

Blackpool Council

22 June 2022

To: Councillors Burdess, D Coleman, Critchley, Cross, B Mitchell, M Mitchell, Owen, R Scott, and Stansfield

Co-optees: Jo Snape

The above members are requested to attend the:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 30 June 2022 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 24 MARCH 2022 (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 March 2022 as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

4 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS (Pages 7 - 10)

To consider the appointment of Ms Gemma Clayton and Mr Mike Coole as parent governor co-opted members to the Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

5 FORWARD PLAN (Pages 11 - 16)

The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan July 2022 to October 2022, relating to the portfolios of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

6 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT UPDATE (Pages 17 - 18)

To receive a verbal update on the number of children and young people who are re-referred back into the social care system following discharge.

7 YOUNG INSPECTORS UPDATE (Pages 19 - 32)

To receive a presentation on Young Inspectors.

8 ORACLE BUILDING UPDATE (Pages 33 - 34)

To consider an update on the Oracle building works and the timeline for Park Community Academy students to occupy the building.

9 LITERACY STRATEGY UPDATE (Pages 35 - 36)

To consider an update on progress in relation to the town-wide Literacy Strategy.

10 SEND OFSTED INSPECTION OUTCOME AND NEXT STEPS (Pages 37 - 52)

To receive a report informing the Committee of the recent Ofsted and CQC SEND inspection outcome, implications and next steps, and to consider the draft SEND Strategy 2022-2025.

11 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN (Pages 53 - 68)

To consider the contents of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee's Workplan for 2022/2023 and agree the scoping documents for upcoming scrutiny review panels.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

That the date and time of the next meeting of the Committee be noted as Wednesday 28 September 2022, at 6.00pm.

Venue information:

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

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477229, e-mail john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2022

Present:

Councillor Burdess (in the Chair)

Councillors

| | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| Critchley | M Mitchell | R Scott |
| B Mitchell | D Owen | A Stansfield |

Ms Jo Snape, Diocesan Co-opted member

In Attendance:

Councillor Maxine Callow, Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board

Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Schools

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years)

Mr Tim Littlemore, Head of Strengthening and Supporting Families

Mr Andy Walker, Young Adder Partnership Manager (items 1-4 only)

Ms Rachael Webb, Lived Experience Lead (items 1-4 only)

Hayley, from Young Adder (items 1-4 only)

Mrs Elaine Ireland, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stansfield declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 4 'Young Adder' due to his previous employment at Streetlife.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2022

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 27 January 2022 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 public on this occasion.

4 YOUNG ADDER

The Committee received a presentation on the work of Young Adder from Mr Andy Walker, Young Adder Partnership Manager and Ms Rachael Webb, Lived Experience Lead. They were joined by Hayley, a young person who had experience of accessing the Young Adder service.

Mr Walker explained that the Adder pilot had been funded by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and would initially run for just over two years, starting in November 2020 and ending in March 2023. Blackpool had been chosen

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THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2022**

as one of five pilot areas due to the high rate of drug related deaths and drug related crime and was the only pilot area to introduce Young Adder.

He outlined the overarching aims for Young Adder as being a reduction in the rate of drug deaths, the prevalence of drug use and drug related offending in each project location within three years. These targets would be worked towards by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of Streetlife, Blackpool Football Club Trust, the NHS, Adolescent Service and Effective Pedagogy Solutions (EPS) via the provision of a coordinated approach to working with young people with high levels of drug use and those involved with drug related offending.

The Committee was informed that Young Adder worked on a 'trauma informed model,' with the wider multi-disciplinary team providing expertise in a range of areas, such as specialist substance misuse support, sexual health, lived experience, meaningful activities, individual employment support, police and probation services. Mr Walker explained that the aim was to take the service to the young person and put them at the centre, thereby enabling them to make informed decisions. Young Adder worked intensively with young people without the need for multiple appointments and in what they considered to be a safe environment. He highlighted that the intention of Young Adder was to build a relationship of trust and that if a young person stopped attending activities or withdrew for a time, their case would not be closed. Once they had been enrolled onto Young Adder and had engaged appropriately, they would remain on roll for the life of the project.

The Committee questioned whether schools could access the Young Adder service and whether contact had been made with schools to raise awareness of the services available to young people. Mr Walker reported that the anticipated launch events had been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions and that although there was no official lower age limit for Young Adder, he had been advised not to open the activities to those aged 16 years and under as the majority occurred during school hours. On receipt of any such referrals from school aged pupils, Mr Walker advised that they were re-referred into the most appropriate alternative service for the individual.

The Committee sought clarification over future plans for the service once funding ceased in March 2023. Mr Walker reported that Public Health were looking into future funding opportunities and the possibility of other partner agencies contributing financially was also being explored.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the perception of young people being rewarded for anti-social behaviour, Mr Walker noted that the Young Adder team was mindful of the need to carefully balance the delivery of the service against avoiding offering rewards in response to undesirable behaviours and that a large part of the service was focused on highlighting to young people that there was an alternative route to the one they were currently on.

The Committee heard from Hayley as she described her experience of accessing Young Adder and the sense of achievement and increased self confidence she felt from trying new experiences and removing herself from her previous situation. Ms Webb explained that each young person was treated as an individual who worked towards their own

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specific targets using a personalised approach, enabled by the maintenance of small case numbers.

The Committee extended its thanks to Mr Walker, Ms Webb and Hayley for attending the meeting and providing a valuable insight into the work of Young Adder.

[Mr Walker, Ms Webb and Hayley left the meeting on conclusion of this item.]

5 CHILDREN'S SERVICES MONITORING VISIT FEEDBACK

Mr Tim Littlemore, Head of Strengthening and Supporting Families presented feedback from a monitoring visit of Children's Services which had taken place on 11 and 12 January 2022. The Committee gave consideration to the feedback letter which detailed the areas covered by the visit, the headline findings and an evaluation of progress.

With regard to the areas identified for further improvement, the Committee questioned what changes were needed in relation to re-referrals, noting that the visit had identified this as an area requiring greater scrutiny, including the need to fully understand the reasons for an increase in the re-referral rate and the impact on children. Mr Littlemore accepted that in some cases less experienced social workers may have been overly optimistic in their assessments, leading to cases having been closed too early, but that a balance was needed between empowering families whilst understanding individuals' capacity to change. He noted that the Blackpool Families Rock model was a relationship-based approach which relied upon lower case numbers to ensure that case workers had the capacity to build relationships with families and to therefore be better informed on when a step down of a case was appropriate.

The Committee discussed the need to continue to recruit and retain social care staff, with Mr Littlemore highlighting the increasing recognition of Blackpool as a supportive place to work in social care and the high quality support programme in place for newly qualified social workers.

