency is progressing, with a go live date for the new arrangements set for 1 April 2020.

5.2 Financial Information

See Appendix 5(a) for details and charts.

5.2.1 As the detail within Appendix 5(a) shows, there are plans for an additional £12.4m of investment in the 2020/2021 budget to support children's services. £11m will be invested in Children's Social Care and 1m in Early Help.

5.2.2 £4.3m of this investment will be in staffing, with increased support and social workers able to work with lower caseloads, deliver more direct work and engage effectively with families to support sustainable change. Managers have fewer direct reports so that they can understand the work that is being done with each child and family and support social workers to ensure plans are progressed effectively. Increased activity is planned (and underway) to support effective long term planning for children whether or not they are returning to their family home and this will address the concern over the drop in exits from care detailed in 5.1.

5.2.3 Work is underway across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool to ensure that partners understand and are able to effectively deliver early help within their services and as a partnership without social care coordination (which is in line with statutory guidelines) as well as ensuring that there is effective targeted intervention when the threshold for Social Care is not met, but nevertheless significant, solution focused work is required to prevent family circumstances from deteriorating to the point where children are exposed to significant harm.

5.2.4 The cost of placements to support children who are looked after is set to rise by £7m in the coming year. This is based on the current cohort of children and young people and acknowledges that even though the number of children in care may fall in 2020/2021, some of these young people will continue to be funded through, for example, a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).

5.2.5 External placement costs are high, but the cost per placement is not higher for Blackpool than in other authorities. This is benchmarked on a regular basis with other local authorities and Blackpool participates in the Northwest Partnership of local authorities to support engagement with providers on a wider footprint.

5.3 Placement Costs - Examples

Residential Care

5.3.1 There are 63 Children and Young People who are in the care of the local authority supported in residential care by Blackpool. 23 of these children and young people are supported in Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde. Most children and young people are supported within the North West region.

5.3.2 Residential Care for children and young people is provided in homes which are usually similar in layout to family homes. Our highest cost placements are for children and young people who, because of their individual needs, cannot be accommodated with other young people and require a solo placement and high input from staff throughout the day and night. This means that all of the costs associated with staffing and accommodation fall on one young person. There would always be at least one member of staff at the home with the young person at any time 24/7, with often two or three staff supporting the young person when they are out of the home to ensure their safety and wellbeing. The costs include rent and service charges, overheads associated with the management of the building, direct staffing and management costs and the costs of supporting the young person to actively engage in activities, education, therapeutic support etc. When a young person can be supported in a home alongside other young people, the core and overhead costs will be shared, but 1:1 time will be factored in to any support provided.

5.3.3 A sample placement in a single gendered home with a maximum occupancy of three young people, immediate access to 1:1 Psychotherapy, ongoing assessment, delivery and reporting, 1:1 staffing including a waking watch is £4250. A placement such as this may be

appropriate for young people who do not require a solo placement but who need single sex accommodation and where they are struggling to regulate their feelings and behaviours and as a result require a high staffing ratio, direct therapeutic input overseen by a qualified therapist and staff available (and not sleeping during the shift) for the young person 24 hours a day. A placement of this cost level equates to £25.29 per hour and is inclusive of all housing, support and day to day costs.

5.4 Residential Care Provision in Blackpool

There are 24 private children’s residential homes registered with OFSTED in Blackpool, with an occupancy range from 1-6 beds. In total, there are 70 beds registered with OFSTED in the town. Much of this capacity is being used by other local authorities where there is less provision available to them. Using our statistical neighbors, we can see that capacity is variable and that the number of homes and the number of available beds in Blackpool is high by comparison to other, similar local authorities.

