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Blackpool Council

1 December 2021

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

Ms Jo Snape, Co-opted Member

The above Members are requested to attend the:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 December 2021 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, 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 7 OCTOBER 2021 (Pages 1 - 10)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 October 2021 as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

4 BETTER START SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATE (Pages 11 - 16)

To receive a progress update on the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review of Blackpool Better Start.

5 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT - DOMESTIC ABUSE (Pages 17 - 24)

To receive an update in relation to the Council's approach to tackling domestic abuse.

6 EDUCATIONAL DIVERSITY (Pages 25 - 28)

To receive an update on the impact of the counselling service introduced at Educational Diversity in October 2020.

7 ORACLE BUILDING UPDATE (Pages 29 - 32)

To receive an update on the proposals for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision at the Oracle building.

8 SEND STRATEGY UPDATE (Pages 33 - 36)

To consider the emerging themes of the new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy.

9 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN (Pages 37 - 50)

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

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date and time of the Special Meeting of the Committee as 12 January 2022, commencing at 5pm.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building. Face masks must be worn when moving throughout the building. Please also maintain social distancing.

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

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Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2021

Councillor Burdess (in the Chair)

Councillors

D Coleman	B Mitchell	Owen	Stansfield
Critchley	M Mitchell	R Scott	

Ms Jo Snape, Diocesan Co-opted Member

In Attendance:

Councillor Maxine Callow, Scrutiny Leader Member

Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth and Transience

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

Ms Lisa Arnold, Leisure Services Manager

Ms Vicki Gent, Director of Children's Services

Ms Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Services

Ms Jeanette Richards, Assistant Director of Children's Services

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

Mrs Elaine Ireland, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stansfield declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 9 'Catch-Up Premium Spend and Strategies' due to his position of employment at the Lotus School and agenda item 10 'Review of Youth Provision' due to his inclusion on the volunteer register for Streetlife.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2021

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 June 2021 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 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Committee gave consideration to the appointment of Ms Jo Snape as diocesan co-opted member for the Municipal Year 2021/2022 to replace Ms Helen Sage. Ms Snape

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introduced herself and provided a brief overview of her relevant experience in education.

The Committee agreed: To the appointment of Ms Jo Snape as diocesan co-opted member to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

5 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, October 2021 to January 2022 relating to the portfolios of the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Schools and the Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth and Transience. Members noted that the Forward Plan contained one decision relevant to the Committee: 'To agree the Special Educational Needs strategy for the local area until 2026.' Councillor Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Schools informed the Committee that the strategy had been delayed in its completion and the decision had therefore been deferred until January 2022.

6 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Committee noted that three Executive decisions had been taken within the remit of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee since the previous meeting.

The Committee asked questions in relation to EX41/2021 'Care Leaver Covenant,' seeking clarification over whether the previous covenant had been updated to include the Council's wholly owned companies or if additional amendments had also been included. Councillor Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Schools advised that the Care Leaver Covenant was a new national offer which was being administered by the Department for Education and was an entirely new offer in addition to the previous covenant provided by the Council. Ms Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Services added that the new Care Leaver Covenant had been designed to enhance Blackpool's current Care Leaver offer as it would be a national initiative and therefore available to Blackpool care leavers living outside the town. Following approval, Ms McCartan advised that contact details of key partners had been shared with the covenant, who would gain signatories during Care Leavers' Week ahead of the launch which was to be planned for later in the year.

With regard to EX31/2021 'Blackpool Literacy Strategy,' the Committee requested a progress update. Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) reported that the Literacy Strategy had been launched at an event held at the Winter Gardens on 30 September 2021 and that the operational plan was currently being finalised. He informed the Committee that current funding to support the strategy would end in August 2022, consequently additional funding streams were being explored. Committee Members were invited to join a newly convened working group focusing on improving reading across the town, with Councillors Critchley and Stansfield

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volunteering to join the group. Mr Turner agreed to update the Committee further at its meeting on 27 January 2022 on the progress of the Literacy Strategy.

The Committee discussed the reduction in Literacy attainment levels as pupils transitioned from Key 2 to Key Stage 3, with Mr Turner acknowledging that a proportion of pupils' reading skills showed a marked reduction as they progressed through secondary school. He reported that transient pupils who joined a school part way through the school year often experienced lower levels of reading and literacy abilities. The Committee requested further information and more detailed data at a future meeting.

The Committee agreed:

1. To receive a further update on the Literacy Strategy at its meeting on 27 January 2022;
2. That Councillors Critchley and Stansfield join the working group on the reading strand of the Literacy Strategy and that Mr Turner would contact them with details of its next meeting;
3. To receive pupil literacy and reading performance data, focusing specifically on the reduction in attainment levels as pupils moved from KS2 to KS3 at its meeting in March 2022.

7 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT - CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING PILOT UPDATE

Ms Jeanette Richards, Assistant Director of Children's Services provided an update and initial results from the contextual safeguarding pilot which had been introduced in May 2021. Ms Richards informed the Committee that contextual safeguarding and 'missing from home' was an issue which required a multi-agency response in order to safeguard children and young people from the risks of harm posed from within the community and within varying contexts. She explained that many services and agencies, including the Awaken team, operated during daytime hours, when it had been identified that most activity involving young people was occurring at weekends and evenings. As a result and with the use of funding provided from Public Health, a new pilot initiative focussing on out of hours contextual safeguarding had been launched. The pilot included a visible presence in areas and locations of concern, engaging with young people and raising awareness within communities and within the night time economy. She highlighted that it was an innovative pilot, aimed at disrupting harmful behaviours and situations and which utilised a team out in the community to gain the trust of young people.