The quality and specificity of care plans had been highlighted as requiring improvement and the Committee questioned how this would be approached. Mr Littlemore reported that improved staff training had been implemented, with an academy for managers to enable them to identify what a good plan should look like so that they could support their social workers to produce high quality plans. Additional training and closer monitoring of the assessment framework was to be implemented in response to the feedback that the quality of assessments was inconsistent and sometimes lacked a clear analysis and consideration of ethnicity and cultural factors. Mr Littlemore identified this as a national issue and acknowledged that social workers could sometimes struggle to understand others' identities sufficiently but that this was now being reviewed and addressed.

Mr Littlemore advised that whilst the service had been pleased with the positive feedback received, there was a determination to continue to improve ahead of the next anticipated visit in summer and full inspection in autumn. The Committee requested that Mr Littlemore pass on its congratulation to Ms Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services and the wider team for the positive progress made and encouraging monitoring visit feedback.

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6 PUPIL LITERACY AND READING PERFORMANCE DATA

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) reported on the results of the latest GL Assessment pupil performance data. Despite previous concerns over a decline in pupil performance following the transition from Key Stage Two to Key Stage Three, Mr Turner reported that the data indicated that the cohort was performing at national average and that this was sustained from Year 6 into Year 7. Mr Turner summarised the Pupil Attitude to School and Self (PASS) data to advise that pupils in Year 7 had reported a good attitude to school, which was indicative of a high satisfaction level with school and self across Blackpool schools as a whole.

The Committee was informed that Blackpool schools had largely remained open during the pandemic wherever possible and as a result pupils had performed well throughout. The Committee sought further clarification over the identified performance gender gap, with Mr Turner advising that contrary to national trends, boys had been identified as overachieving compared to girls but he highlighted that learning support would be offered to any learner identified as needing help regardless of gender.

With regard to future funding of the testing programme, Mr Turner confirmed that Blackpool had committed to continue with GL pupil testing until at least 2030 in order to gather a useable bank of data.

7 SEND STRATEGY UPDATE

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) advised that the revised Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy was now available as a draft document and would be open for comments and consultation until the end of May 2022. He reported that the Strategy and the accompanying 'Reasonable Expectations' document would be brought back to the June 2022 meeting of the Committee once the consultation period had concluded.

Following the cancellation of the anticipated March 2022 working group meeting to review the draft Strategy, the Committee requested that a replacement meeting be scheduled to allow Councillor input into the document. Mr Turner advised that the meeting would be rescheduled promptly and that Ms Venessa Beckett, Delivery Development Officer would contact Committee Members to arrange a suitable date.

The Committee sought additional information around the support being offered to pupils from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), with Mr Turner informing the Committee that schools would be following the Thrive model and that the next step would be the introduction of mental health workers in schools from September 2022 with training currently ongoing. He advised that further details of the Thrive model could be obtained from Ms Elaine Walker, Integrated Emotional Health and Wellbeing Manager, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and suggested that she be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

With regard to the SEND facilities to be made available at the Oracle building, Mr Turner informed the Committee that the facilities would be available for use from September

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2022 and agreed to undertake a site visit with Committee Members prior to its opening date.

The Committee agreed:

1. To attend a working group to further consider the draft SEND Strategy, with Ms Venessa Becket to contact Committee Members to arrange a suitable date;
2. That the Committee would review the final version of the SEND Strategy at its meeting in June 2022;
3. That a site visit be undertaken to the Oracle building ahead of its opening in September 2022;
4. That Ms Elaine Walker be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide information on the Thrive model.

8 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Committee approved its draft workplan for 2022/2023 and noted that a Workplanning Workshop would be scheduled to take place following Annual Council. This would provide the opportunity to further consider the Committee's workload for the following municipal year and to prioritise areas for scrutiny review. Consideration was given to the value of inviting SEND partners to contribute to the Committee's review of the SEND Strategy in order to receive feedback from other agencies involved in its delivery.

The Committee agreed: The draft workplan for 2022/2023.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The provisional date of the next meeting of the Committee was noted as Thursday 30 June 2022 commencing at 6pm, subject to confirmation at Annual Council.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.45pm)

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

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|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager |
| Date of Meeting: | 30 June 2022 |

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the appointment of Ms Gemma Clayton and Mr Mike Coole as parent governor co-opted members to the Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/2023
- 1.2 To consider the re-appointment of Ms Jo Snape as diocesan co-opted member to the Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of Ms Gemma Clayton and Mr Mike Coole as parent governor co-opted members and Ms Jo Snape as diocesan co-opted member to the Committee.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure the scrutiny process continues to be fully accountable and an important part of the democratic process.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

5.0 Council Priority:

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

6.0 Background Information

6.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires the Council to have Parent Governor Representatives on the relevant Overview and Scrutiny body dealing wholly or partly with education functions. The representatives are entitled to participate in discussions on any issue but are only able to vote on any question which relates to the education functions of the Council.

6.2 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and the Education Act 1996 require the Council to have Church representatives on the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considers education matters. Like the Parent Governor representatives, they are entitled to participate in discussions on any issue, but only able to vote on any question which relates to the education functions of the Council.

6.3 The Council's Constitution allows for membership of the following representatives in order to comply with the statutory requirements:

- One Church of England diocese representative
- One Roman Catholic diocese representative
- Two Parent Governor representatives; and
- Such other representatives of other faiths or denominations as may be agreed

6.4 At the meeting of full Council on 22 May 2019 it was agreed that the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee should appoint two diocesan co-opted representatives and two governor co-opted representatives.

6.5 As agreed by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, Ms Jo Snape was appointed to the Committee as diocesan co-opted member for the 2021/2022 municipal year on 7 October 2021.

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The posts are not salaried but the positions attract a payment of £500 each per year.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education Act 1996 require

the Council to have Church representatives on the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considers education matters.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager |
| Date of Meeting: | 30 June 2022 |

FORWARD PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan July 2022 to October 2022, relating to the portfolios of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

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

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 "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 is contained in the Forward Plan, which has been forwarded to all members separately.

5.4 Witnesses/representatives

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

- Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care and Schools
- Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth and Transience

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a) - Summary of items contained within Forward Plan July 2022 to October 2022.

6.0 Financial considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Legal considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Risk management considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Equalities considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

11.1 None.

12.0 Background papers:

12.1 None.

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EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS**JULY 2022 TO OCTOBER 2022)***** Denotes New Item**

| Anticipated Date of Decision | Matter for Decision | Decision Reference | Decision Taker | Relevant Cabinet Member |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| July 2022 | To agree the Special Educational Needs strategy for the local area until 2026. | 14/2021 | Executive | Cllr Hobson |
| *July 2022 | To agree investment in resource to support the co-ordination and secure external funding to achieve the recommendations outlined in the Blackpool Youth Provision Review. | 11/2022 | Executive | Cllr Campbell |
| *July 2022 | Update of the Children's Services Medium Term Financial Strategy | 12/2002 | Executive | Cllr Hobson |

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| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services |
| Date of Meeting: | 30 June 2022 |

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To receive a verbal update on the number of children and young people who are re-referred back into the social care system following discharge.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the Committee consider the update and identify any areas for further scrutiny.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure ongoing scrutiny of the improvement to Children's Social Care services.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 At its January 2022 meeting the Committee agreed that as part of its regular update on Children's Social Care (CSC) Improvement that a report should be brought back with details of on the number of children and young people who are re-referred back into the social care system following discharge. This was to allow scrutiny on the numbers re-entering CSC and the reasons for their occurrence.