Local Authority	Number of registered homes	Number of beds in registered homes.
Blackpool	24	70
Stat N1	5	19
Stat N2	15	35
Stat N3	29	66
Stat N4	10	44
Stat N5	13	56
Stat N6	7	32

5.5 Foster Care

When a child or young person can be supported in a family environment this is the preferred option. If no internal placements are suitable and available, Independent Foster Agencies (IFAs) will be contacted to see if they can find a family to support the child. Usually the costs of foster care are fixed, with a transparent fee which is paid to the carer to provide the support and a fee to the provider that covers the cost of doing business, recruiting, monitoring and supporting carers. Higher fees will be paid where there are specific skills and/or experience needed by the carer to meet the child’s needs, including therapeutic support overseen by qualified therapists, an area of work that has been developed by fostering agencies in response to increasing demand across the country. At the average cost, support through an IFA amounts to £4.77 an hour.

5.6 Future plans

Too many children and young people who are looked after by Blackpool are not looked after in Blackpool. We want to increase the number of good quality providers within the town that we work with to support children who require residential care and encourage

them to work with us to step young people down to more family based or independent living wherever possible.

5.6.1 The Council is looking to ensure that the provision in Blackpool is proportionate to local need and to work with those providers who are supporting children well within their community to support children in the town, so that they can maintain and grow positive links that help them feel secure and develop their independence.

5.6.2 To support growth in the provision of fostering support we are looking to increase focused investment in the internal foster care service and support available to fostering households to increase the number of families working directly with Blackpool to support our children and a detailed business case is being developed to map the required investment and balance this to the benefits in terms of outcomes and impact.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

6.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a) – Finance Information

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 Please refer to Appendix 5(a) for detailed financial information.

11.0 Risk management considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Ethical considerations:

12.1 None.

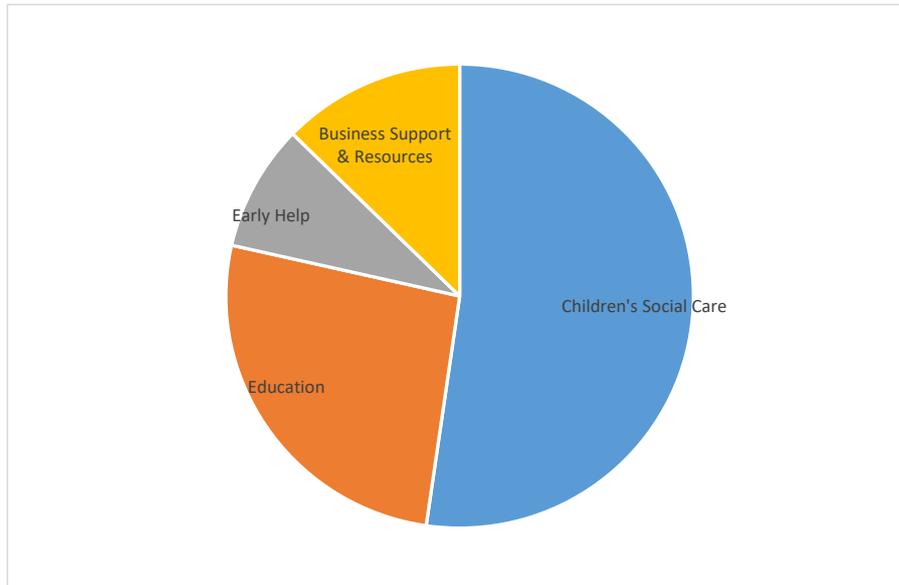
13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