The Committee questioned whether the initiative had resulted in any cases of practices being driven underground in response to the efforts of the team. Ms Richards reported that no evidence of such had been identified but acknowledged that the nature of coercive relationships were hidden from the public eye and which was why the team had been placed in the community to help identify 'hot spot' areas of concern. Since the start of the pilot, Ms Richards reported, 25 outreach sessions had been held across the town

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and a strong zero tolerance message across the whole of Blackpool was being reiterated.

Funding around the initiative was discussed by the Committee, with Ms Richards informing Members that the Violence Reduction Unit had funded the pilot, with the hope that such funding would continue following the success of the trial.

In response to a question regarding outcomes for businesses that had been identified as 'hot spots', Ms Richards advised that establishments and individuals were closely mapped and monitored. She cited an example of a fast food venue whose CCTV footage had been seized and which was later served with a warning notice and Ms Richards highlighted that any breach of the warning notice would result in further follow-up activity.

The Committee was informed that the strength of partnership arrangements and the willingness to share necessary information had been beneficial, both locally and nationally, for example with the British Transport Police assisting in a number of situations which required their input.

In summarising, Ms Richards identified that an evaluation of the pilot had resulted in the decision to continue with the initiative and that in the event of funding not being available, the aim would be for the work to still continue using current staffing resources. The Committee supported this approach and gave recognition to the valuable and beneficial work undertaken by the initiative.

8 YOUTH JUSTICE TEAM INSPECTION

Ms Vicki Gent, Director of Children's Services updated the Committee on the progress of the Blackpool Youth Justice Service improvement journey and the outcome of its recent inspection. She informed the Committee that following Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Probation's (HMIP) unannounced inspection of Blackpool Youth Justice Service in October 2018 which had resulted in a rating of 'Inadequate', a re-inspection during May and June 2021 had acknowledged the improvements and the service had been rated as 'Good' and in three aspects 'Outstanding'. The Inspectorate had worked jointly with partner inspectors from policing, health, social care and education to undertake the inspection, with three broad areas having been examined: the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service; the quality of work done with children sentenced by the courts and the quality of out-of-court work.

Ms Gent outlined the six recommendations made by HMIP following the re-inspection:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to ensure they were meeting children's needs and reducing re-offending;
- Provide thorough and effective initial assessment of children's health and educational needs, including communication skills and dyslexia;
- Reduce the unacceptably high NEET (not in education, training or employment) rates for the over-16 caseload by getting more children into further education

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provision and vocational training, including access to services where children could gain the personal, life and social skills they needed to work towards employment;

- Ensure that, in all children's records, there is a plan to keep other people safe and contingency planning if issues in the child's life increase the likelihood of harmful behaviour;
- Where risk to the child's safety or wellbeing had been identified, put in place clear contingency planning for circumstances where the risk might increase;
- Where risk to other people had been identified, put in place clear contingency planning for circumstances where the risk might increase.

Ms Gent advised that the recommendations had been incorporated into the revised Youth Justice Improvement Plan, which would continue to be monitored by the service and bi-monthly via the Executive Board.

The Committee questioned whether Blackpool had sought examples of best practice from other Local Authorities, with Ms Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Services reporting that the service had made contact with a number of Local Authorities in order to learn from others and that examples of Blackpool's best practice had also been sought in return. She reiterated the service's commitment to reach 'Outstanding' and outlined the measures put in place to help achieve this, such as the holding of a Development Day in early 2022 to drive the improvement plan forward, as well as continuing oversight by the Executive Board.

The Committee commended the work of the Youth Justice Team and congratulated the service on its positive re-inspection outcome.

9 CATCH-UP PREMIUM SPEND AND STRATEGIES

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) provided an overview of how Blackpool schools had spent their Catch-up/Recovery premium funding from the government. Mr Turner informed the Committee that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had been widespread and hugely challenging for schools and that the funding aimed to provide extra resources and capacity for schools to ensure that children were able to catch-up any lost learning. He reported that the Catch-up Premium had been provided by the Department for Education (DFE), with the total allocation amounting to £1 billion, divided into a pot of £650 million for the 2020/2021 academic year, to be allocated to schools for spending and £350 million for the National Tutoring Programme. All schools in Blackpool were eligible for the funding and most schools had received £80 per pupil, although the rate for special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRU) was £240. Schools were expected to publish the information about how they spent the premium on their websites. Mr Turner informed Members that there would be an additional recovery premium allocated for the school year 2021/2022, with the rates being £145 per pupil for mainstream schools and £290 per pupil for PRU and

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special schools.

Mr Turner confirmed that all schools had been able to access substantial sums via the funding opportunity, with even small schools being entitled to a minimum of £2,000 and larger schools considerably more. He suggested that Councillors who were school governors should utilise the opportunity to scrutinise school spend and hold school leaders to account for the quality of the provision and resources that were being put in place. Following consideration and further discussion, the Committee was of the opinion that only scrutinising the spend of schools where Councillors were governors would be an inconsistent approach as this would exclude the majority of academies. Members instead proposed that a deep dive review of the use of the Catch-up/Recovery premium funding should be undertaken which would include all Blackpool schools and academies, examining the information published by the schools and inviting representatives from all maintained schools to justify their use of the funding. Mr Turner agreed to provide a summary of the Catch-up/Recovery premium spending information published by schools to the Committee to inform the review.

The Committee discussed the merits of schools utilising the funding to focus on improving pupils' literacy skills and the necessity for evidence-based interventions to be encouraged as well as the important role played by literacy at home. In addition, further information regarding available funding for Early Years was requested from Mr Turner.

The Committee agreed:

1. To undertake a deep dive scrutiny of the use of Catch-up/Recovery premium funding to include all Blackpool maintained schools and academies;
2. That further information regarding available funding for Early Years be provided to the Committee.