6.2 Ms Victoria Gent, Director of Children’s Services, will be in attendance at the meeting and will provide a verbal update on this issue to the Committee.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services |
| Date of Meeting: | 30 June 2022 |

YOUNG INSPECTORS UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To receive a presentation on Young Inspectors.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To identify any further issues for scrutiny.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure Members of the Committee are aware of the arrangements regarding Young Inspectors.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Committee will receive a presentation, attached at Appendix 6(a) on the topic of Young Inspectors.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 7(a): Young Inspectors Presentation
- Appendix 7(b): Young Inspectors - The Charter Mark For Semi Independent Homes
- Appendix 7(c): Young Inspectors Work Plan

8.0 Financial considerations:

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

- 9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

- 10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

- 11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

- 12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

- 13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

- 14.1 None.

Blackpool Young Inspectors



Highlights Jun 21 – Jun 22

- Training programme developed
- Recruitment sessions held
- Charter Mark for post 16 accommodation developed and piloted in Bispham House
- Supporting the set up of a local new children's residential home
- Engaging with a project manager in Commissioning to put a structure around the initiative to capture activity , outcomes and have an organised plan for the future

Activity

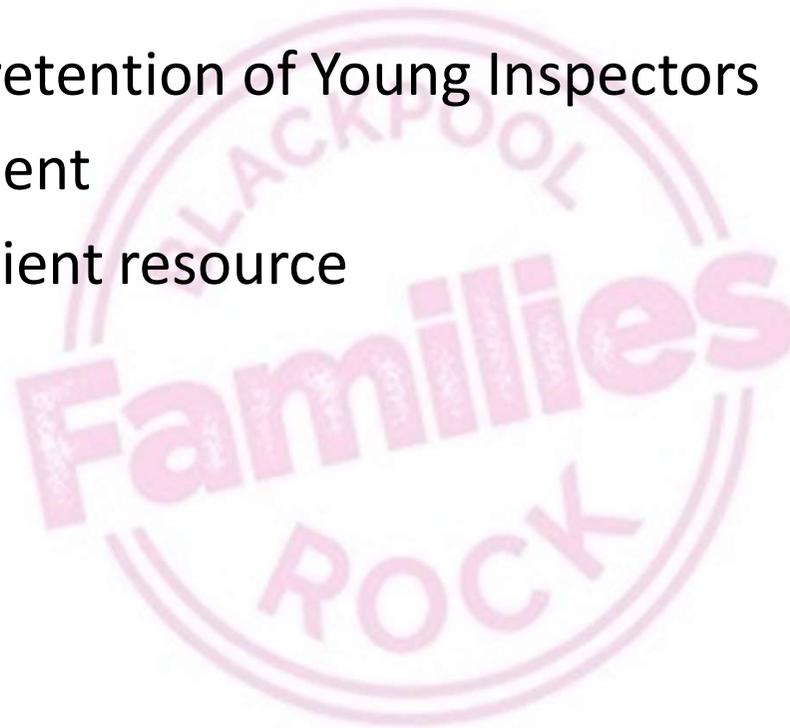
- Team of 6 fully trained Young Inspectors
- 1 training session delivered
- Recruitment ongoing
- 12 Quality assurance visits as part of Supported Accommodation pilot
- 2 Charter Mark co-production sessions with Providers
- 10 sessions to co-produce the Charter Mark with support from staff in Headstart
- Piloted implementation of Charter Mark with Bispham House (BCH)
- 1 session with Creative Living to consult on development of residential home
- Presented at the National Children's Commissioning Conference

Future Plans

- To award Charter Mark status to all providers
- Develop and train a team of 10 Young Inspectors
- Present a Business Case to senior management to ensure sustainability of the programme
- Evidence improvement of outcomes for the young people
- Support providers to become OFSTED registered (national requirement Apr/May 2023)
- To be an intrinsic part of Blackpool's Journey to Good

Challenges

- Recruitment and retention of Young Inspectors
- Provider engagement
- Capacity – insufficient resource



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THE CHARTER MARK FOR SEMI INDEPENDENT HOMES

THE PLACE

| |
|--|
| Standard Required |
| The home is decorated and maintained to a high standard, it feels warm and welcoming. (decoration/furnishings) any damages are repaired quickly |
| I can walk to the local shops and local services |
| I have good links to public transport |
| I have a say in how my bedroom is decorated and I can contribute to the general appearance of the home. |
| I was given a Welcome Pack which includes new bedding, towels, and basic toiletries. |
| I feel safe in the home |
| There is access to a communal space where I can spend time together with other people and staff in the home. |
| I have access to a house computer/laptop for my studying |
| I have access to free wifi |
| I have access to Netflix, TV package |
| My friends and family can visit in the communal space. There are Clear Rules on visitors and overnight stays. |
| I have access to an outdoor space and I am encouraged and supported to spend time outdoors |
| I can have time out in my room and my privacy is respected. |
| The use of CCTV has been discussed with me and is only used to monitor entrance/ exits to the home. (or in exceptional circumstances to safeguard an individual) YP to be discussed and agreed with YP and SW) |
| I have a key to the front door and my room |
| I have access to a fully equipped kitchen at all times and lockable storage. |
| There is a place to wash and dry my clothes. I have access to an iron, ironing board and outdoor drying space |
| I am supported to eat a healthy diet, I am given choices on the food I eat, I have access to basic food essentials in the kitchen at all times. |
| I understand the rules of the home, they are clear and fair. They are regularly reviewed so everyone knows what the expectations are. They are clear and realistic. They also are flexible and can be changed to meet the needs of the current group. |

THE PEOPLE

I feel like the staff care about me.

I get to spend time with staff and they are there when I need them

I know when staff will be out of the home and I can get hold of staff when if I need them.

I have built trusting relationships with staff and know I can go to them if I need any support.

The staff have a variety of skills and abilities so they are able to support me

The staff are empathetic and have a good understanding of my past experiences

The staff are responsive to me if I am having a difficult time, they can see when I am upset/overwhelmed and will actively offer support.

Staff are proactive and can manage situations and make decisions with me without always relying on the support of SW/PA

Staff work well together with other people who support me, they will advocate for me if I need them to

Staff are enthusiastic and motivated, the staff stick around so I don't keep having to get used to new workers all the time

Staff are positive and creative, they can think outside the box and will go the extra mile to support me

I believe the staff are positive role models and act like a good parent to me

The staff appear resilient and confident, I can trust them to support me

I am involved in the recruitment of new staff with other young people in the home.
I can help to interview new staff, together we are able to have the deciding vote and feel fully involved in the whole process

ME

Staff understand that I am learning to become independent and that I still have things to learn. I am working towards being Independent by the time I leave.

I am supported to learn about my own emotional wellbeing and ways to become more resilient

I am supported to learn about healthy friendships/relationships.

I am supported and encouraged to see my family and friends, staff understand that I may need help in maintaining and understanding these relationships

I am supported to create good support networks around me

I know and understand my individual support plan. I have been fully involved in the writing of it and it is the right plan for me

I am supported to learn independence and skills for life which are individual to me and the areas I need support in

I am supported to be healthy and make good choices

I am encouraged to be ambitious

I am supported to make plans for my future

I am encouraged and supported to try new things and get involved in my local community.

The level of support is individual to what I need, it is recognised that I may need more support when I first move in.

My successes and special occasions are celebrated

There are fun activities to do and I am given choices about what we do.

I am supported to access any support services that may help me.

I am supported to move on and helped to settle in my new home. Staff will keep in touch and check in on me to see how I am doing

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Blackpool Council Young Inspectors Project Work Plan 22/23

Project Lead - Kirsty Fisher

Project Start:

07/03/22

Project Progress

40.19%

Display Week:

| KEY OBJECTIVE | TASK | To deliver | Delivered | Progress | Scheduled Start | Scheduled End | Actual Start | Actual End |
|--|--|---|-----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Summary title | | | | | | | | |
| RECRUIT COHORTS OF YOUNG INSPECTORS | Write Job Description for Young Inspectors | 1 | 0 | 0% | 01/04/22 | 31/06/2022 | | |
| | Write Job Description for associated programme roles | 1 | 0 | 0% | 01/04/22 | 31/07/22 | | |
| | Co-production meetings with Young People | 10 | 10 | 100% | 31/09/2021 | 31/03/22 | | |
| | Hold Regular Recruitment Sessions | 4 | 2 | 50% | 01/04/22 | 31/12/22 | | |
| | Recruit an ongoing cohort of Young Inspectors | 6 | 6 | 100% | 01/04/22 | 31/06/2022 | | |
| | 2023 Cohort Young Inspectors Target | 10 | 0 | | 01/04/23 | 31/03/24 | | |
| | PRODUCE A TRAINING PLAN | Develop training which gives YI's a clear understanding of requirements | 1 | 1 | 100% | 01/04/22 | 31/05/22 | |
| Deliver Training Sessions | | 4 | 1 | 25% | 01/04/22 | 31/12/22 | | |
| CHARTER MARK INSPECTION VISITS | Undertake annual Charter Mark inspection visits | 15 | 1 | 7% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| | Produce Visit Evaluation Reports | 15 | 0 | 0% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| | Feedback Reports to MRDO Lead and QMO | 15 | 0 | 0% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| CHARTER MARK CRITERIA | Produce draft template | 1 | 1 | 100% | 01/01/22 | 31/05/22 | | |
| | Draft out for consultation | 1 | 1 | 100% | 01/01/22 | 30/04/22 | | |
| | Draft tested with Young Inspectors | 1 | 1 | 100% | 01/03/22 | 30/04/22 | | |
| | Template approved | 1 | 1 | 100% | 01/03/22 | 30/04/22 | | |
| CHARTER MARK PRODUCTION | Charter Mark Award designed by Young People | 1 | 0 | 0% | 01/07/22 | 30/09/22 | | |
| CHARTER MARK AWARD | Evaluation of Visit Report | 15 | 0 | 0% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| | Award Level Agreed by YI and Project Team | 15 | 0 | 0% | 01/07/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| | Provider Feedback and Award Issued | 15 | 0 | 0% | 01/07/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| REGULAR PROJECT TEAM MEETINGS | Fortnightly Meetings | 24 | 7 | 29% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL UPDATES | Regular Updates at Panel Meetings (include annual report - add line) | 10 | 1 | 10% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |

| KEY OBJECTIVE | TASK | To deliver | Delivered | Progress | Scheduled Start | Scheduled End | Actual Start | Actual End |
|--|--|------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| | Produce Annual Activity Report | 1 | 0 | 0% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES | Create Strategic Business Plan | 1 | 0 | 0% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| | National Conference for Childrens Commissioners Presentation | 1 | 1 | 100% | 01/01/22 | 30/04/22 | | |
| PROVIDER ENGAGEMENT | Provider Network Meetings | 4 | 1 | 25% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| | Provider Charter Mark Consultation Sessions | 2 | 2 | 100% | 01/01/22 | 31/05/22 | | |
| | Provider YI Referrals | 4 | 2 | 50% | 01/04/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| RESIDENTIAL SERVICES | Informing/Influencing Residential Care Provision | 2 | 1 | 50% | 01/05/22 | 31/03/23 | | |
| QUALITY ASSURANCE VISITS | Provider Visits to understand current quality (pre charter mark) | 12 | 12 | 100% | 01/01/21 | 31/12/21 | | |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Paul Turner – Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years. |
| Meeting | 30 June 2022 |

ORACLE BUILDING UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider an update on the Oracle building works and the timeline for Park Community Academy students to occupy the building.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the Committee consider the report and identify any areas for additional scrutiny.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To allow the Committee to identify any areas for additional investigation or further work.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Oracle building on St Anne's Rd has been identified as a suitable site for 6th form students from Park Community Academy. Renovation work and painting and decorating has been undertaken to ensure that the building is fit for purpose. This has now been completed ready for September.

6.2 Councillors are invited to view the facilities on Monday 4 July at 4pm.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 A consultation with parents was undertaken prior to Christmas 2021. No objections were raised.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Paul Turner – Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years. |
| Meeting | 30 June 2022 |

LITERACY STRATEGY UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider an update on progress in relation to the town-wide literacy strategy.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the Committee consider the update and identify any areas for additional scrutiny.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure Members of the Committee has an overview of the implementation of the Literacy Strategy.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Blackpool literacy strategy was officially launched at The Winter Gardens in October 2021.

6.2 There is a literacy strategy steering group chaired by Dr Elaine Allen, Executive Headteacher of St John Vianney Primary School in Blackpool. Members include academics, local leaders, councillors, business representatives and school leaders amongst others. A plan to accompany the strategy has been developed by this steering group in partnership with Right to Succeed, a charity, who has been commissioned using funding from the Department for

Education. A number of literacy activities have been undertaken across this year, including a successful visit by Blackpool Boys and Girls Club to Waterstones in Blackpool and to Central Library. A competition, open to all schools, to promote the Blackpool 30 reading challenge has now closed and prizes will be presented to winners in June. As previously noted by members, GL assessments have shown that the level of reading ability, across a number of year groups in Blackpool schools, has not been adversely affected by the pandemic. Primary assessment and GCSE assessments will highlight whether progress has been made when they are published in the new school year.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 A consultation took place in 2020-21 in relation to the literacy strategy and significant input was given by stakeholders.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Paul Turner – Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years. |
| Meeting | 30 June 2022 |

SEND OFSTED INSPECTION OUTCOME AND NEXT STEPS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To receive a report informing the Committee of the recent Ofsted and CQC SEND inspection outcome, implications and next steps.
- 1.2 The report also highlights the cross-cutting nature of the SEND policy agenda and its links to other key improvement programs within the Council.
- 1.3 Assurance is also sought from the Committee that there is shared ownership and commitment to delivering aspects of the improvement plan to improve the health, care, education, leisure and employment outcomes for children and young people (0-25) with SEND.
- 1.4 To consider the draft SEND Strategy 2022-2025.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To secure commitment from members to ensure that children and young people with SEND are given the same opportunities to access meaningful employment including apprenticeships, suitable housing, and accessible leisure facilities.
- 2.2 To note the draft SEND Strategy 2022-25 (Appendix 10(a)).

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 As a result of the findings of the inspection, the outcome is that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) is required because of significant areas of weakness in the area's practice. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has also determined that the local authority and the area's clinical commissioning group (CCG) are jointly responsible for submitting the written statement to Ofsted.
- 3.2 To ensure scrutiny of the draft SEND Strategy 2022-2025
- 3.3 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.4 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 There is no alternative. The SEND Partnership must carry out the improvements to local area SEND provision as a requirement of the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

6.0 Background information

6.1 Between 28 February 2022 and 4 March 2022, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Blackpool to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

6.2 This inspection provides an independent, external evaluation of how well a local area carries out its statutory duties for children and young people with SEND between the ages of 0-25 years. The local area includes the local authority, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England (for specialist services), early year’s settings, schools and further education providers.

6.3 The official findings letter was published and made publically available on 26 May 2022. A link to the report can be viewed at:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80431>

6.4 Findings and outcome of the report

The outcome of the inspection, though hugely disappointing, was anticipated by senior officers. The inspection feedback recognised that Blackpool’s leaders have an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses across the area and that these are accurately reflected in the self-evaluation provided to Ofsted prior to inspection.

The inspectorates’ findings are detailed as strengths and areas for development against each of the key lines of enquiry. The report identifies 15 areas of strength and 18 areas for development.

6.5 Areas of strength

The inspectors did note the following areas of strength:

- Some parents and carers spoke highly of leaders' efforts to maintain services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools remained open to vulnerable children and young people throughout local and national restrictions. Health services adapted their ways of working so they could continue to identify and meet children and young people's needs. Parents and carers appreciated the emotional and practical support that they received from front-line professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Parents and carers are quick to sing the praises of many front-line staff who make a positive difference. There are staff who go the extra mile every day to give children, young people and their families the help and support that they need. These individual professionals are a 'lifeline' for the families that they work with.
- The area's well regarded special schools provide an effective service for children, young people and their families. Many mainstream settings also meet the needs of children and young people well.

6.6 Significant areas of weakness

The inspectors identified four areas of weakness that the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) must address.

- The lack of specificity, ownership and accountability in the areas' improvement strategy for SEND.
- The duties around preparing children and young people for adulthood, not being fulfilled.
- The poor communication with parents and carers across the area – model of co-production
- The long waiting time for some therapies.

Addressing these four areas of weakness will require significant cross-organisation working between Blackpool Council and Blackpool CCG together with a wide range of stakeholders including:

- Children, young people and their families.
- Parent carer forum, other parental children and young people groups
- Information and Advice Services for education, social care and health.
- Education providers – Early Years, schools and colleges.
- Employers, housing and leisure providers.

The SEND Code of Practice 2015, sets out that children, young people together with their parents and carers must be involved in planning, commissioning and reviewing services; and in decision making about individual support and local provision/services.

The expectation is that this involvement is undertaken through a model of co-production.

Co-production is a way of working where providers and users of a service work together to reach a collective outcome. The intention is to use the Headstart Blackpool model of participation and co-production to develop the WSOA improvement plan.

Involvement and engagement of the local area as a whole will be most important in developing the preparation for adulthood pathways.

The aim is to give everyone equal life chances as they move into adulthood. Preparation for adulthood should begin from the earliest years to ensure that children and young people with SEND receive the right support and services to:

- Secure paid employment.
- Live independently.
- Develop friendships and relationships.
- Enjoy good health.
- Access leisure and community activities where they can feel safe and confident.

6.7 Timescales to produce a Written Statement of Action

We have 70 working days to produce a WSOA detailing how we will address the significant concerns identified in the report. The responsibility for its production sits jointly with Blackpool local authority and Blackpool clinical commissioning group. The deadline for submission of the WSOA to Ofsted is 30 August 2022.

6.8 Reporting progress to the Dept. for Education and NHS England

On 24 May 2022, senior officers representing the local authority, Blackpool CCG, Blackpool Teaching Hospital and NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria, met with Department for Education and NHS England. The purpose was to discuss the inspection findings and seek reassurances from us about the actions we are taking to bring about the necessary improvements. Vicky Gent stressed that SEND is a key priority for the Council and that we are committed to improving services and support across education, social care and health to improve the lived experiences of children and their families. The following actions were highlighted as the initial steps of our improvement journey:

- A new SEND strategy is in development and consulted on with all stakeholders.
- Strengthened governance structure with clear roles and accountabilities.
- Placing SEND at the heart of major initiatives including Levelling Up, Priority Education Investment Areas, and the Safety Valve program.
- Outline improvement plan based on four strands is in development:
 1. Leadership and management.

2. Preparation for Adulthood.
3. Co-production, communication and engagement.
4. Inclusive access to services.

6.9 **Next Steps**

Work has begun on the draft improvement plan in response to the WSOA. Senior officers from the Council and CCG are being identified to take on lead responsibility for the development of each of the four strands.

6.10 **Monitoring and re-inspection**

Once the improvement plan has been approved by Ofsted progress monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken by the Dept. for Education and NHS England on a quarterly basis.

The local area will be re-inspected by Ofsted and the CQC to decide whether sufficient progress has been made in addressing each of the areas of significant weakness identified. The timescale for re-inspection is eighteen months after publication of the initial inspection. This will be conducted under a new framework expected to be introduced in 2023.

6.11 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 **List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 10(a): Draft SEND Strategy 2022-25

8.0 **Financial considerations:**

8.1 Some additional resource to support the improvement program has been provided by the CCG, and additional capacity will be created within existing budgets and funding streams.

9.0 **Legal considerations:**

9.1 This is an evaluation of the Council's ability to meet the legislative requirements set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, s20 of the Children's Act 2004, and Equalities Act 2010

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 These are published documents so there is risk to the Council's reputation if we do not fulfil our statutory duties.

11.0 **Equalities considerations:**

11.1 The purpose of the improvement plans is to ensure that Blackpool has fully inclusive services

for all children and young people 0-25.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Consultation on the draft SEND Strategy 2022-25 has been undertaken in the form of an online survey and a number of focus groups with young people and parents. A report is being produced to summarises the main findings, which will shape the final version.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

**ONLY APPLICABLE FOR REPORTS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE
EXECUTIVE/CABINET MEMBER**

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes/ No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? Yes/ No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

(NOTE: This reason must be a sustainable one and not just because it was late and missed the agenda dispatch. Delete this message prior to submission of this report).

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? Yes/ No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

(NOTE: This reason must be a sustainable one and not just because it was late and missed the agenda dispatch. Delete this message prior to submission of this report).

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1

19.0 Executive decision:

19.1

20.0 Date of Decision:

20.1

21.0 Reason(s) for decision:

21.1

22.0 Date Decision published:

22.1

23.0 Executive Members in attendance:

23.1

24.0 Call-in:

24.1

25.0 Notes:

25.1



DRAFT Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-2025



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Introduction

As local leaders, we are delighted to introduce the Blackpool Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Strategy for 2022-2025 on behalf of the Blackpool SEND Partnership.

Our refreshed plan has grown from the collective voices of our SEND partnership and SEND community. It provides direction and challenge to enable positive outcomes for children and young people so that they can live happy healthy lives in a community that is inclusive and supports them to achieve their ambitions. The SEND Strategy will be delivered through a number of key priorities and actions that will be reviewed annually alongside feedback we receive on the impact of changes and improvements and on our performance. As a result, we may change and adapt those actions.

Learning from neighbouring local authorities, as well as inspections of other services in Blackpool, we have delivered significant improvements despite the difficulties that our area faces, and we have improved our use of data and feedback to understand our SEND population and their lived experience. This enables us to improve existing services and to jointly commission the right services. We continue to improve the way that we work, the services we deliver, and the support we provide across our SEND community. Despite the changes we have made over the last few years, we recognise that there is more work to do so that we achieve our vision for children and young people with SEND.

Although working through the pandemic has seen unprecedented times, the SEND Partnership has been able to maintain services, and learned new things, whilst also strengthening the ways we work together.

The Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-25 supports our continuing growth as a partnership, with children and young people and their families at the centre of all that we do. It sets out our vision, priorities, and ways of working, ensuring that the voices of children and young people and their families are heard as we reshape services to meet local needs.



Our partnership across education, health and care, and with Children and Young People and Blackpool Parent Carer Forum, is improving, and we continue to develop the ways we work together, recognising that we cannot achieve our vision in isolation.

Our Partnership Vision

In Blackpool, we want all children and young people with SEND to live happy healthy lives in a community that is inclusive and that supports them to achieve their ambitions. In delivering our vision, we recognise that SEND is everyone's business, and as such it is featured across a range of boards and services from across our partnership.

Our Partnership Priorities

Working in partnership we have identified four key priorities that help us achieve our vision, which are:

- An inclusive education in all our schools that encourages and enables them to achieve their very best.
- Early access to education, health and care services, and the best opportunities, that help children and young people live healthy lives.
- A range of leisure and social activities that develop their interests and broaden opportunities to socialise and develop friendships, incorporating respite placements
- Clear routes into further/higher education and training that will provide young people with the skills to secure employment, live independent, healthy lives and reach their potential.

The following pages describe the anticipated deliverables from these priorities.



An inclusive education in all our schools that encourages and enables them to achieve their very best

- Ensure schools are well supported to provide the correct provision at the right time, with appropriate funding attached.
- Increase parental confidence in mainstream schools
- Increase the % of children with an EHCP who are educated in a mainstream school.
- Improve quality of assessment / identification of need across our schools.
- Improve outcomes for children receiving SEN Support
- Provide high quality advice and guidance on SEND so that it is available to schools in a co-ordinated way at the time of need.
- Work with health colleagues to provide support to children and young people
- Deliver high quality workforce development for all staff across the partnership

Early access to education, health and care services, and the best opportunities, that help children and young people live healthy lives.

- Establish co-located services, providing integrated 'wrap around' services in places close to where people live
- Identify need early and provide support in the right place at the right time
- Jointly commissioned and outcomes-focused services
- Ensure that easily accessible support, which focuses on meeting need, is available, through the start and utilisation of the graduated response

A range of leisure and social activities that develop their interests and broaden opportunities to socialise and develop friendships, incorporating respite placements

- Ensure services are available before and after school when appropriate.

- Provide activities covering the majority of the school holiday periods, providing holiday activities that are aligned with the holiday activity programme
- Commission and monitor services to ensure they are cost-effective
- Create activities in accessible locations to avoid unnecessary travel
- Ensure there is a wide variety of options for respite, short breaks and leisure opportunities to meet a wide range of needs
- Empower communities to provide accessible opportunities and support

Clear routes into further/higher education and training that will provide young people with the skills to secure employment, live independent lives and reach their potential.

- Ensure there is effective, timely and good quality advice and guidance, tailored to meet the individual needs of children and young people with SEND
- Teach independent life skills (managing bills, transportation, interviews, making phone calls etc) throughout life to support preparation for adulthood
- Ensure our commissioning arrangements for FE places reflect the growing number and needs of young people with SEND, resulting in a range of options for further and higher education
- Use our data to inform and influence curriculum content
- Expand on enhanced opportunities to complete supported internships, through a wider range of providers
- Reduce the number of children/young people with EHCPs who are NEET
- Ensure a local, high-quality offer for post 16 learning and training to encourage young people with SEND to stay in Blackpool
- Strengthen links with social care and housing to predict future supported living and independent accommodation.



We will achieve our priorities through:

Continually developing our collaborative partnership approach.

Sustained strategic prioritisation of children and young people with SEND across the partnership of local agencies.

Improving the quality of new and existing EHCPs, through rigorous planning & review.

Effective engagement and co-production of services and improvements with local parents, children and young people, and our partnership.

Comprehensive, cross-agency reviews of local provision to ensure that children are helped as early and inclusively as possible, informed by children's needs rather than where they are educated.

Appropriate and equitable funding that follows the child, based on need, through their childhood and early adulthood.

Enhanced workforce training and development, targeted at key groups of professionals.

We currently have a particular focus on:

1. Improving the support provided to young people with SEND aged 14 to 25 years in their preparation for adulthood (PfA) through PfA and/or transitions conversations as part of the EHCP and annual review processes as early as possible and before year 9, and at health appointments from a young person's 14th birthday
2. Developing our workforce knowledge and expertise related to SEND, across our partnership
3. Ensuring mainstream services (eg youth hubs, information, advice and guidance) are accessible to young people with SEND
4. Improving the quality of co-ordinated cross-agency support for children with complex needs
5. Auditing EHCP plans to continually improve the quality of plans



6. Working collaboratively to implement service review recommendations and improvement plans for commissioned health provision, including speech & language services and school nursing
7. Implement the ICS Thrive (CAMHS) Redesign at Place

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| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager. |
| Date of Meeting: | 30 June 2022 |

COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the contents of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee's Workplan for 2022/2023.
- 1.2 To consider the scoping documents for the Mental Health Support for Young Men (aged 16-25) and Suicide Prevention Services Scrutiny Review and the Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET) 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.
- 2.3 To agree the scoping documents for the Mental Health Support for Young Men (aged 16-25) and Suicide Prevention Services Scrutiny Review and the Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET) Scrutiny Review.

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.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

- 4.1 None.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 Scrutiny Workplan

A Scrutiny Workplanning Workshop was held on Tuesday 7 June 2022 to consider items for inclusion on the Committee's workplan for the 2022/2023 municipal year. The workplan is a flexible document that sets out the work that will be undertaken by the Committee over the course of the year, both through scrutiny review and Committee meetings.

Attached at Appendix 11(a) is a draft of the proposed Workplan for 2022/2023, which will be used a starting point for further consideration at the Workplanning Workshop.

Committee Members are invited to suggest topics at any time that might be suitable for scrutiny review through completion of the Scrutiny Review Checklist (Appendix 11(c)). 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.

6.2 Implementation of Recommendations/Actions

The table attached at Appendix 11(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.

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.

6.3 Mental Health Support for Young Men (aged 16-25) and Suicide Prevention Services Scrutiny Review and the Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET) Scrutiny Review Scoping Documents

At its June work planning workshop the Committee agreed to undertake reviews into Mental Health Support for Young Men (aged 16-25) and Suicide Prevention Services and the Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET).

Scoping documents for these reviews have been attached at Appendix 11(d) and

Appendix 11(e).

Members of the Committee are asked to review these documents and consider them for approval.

It is proposed that these scrutiny reviews will be undertaken in 2022 before reporting their outcomes in early 2023.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 11(a) - Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Draft 2022/2023 Workplan.
- Appendix 11(b) - Implementation of Recommendations/Actions.
- Appendix 11(c)- Scrutiny Selection Checklist
- Appendix 11(d) - Mental Health Support for Young Men (aged 16-25) and Suicide Prevention Services Scrutiny Review Scoping Document
- Appendix 11(e) - Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET) Scrutiny Review Scoping Document

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

| Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2022/2023 | |
|---|---|
| 22 September 2022 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Help Strategy – To receive a report on partnership working with the Police, Health and Schools. 2. Youth Justice Update – To receive an update on the work of the Youth Justice Team. 3. Nutrition of School Meals and Chef’s Academy – To receive a report on the nutritional value of school meals and information on Chef’s Academy. 4. HeadStart Final Report – To receive HeadStart’s final report. 5. Early Years Funding – To receive information on funding for Early Years. 6. Education/SEND – To receive information on the impact of the pandemic on early language and speech development. 7. CSAP Annual Report – To consider CSAPs annual report. 8. Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report – To receive the Corporate Parent Panel’s Final Report |
| 17 November 2022 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better Start – To receive an annual update on the work of Better Start and the development of the Communication Strategy. 2. Literacy Strategy Update – To receive an update on the implementation of the Literacy Strategy. 3. Schools Response to the Pandemic Scrutiny Review – Recommendation monitoring and the impact of the pandemic on pupil attainment. 4. PSHE Programme – To consider details of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme offered in schools, with particular emphasis on raising awareness of coercive relationships. 5. Library Service – To receive a report on the Library Service. |
| 2 February 2023 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children’s Social Care Update – To receive the findings of the Department for Education Care Review launched in January 2021. 2. Youth Justice Update – To receive an update on the work of the Youth Justice Team. 3. Children’s Social Care Medium Term Financial Strategy – To review the proposed MTFS. 4. Thrive Model Update – To receive an update on the work of the Thrive model introduced into schools in September 2022. 5. Youth Provision Review Update – To receive an update on the implementation plan from the review of Youth Provision in Blackpool. |
| June 2023 TBC | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Literacy Strategy Update – To receive an update on the implementation of the Literacy Strategy. |

| Scrutiny Review Work | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 2022 | <p>Mental Health Support for Young Men (aged 16-25) and Suicide Prevention Services A joint scrutiny review with the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. To include further information on the Elliot's House project and the links between self-harm and suicide rates.</p> |
| 2022 | <p>Catch-Up/Recovery Premium Spend Review To review how Blackpool schools have spent their Catch-up/Recovery premium funding from the government to consider if the funding has been utilised to ensure that children are able to catch-up any lost learning caused by the pandemic.</p> |
| 2022 | <p>Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET) To consider this cross-cutting issue which disproportionately affects vulnerable young people. To include the potential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on training/employment opportunities for young people, as well as considering the breadth of the offer in Blackpool and whether young people are adequately directed to available opportunities.</p> |
| Post-September 2022 | <p>Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools To review the provisions within schools to support the mental health and wellbeing of pupils. Potential link to SEND target of: <i>'Children and young people with SEND to enjoy good physical and mental health and wellbeing emotional health.'</i></p> |
| TBC | <p>SEND Review Recommendations To consider the response to the recommendations from the SEND Review undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. It was noted that the Council had received one recommendation and the NHS four.</p> |
| TBC | <p>Looked After Children in Blackpool – Children's Homes Consideration of the viability of Council-run children's homes.</p> |

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

| | DATE OF REC | RECOMMENDATION | TARGET DATE | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | UPDATE | RAG RATING |
|---|-------------|--|----------------|--|---|--------------|
| 1 | 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. | June 2022 | Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services | This work was never completed by DfE due to Covid-19 and will now be built into a care review launched by DfE in January 2021, with an expected 12 month timescale. Outcomes of care review anticipated by June 2022. | |
| 2 | 09.01.20 | To receive the findings of the Department for Education impact study on out of area placements. | June 2022 | Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services | This work was never completed by DfE due to Covid-19 and will now be built into a care review launched by DfE in January 2021, with an expected 12 month timescale. Outcomes of care review anticipated by June 2022. | |
| 3 | 28.01.21 | That the data relating to the proportion of Our Children who were looked after be reported to a future meeting of the Committee following the outcomes of the working party examining the issue. | September 2022 | Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Service | Ms McCartan to include within her next report to the Committee in September 2022. | Not yet due. |
| 4 | 22.04.21 | To receive further data on Blackpool's mental health hospital admission rates once available. | June 2022 | Stephen Ashley, CSAP Independent Scrutineer | Requested for provision at the Committee meeting in June 2022. | |
| 5 | 24.06.21 | To receive regular updates on the work of the Young Inspectors with an update to be considered by the Committee at its meeting in June 2022. | June 2022 | Kirsty Fisher, Engagement Officer | To be provided at the Committee meeting in June 2022. | |

| | DATE OF REC | RECOMMENDATION | TARGET DATE | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | UPDATE | RAG RATING |
|----|-------------|--|----------------|--|---|--------------|
| 6 | 07.10.21 | That further information regarding available funding for Early Years be provided to the Committee. | September 2022 | Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) | | Not yet due. |
| 7 | 07.10.21 | To consider the youth provision draft report once completed. | March 2022 | Lisa Arnold, Head of Parks, Leisure and Catering Services | Informal information session was held on 24 May 2022. | Complete |
| 8 | 09.12.21 | That Better Start's draft Communications Strategy be shared with the Committee once completed. | November 2022 | Clare Law, Director of Centre for Early Child Development | | Not yet due. |
| 9 | 09.12.21 | That a further update on the work of Better Start be provided in twelve months' time. | November 2022 | Clare Law, Director of Centre for Early Child Development | | Not yet due. |
| 10 | 09.12.21 | That further details of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme offered in schools be provided at a future meeting, with particular emphasis on raising awareness of coercive relationships. | November 2022 | Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) | | Not yet due. |
| 11 | 09.12.21 | That further consideration be given by the Committee to the findings of the 'Child of the North' report and the potential impact on Blackpool. | TBC | | | |

| | DATE OF REC | RECOMMENDATION | TARGET DATE | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | UPDATE | RAG RATING |
|----|-------------|--|--------------|---|--------|--------------|
| 12 | 24.03.22 | That Committee members be invited to attend a working group to further consider the draft SEND Strategy, with Ms Venessa Becket to contact Committee Members to arrange a suitable date. | May 2022 | Ms Venessa Becket, Delivery Development Officer | | |
| 13 | 24.03.22 | That the Committee would review the final version of the SEND Strategy at its meeting in June 2022. | June 2022 | Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) | | Completed |
| 14 | 24.03.22 | That a site visit be undertaken to the Oracle building ahead of its opening in September 2022. | July 2022 | Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) | | Not yet due. |
| 15 | 24.03.22 | That an update on the work of the Thrive model, introduced into schools from September 2022, be provided. | January 2023 | Ms Elaine Walker Integrated Emotional Health and Wellbeing Manager, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | | Not yet due. |

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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.

| | 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: |

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| Scrutiny Review Scope | |
|--|---------------------|
| Proposed Title | Scoping Date |
| Mental Health Support for Young Men (aged 16-25) and Suicide Prevention | 30 June 2022 |
| Criteria and reasons for selecting topic | |
| <p>At its 9 September 2021 meeting the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee noted that during the transition of young people from Children's to Adults' Services that access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) ceased at age 16.</p> <p>Further to this a joint meeting with the Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee was held on 22 November 2021 to consider Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, at which it was agreed to undertake a review.</p> | |
| Which priority within the Council Plan does this topic address? | |
| Communities - Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience | |
| What are the main objectives of the scrutiny? | |
| To determine the level of mental health provision for 16-25 year old men in Blackpool, identify any gaps in the available provision and make recommendations as appropriate. | |
| What specific issues will be addressed as part of the scrutiny? | |
| A joint scrutiny review with the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. To include further information on the Elliot's House project and the links between self-harm and suicide rates. | |
| What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community? | |
| To improve the provision of mental health services for young people | |
| How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc) | |
| Input could be sought from young men who has accessed or are accessing service and/or groups who are working with them. | |
| How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers? | |
| The review will look at what provision is available for young men aged 16-25 years of age, considering if the services available are achieving their objectives and delivering for young people in Blackpool. If necessary the review panel will make recommendations to improve the services available. | |
| What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental provision available to those under 16 years of age. • Details of mental health/suicide prevention services available to 16-25 year olds • Uptake of services by young men • Details of the Elliot's House Project • Links between Self Harm and Suicide rates | |

| |
|---|
| What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies of individual experience of services |
| Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Services – Paul Turner • Adolescent Services – Sara McCartan • Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) |
| What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust (NHS) • Healthy Young Minds • Representative from Elliot's House • Individual who has accessed services |
| What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny? |
| Initial Scoping meeting followed by an evidence gathering session(s) with service providers and expert witnesses followed by a final meeting to agree any recommendations. |
| Timescales / likely duration of enquiry |
| July 2022 to November 2022 |
| Lead Scrutiny Officer |
| John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser (Scrutiny) |
| Scrutiny Panel Members |
| TBC |

| Scrutiny Review Scope | |
|--|---------------------|
| Proposed Title | Scoping Date |
| Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET) | 30 June 2022 |
| Criteria and reasons for selecting topic | |
| <p>The Committee agreed to undertake this review at its June 2021 Work-planning Workshop. Members of the Committee noted that lack of employment, education and training opportunities was an issue that disproportionately affected young people in Blackpool and wished to gather more information on the topic in order to identify any improvements.</p> | |
| Which priority within the Council Plan does this topic address? | |
| Communities - Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience | |
| What are the main objectives of the scrutiny? | |
| To review the impact of not being in employment, education or training on young people in Blackpool and determine whether any action can be taken in order to increase the level of opportunities that are available. | |
| What specific issues will be addressed as part of the scrutiny? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on training/employment opportunities for young people • The breadth of the offer in Blackpool • Whether young people are adequately directed to available opportunities • What support the Council already has in place for young people who are NEET • Any specific additional offer for Our Children | |
| What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community? | |
| That the Council and its partners offer adequate employment and training opportunities to NEET young people. To ensure that the opportunities available are as extensive as possible and encourage young people into either work, training or education as appropriate for the individual. | |
| How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc) | |
| The review panel could seek input from young people who have accessed services and groups that have worked with them. | |
| How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers? | |
| The scrutiny will seek to ensure that NEET young people are offered adequate employment and training opportunities so that they are able to enter work and become independent. | |
| What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of training and employment opportunities available to young people in Blackpool • Details of how services are promoted to NEET young people | |

| |
|---|
| What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any case studies of individual experience of being NEET |
| Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Services – Paul Turner • Adolescent Services – Sara McCartan • Regeneration • Maybe HR for opportunities the council itself provides |
| What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Providers • Education Providers (such as schools and Blackpool and the Fylde Coast College) • Careers services • Young people resident in Blackpool |
| What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny? |
| Evidence gathering/fact finding session(s) |
| Timescales / likely duration of enquiry |
| 1/2 review panel meetings. |
| Lead Scrutiny Officer |
| John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser |
| Scrutiny Panel Members |
| TBC |