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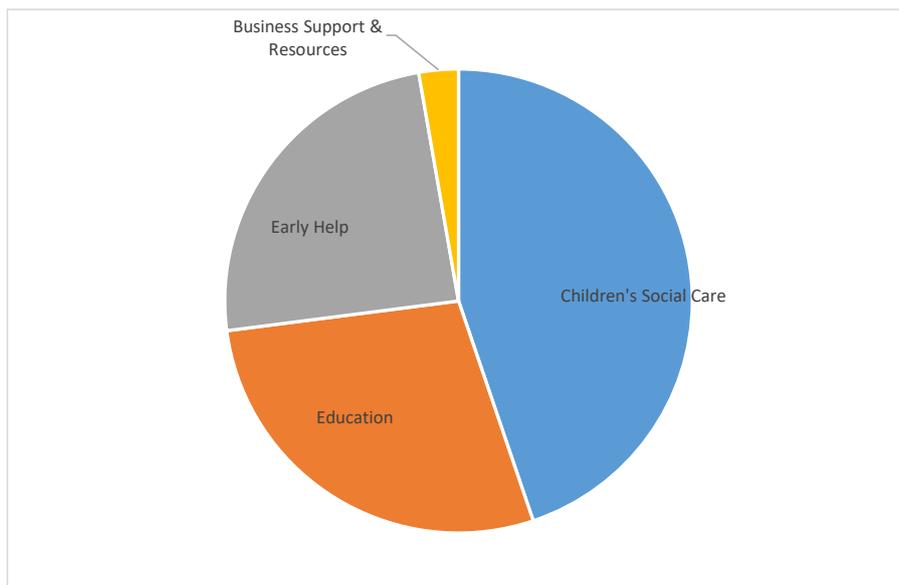
1) Children's Services Budgets (excluding schools)

	Budget	
	2019/20	2020/21
	£m	£m
Children's Social Care	29.7	40.7
Education	19.9	20.4
Early Help	5.9	6.9
Business Support & Resources	9.9	9.8
Total	65.4	77.8



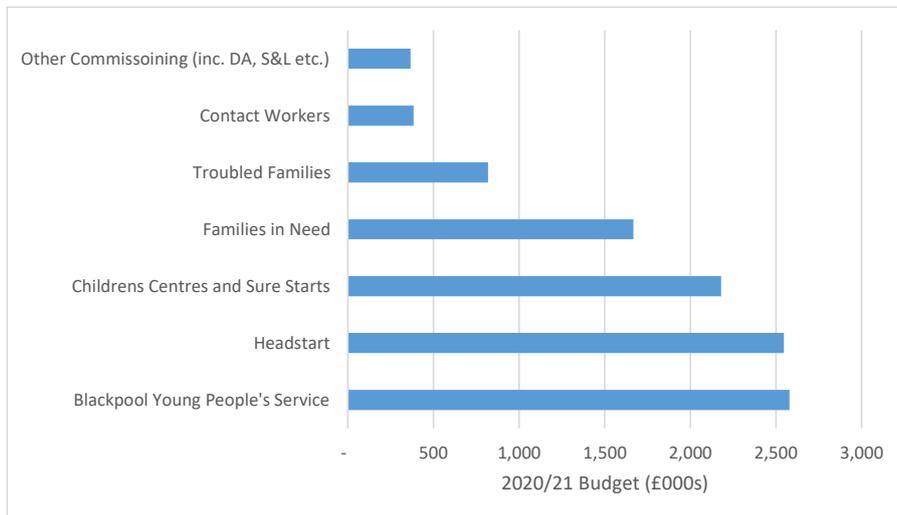
2) Children's Services Staffing Budgets (excluding Schools)

	Budget	
	2019/20	2020/21
	£m	£m
Children's Social Care	9.9	13.3
Education	7.9	8.3
Early Help	6.3	7.2
Business Support & Resources	0.8	0.8
Total	24.8	29.6