10 REVIEW OF YOUTH PROVISION

Ms Lisa Arnold, Head of Parks, Leisure and Catering Services and Ms Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Services provided an overview of the youth provision review currently being undertaken across Blackpool, which included details of the scope, purpose and anticipated timescales.

Ms Arnold summarised the key objectives of the review, informing the Committee that a thorough understanding of current provisions across the whole town was necessary in order to identify gaps and determine any areas currently unrepresented. Analysis of existing youth provision in Blackpool would be assessed via the following methods:

- Geographical mapping of youth provision across Blackpool;
- Quality of physical assets used by identified youth providers for youth provision;
- Level of engagement and provision;
- Comparison of engagement figures with comparable authorities/areas;

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- Skills analysis of youth provision sector;
- Impact of current youth provision on the lives of young people in Blackpool through a social return on investment calculation.

Ms Arnold informed the Committee that engagement with young people and key stakeholders would be undertaken, with analysis of the findings from 1,000 surveys with young people to be completed in order to understand what services young people wanted. The review would include both those engaged and not engaged in youth provision; in-depth interviews through a minimum of ten focus groups with young people and focus groups to include targeted cohorts such as Our Children and Care Experienced Young People, Children not accessing mainstream education and targeted areas with a prevalence of Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition, findings from surveys, in-depth interviews and focus groups from key stakeholders would be reviewed, as well as the results from a minimum of 100 surveys completed by parents/carers of Blackpool children and young people. The Committee requested details of how Councillors could circulate the questionnaire to their constituents and young people, which Ms Arnold agreed to provide following the meeting.

Ms Arnold reported that representations from a range of organisations would inform the review and which included the Boathouse Youth, Boys and Girls Club, the Magic Club, Street Life and Blackpool Football Club Community Trust. The Committee questioned whether Scouts and Guides groups would be consulted, with Ms Arnold advising that the National Youth Agency (NYA), who had been appointed to undertake the review, would be reaching out to regional Scouts, Guides and Cadet organisations.

The Committee sought further information with regard to the funding of the review, with Ms Arnold reporting that the cost of the review would be £68,385 in total, with Blackpool Council contributing £38,385. She added that the NYA anticipated they could secure Department for Education funding for the remaining £30,000, which the NYA would self-fund in the interim.

The Committee requested that further information be brought back once the review had been undertaken, with Ms Arnold suggesting that the anticipated completion of the review would be early 2022, with the required reports and development plans to be produced in February 2022. She suggested that the Committee be consulted further for Member input into the draft report in January 2022.

The Committee agreed:

1. To receive further details of how to access the youth provision questionnaire following the meeting;
2. To consider the youth provision draft report once completed.

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11 GL ASSESSMENT PUPIL ATTITUDE TO SELF AND SCHOOL (PASS) SURVEY OVERVIEW

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) provided an overview of the findings of the GL Assessment Pupil Attitude to School and Self (PASS) surveys which had been undertaken by a cohort of Blackpool children in autumn 2020. Mr Turner explained that the PASS survey was designed to identify any barriers to learning by helping to understand pupil attitudes to learning and that the survey which had been conducted in the autumn term of the 2020/2021 school year showed a high satisfaction rate amongst Blackpool pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The Committee considered the resulting data, which showed results via year groups and also by school and region. Mr Turner reported that Blackpool pupils had performed better nationally with regard to reading scores during the pandemic which he suggested was as a result of the high quality of remote learning offered throughout the periods of school closures.

Members gave thanks to Mr Turner and his team for the encouraging results and requested that he pass the Committee's praise on to the Blackpool School Improvement Board. Mr Turner agreed to provide further data in 2022 from the autumn 2021 GL PASS surveys, once available.

The Committee agreed: To consider autumn 2021 GL PASS survey data once available.

12 INCLUSION IN EDUCATION SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATION MONITORING

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) provided an annual progress update on the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review of Inclusion in Education. He reminded Members that the review had been undertaken as a result of the high levels of school exclusions and the Committee's assertion that improvements had been necessary. Mr Turner reported that a vast improvement had been seen in the number of referrals being made to the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), noting that a reduction in the number of admissions had resulted in the PRU's ability to better provide for each pupil's individual needs.

Mr Turner provided information on the new School Admissions Code, which he advised had been mandated by central government and should result in a speedier admissions system.

The Committee considered the action plan resulting from the review, reviewing Mr Turner's progress updates as included. In response to a question on recommendation R7 'To request that Academies consider the reintroduction of Council representation on their Local Governing Bodies in order to allow valuable input from elected Councillors and an additional link with the Local Authority,' Mr Turner advised that some Academies were reintroducing local governing committees, which would allow greater local representation

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and that Academy Chief Executives had informed Mr Turner that they were happy to include Councillor representatives on their governing bodies. He noted that any vacancies would be advertised and suggested that interested Councillors should apply when positions arose.

13 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members considered the Committee's Workplan for 2021/2022 and agreed the date of the Special Committee Meeting as Wednesday 12 January 2022.

The Committee agreed:

1. The Workplan for 2021/2022;
2. That a Special Committee Meeting be held on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 5pm.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Committee was noted as Thursday 9 December 2021, commencing at 6pm.

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:	Clare Law, Director of the Centre for Early Child Development
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2021

BETTER START SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To receive a progress update on the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review of Blackpool Better Start.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 To monitor the implementation of the report's recommendations/actions.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

- 3.1 To maintain an overview of previous scrutiny recommendations.

- 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 the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on 24 June 2021, Members agreed the final report from the scrutiny review on Blackpool Better Start.

6.2 The Executive agreed the final report and resulting recommendations in July 2021 and a progress update is now due on the agreed recommendations. Ms Clare Law, Director of the Centre for Early Child Development will be in attendance at the meeting to present the update.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 4(a) – Better Start Scrutiny Review Action 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 Better Start Scrutiny Review Final Report.

Blackpool Better Start Scrutiny Review Action Plan

	Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update
R1	That Better Start should target funds to the seven wards originally identified for funding and in cases where residents of these wards are failing to access Better Start provisions the services on offer should be reviewed to ensure they are suitable and accessible.		Yes	Update to Committee December 2021	Director of Centre for Early Child Development	<p>Funding continues to be monitored through the Better Start Executive for distribution across the town. The Q1/Q2 Dashboards identified the spread of activity however some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HENRY infant feeding service provide face to face support only in ABS wards. • Community Connectors deliver their 1:1 service and resource only in ABS wards. • 74% of participants on the For Baby's Sake Domestic Abuse programme are from an ABS ward. • ABS funding for Family Nurse Partnership is only for mothers in the ABS wards. <p>The access to services is closely monitored to ensure those with the highest need are receiving the support they need. Portfolio review has taken place with the Expert Advisory Group to ensure those most in need are receiving support. In addition, ongoing quarterly review meetings take place with the National Lottery Community Fund.</p>

Blackpool Better Start Scrutiny Review Action Plan

R2	That Better Start works in conjunction with the Council's Performance, Systems and Intelligence Manager to target future interventions where appropriate more specifically to those parents identified as being at risk of having their children taken into care, with a periodic review of the subsequent impact on the data of children born into care.		Yes	Update to Committee December 2021	Director of Centre for Early Child Development Performance, Systems and Intelligence Manager	Work is underway with Robert Arrowsmith and Oxford University to link Council data with Better Start Data. In addition, Better Start funds are being invested in undertaking a review of pathways and support from Lancaster University to compare local and national research and best practice in preventing children being born into care. The work also includes learning from those with lived experience to support this recommendation.
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Blackpool Better Start Scrutiny Review Action Plan

Recommendation		Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update
R3	That Better Start should produce a Communication Strategy within the following six months outlining how best practice will be better shared locally, with the aim of raising awareness of the positive outcomes of Better Start interventions and of upcoming events. This should address how communication will be improved with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.		Yes	December 2021	Director of Centre for Early Child Development	Better Start has a Communications Strategy which was written in 2020. The strategy is due to be updated along with the broader Better Start Strategy in early 2022 to support and reflect the plan for the next three years.
R4	That Better Start should introduce within the next six months a regular update bulletin to Councillors informing them of recent achievements and forthcoming events, as well as information on how they can get involved in any programmes.		Yes	December 2021	Director of Centre for Early Child Development	Councillor Williams is a member of the Better Start Executive Board where quarterly updates are shared in relation to communications, data, finance and programme developments and events. An additional bulletin can be provided if still required.

Blackpool Better Start Scrutiny Review Action Plan

Recommendation		Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update
R5	That the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee receives annual updates from Better Start on the progress of sustainability planning of Better Start programmes.		Yes	From January 2022	Director of Centre for Early Child Development	Proposed that annual invite to the Committee is provided to give a verbal update. Sustainability is regularly discussed as part of the Executive Board, with the Chair of Finance Board providing quarterly updates.

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Jeanette Richards, Assistant Director, Children's Services
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2021

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT – DOMESTIC ABUSE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To receive an update in relation to the Council's approach to tackling domestic abuse.

2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight in order to provide scrutiny, challenge and support.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 To ensure robust scrutiny of the service.

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 No other alternative options to be considered.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Domestic abuse is defined as: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

6.2 Data from the NSPCC estimates that:

- Around 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse is a factor in over half of serious case reviews.
- A third of children witnessing domestic violence also experienced another form of abuse.
- 1 in 5 teenagers have been physically abused by their boyfriends or girlfriends.
- 130,000 children live in households with high-risk domestic abuse.

6.3 The 1989 Children Act introduced significant harm (ill treatment or impairment of health) as the threshold for compulsory intervention in family life, in recognition of the adverse impact of Domestic Abuse upon children. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 widened the definition of significant harm to include “impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.”

There is a strong research base that indicates that Children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to have behavioural and emotional problems, which have the potential to adversely impact on their immediate and longer term outcomes though to adulthood including educational achievement, increased risk of emotional difficulties, mental health issues, self-harming behaviours, increased risk of offending, increased risk of alcohol or substance misuse, relationship difficulties and impaired physical health.

6.4 **The local context here in Blackpool**

- Blackpool has a relatively high rate of domestic abuse, over twice the Lancashire average rate.
- Blackpool has high levels of socio-economic deprivation, which is a risk factor for domestic abuse.
- Blackpool also has relatively high levels of alcohol-related harm, drug use and mental health disorders.
- Blackpool also has greater proportions of younger people who may be lone parents, on low incomes, have a long term illness and/or low education levels, all risk factors for greater domestic abuse. (Blackpool JSNA).
- Blackpool figures for children in need and for those affected by domestic violence are significantly higher than the Lancashire and England averages. (Blackpool JSNA)
- Between June 2019 and June 2020, there were 748 children from the Blackpool area living in households in cases referred to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). (High Risk DA)

6.5 Given the challenges experienced by the community it is not surprising that reported domestic abuse is a key driver for the continued high demand for Children’s services.

The amount of requests for service screened by the Advice and Support Hub is substantial – each month, the Hub receives more than 400 requests from the Police for individual children, covering 200 families. Previous analysis has shown that around half of those requests relate to domestic abuse – this would equate to 100 families a month – so around 1,200 a year.

These requests for support are triaged by the co-located partners within the Hub.

Overall, slightly less than a quarter of the requests for service received by the Hub progress through to a social care assessment.

6.6 While the Police provide the vast majority of the domestic abuse related work, they are not the only providers (probation would be another key source, for example). The Hub receives slightly more than 1,000 requests for service for individual children (500 families) each month – some of those that are not provided by the Police will also identify concerns around domestic abuse (DA).

Blackpool schools continue to support Operation Encompass and directly receive DA notifications from the Police concerning children with a view to offering additional support to children underpinned by a trauma informed approach.

6.7 The number of overall referrals progressed following triage activity from the Hub during the period 01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021 was 2600.

The number of referrals resulting in an assessment by social care was 2070, of which 848 identified concerns around Domestic abuse.

- For those children subject to an assessment where DA was a factor, 467 resulted in either step down to services or no further action.
- 175 were escalated to a Child Protection Plan.
- 46 escalated children to become Our Children (note that 32 of these were also included in the above figure for Cases Escalating to CP Plan).
- Cases remaining at Children In Need (CIN) – 192 (of those, 30 remain open and 162 have subsequently been closed).

6.8 **Governance Arrangements**

Our Domestic Abuse Partnership is led by the Director of Community and Environmental Services to ensure we have a town wide, population based approach. The Domestic Abuse Board provides the Governance framework, the focus of the Board is a “public health” approach across the partnership of education and awareness, early identification and effective intervention and the prevention of

harm.

Blackpool's Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Partnership Strategy 2016 – 2020 is currently being reviewed. This is timely given that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has now become statute. This work is governed by the Domestic Abuse Board. Partners and stakeholders will work together to agree shared priorities and principles that, alongside the statutory duties, need to be reflected in the Strategy.

6.9 It is hoped that the Strategy will be agreed and adopted through January 2022.

The Act aims to:

- Raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families.
- Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies.

Of significance is that children will, for the first time, be recognised as 'victims'. As such, they will be entitled to the provisions made within the Victims' Code. The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (Victims' Code) sets out the services and a minimum standard for these services that must be provided to victims of crime by organisations (referred to as service providers) in England and Wales.

6.10 The Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) has identified Domestic Abuse as one of its three priorities and as such there is a Domestic Abuse Operational Group chaired by the Detective Superintendent Rebecca Smith, which reports into the CSAP North Lancashire Tactical Group and also into the Councils Domestic Abuse Board.

This subgroup meets bi-monthly and has good multi-agency attendance. The work of this group is to progress continued development of services for children and their families where domestic abuse is a concern. The key focus of this operational group is problem profiling, strengthening a partnership response, progressing the learning from the MARAC review and establishing practice guidance to support the work of Children's Services where domestic abuse is an issue.

6.11 Developing a more effective offer to children and their families in response to concerns around the impact of domestic abuse is a priority within the Social Work Improvement Plan. Progress of the Social Work Improvement Plan is reviewed by the Getting to Good Board, which meets Bi-Monthly and is independently chaired and is attended by our Department for Education (DfE) adviser.

Within this work stream, Children's Services have built upon the Constabulary lead pan-Lancashire review of the MARAC review, the overall aim being to move away

from the conference model and to develop a dynamic multi-agency response.

- 6.12 To this end, the Assistant director and Head of Service (MASH, AST and Awaken) is leading on the development of a pathway for children where domestic abuse is a concern, moving to a multi-agency co-located team that will deliver a model of support for high risk domestic abuse that responds in a timely way to reported incidents of high risk domestic abuse. Interventions will be focused upon a personalised approach to the three 'ME's' involved in Domestic Abuse - Child, victim and perpetrator.

The objective is to establish a multi-agency team that is able to respond to the needs of the child and address the multiple disadvantages experienced by adults which are often associated with high risk domestic abuse, particularly mental health issues, alcohol and substance misuse issues.

- 6.13 The team will include a Children's Services team manager, two social workers, two Police officers and three health practitioners. Public Health has provided funding for a substance misuse worker to be based within the Hub and we are currently working on pathways to secure mental health services for adults.

One Third sector Independent Domestic Abuse Adviser and a Children's Independent Domestic Abuse Adviser (CIDVA) will also play a crucial role within the team. Virtual pathways to housing and probation are being scoped out.

This will result in a multi-agency team located within the Assessment and Support Service. The intervention this team will provide is focused on child, victim and perpetrator which is a much more systemic approach to domestic abuse. Progress of the project planning is reviewed regularly and it is hoped that a pilot of the approach, following the securing of accommodation at the Municipal Buildings, will take place early next year.

- 6.14 Staff within Children's Services have received additional training in the use of a specialist DASH (domestic abuse, stalking and honour based violence) risk assessment. This is a tool used to assess the risk that a victim is exposed to and can help in the actions required. 139 staff have attended DASH training so far; this provides practitioners with an understanding of the purpose of the tool in identifying (at the earliest opportunity), assessing and managing risk (identifying those who are at high risk and referring to a MARAC meeting) to help keep victims safe.

6.15 **Practice Development**

To strengthen practice, 108 members of staff have attended training to look at safety planning with children and young people who are victims of domestic abuse. This provides practitioners with an understanding of the purpose of safety planning

in keeping children and young people safe, how to implement age appropriate safety planning, using tools provided and how to engage and deliver a safety session in a child friendly way. We are beginning to see good evidence of safety plans in children's records.

Amanda Lynch, Head of Service, is leading on establishing practice guidance for our social workers and Early Help Practitioners. In addition to this there has been a focus upon enriching the offer to families, which includes:

Social Workers and Early Help practitioners having robust referral pathways to Empowerment – the Den continues to provide much needed support to children and young people impacted by domestic abuse; 1-1 CIDVA support; group work; youth provision and positive activities.

6.16 For Baby's Sake

This is an evidenced based therapeutic, trauma informed programme that works to prevent or stop cycles of abusive behaviour. The programme works with couples and those who are co-parenting from conception to the age of two years (1001 days).

The work in Blackpool is funded through our 'A Better Start' work and is well regarded by the national For Baby's Sake Trust. User feedback from our community has been overwhelmingly positive and was highlighted in the Guardian newspaper.

6.17 Caring Dads

Ten family workers and managers have been trained by Leeds City Council to deliver this evidence based programme designed to rebuild relationships between fathers and their children.

This programme has recently been evaluated by the Violence Reduction Network, as effecting Positive Change. The programme works with men to support them in considering their behaviour and the impact this has on their children. The programme is 17 weeks long and is delivered ideally by a mixed gender team.

Our first two programmes are underway with a third programme planned for the New Year. Referrals are initially being taken from Children's Services but as the programme builds momentum we will accept requests from other organisations.

6.18 Establishing relationship champions

Joanne Stewart, Head of Service for Early Help is working with the Department of Work and Pensions and the Early Intervention Foundation as part of national work focused on reducing parental conflict. Research indicates that where there is unresolved conflict between parents, intervention and programmes are unlikely to

make an impact.

A group of ten staff have started their training (to train others) to support them to roll out the pan-Lancashire relationship toolkit to support all practitioners to support parents and co-parents (those who are bringing up children together but live apart) where there is conflict. They will also train practitioners in two structured programmes aimed at supporting families on a one to one basis to 'argue better' and reduce their conflict.

6.19 In the New Year an eLearning module will be rolled out to the wider workforce to support practitioners to understand the impact of conflict between parents on their children and to build confidence to ask about parent relationships and how they work. Throughout January 2022, all Early Help staff will undertake the eLearning module designed to raise awareness of the impact of parental conflict on children. The first training session on the Relationship Toolkit and the structured programme will take place again for Early Help and Support staff on 3 February 2022.

6.20 Progress of these initiatives and the effectiveness of practice with children and families who are experiencing DA will continue to be reviewed via the Getting to Good Board and the CSAP North Tactical Group and the Domestic Abuse Board.

6.21 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.

11.0 Risk management considerations:

None

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

None.

13.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

None.

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paul Turner, Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years.
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2021

EDUCATIONAL DIVERSITY

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To receive an update on the impact of the counselling service introduced at Educational Diversity in October 2020.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight in order to provide scrutiny, challenge and support.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure robust scrutiny of the service.

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 No other alternative options to be considered.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 A Counsellor was commissioned through High Needs Block funding for Educational Diversity Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) to enhance the offer, as a significant part of the Council's response to children who require specific medical provision.

6.2 The contract commenced 1 October 2020, providing one Full Time Equivalent (FTE) counsellor across Educational Diversity schools. Two counsellors split this role three days and two days respectively.

Since October 2020 the number of referrals that have been received is 76. No referrals have been rejected and 72 per cent of referrals had their first appointment within four weeks.

6.3 Referrals were slow whilst the service was being built, but have grown considerably. The provision is a mix of offered appointments and drop-in appointments and young people can self-refer or are referred via school.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The associated cost is built into the budget for the PRU.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There is a risk that we will not be able to meet our statutory duty related to the provision of effective hospital education if this was not provided.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 All children have a right to an education, even if their medical condition(s) may prevent regular attendance.

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 2020-2030 Education Strategy.
Inclusion Strategy.

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Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paul Turner, Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years.
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2021

ORACLE BUILDING UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To receive an update on the proposals for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision at the Oracle building.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight in order to provide scrutiny, challenge and support.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure robust scrutiny of the service.

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 Using another Council building.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Park school is at capacity, as is Woodlands School and Highfurlong School. Lotus school is expected to be at capacity in two years.

- 6.2 In order to realign the SEND place planning and the strategic oversight of SEND, the Council needs to find some temporary capacity. This is planned for The Oracle.
- 6.3 This will allow some Park students (sixth form) to be located at The Oracle, freeing up some classroom space at Park Community Academy. Additional building work at Highfurlong Special School will also create some additional capacity.
- 6.4 Following a public consultation, planning continues for the transfer of Park Community Academy's post-16 students into the Oracle building on St Anne's Road. Internal modifications have been completed and advice has been sought from the Fire Service regarding emergency egress from the building.
- 6.5 Sea View Trust is awaiting the outcome of its application to the Education and Skills Funding Agency regarding the change and the Council is liaising with the funders of the building in order to progress a change in the use of the facilities. Discussions are underway with the Trust regarding tenancy arrangements, which will include continued access for those community groups who currently use the Oracle.
- 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 Some SEND Capital funding has been assigned to this project to support small modifications to The Oracle building.
- 9.0 Legal considerations:**
- 9.1 Blackpool Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient Special School places.
- 10.0 Risk management considerations:**
- 10.1 There is a risk that we will not be able to meet our statutory duty related to the provision of Special School places.
- 11.0 Equalities considerations:**
- 11.1 SEND is a statutory responsibility and there is a significant impact upon individuals and families if we cannot provide sufficient SEND places.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 An extensive SEND consultation is currently ongoing.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 2020-30 Education strategy.
Inclusion strategy.

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Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paul Turner, Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years.
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2021

SEND STRATEGY UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the emerging themes of the new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and input into the Council's SEND Strategy.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure Scrutiny involvement in the SEND 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 No other alternative options to be considered.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Significant work/audit has been completed in the SEND service since September 2021 and a number of pieces of work have been identified that need to be completed:

- Systemic change to further enhance inclusion across providers, building on good partnership work already started for 'hard to place pupils'.
- Developing services which are genuinely co-produced with parents/carers.
- Increased joining up between key partners, so that needs analysis and self-assessment informs joint commissioning priorities.
- Publishing a clear partnership SEND strategy with quantifiable targets for improvement.
- Continue to improve the local offer, building on the good work already done.
- Ensuring our impartial service for advice to parents (SENDIASS) is compliant with nationally agreed standards.
- Developing an outcome improvement plan for the SEND service.
- Embedding the new models for quality assurance and decision-making processes.
- Improving our use of data and intelligence to monitor and improve performance.
- Enhancing our mechanisms to capture the feedback from parents, carers and young people about our services and what difference they have made.

6.2 Revised SEND strategy -

The revised SEND strategy will be available at the beginning of 2022 following approval by the Executive.

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 Ensuring that the SEND team and associated systems are within budget is essential.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Blackpool Council has a statutory duty to provide enough SEND places and to ensure that the quality of SEND provision is of a good quality.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There is significant risk if SEND provision is not of a good standard.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 SEND is a statutory responsibility and there is a significant impact upon individuals and families if we cannot provide these services to a high-enough standard.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 A SEND consultation was conducted earlier in this financial year.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 2020-30 Education Strategy.
Inclusion Strategy.

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Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager.
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2021

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.

2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 To approve the Committee Workplan, taking into account any suggestions for amendment or addition.

2.2 To approve the scoping document for the Catch-Up/Recovery Premium Spend Scrutiny Review.

2.3 To monitor the implementation of the Committee's recommendations/actions.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

3.1 To ensure the Workplan is up to date and is an accurate representation of the Committee's work.

3.2 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 Monday 7 June 2021 to consider items for inclusion on the Committee's workplan for the 2020/2021 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 9(a) is the Committee's Workplan for 2021/2022.

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

6.3 At the last meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, the next topic for scrutiny review was agreed as Catch-Up/Recovery Premium Spend and Members were invited to join a working group to undertake the review.

6.4 A working group has been established, consisting of the following Members:

- Cllr Paula Burdess
- Cllr Kim Critchley
- Cllr Martin Mitchell
- Cllr Rick Scott
- Ms Jo Snape

The first meeting of the working group is being held on 13 December 2021. Attached at Appendix 9(b) is the scoping document for consideration and approval by the Committee.

6.5 Implementation of Recommendations/Actions

The table attached at Appendix 9(c) 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.

6.6 CAMHS Re-Design/Scrutiny

A second information session was provided jointly to Members of the Adult Social Care and Health and the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committees. A summary of the actions arising from the session held on 22 November 2021 is attached at Appendix 9(d).

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 9(a) - Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee Workplan.
- Appendix 9(b) - Catch-Up/Recovery Premium Spend Scrutiny Review Scoping Document.
- Appendix 9(c) - Implementation of Recommendations/Actions.
- Appendix 9(d) - Summary of Actions from CAMHS Re-Design Information Session.

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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Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2021/2022	
Special Meeting 12 January 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Headstart Update – To receive an update on the work of Headstart. 2. Blackpool Families Rock - To receive a presentation on the Blackpool Families Rock working model. 3. Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report – To receive the Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report and information from JustUz.
27 January 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Offending Team Improvement - To receive an update in relation to the YOT Improvement Plan. 2. Children’s Social Care Improvement – To receive specific data around the support given to young people turning 18 and the number of vulnerable young people accessing services. 3. Education/SEND – To receive information on the impact of the pandemic on early language and speech development and an update on the Literacy Strategy. 4. Children Born Into Care – To receive an update on the ongoing work looking at children born into care. 5. Young Inspectors – To receive an update on the work of the Young Inspectors.
24 March 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Offending Team Improvement - To receive an update in relation to the YOT Improvement Plan. 2. Children’s Social Care Improvement – To receive the findings of the Department for Education Care Review launched in January 2021. 3. Education/SEND – To receive pupil literacy and reading performance data, focusing specifically on the reduction in attainment levels as pupils move from KS2 to KS3. 4. CSAP Annual Report – To receive the annual report from CSAP. 5. Schools Response to the Pandemic Scrutiny Review – Recommendation monitoring and the impact of the pandemic on pupil attainment. 6. Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People - To receive information on provisions to support young people’s mental health and wellbeing.

Scrutiny Review Work	
February 2021	Input into the development of the SEND Vision and Strategy. The final version of the Strategy is anticipated to be completed in December 2021.
Completed May 2021	Blackpool Better Start Following Committee approval, the final report from the review was approved by the Executive in July 2021. A progress update will be provided to the Committee in December 2021.
November 2021	CAMHS Re-design Two information sessions have been provided jointly to Members of the Adult Social Care and Health and the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committees. Further updates were requested and will be provided in due course.
December 2021	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.

February 2022	<p>Mental Health Support for Young Men (aged 16-25) and Suicide Prevention Services</p> <p>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>
Post-September 2022	<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools</p> <p>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>Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET)</p> <p>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>
TBC	<p>SEND Funding and Capacity</p> <p>Cabinet Member referral.</p>
TBC	<p>The Experience of Looked After Children in Blackpool</p> <p>To gain an understanding of the journey of a cohort of Our Children including scrutiny of their experiences with various partners such as the Police, Health Services and schools. To potentially also include their experiences of Alternative Provision. Links to the following themes taken from the CSC Improvement Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Improve the systems and quality of Agency Decision Maker's processes for approval and matching of foster carers and adopters.</i> 2. <i>Ensure that our social workers are prepared for court proceedings.</i>

Scrutiny Review Scope	
Proposed Title	Scoping Date
Catch-Up/Recovery Premium Spend Review.	20 October 2021
Criteria and reasons for selecting topic	
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. In addition, to encourage and remind all local schools of the requirement to publish their spending information on their websites.	
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 how schools have used their Catch-Up Premium funding as well as their 2021/2022 Recovery Premium funding in order to determine if best use has been made of the available funds and if clear rationale can be provided as to the decision making process.	
What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community?	
Assurance that sufficient criteria measures are in place to identify best use of government funding to assist pupils in catching up on lost learning as a result of the pandemic and to ensure future funding is utilised appropriately.	
How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc)	
No general public involvement but appropriate school representatives and governors will be contacted for their views.	
How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers?	
Ensuring efficient use of government Covid-19 funding.	
What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny?	
Schools' published data on expenditure and the criteria used to allocate spending, where data has not been published as required it will be sought directly from schools.	
What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc.	
'Catch-Up Premium Funding' and 'Recovery Premium Funding' Department for Education guidance publications for schools.	
Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny?	
Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years)	
What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council?	
The Panel might wish to speak to headteachers and governors at schools to gather additional information. Views could potentially be sought via email should time/availability not allow them to attend the meeting in person or remotely.	
What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny?	
A preliminary meeting is proposed to undertake analysis of the data presented. A follow-up meeting will then be held with school representatives.	

Timescales / likely duration of enquiry
Commencing December 2021 with a view to completion by the end of January 2022.
Lead Scrutiny Officer
Elaine Ireland
Scrutiny Panel Members
Cllr Paula Burdess Cllr Kim Critchley Cllr Martin Mitchell Cllr Rick Scott Ms Jo Snape

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.	March 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 March 2022.	Not yet due.
2	09.01.20	To receive the findings of the Department for Education impact study on out of area placements.	March 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 March 2022.	Not yet due.
3	09.01.20	To receive a presentation on the Blackpool Families Rock model of working.	January 2022	Kara Haskayne, Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker	To be presented at the Special meeting of the Committee being held on 12 January 2022.	Not yet due.
4	19.11.20	Mr Turner advised that a full time equivalent counsellor, based at Educational Diversity was now available to provide Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to all schools. Mr Turner agreed to report back to the Committee on the impact of the counselling service in twelve months' time.	December 2021	Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years		Update to Committee at 9 December 2021 meeting.

	DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
5	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.	TBC	Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Service	Target date to be identified.	
6	22.04.21	To receive regular updates in relation to the concerns raised around children at the cited Secure Training Centre.	Ongoing	Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Service		
7	22.04.21	To receive further data on Blackpool's mental health hospital admission rates once available.	TBC	Stephen Ashley, CSAP Independent Scrutineer	Target date to be identified.	
8	22.04.21	That details of further work on the Council's response to domestic abuse be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.	December 2021	Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services		Update to Committee at 9 December 2021 meeting.
9	22.04.21	That more specific data around the support given to young people turning 18 and the number of vulnerable young people accessing services be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.	February 2022	Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services		Not yet due.
10	24.06.21	To request that Mr Turner present the full detailed plans of the SEND provision	December 2021	Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's		Update to Committee at 9

	DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
		proposals at the Oracle once available.		Services (Education, SEND and Early Years)		December 2021 meeting.
11	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 on 27 January 2022.	January 2022	Kirsty Fisher, Engagement Officer		Not yet due.
12	07.10.21	To receive a further update on the launch of the new Literacy Strategy.	January 2022	Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years)		Not yet due.
13	07.10.21	To receive pupil literacy and reading performance data, focusing specifically on the reduction in attainment levels as pupils move from KS2 to KS3.	March 2022	Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years)		Not yet due.
14	07.10.21	That further information regarding available funding for Early Years be provided to the Committee.	TBC	Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years)		Not yet due.
15	07.10.21	To consider the youth provision draft report once completed.	January 2022	Lisa Arnold, Head of Parks, Leisure and Catering Services		Not yet due.

	DATE OF REC	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
16	07.10.21	To consider autumn 2021 GL PASS survey data once available		Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years		Not yet due.

**CAMHS Scrutiny Review/Update on Service Re-Design Informal Meeting
22 November 2021**

Attendance

Cllr Adrian Hutton	Elaine Walker
Cllr Andrew Stansfield	Fleur Carney
Cllr Paula Burdess	Michael Chew
Cllr David O'Hara	Lesley Tiffen
Cllr David Owen	Helen Rimmer
Cllr Michele Scott	Nicki Turner
Cllr Danny Scott	Sharon Davis
Cllr Peter Hunter	Elaine Ireland
Cllr Bradley Mitchell	

Members of the Children and Young People's (CYP) Scrutiny Committee and the Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) Scrutiny Committee attended a briefing session with health representatives to receive an update on the service re-design in relation to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The following actions were agreed:

1. That a joint scrutiny review be undertaken looking specifically at mental health support for young men (aged 16-25) and suicide prevention services. To include further information on the Elliot's House project. Links between self-harm and suicide rates were discussed and further information requested on real-time surveillance work;
2. To receive a future update on the ongoing work aimed at increasing awareness of voluntary sector organisations in Blackpool and the measures in place to improve collaboration with such groups. The importance of engaging with individuals in places where they had established trusted relationships was noted;
3. The transition of individuals from children's services to adults' services was discussed, with a future update requested;
4. To receive a future progress update on the mental health support recently introduced within schools, along with the identified link to healthy eating learning programmes and eating disorder support. Members were advised that September 2022 would be an appropriate time for an update in order to allow the new service to be sufficiently embedded. The planned CYP Scrutiny review of mental health and well-being in schools to be postponed until after the update.

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