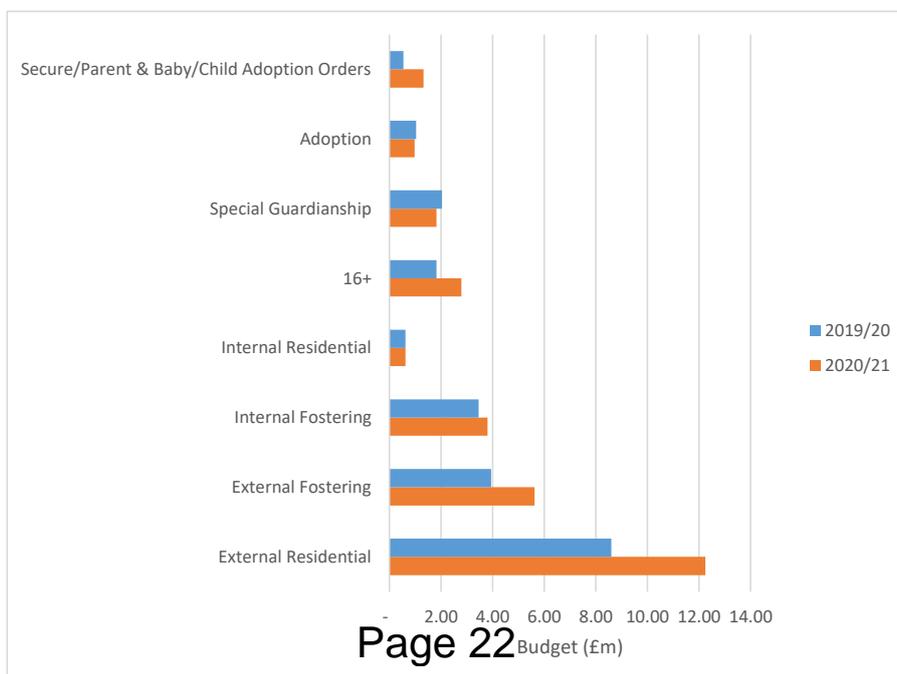
3) Early Help for Children & Families Budgets by Service (excluding central support costs)

Service	Gross Expenditure Budget	
	2019/20	2020/21
	£000s	£000s
Blackpool Young People's Service	1,920	2,579
Headstart	2,863	2,546
Childrens Centres and Sure Starts	2,177	2,181
Families in Need	1,406	1,667
Troubled Families	818	818
Contact Workers	375	383
Other Commissoining (inc. DA, S&L etc.)	366	366
Total	9,924	10,540



4) Children's Social Care Placements Budgets

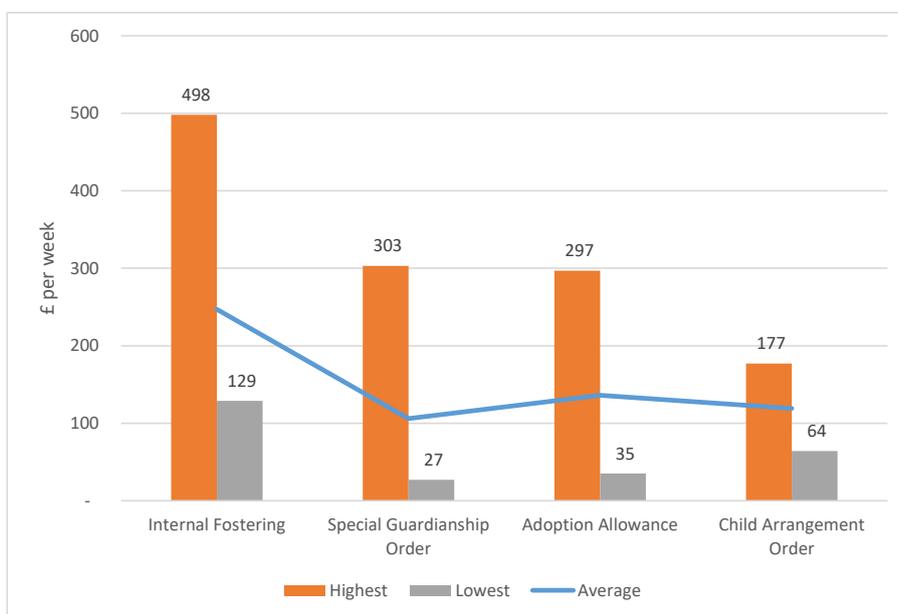
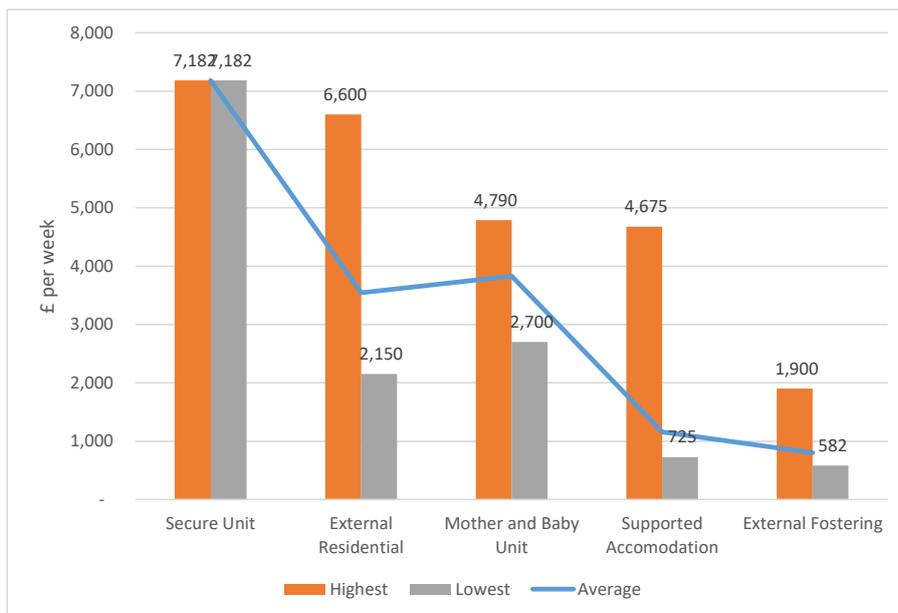
Service	Gross Expenditure Budget	
	2019/20	2020/21
	£m	£m
External Residential	8.60	12.25
External Fostering	3.94	5.63
Internal Fostering	3.46	3.81
Internal Residential	0.63	0.63
16+	1.83	2.79
Special Guardianship	2.04	1.82
Adoption	1.04	0.98
Secure/Parent & Baby/Child Adoption Orders	0.54	1.32
Total	22.08	29.22



5) Children's Social Care Unit Costs

Service	Unit Costs as at 31st Dec 2019		
	Average	Highest	Lowest
	£ per week	£ per week	£ per week
Secure Unit	7,182	7,182	7,182
External Residential	3,546	6,600	2,150
Mother and Baby Unit	3,828	4,790	2,700
Supported Accomodation	1,159	4,675	725
External Fostering	802	1,900	582
Internal Fostering	247	498	129
Special Guardianship Order	106	303	27
Adoption Allowance	136	297	35
Child Arrangement Order	119	177	64

Note - There is only 1 secure unit placement as at 31st December 2019.



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Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting:	13 February 2020

SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the workplan and to monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review topics.

1.2 To provide an update on the scrutiny review of Inclusion in Education.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

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/action.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that recommendations/actions are being monitored, 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: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Scrutiny Workplan

5.1.1 The Scrutiny Committee Workplan is attached at Appendix 6(a). The workplan is a flexible document that sets out the work that the Committee will undertake over the course of the year.

5.1.2 Committee Members are invited, either now or in the future, to suggest topics that might be suitable for scrutiny in order that they be added to the workplan.

5.2 Monitoring Implementation of Recommendations

5.2.1 The table attached at Appendix 6(b) has been developed to assist the Committee in effectively ensuring that the recommendations made by the Committee are acted upon. The table will be regularly updated and submitted to each Committee meeting.

5.2.2 Members are requested to consider the updates provided in the table and ask follow up questions as appropriate to ensure that all recommendations are implemented.

5.3 Inclusion in Education Scrutiny Review

5.3.1 A meeting of the working group undertaking the review took place on 15 January 2020, which was well attended by Headteachers and Principals. Following this fact-gathering meeting, next steps and draft recommendations will be considered at the working group's next meeting on 13 February 2020.

5.3.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.4 List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a) – Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Workplan

Appendix 6(b) – Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Action Tracker

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.

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APPENDIX 6(a)

Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2019-2020	
23 April 2020	<p>1. Youth Offending Team Improvement - To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p>2. Children’s Social Care Improvement – To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p>3. Education/SEND – To receive an overview of results data.</p> <p>4. Pan-Lancashire Partnership – To receive an update on the new safeguarding partnership arrangements.</p>
18 June 2020	<p>1. Youth Offending Team Improvement - To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p>2. Children’s Social Care Improvement – To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p>
10 September 2020	<p>1. Youth Offending Team Improvement - To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p>2. Children’s Social Care Improvement – To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p>
19 November 2020	<p>1. Youth Offending Team Improvement - To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p>2. Children’s Social Care Improvement – To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p>

Scrutiny Review Work	
January 2020	Scrutiny review of Inclusion in Education to include issues faced by parents of children requiring an in-year school place, schools’ admissions procedures to ensure pupils are offered a suitable place in a timely manner and the associated impact on the number of children being placed within the Pupil Referral Unit.
TBC	Scrutiny review of Partnership Arrangements focusing on monitoring the outcomes of the new partnership arrangements implemented in September 2019, with an emphasis on Early Help provision.
2 March 2020	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services Redesign. Joint meeting to be held with Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. To determine whether further review is required.

Future Items	
June 2020	Analysis of impact of SEND Strategy – as agreed by Scrutiny Leadership Board September 2019.
TBC	Special meeting dedicated to young people with representatives of the Corporate Parent Panel, Blackpool Families Rock and Headstart invited to attend.

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APPENDIX 6(b)

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

	DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
1	12.04.18	To receive the Placement Sufficiency Strategy in late 2018.	November 2018	Director of Children's Services	<p>Consideration of the Placement Sufficiency Strategy has been included on the workplan for November 2018.</p> <p>Update: Mrs Booth, Director of Children's Services has advised that the Strategy is not yet completed and that it will be circulated to Members of the Committee as soon as possible.</p>	
2	13.09.18	That Mrs Booth be requested to report on partners who did not engage.	Ongoing	Director of Children's Services	Review of partnership arrangements identified for inclusion on Committee workplan.	
3	13.09.18	To receive an update performance report on HeadStart in 12 months.	April 2020	Programme Leader, HeadStart	Added to Committee workplan.	
4	20.06.19	To receive key performance data in relation to A Better Start.	February 2020	Merle Davies, Director, Blackpool Centre for Early Child Development	Ms Davies confirmed that the first full set of key performance indicators would be available for consideration by the A Better Start Executive Board in October 2019. Ms Davies has agreed to provide the report for circulation to Members after the information has been through the appropriate governance channels.	
5	10.10.19	To receive the plan resulting from the review of the residential children's home provision.	January 2020	Jeanette Richards, Head of Partnerships and Improvement	Mrs Booth to report the findings at the Committee meeting on 13 February 2020.	
6	10.10.19	To receive the Positive Transitions report (as part of the next YOT update report or circulated outside the meeting.)	December 2019	Moya Foster, Head of Targeted Intervention Services	Report requested from Ms Aldridge, Head of Delivery and Performance.	

	DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
7	09.01.20	To receive the findings of the National Association of Children's Services examining the costs of residential placements for children and the impact on Local Authorities.	April 2020	Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services		
8	09.01.20	To receive results of YOT re-inspection once completed.	TBC	Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services		
9	09.01.20	To receive the findings of the Department for Education impact study on out of area placements.	TBC	Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services		
9	09.01.20	To receive a presentation on the Blackpool Families Rock model of working.	TBC	Kara Haskayne, Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker		