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Blackpool Council

13 September 2022

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

Co-Optees: G Clayton, M Coole and J Snape,

The above members are requested to attend the:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 September 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 30 JUNE 2022 (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 30 June 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 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS (Pages 7 - 12)

To consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the portfolios of the Cabinet Members taken since the last meeting of the Committee.

5 FORWARD PLAN (Pages 13 - 18)

The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan October 2022 to January 2023, relating to the portfolios of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

6 EARLY HELP STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING (Pages 19 - 76)

To report on partnership working in implementing the Early Help Strategy.

7 YOUTH JUSTICE UPDATE (Pages 77 - 188)

To consider an update regarding Blackpool's Youth Justice Service.

8 SCHOOL FOOD PLAN (Pages 189 - 198)

To consider an update on the School Food Plan.

9 CHEFS ACADEMY PROJECT (Pages 199 - 206)

To provide the committee with background information on the Chef's Academy Project.

10 EARLY YEARS GRANT FUNDING (Pages 207 - 212)

To inform members about how the Early Years Grant Funding is administered and to give insight into uptake, parental satisfaction with the offer and to provide generalised commentary on quality.

11 THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON EARLY LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (Pages 213 - 218)

To inform members of the impact of the pandemic on early language acquisition.

12 CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING ASSURANCE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 219 - 256)

To consider the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Annual Report.

13 CORPORATE PARENT PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2022 (Pages 257 - 272)

To consider the Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report 2022.

14 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

(Pages 273 - 284)

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.

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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Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2022

Present:

Councillor Burdess (in the Chair)

Councillors

Critchley

B Mitchell

Owen

Stansfield

Cross

M Mitchell

R Scott

Ms Gemma Clayton, Parent Governor Co-opted Member

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

Ms Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services

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

Mr Chris Coyle, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Children's Social Care and TIS)

Mr John Greenbank, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser (Scrutiny)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2022

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 March 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 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Committee considered the appointment of Co-opted Members for the 2022/2023 municipal year.

The Committee agreed:

1. That Ms Gemma Clayton and Mr Mike Coole be appointed parent governor co-opted members to the Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year; and
2. That Ms Jo Snape be appointed diocesan co-opted member to the Committee for

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THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2022**

the 2022/2023 municipal year.

5 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan July 2022 to October 2022 of upcoming decisions.

Members noted that the decision reference for the Children's Services Medium Term Financial Strategy showed 2002 as the year for the decision to be made. Ms Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services, clarified that this should show 2022 and would be amended going forward.

6 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Ms Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services, provided a verbal update on the number of children and young people who had been re-referred back into the social care system following discharge. She reported that an analysis of these cases had shown that between January 2020 and June 2022 fewer than one in ten had been re-referred back into Children's Social Care (CSC). This represented four hundred and twenty-two children of which two hundred and thirty-three had subsequently been closed. Overall one hundred and ten of those re-referred were care leavers and a further forty-two remained open at the end of the care period. Ms Gent explained that those cases left open were in cases where children were the subject of a care order but in a care home or with a parent. Leaving the case open allowed a more gradual exit for the child from care and allowed services to monitor their progress.

Mr Chris Coyle, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Children's Social Care and Tis), informed the Committee that Blackpool had a re-referral rate of 27.3% within six months, which was comparable with other similar authorities but above the North West average of 21.6%. He added however that the most recent four week average was 20% which demonstrated an improvement. It was also noted that Blackpool's average was affected by the significant number of children assessed and larger than average families, as children were admitted individually to CSC.

The Committee queried what services were accessed by those re-referred into CSC and what the likely reasons for a re-referral were. Ms Gent explained in response that most of those re-referred were under Children In Need and the re-referral was usually as a support package was needed for the child rather than them being at risk of harm. It was noted that in many cases parents had complex needs. This meant that it was difficult to determine how long ongoing support was needed and would be assessed on a basis of individual need in each case.

The pathways available to care leavers to access ongoing support was raised by the Committee, asking if social workers shared this information. Ms Gent replied that the information provided to care leavers was based on an individual assessment of their needs and ongoing review to identify the key events in their lives so that support could be tailored to their circumstances. She also recognised that there were varying levels of experience among social workers but that the Children's Services Management Team had been stabilised and was able to provide an overview of the work taking place and ensure

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consistency.

In response to a query, Ms Gent agreed to provide details of the number of excluded children who had been re-referred into CSC in writing following the meeting.

The rate of re-referral being above the North West average was raised as an area of concern by the Committee. Mr Coyle explained that it was recognised that over six months this had been the case but that the rolling four week average was lower. He added that CSC was seeking to assess more children going forward with a focus on ensuring their quality. Ms Gent added that the higher rate of re-referral had been identified as part of an internal audit and that the Early Help Strategy launched in November 2021 would play a part in reducing the number of re-referrals.

The Early Help strategy would allow earlier intervention and prevent cases being escalated too quickly. Ms Gent added that Ofsted would also be focussing on the rate of re-referral as part of the strategy and that it was part of its implementation plan.

Non-Council support for children as part of care packages was discussed by members. Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years), informed the Committee that schools offered an increased level of support through extended opening hours and after-school activities. Challenges to ensure this support included ensuring the quality of the schools offer and maintaining high levels of staff training.

The possibility of an increase in the re-referral rate during the summer holidays was queried with Mr Coyle stating that although a slight increase was expected, it was not believed this would significantly impact the overall average rate. Activities offered during the summer holidays would also be supported by the Holiday Activity Fund which the Council had increased investment in for 2022. Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Schools added that the key period to determine the future re-referral rate would be October 2022 to March 2023 during which time the impact of the cost of living crisis would become known and CSC could experience increasing pressure.

Work to embed the learning and support offered by Head Start and Better Start was discussed by the Committee with Ms Gent informing members that the last meeting of the Head Start Board had been held on 4 July 2022. At this meeting the role of co-producing services was highlighted as key to the future of supporting children going forward. She noted that such co-production had made an important contribution to the development of Blackpool Families Rock. In recognition of this the Head Start co-production team would be brought into Children's Service to ensure that their skills were retained.

The Committee raised the outcome of the details of the independent review into Council-run children's services released in 2021. It was noted that the Government expected the number of children in care to increase and the Committee recognised that this would increase the pressure on services in Blackpool. Councillor Hobson agreed that the report had made the challenges for Children's Services clear but added it had also highlighted opportunities for reducing the cost of services. He noted that the possibility of councils forming co-operatives to commission services was an area that was under consideration

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by the Council. Ms Gent added that the Council was aware of the pressures that an increased number of children in care presented to services. She advised that Children's Services collected a large amount of data in this area but that greater understanding of how this could be used was needed.

The Committee agreed:

1. That the update be noted; and
2. That details of the number of excluded children who had been re-referred to CSC be provided in writing following the meeting to the Committee.

7 YOUNG INSPECTORS UPDATE

The Committee agreed that the Young Inspectors Update be deferred to the meeting to be held in November 2022.

8 ORACLE BUILDING UPDATE

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years), presented an update on the Oracle building works and the timeline for Park Community Academy students to occupy the building. He reported that the works had been completed and it was planned that students from Park Community Academy would occupy the building at the start of the new school year in September 2022. It was also reported that tours of the Oracle building had been arranged for the Committee on Monday, 4 July 2022 and Monday, 18 July 2022, to view the facility.

Members discussed the scope for use of the facility by outside groups, with Mr Turner informing Members that Park School would have priority use and that this would have to be balanced against any other potential user.

Media reports that a new youth building would be built in Blackpool were raised by the Committee, with Members noting that the Oracle had been planned to fulfil this role. Mr Turner responded that he was unaware of such a development but that the Oracle would deliver a significant improvement for Park Community Academy and its Special Education Needs and Development offer.

9 LITERACY STRATEGY UPDATE

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) presented an update the progress of the Literacy Strategy. He reported that significant work had taken place, including involving businesses from across Blackpool, such as Merlin and the Rugby Club. The Council was confident that this progress would allow the improvements made to continue. Mr Turner added that a further report on progress on implementing the strategy would be brought to a future meeting to allow ongoing scrutiny.

The Committee noted that the strategy lacked details of the Alternative Provision (AP) work being undertaken and highlighted its importance adding that the number of English Literature courses available in Blackpool was limited whilst recognising such courses were

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useful in promoting reading. Mr Turner explained that AP offer required work and should include literacy and numeracy elements. In order to improve the offer work had begun with libraries and School Trusts, promoting access to books and opportunities to read. He added that although a large amount had been achieved progress had been slower than hoped for due to the impact of the recovery from Covid.

10 SEND OFSTED INSPECTION OUTCOME AND NEXT STEPS

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years) presented a report on the outcome of the recent Ofsted and Care Quality Commission SEND inspection, its implications and next steps. He informed the Committee that the inspection had identified the following areas of weakness;

- 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 coproduction.
- The long waiting time for some therapies.

As a result of these findings the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group had seventy days to produce a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) setting out how it would address these areas of concern. Mr Turner informed the Committee that a briefing on the WSOA would be provided to Members to highlight the actions being considered.

Despite these findings, overall, Ofsted had stated that the Council's SEND provision was much improved from previous inspections.

The Committee discussed the provision of services to young people transitioning to adulthood and the drop off of available pathways for them. Mr Turner responded that the Council recognised that this was an area where improvement was needed and that discussions had taken place with Adult Services regarding the co-location of more services and the identification of funding to support additional service provision.

Communications had been noted as an area of weakness by the inspection. The Committee discussed why this was the case as it had previously been demonstrated that Children's Services had good communications with parents and providers. Mr Turner explained that the inspection had highlighted HeadStart as having good communications and that more work was required to expand their model across SEND. He also stated that it had been recognised that some communications used language that was too specialised, but that the Council's Head of SEND would be picking up the work needed to address this issue.

The Committee recognised that poor communications had created a perception among some parents that the Council was creating obstacles while undertaking SEND assessments. Mr Turner added that more needed to be done to explain why certain decisions were taken during assessments and that contact with parent should be high quality.

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Delays in changing placements for children with SEND when their current one had proved incorrect was raised as an issue. It was noted that a lack of availability of places and specialist settings in Blackpool made changing a placement difficult in some cases.

Mr Turner also presented the Draft Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-2025 to the Committee. He asked that Members provide any comments to Children's Services following the meeting.

The Committee agreed:

1. That the outcome of the SEND Inspection be noted;
2. That a briefing on the Written Statement of Action be organised; and
3. That any comments on the Draft Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-2025 be provided to Children's Services.

Councillor Amy Cross left the meeting during this item.

11 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Committee considered its work programme for 2022/2023 and noted the additional items added at the 10 July 2022 Committee Work planning Workshop.

Members also considered and agreed the draft scoping documents for the Mental Health Support for Young Men Scrutiny Review and the Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET) Review.

The Committee agreed:

1. That the Committee work programme for 2022/2023;
2. The Mental Health Support for Young Men Scrutiny Review scoping document; and
3. The Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET) Review scoping document.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Committee was noted as Thursday 22 September 2022 commencing at 6pm.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
Tel: 01253 477229
E-mail: john.greenbank@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: | 22 September 2022 |

EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the portfolios of the Cabinet Members taken since the last meeting of the Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to the decisions taken.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the opportunity is given for all Executive and Cabinet Member decisions to be scrutinised and held to account.

3.2 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 Attached at Appendix 4(a) is a summary of the decisions taken, which have been circulated to Members previously.

6.2 This report is presented to ensure Members are provided with a timely update on the decisions taken by the Executive and Cabinet Members. It provides a process where the Committee can raise questions and a response be provided.

6.3 Members are encouraged to seek updates on decisions and will have the opportunity to raise any issues.

6.4. The following Cabinet Member is responsible for the decisions taken in this report and has 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, Schools and Transience

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 4(a) Summary of Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken.

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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Appendix 4 (a)

| DECISION / OUTCOME | DESCRIPTION | NUMBER | DATE | CABINET MEMBER |
|--|---|------------------|-------------------|---|
| <p>YOUTH PROVISION REVIEW NEXT STEPS</p> <p>The Executive resolved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the establishment of a central youth service function within the local authority by 31 May 2023 that will facilitate, coordinate and work collaboratively with the third sector to achieve the recommendations within the report at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report, over the next five to seven years. | <p>To outline the next steps following the recent Youth Provision Review, to ensure a collaborative approach with the third sector and wider partners to achieve the recommendations outlined in the report attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report.</p> | <p>EX26/2022</p> | <p>11/07/2022</p> | <p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth, Schools and Transience</p> |
| <p>SEND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ACTION</p> <p>The Executive resolved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve, in principle, the draft SEND Partnership Written Statement of Action attached at Appendix 2a. 2. To delegate to the Director of Children’s Services authority to make any minor amendments to the document to address any of the outstanding issues identified in paragraph 6.7 prior to its formal submission. | <p>To seek approval of the draft SEND Partnership Written Statement of Action prior to its submission to Ofsted on 8 September 2022.</p> | <p>Ex29/2022</p> | <p>05/09/2022</p> | <p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth, Schools and Transience</p> |

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|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager |
| Date of Meeting: | 22 September 2022 |

FORWARD PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan October 2022 to January 2023, 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 October 2022 to January 2023.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS**OCTOBER 2022 TO JANUARY 2023)***** Denotes New Item**

| Anticipated Date of Decision | Matter for Decision | Decision Reference | Decision Taker | Relevant Cabinet Member |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| October 2022 | To agree the Special Educational Needs strategy for the local area until 2026. | 14/2021 | Executive | Cllr Hobson |
| October 2022 | Update of the Children's Services Medium Term Financial Strategy | 12/2002 | Executive | Cllr Hobson |
| *October 2022 | Proposed Expansion of Highfurlong Special School | 16/2022 | Executive | Cllr Campbell |

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|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Joanne Stewart , Head of Early Help and Support |
| Date of Meeting: | 22 September 2022 |

EARLY HELP STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING.

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To report on partnership working in implementing the Early Help Strategy (Appendix 6(a))

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note :

- The active participation of partners in the implementation of the Early Help Strategy
- The work being undertaken to support Partners to do this
- The learning and the challenges in embedding the early help approach

2.2 To identify any areas for additional scrutiny where appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Early Help strategy is key to improving outcomes for children and families in Blackpool and, reducing the demand on higher level services, for the Council and its partner agencies. There is much research around the better outcomes for children and families if we support earlier and the cost benefits of working in this way.

3.2 Key to an effective early help offer is the wider group of partners that work with children and families. Their role in identifying and working with families as soon as problems arise, before issues become more concerning is central to the aims and objectives of early help work.

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

3.5 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 Early Help Strategy was launched in November 2021 and draws on the Early Help System Guide developed through the Governments Supporting Families programme (formerly called Troubled Families) which sits in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. (Appendix 6(b))

6.2 The strategy focuses on how we (the Council and the Partnership) support children, young people and their families who need a more co-ordinated response through an early help assessment and plan as soon as problems arise and before they need higher levels of support.

6.3 This Early Help Strategy sets out that early help is everyone’s responsibility and the way in which we should work with families who need help.

6.4 Strong partnership working is key to the success of the strategy and there has been good support from across the partnership for this development:

6.4.1 **Governance:** The strategy is owned by the Children and Families Strategic Partnership. This multiagency group supported the development of the strategy and request regular updates about its progress.

6.4.2 **Strategic Leadership:** There is an established multiagency steering group focused on leading early help work. Chaired by the Council’s Director of Children’s Services it sees Police, Health providers and commissioners, Education and Voluntary organisations represented by senior officers. This group has been the vehicle to establish partner organisations understanding about early help work, where it fits with their system and some of the challenges faced by them.

6.4.3 **Operational Leadership:** The Blackpool Families Rock Implementation Group provides a forum to share new developments, training and development opportunities with a wider group of partners such as Housing providers, Probation, commissioned services such as Drug and Alcohol treatment services.

6.4.4 **Support for Lead Professionals:** Three new job roles, Early Help Link Workers, have been

implemented in the Councils formal family support service. These roles are designed to support any would be lead professional in any organisation to undertake an early help assessment and develop a plan with a family. The main area of focus to date has been with school colleagues, where initially workers made contact with schools to offer support. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the support that these workers have offered and now schools partners are actively seeking support from the team. A Better Start is now funding an additional three posts to support those partners who work with children in their early years.

6.4.5 **Workforce development:** An Early Help Workshop has been developed that aims to build a better understanding of the strategy and how as a lead professional you undertake an early help assessment and plan with a family along with how to bring a range of professionals together as a team around a family to support them. This workshop rolled out in May 2021 and saw over 100 people book a place in the first week. To date 140 people have attended a workshop from 34 different organisations including schools staff, police, health visitors, SEND support officers. A further 130 people are signed up to sessions that will run in September and October.

6.4.6 **Project work:** Through Opportunity Area Funding there have been two projects linked to the Early Help strategy. The aim of each project was to build capacity in partner services by building skill, knowledge, understanding and confidence in taking the lead professional role. This in each project was done by providing by providing 'training' modelling, coaching and support from an experienced Family Worker:

- Family Workers in schools: This project saw four Family Workers deployed to, and based in, two high schools (Unity and South shore). The workers were managed through the Early Help and Support Service.
- The Claremont Project: This project took a neighbourhood approach to early help work but used Westminster Primary school as the focal point. The project was multiagency and involved health, police, leisure service, and school staff leading on early help work supported by the Early Help and Support Service.

Outcomes and learning from projects

- Staff reported having a better understanding about what a good early help assessment and plan looks like and how to do this work.
- It gave colleagues a better understanding of how to draw a team of people together to support a family (Team Around the Family) and the range of services available to support the families' plans
- Staff were more confident to engage families in a discussion about their worries and needs, to offer help and explain what an early help assessment is. They also reported increased confidence in having challenging conversations with parents.
- Staff saw benefits in working in this way and the positive impact it can have.
- Staff saw the value and importance of reflective case supervision for Lead

professionals

- The co-location of Family Workers in schools was extremely positive and was welcomed by staff, school leaders and by young people in school.
- Having a named Link Worker for the Claremont area that practitioners could draw support from was seen as real strength by range of partners involved in the project.

6.5 **Challenges:** Implementing this strategy fully and seeing its impact will take time, it isn't a quick fix. Working in this way requires partners to build ownership and see this as part of their work not an additional task as it is perhaps feels now.

Partners involvement in discussion around the Early help strategy has sustained across this year but colleagues, schools and police in particular, have shared that without additional resources (like those afforded through the project work) their ability to take the lead professional role will be limited due to staffing difficulties and levels of need and demand. How we support colleagues and use the learning from project working is an ongoing discussion in Childrens Services.

There has been an increase in families supported by the Council's Family Support Team but we cannot as yet see the work held by partners. Work is underway to develop a way of collecting early help work centrally to allow us to draw a range of data together (number of children supported, by whom and their outcomes) but this will not be in place until later this year.

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 6(a) - Early Help Strategy 2021-2023

Appendix 6(b) - Supporting Families Early Help System Guide

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 The Early Help Strategy and approach is available to all children, young people and their families in Blackpool regardless of any protected characteristics.

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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The Early Help Strategy for Blackpool 2021-2023

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*The right help, the right time,
the right place, the right people*



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Foreword

The Children and Families Strategic Partnership Board is pleased to share Blackpool's new Early Help Strategy which sets out our approach and plans for developing the way that we work with children, young people and families as early as possible to improve their outcomes.

This strategy will support our ambition to increasingly work with families early in the life of a problem and move away from over-dependence on statutory and specialist services. This approach is morally, ethically and financially the right thing to do and fits well with embedding the Blackpool Families Rocks model of practise, and restorative approaches to the way we work with our children, young people and families. Fundamentally, Early Help should be seen as everybody's business and part of what we all do.

We have a wide range of services and provision in Blackpool and there is a strong ambition to support children, young people and families to aspire and achieve. We need to capitalise on our partnerships and the enviable funding streams that Blackpool is able to attract, to be creative and embed an effective early help system, with a multiagency approach.

We are excited at the possibilities that working early with our children and their families presents and look forward to working with you.

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Cllr Lynn Williams
Leader of the Council



Vicky Gent
Director of Children's Services

Purpose

All children in Blackpool have the right to live and grow up in a safe environment in which they are protected from harm, nurtured to build their resilience to adversity and supported to achieve their aspirations. Some children, and their families, will need additional help and support to achieve this.

When we talk about children in this document we mean all children from conception to 19 years of age or up to 25 years old for those with SEND needs.

Responding early to emerging need is a key feature of our work in Blackpool, the golden thread of how we want to support and work with our children and families and is referred to in many other documents, in particular our Neglect and SEND strategies:

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'The purpose of this [Neglect] strategy is to ensure that those children in Blackpool who experience neglect are identified and receive the timely help and support they require to mitigate the impact of their neglectful experiences'

and

'Preventative and Early Help responses - These are critical to avoid issues from escalating and children experiencing further harm

Blackpool Neglect Strategy 2019 – 2022

'Blackpool is committed to early intervention and prevention, providing early help in a timely way so that the needs of local children and young people do not increase. Making sure that we identify needs early and provide the right support, is key to improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND'

Blackpool SEND strategy 2019 -2021

This document sets out our approach in Blackpool to early help and our overarching strategic aim to respond earlier to the needs of children and their families to prevent the need for higher level of statutory interventions:

***The right help, the right time,
the right place, the right people***



Early help is important

The importance of early help in supporting children and their families is outlined in a number of national reviews and policy documents, such as Working Together 2018, in recognition that effective early help for children and families improves their outcomes long-term:

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Chapter 1: Early Help

1. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care.

2. Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help
- Undertake an assessment of the need for early help; and
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child. Local authorities under s10 Children Act 2004 have a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of children'

Early help can be offered to any child and their family at any age, but there is much research on the particular importance of responding to needs as early as possible in a child's life. 'The Best Start for Life - The Early Years Healthy Development Review Report – March 2021' explores the importance of support for children and their families in the first 1001 days (conception to the age of two), when the foundations of a child's health, development and wellbeing are set.

The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP writes in the Chairman's introduction of the report:

'Two is too late! We spend billions on challenges in society from lack of school readiness to bullying to poor mental health to addictions and criminality; and further billions on conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and congenital heart disease. Yet, the building blocks for lifelong emotional and physical health are laid down in the period from conception to the age of two and we don't give this critical period the focus it deserves. Prevention isn't only kinder, but it's also much cheaper than cure – what happens to an infant in the 1,001 critical days is all about prevention'



One of the key issues that the review heard described was (Executive Summary, page7, point 6):

'Not everyone who works with families during the 1,001 critical days implements a plan of support which has been shared and agreed with the family. Sometimes, professionals and volunteers do not know what good joined up services would look like for that family...'

Our early help strategy will support us to respond to long-standing policy guidance and ensure that we are able to respond to new guidance, developments and opportunities.

What do we mean by early help?

Early Help in Blackpool is our approach to working with children and families with a range, or a combination of, social, health or educational needs as soon as problems arise. Families should be supported to understand their children's and their own needs or problems and be provided with advice, guidance, support and services to help them before higher levels of support or services are needed.

It is useful to think of early help as

- The right help** By undertaking strong assessments with children and their families and using these to understand their needs and planning effectively to support them.
- The right time** Offering help as soon as needs and problems begin and before any higher levels or specialist services are needed or when a child or family ask for it.
- The right people** Early help works best when those people who know the family well or speak to the regularly lead on the work but work with a range of people and service to support meeting the needs of children and their families
- The right place** Working with families in their community or neighbourhood or their home, or where they feel most comfortable.

Early Help can be provided by a single agency (such as a nursery, school or Health Visitor) or by a group of professionals from these agencies working together as a 'Team around the Family', with the family at the centre of the planning and decision making. The views and opinions of children and parents are key to making early help offers successful.



Why do we need early help?

The challenges in Blackpool and the local context

Blackpool is a small, compact local authority (7 miles long by 4 miles at its widest; with 140,000 residents and slightly over 29,000 children and young people aged 0 to 17 years old.). Blackpool has long been Britain's most popular coastal resort, albeit one that has experienced a long term decline in tourism since the 1970s, especially staying visitors, which has had a severe impact on the town and its residents, especially in the growth of cheap, private rented housing and the import of adults with issues from elsewhere in Britain.

According to national measures of deprivation, Blackpool is the most deprived local authority in England and has been so for most of the last decade. To give an idea of Blackpool's relative decline, the town ranked as 31st most deprived in 2000, 12th in 2007, and 6th in 2010 and first in both the 2015 and 2019 indices of deprivation. Deprivation is chiefly driven by low income, low employment (and low paid jobs) and poor population-wide health outcomes – as recently described in the Chief Medical Officer for England's annual report. We have the lowest life expectancy for men in England, the highest proportion of adult benefit claimants and a high proportion of adults are functionally illiterate, with Blackpool in the first decile for literacy vulnerability.

What makes the level of poverty and deprivation in Blackpool so striking and unusual is its concentration: 8 of the 10 most deprived small areas in England are in the centre of Blackpool (up from 3 a decade ago) and a quarter of Blackpool is in the most deprived 1% of areas in England.

Over the past decade pressure on local children's services has grown, as the impact of national trends have hit the town and its family's hard. Rising child poverty; austerity; growing unemployment, welfare reform; reductions to public service funding; and significant importation of adults and families with existing problems have all exacerbated the challenges that Blackpool's children's services, in their widest sense, face.

We know that rising deprivation will lead to rising demand. Research has shown that children in the 10% most deprived areas are 10 times more likely to be in care or on a Child Protection Plan than their peers in the 10% most affluent areas (Bywaters et al). In addition, as noted in the recent report 'The case for change' (McAlister):

"In the majority of cases, families become involved with children's social care because they are parenting in conditions of adversity, rather than because they have caused or are likely to cause significant harm to their children. We have a shared obligation to help families raise their children. Communities can also play a key role in supporting families, in some cases removing the need for statutory intervention. When the state steps in, too often the focus is on assessment and investigation not support".

We strongly agree with this view and know that the past decade in Blackpool provides a striking example of both of the challenges of working with a community with many families in conditions of adversity and the critical role of Early Help and the dangers of excessive statutory intervention.

Given the scale of local need in the town, one would expect support for children and families in Blackpool to be higher than most other parts of the country. However, too often, in the past, the amount of intervention has been significantly higher than other similar areas and has led to Blackpool being an outlier in terms of the proportion of local families in contact with children's social care:

To give an idea of the scale of this involvement/ intervention

- In the year 2019/20, Blackpool's children's services received 7,000 requests for support for individual children (not counting multiple requests for support for the same child), of which 3,100 resulted in a social care assessment.
- Looked at over a longer timeframe the picture is even more striking: since April 2019, there have been 11,800 requests for support for individual children, resulting in 5,300 social care assessments

Why do we need early help?

Moreover, over the past decade, the nature of Blackpool Children's Services involvement has tended to escalate to the highest levels, with very significant statutory interventions in a huge number of local families' lives.

- Over the past 10 years, nearly 4,000 children have been subject to Child protection plans in Blackpool, with 3,300 of these children still currently aged under 18 years old – this equates to 11% of the local child population.
- Over the past 10 years, 1,850 children have entered public care in Blackpool and nearly 600 are still in Blackpool's care.

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Currently, social care intervention has reduced to levels closer to those in similar authorities, with 9.3% of the child population being supported by Children's Services (7.5% by children's social care, 1.8% by Families in Need)

Stripping this down to a notional average two form entry primary school year group (60 children):

- 22 will be eligible for free school meals
- 10 will be assessed by the school to require 'SEN Support' for their learning
- 4 will have ongoing Children's Social Care Involvement
- 2 will have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- 1 will be in care

However, we do not only exist at the current moment in time. Every child and every family has a history; and for the same group of 60 children, over the past 2 years on average:

- 2 will have been subject to a child protection plan, but
- 24 will have had a request for support made to Children's Services; and
- 11 will have been assessed by a social worker, with 3 being assessed more than once

When reading the section above, it is important to consider that:

1. This is the Blackpool average – in schools serving the most deprived parts of the town, the proportions with social care involvement both current and historic and with other indicators of social need will be much higher still.
2. More importantly, for the town's Early Help strategy, we need to reflect again on the simple truth from Josh McAlister's independent review, i.e. that *'children's social care is involved with families chiefly because parents are raising their children in very difficult circumstances, rather than because the parents have caused, or are likely to cause significant harm to their children'*. The review goes on to note that the response of children's social care is too often to assess, investigate and analyse, rather than to provide support to the family; and that *"we have a shared obligation to help families raise their children. Communities can also play a key role in supporting families, in some cases removing the need for statutory intervention."*

Three important points are being made here:

- Over the past decade children's social care has been pulled into supporting a growing number of families in need, rather than focusing on children at risk.
- Many of the processes and practices of children's social care are ill-suited to supporting such families.
- That such support would be much more effectively provided by other services and the wider community.

What is true for England as a whole is especially true for Blackpool – the analysis above could not provide a clearer example of the points being made by the McAlister review. A deprived area such as Blackpool will have a disproportionately large number of families trying to parent in extreme adversity. It is therefore particularly important for local services to provide the right support at the right time for those local families and it is vital that everyone in the town recognises the shared obligation to help families raise their children; and that support to families be co-ordinated to best effect.

Early Help approach in Blackpool

Our approach to early help is about providing support to children and their families as soon as issues begin to emerge (**the right time**). It is everyone's business and it is expected that any worker from any agency, provider or service will respond to meet those needs, working with others to do so.

To enable this we will:

- Work in neighbourhood areas with all providers delivering services to children and their families
- Use an early help process of 'assess, plan, do, review' to understand and respond to needs early
- Undertake early help assessments that consider whole family's needs but remain child and young person focused
- Support lead professionals from all agencies to undertake early help work
- Work to improve the quality and impact of our work to support sustainable changes with families
- Work within the Blackpool Families Rock model of practice.

Working with, and consent

Early help is about working **with** families **not doing** to families. This begins with families agreeing to, or giving 'consent', to work with services using the early help approach. Children and parents should be central to each stage of the process and be supported to drive their own plans and make their own decisions.



How we put early help into practice in Blackpool

To help us understand how best we should be working with children and families and ensure that the right help is provided, **four levels of need** have been identified. Early help sits across two of these levels:

- **Level 2 needs - Universal Plus and is described as:**

‘Some children, young people and families will need support from people who know them well and have established relationships with them to meet some challenges where advice and guidance has not been enough to help the family achieve change or where a child or young person needs additional support to help them to thrive.’

- **Level 3 needs – Intensive and is described as:**

‘A small number of children, young people and families will experience significant difficulties and will need coordinated support from experts working with them to find sustainable solutions that reduce the impact of challenge on the wellbeing and development of children and young people’.

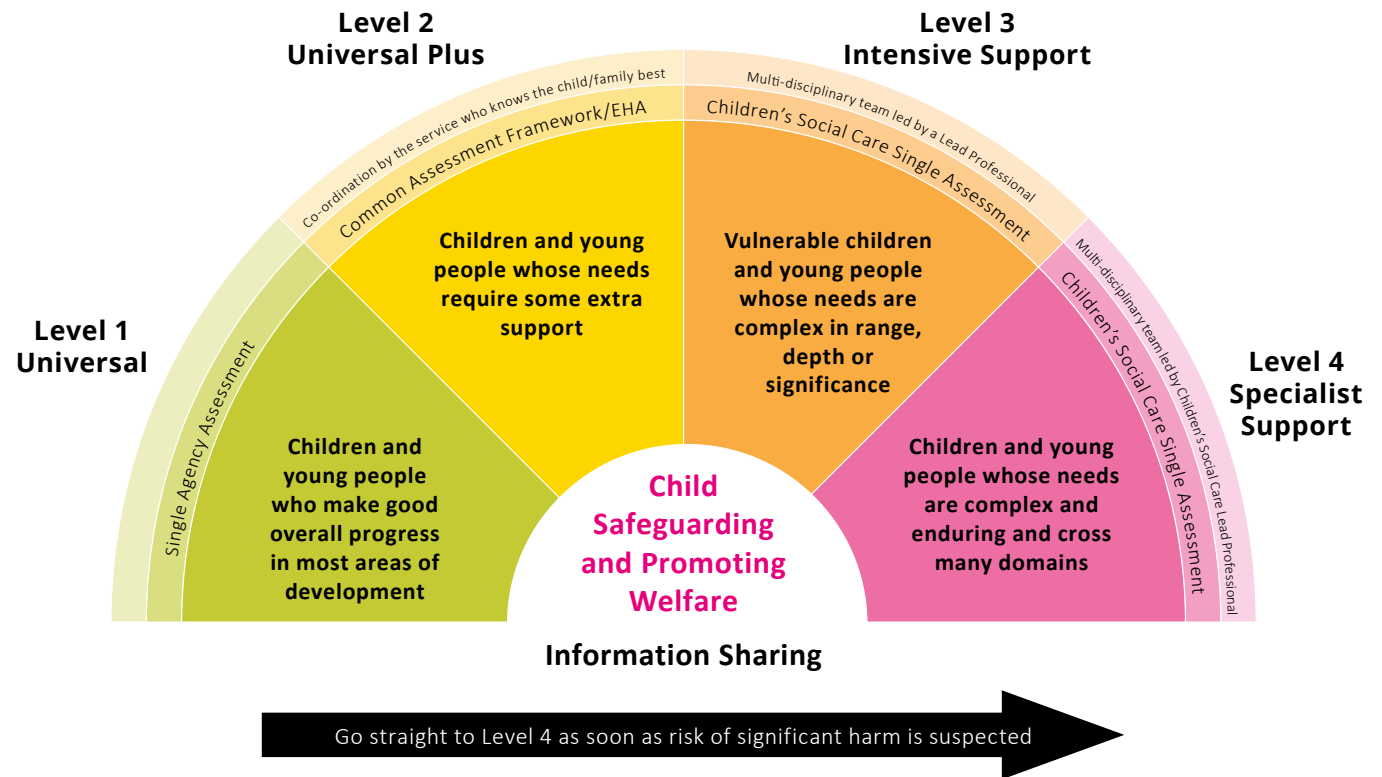
The diagram below gives an at a glance view of the four levels.

It is everybody’s responsibility to identify and, with parental agreement, assess the needs of children and their families through open and honest conversations with them. Other people who know the family should be included in the assessment and planning process.

One person takes the role of the Lead Professional, and works to ensure that the early help process is undertaken co-ordinating with the other people who work with the family, also known as the ‘Team around the Family (TAF).

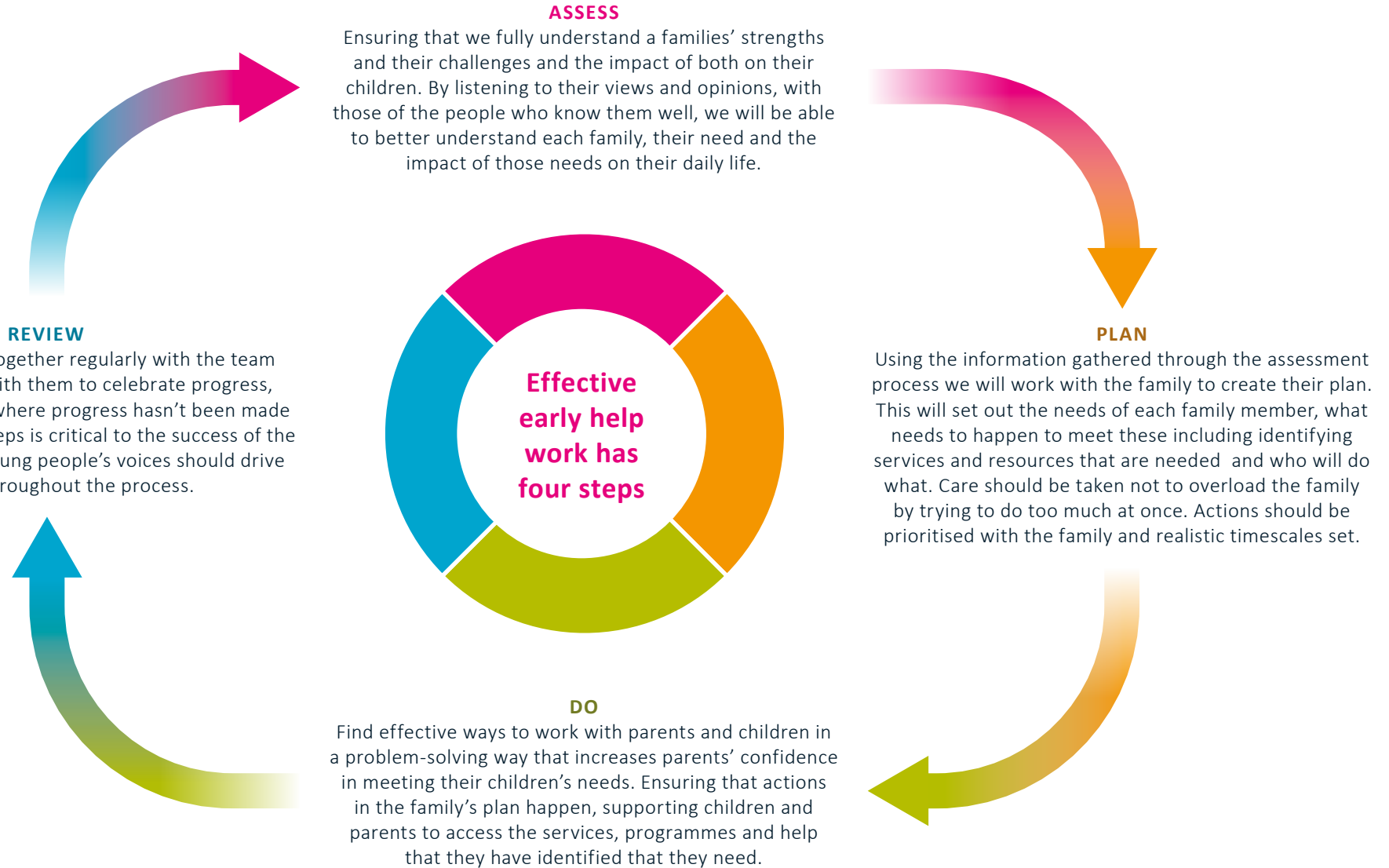
The Children’s Safeguarding Partnership guidance ‘Working Well with Children and Families in Lancashire’ provides more detailed information about consent, the four levels of need, what these look like and the process of moving support between them. <https://blackpoolchildcare.proceduresonline.com/values.html>

Levels of Need - At a Glance



Early help cycle

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Our Early Help strategy

Our aim is to respond at the earliest opportunity to meet the needs of children, young people and families before statutory or specialist service are needed. It is everybody's responsibility to work in this way.

To achieve this we will:

- Share our early help strategy and approach, ensure that it is understood across the children and families partnership and make clear our expectation that it is that all practitioners working in early help roles will use the early help process to support children and their families. Implement a revised early help assessment tool for all Lead Professionals and Team Around the Family members to use to record their work with children and families. This will be supported by guidance notes that help the development of a common and consistent understanding of what a good early help assessment, plan and review looks like to ensure that all out early help work is of good quality
- Develop a system for collecting all early help assessments and plans in one place, so we can capture data, themes and trends. We will use this information to create a data dashboard to enable us to demonstrate our progress and hold ourselves to account.
- Develop a process to review the quality and impact of early help work to support a continuous learning and improvement approach to the early help process
- Develop our locality or neighbourhood approach to service delivery by reorganising the councils own early help services to work across universal plus and intensive levels of support. From existing resource we will create a Parenting Team, Family Support Team that works at universal plus and one that works at the intensive early help level for each of our three neighbourhoods. These services will be based in the Family Hubs and work alongside other local neighbourhood services such as schools, nurseries, health visitors, voluntary organisations etc.
- Develop an offer of support for lead professionals and 'team around the family' members. This will include the implementation of three 'Early Help Link Worker' roles to offer advice and guidance, modelling and training, challenge and support, in each of the three neighbourhoods. We will also develop a workforce training and development programme for lead professionals from all partner agencies.



- Build a stronger parenting support offer by growing the delivery of evidence based group-based parenting programmes alongside support that works with individual families. We will use learning from our A Better Start work to support this development and make group based parenting support available across all levels of the continuum of need.
- Develop our relationship support offer that helps couples and co-parents address their relationships issues and reduce conflict, working with the national Reducing Parental Conflict Programme.
- Continue to work regionally and nationally with the Supporting Families programme to improve our early help work and outcomes for children and families.

Action planning

We will establish a multiagency steering group to take these actions forward through a development plan. Progress will be reported through the Children and Families Strategic Partnership Board.

Outcome and indicators of success

This strategy seeks to realise four broad overarching outcomes:

- To support children and families earlier, as soon as needs are identified
- To support all our lead professionals to undertake good quality impactful early help work
- To reduce the demand on higher level or specialist services; and most importantly
- To improve the outcomes for children and their families

There are a vast array of existing measures that we can use to track our progress against these outcomes, some are existing measures where data is readily captured and analysed and others will be new measures where we will need to gather data. An Early Help performance dashboard will be developed to support reporting on the progress of the strategy.

The table to the right sets out some suggested measures that will be considered for the dash board:

| Outcome | Support children and families earlier, as soon as needs are identified |
|--|---|
| Support children and families earlier, as soon as needs are identified | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of families being supported by an early help assessment and plan. • Reduction in the number contacts made to the Request for Service Hub for families who have not have an offer of early help prior to the contact • Number of parents accessing parenting support groups and activities support • Reduction in the number of contacts to the RFS Hub that result in services who already know the family and/or child being asked to do an early help assessment. • Increase in the number of children with emerging or identified SEND needs that have an early help plan prior to a request for an EHCP. • Reduction in the number of statutory social work assessments that result in closure (or step down to early help) • Reduce the proportion of children who are excluded, without an early help plan in place before exclusion |
| Support all our lead professionals to undertake good quality impactful early help work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of lead professionals attending early help assessment and associated training. • Increase in the of staff reporting confidence in undertaking EH work |
| Reduce the demand on higher level or specialist services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in Consistently good quality assessments, plans and reviews • Number of families who do not re-enter the system for early help or higher levels of • Reduction in the number of statutory social work assessments that result in closure (or step down to early help) • Reduction in referrals into SW teams • Reduction in the number of children referred to the Awaken service • Reduction of children entering the youth justice system. |
| Improve the outcomes for children and their families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of families who close to early help with all needs met • Number of families reporting improved family life at the closure of EHA • Improved educational outcomes for children from the most deprived areas in the town at KS2, GCSE, Level 2 or 3 at 19, EET at 17 |

Appendix 1 - Early Help Assessment process for Lead Professionals

| Process step | Guidance Notes |
|---|---|
| <p>A need or problem is identified</p> <p>Explaining the process and gaining consent</p> | <p>The person who identifies the need (or who the family share their problem with) should talk to the family about supporting them using the early help process - that they would work with them and other services/workers who know them, to gather information about what works well in their family, and what doesn't, so we can understand how best to help them. The worker would then create a plan with the family and involve the other people who know them. This plan would be reviewed on a regular basis. The worker should gain explicit consent from the family to take part and to support contacting other services.</p> |
| <p>Assess</p> <p>The assessment and detailing the suggested plan should be undertaken within 20 days.</p> | <p>The worker takes the role of lead professional. This means that they coordinate the gathering of information from the family, including the children and young people and the other service who know the family – this includes gathering information about the family's history, family strengths and worries.</p> <p>The Lead professional uses the information to complete the early help assessment, analysing the information to understand what it means for the children and the family and what support may be needed.</p> <p>Where there are immediate needs or quick wins for a family these should be actioned as soon as possible rather than waiting for the assessment to be completed or the plan to be agreed</p> |
| <p>Plan</p> <p>The first meeting of the TAF group should happen no more than 10 days after the suggested plan has been reviewed by the Early Help and Support Service.</p> | <p>The lead professional works with the family to pull together a 'Family Plan' based on the understanding gained from the assessment.</p> <p>The lead professional will be expected to engage with a quality assurance process supported by the Early Help and Support Service.</p> <p>The first Team Around the Family meeting (TAF meeting) should be arranged to formally agree the plan and prioritise actions so not to try to do everything at once and overburden the family. The family are integral to this meeting.</p> |
| <p>Do (with)</p> | <p>The TAF group find effective ways to work with parents and children ensuring that actions in the family's plan happen, supporting children and parents to access the services, programmes and help that they have identified that they need.</p> |
| <p>Review</p> <p>Reviews/ TAF meetings should take place every 4-6 weeks</p> | <p>TAF meetings should take place regularly to support the children, (where appropriate and if it isn't their feedback or voice should be shared in the meeting) family and the TAF group to celebrate success, challenge each other where progress hasn't been made and identifying what should happen next.</p> |

More technical and detailed guidance is available to all lead professionals - please ask your Link Worker.

**For further information, support and advice
about early help work you can contact**

Request for Service Hub on 01253 477299

Blackpool's Family Hubs

North Family Hub (Grange Park)

E: GrangeFamilyHub@blackpool.gov.uk

T: 01253 476480

Central Family Hub (TAB)

E: TABFamilyHub@blackpool.gov.uk

T: 01253 951190

South Family Hub (Revoe)

E: RevoeFamilyHub@blackpool.gov.uk

T: 01253 798016

Blackpool Council





Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Department
for Education

Early Help System Guide

A toolkit to assist local strategic partnerships
responsible for their Early Help System

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March 2022

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Department for Education



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This document/publication is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/dluhc

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March 2022

Introduction

Purpose of This Guide

The Early Help System is not a single service. It is a network of services, processes and interactions that aim to help children, young people and families at the earliest opportunity. Improving this system requires clarity of what success looks like, shared across a range of partners, and informed by the voices of managers, practitioners and families.

This is the second iteration of The Early Help System Guide. This second version outlines a national vision and descriptors for a mature Early Help System that is shared by DLUHC and DfE. It has been widely consulted upon across other government departments and local areas and is based on what is working around the country. It is a living tool that will adapt as new and better ideas are implemented.

The Guide is intended for the local strategic partnership responsible for the Early Help System. It aims to provide a framework for local workshops, partnership conversations and strategic planning and to support prioritisation. The Guide provides a self-assessment tool to support discussion, reflection and action planning against key areas that influence the effectiveness of Early Help. It does not dictate what needs to be done; but is a dynamic tool designed to focus the system on common goals, and progress towards these. Your reflections with partners and communities on the Early Help System Guide should lead to an improved local early help strategy which, in turn, will help your local partnership improve families' outcomes and reduce demand on acute services.

The Guide is designed to help you use local and research evidence to deliver an effective approach to early help. It asks you to consider what organisational and community data you use to understand your current position, as well as which evidenced-based interventions and practices you use to support families across the partnership.

Background and Context

This Guide has been produced by the national Supporting Families programme (formerly the Troubled Families programme) within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in partnership with the Department for Education.

Since 2012, the programme has been supporting and challenging local areas to transform services and systems to achieve significant and sustained outcomes for families facing complex challenges and problems. The programme promotes a whole family approach and has been evaluated as successful in improving outcomes. The programme invests significant resource into local areas in order to support the transformation this Guide sets out.

The Supporting Families programme places a specific expectation on all areas to use the Guide to self-assess the maturity of the Early Help System and to identify priority descriptors to work towards. More detail on this can be found in the [Supporting Families programme Guidance](#).

System transformation: Supporting Families, Family Hubs and Start for Life

During the budget 2021, the Government announced increased investment in the Supporting Families programme alongside new investment to transform Start for Life and family help services by creating a network of Family Hubs, investing in tailored breastfeeding services, infant and parent mental health, parenting programmes, and establishing a clear Start for Life Offer in half of upper tier local authorities.

Supporting Families drives high standards of continual improvements to local partnership working and data use, while funding intensive keywork support for those families facing multiple complex problems. Family Hubs are one way of delivering the Supporting Families vision of an effective early help system.

Where Family Hubs exist, they provide a single access point – a ‘front door’ – to universal and early help services for families with children of all ages (0-19) or up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with a great Start for Life offer at their core. Family Hubs involve co-location of services and professionals to make it easier for families to access the services they need, including Start for Life services, and this can include both physical locations, outreach support and virtual offers. Many services offered in a Family Hub network will be for families who do not need intensive, whole-family Lead Practitioner support; however, hubs will ensure seamless access to a whole-family Lead Practitioner where needed.

Supporting Families’ outcomes align with the Best Start for Life vision of achieving good early years outcomes for babies and young children, and practitioners, services and families all benefit from expanded core services which ensure that children have the best possible start in life.

Many local authorities have already adopted hubs as their leading model of delivery with the help of Supporting Families funding. These programmes can be entirely complementary and together they form a strengthened local family help and support offer, led by the Department for Education, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Department for Health and Social Care working in close partnership across government.

How to use this Guide

This guide provides the key descriptors of a mature Early Help System. It is a self-assessment and planning tool, the outcome of which should lead to a clearer and shared understanding of the current maturity of the Early Help System in an area and what steps need to be taken to progress. This could form the basis of a refreshed Early Help Strategy in a local area and a plan for implementation.

The guide contains:

| Contents | Description | Page |
|---|---|-----------|
| The Early Help vision | A summary of our vision for the Early Help System of support for families | 6 |
| The Early Help system | A diagram demonstrating which services have a role to play in the Early Help System | 9 |
| The workforce table | A table which defines the likely role of different types of practitioners from different agencies in the Early Help System. The contents of this table were developed with local areas and relevant Government Departments. | 11 |
| The self-assessment scoring system | An outline of how to use the 0-5 scoring framework | 14 |
| The self-assessment descriptors | Structured as five sections focussing on family voice and experience, workforce, communities, leaders and data | 15 |

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Conducting a self-assessment

There are a number of different ways the self-assessment can be conducted

1. A series of multi-agency workshops – using the themes in the guide as a structure, workshops could explore different perspectives on what is working well and what needs to improve linked to each descriptor. Evidence from family feedback along with population, cohort and family level outcome measures should be used to inform discussion.
2. Individual interviews with stakeholders from different agencies and services – this approach could yield more insightful responses from individual stakeholders, the results of which could be used to draft the self-assessment with stakeholders, or used as one of the evidence sources for a multi- agency workshop.
3. Peer review – a number of stakeholders from 2 areas may wish to work together to complete the self-assessment to enable benchmarking and comparison of activity and progress.

The Guide can be used by any partnership to assess and plan for maturity in the Early Help System.

The Early Help vision

Workforce

1. There is a professional family support service. Whole family working is the norm for all people-facing public services through a shared practice framework. And early help is seen as everyone's responsibility
2. Public services work together in place based or hub-based working where partners are integrated virtually or physically, based in the community with a common footprint
3. We invest in our workforce with a workforce development plan to embed the shared practice framework and there is direct support for professionals to improve their practice through a quality assurance framework
4. The response to different presenting needs are aligned or integrated to ensure there is always a whole family response

Early Help is the total support that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse

Family voice and experience

1. There are well established mechanisms to gather and act on feedback from families and engage people with lived experience in service design, governance and quality assurance
2. Families say they know how to navigate local services and how to get help
3. Families who have several needs say they know who their lead practitioner is, that all their needs were considered individually, and as a whole, and they only needed to tell their story once. They also say all the professionals work together to one plan in a team around the family
4. Families say that those that helped them listened carefully, cared about them and told them about their strengths
5. Families say that the help they have received addressed all their problems and they are better connected to their own support network and local community

Leaders

1. There is a senior strategic group accountable for the Early Help System and the partnership infrastructure evidences a focus on early help, whole family and whole system working
2. Our system is balanced, so that more appropriate support is provided for children and families earlier to avoid unnecessary or costly statutory intervention in the children's social care system
3. Partners have agreed a shared set of measures at family, cohort, demand and population level, including quality of practice and family voice, which collectively represent the effectiveness of the Early Help System
4. There is a culture of using evaluation and evidence to inform development of the Early Help System

Data

1. There is a senior strategic group with representation across the partnership, which is accountable for developing and driving the use of data for the whole Early Help System
2. All data feeds are shared safely and robustly across the partnership, brought into one place and used to identify family needs
3. Case management systems are accessible to all partners working with families and allow us to quantify all issues affecting the family and report on all issues and outcomes in a quantifiable way
4. Working with our strategic partnership group we are developing innovative approaches to the use of data. We are using technological solutions to match data, present information to family workers and strategic boards and analyse these data to prevent the escalation of needs

Communities

1. We are improving the connectivity between voluntary and community sector activity, family networks and formal early help activity
2. Our relationship with community groups and voluntary organisations embodies a culture of valuing the contribution of all
3. We are building capacity in communities and harnessing the talent of parents, carers and young people with lived experience to help one another
4. We are shifting decision making about local services and facilities towards families and communities

The Early Help vision (Plain Text)

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Early Help System



The Early Help System (Plain Text)

The Early Help System available to children and their families is made up of three types of services that combine in different ways to form a local area's Early Help offer to its citizens. These are universal services, community support and acute and targeted services.

Community support includes

Family and friends, local places and environments, online support services, voluntary, faith and community services, local members of the community and local businesses

Universal services includes

Post-16 education, schools, early years settings, family hubs, children's centres and youth centres, GP surgeries, libraries, maternity services, specialist public health or community nurses and community co-ordinators

Acute and targeted services includes

Family support, social care, accident and emergency departments, allied health professionals, mental health services, special education needs support services, jobcentre plus, school attendance and exclusion support, domestic abuse services, alternative provision, housing services, police, probation and prison services, family court and family court advisory services, substance misuse services, fire and rescue, youth offending and targeted youth services.

Multi-Agency Workforce

A strong Early Help System is made up of many different types of practitioners and services who operate as one. This table attempts to define the likely role of different types of practitioners in the Early Help System. The contents of this table were developed with local areas and relevant government departments. We recognise this is not a complete or exhaustive list, and the identified roles may have different names. This should be seen as a 'minimum' level of activity for how workforces should operate, for example how often they may act as lead practitioner. The lead practitioner (defined along with other aspects of whole family working in the family voice section) should always be the right person for the family at the right time, with the family having a say in who they are. In some circumstances specific professional groups or VCS organisations may have greater involvement as lead practitioner or as part of the team around the family following needs or risk assessment or because of specific contracting arrangements. The grouping terms relate to how often these workers would likely act as lead practitioner (e.g. frequent) and what role they have in whole family working (e.g. modelling)

Use this table to assess the current status of activity within your local workforce

| Grouping – Early Help and whole family working | What does this look like | Who is likely to be in this group |
|--|---|---|
| Frequent and Modelling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These practitioners support families with multiple needs and act as Lead Practitioner for the majority of families they are accountable for • They provide whole family, sometimes intensive, support for families often in their home, being proactive to reach out to families where needed • They are experts in processes to support families with multiple needs and help families, other professionals, commissioned organisations and voluntary and community groups to understand those needs, advocating where necessary • These practitioners may support others with the lead practitioner role | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s social workers • Family Workers/Early Help Worker • Targeted Youth Worker/Support Worker • Specialist Public Health or Community Nurse • Family nurses |

| Grouping – Early Help and whole family working | What does this look like | Who is likely to be in this group |
|--|---|--|
| Regular and promoting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These practitioners are often the first to identify a family’s need for help or support, are able to assess the needs of all members of the family, and form the core of a team around the family where involved • They connect families with support in their community • They are well versed in processes to support families with multiple needs and help families to understand them • They may be the Lead Practitioner to start the Early Help process and regularly retain this role if they are the most appropriate person | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Public Health or Community Nurse • Schools and colleges – e.g. school pastoral leads, designated safeguarding leads, SENCOs, school family support workers and teachers. • Early years settings including nurseries – nursery SENCOs and designated safeguarding leads • Children’s Centre Workers • Family Hub Workers |
| Sometimes and active | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These practitioners bring specialist expertise and therefore need to be part of a team around the family when required / involved • They connect families with support in their community but also know how to start the process to bring wider support around a family where there are several needs • They may act as the Lead Practitioner if they are the most appropriate person | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing / tenancy officers and Homelessness advisors • Young people’s substance misuse services • Adult substance misuse workers • Child and adolescent / primary mental health workers • Midwives • Careers advisers • Youth Offending officers with prevention/whole family remit • Neighbourhood police officers/PCSOs • Supporting Families Employment Advisers • SEN support staff and caseworkers • Education Welfare Officers • Universal youth workers • Allied Health Professionals |

| Grouping – Early Help and whole family working | What does this look like | Who is likely to be in this group |
|--|--|---|
| Occasional and aware/ connected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These practitioners or volunteers understand they are part of a system of support which ‘helps’ people • They know how to ask questions to explore the wider needs families may have • They know how to connect to other support for families • These practitioners bring specialist expertise and need to be part of a team around the family when required / involved • They don’t usually act as a Lead Practitioner unless this is in the family’s best interests • They are active users of the local online directory of services to identify the right help for a family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation officers • Prison officers • Offender managers in custody and community • Reactive police officers • Adult mental health workers • Adult social workers • Domestic abuse worker • Voluntary, community and faith sector workers and volunteers (unless commissioned differently) • Work coaches • GPs and practice nurses • Library staff • Youth Offending Officers |

The self-assessment

This self-assessment section is structured as five sections focusing on family voice and experience, workforce, communities, leaders and data. Areas should work as a partnership to identify on average their score for the individual descriptors, what is working well and the evidence that shows this, and plans for what will be prioritised next.

Scoring system

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| | ← Early stages | | | | | → Mature |
| | There are no or few elements of this descriptor in place with no plan for development. | Planning has started and is at an early stage of development. It is too early for evidence of impact. | There is a plan to achieve this and some evidence that this is being implemented. It's too early to demonstrate impact/outcomes from this work. | There is some good evidence of progress – to some extent / across many elements. There may be some emerging evidence of the outcomes/impact. The next steps are clear. | This is largely in place although not yet fully established or embedded. There is some good evidence of outcomes/ impact. There is a plan for continuous development. | This is in place and well established. There is strong evidence that developments are having impact where needed. There is a commitment to continuous development. |

The self-assessment descriptors

| | Family voice and experience | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>Family engagement: We have well established mechanisms to gather and act on feedback from families and engage people with lived experience in service design, governance and quality assurance.</p> <p><i>A mature area has a range of methods to collect feedback from families (all children, young people, parents, carers and significant others) including but not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• From families during and following support given as part of a Family Plan reflecting whole family working principles. This feedback relates to the work of all parts of the Early Help System.</i> <i>• From families who have not accessed support e.g. families who have been offered help and refused, those who needed help and weren't able to get it, and those who have needs but haven't come to the attention of services.</i> <i>• From families from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.</i> <p><i>This feedback is used as learning to support changes in how the whole system works together.</i></p> | | | |

| | Family voice and experience | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 2 | <p>One Lead Practitioner: We have evidence that families say they know who their Lead Practitioner is and they have a good relationship with them.</p> <p><i>A mature area has Lead Practitioners who co-ordinate the activity of the team around the family, ensure the assessment and the family plan responds to all needs identified and leads on ensuring the family co-produce the plan. The time commitment to deliver this role will vary family by family depending on the complexity of their needs. Families should always have a say in who their lead practitioner is and be able to give feedback on their relationship with them.</i></p> | | | |
| 3 | <p>One assessment: We have evidence that families say the assessment process considered their needs individually and as a whole, their views were reflected throughout the process and the assessment meant they told their story once.</p> <p><i>A mature area has an assessment process that explores the needs of all members of the family as individuals and considers how their needs impact on one another. It should cover not just the presenting needs but also any underlying issues. It should explore strengths as well as needs and be carried out in partnership with the family.</i></p> | | | |

| | Family voice and experience | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 4 | <p>One family plan: We have evidence that individuals and families say their needs are reflected in one family plan which the whole team around the family work to. Families and professionals agree outcomes together.</p> <p><i>A mature area has high quality family plans that provide the detail of what all members of the team around the family, including the family, will do to meet the needs identified. There is a recognition that the support needed may not always be a person/service but could be an item which needs to be purchased and the team around the family have easy access to small pots of funding to deliver this.</i></p> | | | |
| 5 | <p>One team around the family – we have evidence from families about how well services work together to co-ordinate support to meet the needs of their family.</p> <p><i>In a mature area teams around families are groups of professionals and volunteers who work alongside the family to improve outcomes. They are led by a Lead Practitioner but all members are active participants and their contribution equally valued. The team will be able to demonstrate good communication and co-ordination based on the family's plan and this will be reflected in the family's feedback on the support provided.</i></p> | | | |

| | Family voice and experience | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 6 | <p>Access to support: We have evidence that families say they know how to navigate local services and how to get help.</p> <p><i>A mature area has digital solutions such as a service directory, social media and also roles such as community connectors and service access points which provide accessible opportunities for families to understand and access the support available. Each solution should take an approach which ensures there is 'no wrong door' for families accessing support.</i></p> | | | |
| 7 | <p>Sustainability: We have evidence that families say their needs including underlying issues have been addressed. They will be better equipped to cope when support from services ends because they have identified their own support network and feel connected with their local community and the support network it provides.</p> <p><i>A mature area includes extended family, friends, community support and other local resources early on in the life of any family plan.</i></p> | | | |

| | Workforce | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>The workforce in our area operates effectively to deliver whole family working and is aligned with the levels set out in the workforce table (page 11).</p> <p><i>The workforce table shows our vision for how all professionals who contribute to the Early Help System operate in practice although we recognise this is not a complete or exhaustive list. The family voice section gives definitions of the Lead Practitioner role and whole family working.</i></p> | | | |
| 2 | <p>Early help is understood and seen as everyone's responsibility across the partnership of services working with children, adults and families. We have a shared culture and set of core principles that underpin the wider Early Help System.</p> <p><i>In a mature area all those who work with children and adults understand they have a role to recognise needs, support families in finding solutions and access help at the earliest opportunity. There is a common set of principles that reflect this and it is regularly promoted within and between agencies.</i></p> | | | |

| | Workforce | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 3 | <p>We have a shared practice framework and locally agreed processes for professionals in partner agencies working across the wider Early Help System which is known, understood and consistently used.</p> <p><i>In a mature area, partners will have agreed an overarching framework that articulates the shared values, principles, key theories, and models that underpin local ways of working with children, young people and families, with whole family working at its core. As well as describing what is common, this framework will also recognise the value of the specialisms and perspectives from different agencies. There are many different services which provide Early Help. In a mature area, there will be a clear service map outlining how all services contribute to the whole system of support and the pathways and processes in place to enable families and practitioners to navigate this system.</i></p> | | | |

| | Workforce | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 4 | <p>We have a multi-agency workforce development plan based on workforce development needs, to help embed the shared practice framework and culture. This equips the workforce with appropriate levels of understanding and skills to enable early identification of and response to family needs and the implementation of a whole family approach.</p> <p><i>A mature area has a workforce development plan. It may not stand alone specifically for Early Help, because in a mature system of support, the culture and practice framework are in operation across the spectrum of need and across children and adults support services. Wherever this is governed or located, the plan will address the continuing professional development needs of all workforces through a range of methods.</i></p> | | | |
| 5 | <p>We know the quality of early help practice across professionals listed in the workforce table. We directly support professionals in our partnership to improve their practice, including around whole family working, through a quality assurance framework, e.g. through audit, supervision and guidance.</p> <p><i>In a mature area, 'Early help practice' spans a wide range of skills including Early Help Assessments, Family Plans and monitoring of outcomes, the application of the practice framework and enabling families to connect with the right support at the earliest opportunity.</i></p> | | | |

| | Workforce | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 6 | <p>We have a model of place-based or hub-based working in the community with a common footprint. Partners are integrated either virtually or physically in e.g. family or community hubs. The model helps underpin the principles of whole family working.</p> <p><i>In a mature area families are able to easily identify where to go for help in their local community, when they make contact they experience a welcoming response where 'asking for help' is seen as normal. The response will enable the needs of the whole family to be explored and the family are helped to seamlessly access all the help they need, including a Lead Practitioner if needed. Where hubs exist they are a fundamental and fully integrated part of the Early Help System. The local offer is responsive to the diverse needs within the local community and is proactive in removing barriers to access to enable inclusion for all.</i></p> | | | |

| | Workforce | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 7 | <p>The response to different presenting needs (pathways) are aligned or integrated to ensure there is always a whole family response. This could take the form of a ‘team around the school’ approach where all relevant professionals work together to anticipate and respond early to for example school engagement, mental health or special educational needs of children and young people in the school.</p> <p><i>A mature area knows that needs within families are often interconnected and have underlying causes. They do not treat a presenting need in isolation to avoid causes not being addressed and outcomes not being achieved. Rather than having distinct pathways for different needs, the practice framework and integration of pathways means that regardless of the presenting need, practitioners consider and respond to the wider needs. For example, whenever an SEN need, or school attendance or mental health issue is suspected or identified, the family receive a whole family response.</i></p> | | | |

| | Communities | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>Public services partner closely with voluntary and community groups to maintain up to date information about local community assets, community groups, voluntary sector support and faith groups and have made this information accessible to local staff and residents e.g. through a website.</p> <p><i>A mature area will have a quality assured, up to date, user friendly website to enable flexibility and self-service. This supports Lead Practitioners and families to connect into their local communities. Monitoring is in place to check whether this information is used, is helpful and is making an impact. Public sector services should be confident the services/groups included deliver safe, quality support.</i></p> | | | |
| 2 | <p>Our relationship with community groups and voluntary organisations embodies a culture of valuing the contribution of all, prizes creativity, collaboration, and local solutions; alongside quality and inclusivity. We are building a culture and system where our communities understand that everyone helps to deliver a whole family approach.</p> <p><i>A mature area recognises and values the contribution of all public sector, community, faith and voluntary groups and works to actively remove any hierarchical barriers in place and works to include a broad range of voluntary and community groups including under-represented groups. Leadership at the local level should be shared between the public sector and community and voluntary groups. Areas should also put in place mechanisms to discern and challenge any harmful practices which may exist in a minority of situations. Public bodies should support integrated communities - encouraging local people to live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities.</i></p> | | | |

| | Communities | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 3 | <p>We are building capacity in communities and making the most of the refreshed sense of community which grew through COVID-19 . We harness the talent and contribution of parents, carers and young people with lived experience to help one another.</p> <p><i>A mature area recognises that those who need help often also help others or want to help others. The system provides opportunity for people to improve their community and values their contribution by creating space and opportunity for this to flourish.</i></p> | | | |
| 4 | <p>We are improving the connectivity between voluntary and community sector activity, family networks and formal early help activity.</p> <p><i>A mature area has staff in public services who are well connected with and understand the local areas they serve, including the differences within communities at a granular neighbourhood or street level. Where there is a need for a Lead Practitioner, family assessment and plan (formal early help), the team around the family engage the wider family network and relevant voluntary and community group support at the earliest opportunity, throughout the plan and as part of a sustainability plan.</i></p> | | | |

| | Communities | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 5 | <p>We are shifting decision making about local services and facilities towards families and communities.</p> <p><i>A mature area has regular and detailed data which is used to inform joint needs assessment and decision making that responds to community need at the community/neighbourhood/locality level. Families and communities are engaged in shaping how help is provided locally and there is evidence their views influence decision making.</i></p> | | | |

| | Leaders | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>There is a senior strategic group accountable for the Early Help System and the partnership infrastructure evidences a focus on early help, whole family and whole system working.</p> <p><i>A mature area has strong partnership arrangements that enable partners to take collective responsibility, share risks and jointly invest in early help, whole family and whole system working. Strong partnerships also evidence that leaders at different levels across the Early Help Partnership focus on building productive relationships with partners and trust one another. All themed initiatives such as serious violence, child poverty and homelessness are co-ordinated and seen as interdependent and are supported by strong data governance arrangements. Leaders speak with one voice on the importance of early help, whole family and whole system working and ensure this culture is embedded through senior and middle management and the front line and staff at all levels are effectively involved in shaping and developing improvements.</i></p> | | | |

| | Leaders | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 2 | <p>Our system is balanced, so that more appropriate support is provided for children and families earlier to avoid unnecessary or costly statutory intervention in the children's social care system.</p> <p><i>A mature area draws upon local and national evaluation to show the impact of early help on outcomes for children and families and reducing demand on statutory services. Investment and commissioning decisions prioritise whole family and whole system working, and evidence based support. This is evident in a shared Early Help Strategy which is a product of joined up thinking across the partnership.</i></p> | | | |

| | Leaders | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 3 | <p>Partners have agreed a shared set of measures at family, cohort, demand and population level, including quality of whole family practice and family voice, which collectively represent the effectiveness of the Early Help System. The performance against these measures shows that outcomes for families are improving.</p> <p><i>A mature area has a shared set of measures owned by all partners who take collective responsibility for contributing to positive change. Population measures cover the whole population of the area e.g. Primary school attendance rates. Cohort measures cover a specific subset of the population e.g. primary attendance rates of children in families who received a specific service. Demand measures are those which measure activity in the system e.g. child in need per 10,000 population. Family measures track progress in outcomes for individual families e.g. child attending school at least 90% in last three consecutive terms. All outcome measures are used to generate an enquiring and learning culture, with high support and high challenge. This enables shared responsibility for improving outcomes, recognising that no one organisation delivers a specific outcome on their own.</i></p> | | | |

| | Leaders | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 4 | <p>There is a culture of using evaluation and evidence to inform the development of the Early Help System and the quality of whole family working. Where appropriate to local and individual needs, evidence-based services are used.</p> <p><i>A mature area has services that are evaluated and evidence is collated to show the local impact of early help with particular evidence gathered on the impact on groups in the community with protected characteristics. Evidence based interventions are those where an evaluation has been conducted which shows a causal impact on child outcomes.</i></p> | | | |
| 5 | <p>Working towards a shared culture, principles, practice framework and set of processes within the Early Help system is a standard feature in all commissioning processes and decisions.</p> <p><i>A mature area ensures good early help practice forms part of the standards for commissioning of all services. Early help practice is regularly reviewed through contract arrangements and is a critical step in ensuring it is embedded more quickly. Commissioning processes are developed and agreed that encourage and support the application of local voluntary, community and faith groups with relevant community knowledge as service providers.</i></p> | | | |

| | Data | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>We have regular data feeds from all parts of the partnership to support whole family working. These are open feeds and underpinned by strong data sharing agreements.</p> <p><i>A mature partnership shares data feeds, including police, housing, social care, education and homelessness, council tax and where possible health. They make good use of open data feeds (the whole population rather than confined to the cohort) to allow for the quick identification of issues for referred families, along with needs and predictive analysis, to understand the whole community and predict individual risks. They explore the use of the Digital Economy Act to underpin data sharing agreements.</i></p> | | | |
| 2 | <p>Our case management system allows all partners to securely access all relevant cases and record whole family assessments.</p> <p><i>Shared case management systems are key to transparent, seamless 'one journey' whole family working. They should be underpinned by the shared practice framework (see 'Workforce, descriptor 3'). On the journey to achieving one case management system, the area may have used a data warehouse/lake to make all assessments accessible as an interim measure.</i></p> | | | |

| | Data | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 3 | <p>Our case management system allows us to record all issues affecting the family and outcomes in a quantifiable way and run reports on these.</p> <p><i>A mature area quantifies issues that could previously only be captured and monitored in a qualitative way (such as parenting needs or parental conflict). This enables the partnership and analysts to understand which issues are affecting families and how these interact with other issues and outcomes. Embedding quantitative reporting should commence from notification through to closure and should be checked by supervisors at closure.</i></p> | | | |

| | Data | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 4 | <p>We have an effective data governance board that is accountable for our progress on data transformation. It supports us and our partners to unlock and resolve issues with data sharing and direct how we use data both for performance and analytics and how we consult on system changes that would impact across the partnership. Data are used by the partnership to support resourcing, planning, whole family working and early intervention. An identified member of the Children's Services Senior Leadership team has responsibility for driving forward actions from this board.</p> <p><i>Data Governance Boards should be either a stand-alone board, or part of a wider partnership board. The board should help drive the data transformation journey and road map. It should provide direction on how data should be used to ensure effective services and help unblock any data sharing issues. Representation should be at a senior level from across the partnership.</i></p> | | | |

| | Data | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 5 | <p>We have a system that allows us to pull together all data, analyse these data and ensure practitioners can see results.</p> <p><i>Data warehouses and data lakes provide the opportunity to bring all data together in one place, and automate matching across partnership data. This in turn will allow analysis of these data, which could be in this system or in a separate system. It is important that the results of this analysis and any matched data are visible to practitioners to inform their work with families.</i></p> | | | |
| 6 | <p>We are using data to inform performance across the Early Help partnership, demand and resourcing (including commissioning), operational delivery and workforce development.</p> <p><i>A mature area uses data and analytics effectively with senior leadership, across the partnership and at a lower tier authority level (where appropriate). These data and analytics are used to inform what is commissioned, resourced and in future planning (in terms of volume of staff/skills/resources required by practitioners in all services across the partnership). Processes should be in place to ensure and continuously improve data quality to ensure these data and analyses are robust.</i></p> | | | |

| | Data | Self-assessment score 0 to 5 | What is working well and what evidence do you have? | What are you prioritising next? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 7 | <p>We have developed innovative analytical products. This could be needs analysis, place-based analysis, individual or family level risk analytics, apps or systems to improve information available to practitioners and partners, quantifying qualitative case notes or other documentation or any other product or system that has changed/improved our ways of working.</p> <p><i>A mature area continues to learn and develop how they use data to keep up with demands, changing services and improve the offer to families. Data are used to evaluate services, improve their effectiveness and continue to create/increase efficiencies.</i></p> | | | |

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|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Service |
| Meeting | 22 September 2022 |

YOUTH JUSTICE TEAM: UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider an update regarding Blackpool's Youth Justice Service.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight of the service to provide scrutiny, challenge and support to aid service development and ensure positive outcomes for children are achieved.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To provide the Committee an overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service.

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

3.2 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 Over the past year the Blackpool's Youth Justice Service (YJS) has continued to develop as we uphold our endeavour for continuous improvement. Blackpool YJS remains committed and

motivated to working with some of the most complex children and young people in our community. The service provides children with interventions that support their needs and addresses their offending behaviour, maintaining a “child first” approach and always seeks to work in partnership with children, young people and their families. Blackpool’s YJS was inspected by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) in Summer 2021 and the service was rated ‘Good’ and in 3 aspects ‘Outstanding’. The Inspectorate worked jointly with partner inspectors from policing, health, social care and education to undertake this inspection. Three broad areas were 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 (such as community sentences).

6.2 Six recommendations were made by HMIP following the inspection to further improve the service:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to ensure they are 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 provision and vocational training, including access to services where children can gain the personal, life, and social skills they need 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 is identified, put in place clear contingency planning for circumstances where the risk may increase.
- Where risk to other people is identified, put in place clear contingency planning for circumstances where the risk may increase.

6.3 Actions taken since the inspection include:

- The implementation of an audit cycle to regularly review practice and share learning. This quarter the audit theme was Education Training and Employment (ETE) and Health. The audits focused specifically on assessment, planning, the delivery of intervention and outcomes for children and young people. Findings included the education section of Assetplus is routinely assigned to and completed by the specialist ETE practitioner. Evidence of liaison with the child’s education provider and good engagement and practical support to child. Learning from audits are shared with the team and improvements implemented such as ensuring that the voice of the child is

routinely captured in contacts and interventions, not just assessments, ensuring that plans reflect ETE identified issues and closure reports focus on achievements rather than just deficits. Audit actions are monitored by our YJS Team Managers during reflective supervisions.

- Raising Blackpool's profile and sharing good practice on a National footprint. This has included attending a HMIP Development Day where we were asked to share with inspectors our Youth Justice journey to date and the impact of inspection. It has also included support to other Local Authorities regarding inspection preparation and a visit by Minister Victoria Atkins, Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab and the Chair of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Keith Fraser.
- Further learning and development for practitioners including training on Adolescent Trauma via Research in Practice and in-house learning circles regarding contingency planning. Seeking good practice from other areas including Blackburn's multi-agency sexually harmful behaviour team to review their suite of effective interventions. Further development by our multidisciplinary YJS Executive Board and Shadow Boards including our Development day at the start of the year focusing on the 'Organisational delivery' element of the HMIP Inspection Framework with a specifically on the 'Partnerships and Services' as this is an area in which required improvement. Partners came together to problem solve key issues which include contextual safeguarding, the effectiveness of interventions, effective communication, holistic assessments and access to services to develop our young peoples' social and life skills. Output from the day has fed into the YJS Development Plan.
- The creation of a Employment and Skills Strategic Partnership Board to drive the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) priority within our 10 Year Education Strategy. The Board serves as a mechanism to coordinate key strategic partners and work streams, plus an opportunity for key partners to discuss latest data available and also hear from the lived experience of our Youth Advisers,
- A bespoke package of intervention to support Children who are not yet ready to engage with Education, Employment and Training (ETE) has been developed by the YJS ETE practitioner. The interventions aim to support personal, life and social skills in order to develop Children's self-esteem, confidence and motivation. The impact of the intervention is currently being monitored and will be enhanced by the recent commission of a speech and language therapist.

6.4 Performance Headlines:

- *Use of Custody:* Remands to custody and custodial sentences have continued to decrease and remain well below comparators. This is against a backdrop of a smaller cohort of children and young people, but a more concentrated population of complex

and vulnerable young people. The continued low number is positive and points to our improved partnership working with Police, Courts and other partners. However, what this does mean is that the YJS is working with an increasingly complex cohort of children and young people in the post Court arena. This requires a fundamental shift in how interventions are delivered with a focus on evidence based and trauma informed approaches to support desistance to enable children and young people to serve their sentence whilst remaining in the community.

- *Reducing First Time Entrants:* First time entrants are reducing in Blackpool however remain significantly higher when compared locally and nationally. In the autumn the Youth Justice Service expects to receive additional funding via the Home Office to deliver a new early intervention scheme over the next 3 years. The *Turnaround scheme* aims to connect children and young people to targeted, wraparound support at an earlier stage to prevent them going down a path of criminality. We believe that this reflects national recognition that youth justice services need to return to undertaking more preventative work and we welcome this approach.
- *Reducing Re-offending:* Blackpool YJS continue to reduce our numbers of re-offenders and remains in line with the local and national figures (based on current available data).
- *Increasing the proportion of young people in education, training and employment (ETE):* While this remains a key area of focus for the service, local performance is substantially better than the national, regional or similar area average for the proportion of young offenders in full time ETE at the end of their intervention; and the proportion in any ETE. This is true for both young people of school age and those who are older than 16 years of age.

6.5 The continuing actions to address the HMIP recommendations and advance the service further form part of our Youth Justice Plan. This plan outline Service development for the year ahead (Appendix 1). The youth justice system in England and Wales is overseen by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), a non-departmental public body operating at arms-length from ministers. Its primary function is to monitor the operation of the youth justice system and the provision of youth justice services. In August 2022 the YJB fed back that that overall Blackpool's Youth Justice Plan is a very good plan, and based on YJB criteria it has been rated 'outstanding'.

6.6 The Youth Justice Plan along with performance and resource data is monitored quarterly via the Blackpool's Youth Justice Executive Board providing a multidisciplinary strategic focus on the impact of service delivery on children's outcomes. The Blackpool Youth Justice Executive Management Board is committed to working effectively and collaboratively with all relevant partners and agencies to reduce the numbers of children and young people entering the criminal justice system and to reduce re-offending. The service continues to strive to

maintain existing high standards and improve our performance against national and local performance indicators. The plan sets out how we will achieve these aims with our partners, and how this will influence areas of future development and growth.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 7(a) - Youth Justice Plan

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The YJS partnership will fund the service in 2022/23 through the budget outlined below:

B5: YJS budget - England **2022-23** **BUDGET**
Costs and Contributions

| Agency | Staffing Costs | Payments in kind | Other delegated funds | Total |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Police | 58,336 | | 0 | 58,336 |
| Probation | 24,608 | | 5,000 | 29,608 |
| Health | 39,974 | | 15,442 | 55,416 |
| Local Authority | 345,016 | | 103,807 | 448,823 |
| YJB | 435,178 | | 54,251 | 489,429 |
| Other | | | | 0 |
| Total | 903,112 | - | 178,500 | 1,081,612 |

In 2022/23 there has been a £40,000 reduction in the funding the service receive from Police partners however are no current budget pressures at this present time due to a 9.8% uplift across all Local Authorities in the Youth Justice Grant.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 There are no legal implications to consider

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There are no issues of concern, appropriate governance arrangements are in place

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 The young people supported by the Blackpool youth justice service in 21/22 were mainly White ethnic background (87%), 7% of young people were mixed heritage and the remainder were a very small number of Eastern European and Vietnamese young people (data from Executive Board May 2022).

11.2 A pan Lancashire protocol to reduce the number of our children has been disseminated via partners to practitioners in order to embed into practice the 'Reducing Criminalisation of our children and young people Strategy' within organisations.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 There are no sustainability, climate change or environmental factors to consider.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 The service continues to strengthen our consultation and co-production approach with our young people and victims to support improved service delivery. Please see Appendix 2 of YJS plan 'Voice of the Child' for recent feedback from Children we serve.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None

Blackpool Youth Justice Plan 2022-23

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Service Manager/ Lead Head of Adolescent Service Sara McCartan & Service Manager Julie Cummins
Chair of YJS Board Linda Clegg

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Introduction, Vision and Strategy

I once again have the pleasure of presenting the Blackpool Youth Justice (YJS) plan. This plan set out the strategic vision for 2022/23 detailing priorities the service aims to achieve to secure better outcomes for the young people we serve. The plan is part of our continued commitment to ensure the Youth Justice Board (YJB), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP), partners, stakeholders, employees, children, young people, their families and the public are informed of our work.

The plan covers the achievements of the service over the past year and includes the response to our most notable achievement for the service, the full joint HMIP inspection which took place in June of 2021.

Over the past year the Blackpool YJS has grown from strength to strength, as we uphold our endeavour for continuous improvement. Despite the improvements we have made over the last few years, we recognise that there is more work to do so that we achieve our vision of delivering a consistently "Outstanding" service to the children and young people we serve. The Blackpool Youth Justice Executive Management Board is committed to working effectively and collaboratively with all relevant partners and agencies to reduce the numbers of children and young people entering the criminal justice system and to reduce re-offending. The service continues to strive to maintain existing

high standards and improve our performance against national and local performance indicators.

This plan sets out how we will achieve these aims with our partners, and how this will influence areas of future development and growth. Blackpool YJS remains committed and motivated to working with some of the most complex children and young people in our community. They provide them with interventions that support their needs and addresses their offending behaviour, maintaining a "child first" approach and always seeks to work in partnership with children, young people and their families.

The Youth Justice Service has a key role to play by:

- Diverting children and young people away from the youth justice system where appropriate
- Helping prevent offending and reoffending
- Reducing the use of custody
- Contributing to multi-agency public protection and safeguarding
- Adopting evidence-based approaches such as trauma informed, identity development and whole family approaches to youth justice.

Alongside these key priorities there are three cross cutting themes, identified from our HMIP inspection and Executive Board away day event in January 22:

1. Understanding the health needs of our children and young people,
2. Promoting the decriminalisation of children and young people by using Out of Court Disposals (OoCD),
3. Ensuring our children and young people have access to suitable education, training or employment that meets their needs.

The voice of the child will be a key theme in all the work the service completes as we know that this is critically important in understanding the needs of children and young people.

Through partnership working we can make a real difference to people in Blackpool. All public services continue to face challenges from the legacy and impact of COVID-19 and Blackpool YJS is no exception. However, the YJS and partners will continue to work hard to build on service successes and we will continue to be committed to working together to ensure the priorities within this plan are achieved over the next year. As an active member of the Blackpool Youth Justice Service Executive Board, I look forward to seeing the work of the partnership continuing.

LINDA CLEGG

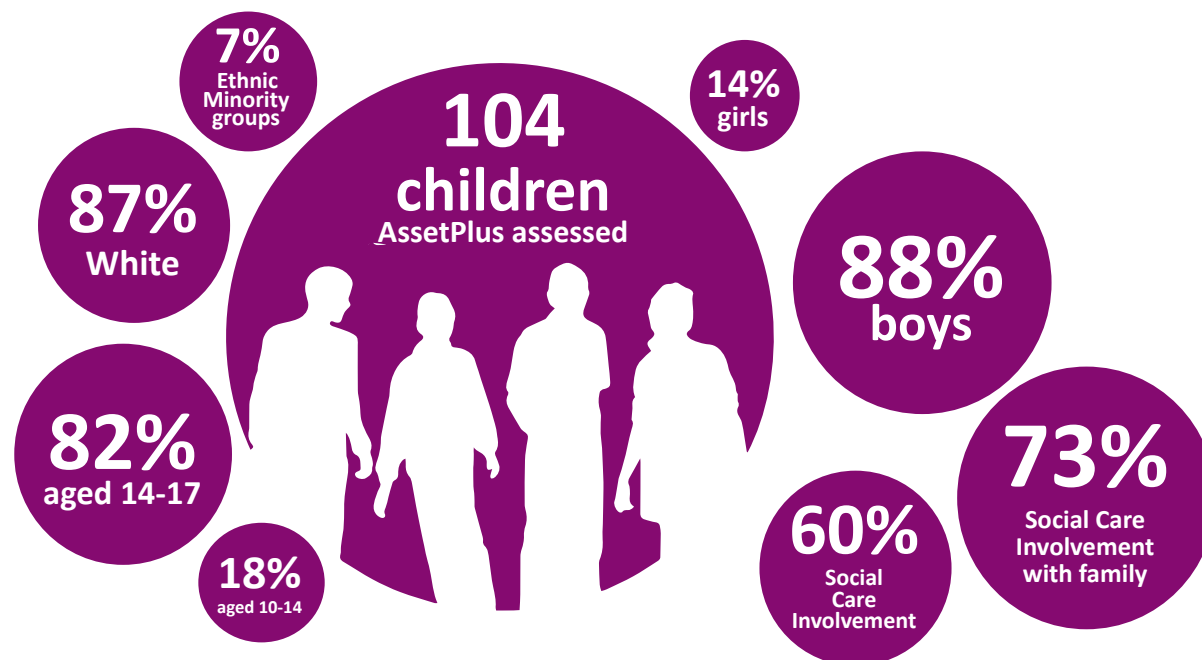
Local Context:

Blackpool is a town of 140,000 people, with slightly fewer than 12,500 children and young adults aged between 10 and 18 years old. The population split is 51:49 male to female, and they are overwhelmingly white British (87 per cent). Blackpool is the most deprived local authority in England. Eight of the 10 most deprived small areas in England are in the centre of Blackpool (up from three a decade ago) and a quarter of the whole of Blackpool is in the most deprived one per cent of areas in England. Nowhere else in the country has an equivalent concentration or extent of poverty and deprivation. Deprivation is chiefly driven by a low-skill, low-wage economy and poor employment opportunities. These in turn lead to particularly poor population-level health outcomes. Much of the work in the town is seasonal and tourism-based. Blackpool had the highest level of adult benefit claimants in the country before Covid-19. The rate has since doubled and remains the highest in the UK. We welcome the announcement in March 2022 by the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove, MP and Levelling Up Secretary, that new support measures will be provided to Blackpool to help improve the lives of people in the town “by turning the tide on deprivation in one of the U.K.s most iconic seaside towns”.

We ensure that all our partners know the children and young people referred to our youth justice service via a quarterly report produced by the Service Manager

and at 6 monthly intervals a performance and analysis presentation undertaken by the Blackpool Performance, Systems and Analysis Manager.

For the full profile and characteristics of children and young people referred to our Youth Justice Service in 2021/22 see Appendix 1



Child First

To achieve positive outcomes for children Blackpool YJS will promote child first, trauma informed and restorative approaches.

CHILD FIRST

i) See children as children:

Blackpool YJS is committed to developing the child first approach not only within our own organisation and with our partners, but by actively promoting the approach in the wider community. This work has at times proved challenging, but has resulted in services taking different responses that acknowledge the child's status. This has prevented them becoming involved with the criminal justice system.

ii) Children's pro-social identity, building on their strengths and promoting resilience:

As part of our work to help a child or young person develop a pro-social identity Blackpool YJS have created an environment in which practitioners are provided with the space to build supportive relationships with the child or young person, rather than feeling stressed or anxious about immediately delivering identified interventions. This provides positive child focused outcomes that are more effective as there is an established relationship with the child. Once there is

a good relationship the practitioner will help the child or young person develop their identity and find peer support and new friendships where appropriate. They will also be proactive and encourage them to find and join in with activities, outings and interest groups. These might include:

Everyday 1 to 1 activities with their parent/carer that offer opportunities to listen and build positive relationships; provide support to join facilitated activities that focus on emotional health and wellbeing, such as school clubs or the local leisure services; activities or outings that support the development of positive identity, such as community groups, cultural or religious events or festivals. These activities will be captured on the recently introduced "My Target" intervention plan which ensures the voice of the child is captured, matches assessed need to reduce reoffending, keeping them and others safe. The child or young person always signs their intervention plan.

iii) Collaborate and co-produce work with children and parent/carers:

Our practitioners want to know they are responding in the most helpful ways. We have found that there can be many challenges when attempting to work with our cohort of children and their parents/carers in the co-production arena. We recognise that it can be

difficult for some parents and carers to engage with us for various reasons which may include poor experience of services, busy work/home life or feeling blamed, ashamed or in denial. Whilst we have made some in-roads, such as our two Team Managers undertaking end of intervention interviews for feedback with the child and their parent/carer, rather than presenting the child and parent/carer with a feedback form which was previous practice. The verbal feedback has been more qualitative in terms of what has been found to be effective. We recognise that we have more work to do to encourage children, young people and their parent/carer's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion to ensure that all work is co-created. Over this next year we will continue to develop this work by learning from other successes, enablers and barriers to engagement. We will also collaborate with our five youth advisors who have recently transferred to the Adolescent Service to assist us with taking this work forward.

iv) Promote diversion from the formal youth justice system:

Blackpool YJS and its partners continue to work together to reduce and sustain low level of first time entrants.

A) One way we do this is our partnership strategic response to Early Help as set out in Blackpool's Early Help Strategy which details our Town wide approach and plans for developing the way that we work with children, young people and families as early as possible to improve their outcomes. This strategy supports our ambition to increasingly work with families early in the life of a problem and move away from over-dependence on statutory and specialist services. This approach is morally, ethically and financially the right thing to do and fits well with embedding the Blackpool Families Rocks model of practice, and restorative approaches to the way we work with our children, young people and families. Fundamentally, Early Help should be seen as everybody's business and part of what we all do. We have a wide range of services and provision in Blackpool and there is a strong ambition to support children, young people and families to aspire and achieve, by providing the right help, the right time, the right place by the right people.

B) We have also developed our partnership response to emerging Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). In response to community unsettlement, a spike in youth anti-social behaviour (ASB) and a spate of Dispersal Orders (Police powers to ask people to leave a specified area for a specified time) towards the end of Covid restrictions, in our central wards, Blackpool established a strategic ASB Task and Finish group. The group has representation from Local Authority leads for the Adolescent Service; Awaken Exploitation team; Blackpool Coastal Housing; Commissioning and Corporate Delivery; Community Safety; Early Help and Support and Leisure and Neighbourhood Policing colleagues. The multiagency Task and Finish group drafted an action plan and initially met on a weekly basis. Following completion of the action plan and reduction in ASB the group now meets on a monthly basis to focus on preventing and deterring emerging ASB.

Local pockets of ASB can arise quickly. It was recognised that the multiagency Task and Finish group may get a greater indication of ASB in Blackpool but does not have the time to dig into localised incidents and individual children and young people at the expense of the rest of the town's overall issues. Recently, an operational meeting has been arranged to fill this gap. It brings together those

tasked with safeguarding children and young people and appropriate partners in the local area that are responsible for disruption and enforcement to ensure a joined-up response.

The strategic and operational multi-agency responses have also assisted with the identification and support to bid for funding streams to enhance local youth provision and diversionary activities. The response to youth ASB included evening outreach by Exploitation and Community Safety teams targeting hot spots, target hardening, disruption, welfare checks and consultation with children and young people. All of which continues to feed directly into Daily Exploitation Meetings and Risk Management Meetings. Alongside these, to divert children and young people away from ASB into positive activities and trusted relationships, planned activities in identified hot spots have also been provided such as Boxing keep fit in the TaB Sports Barn facilitated by the Leisure Services and supported by detached youth work from the third sector Boys and Girls Club.

Further benefits of the network of contacts developed through the multi-agency partnership has also led to led to better information sharing and improved communication across partners in relation to our Child First approach to ensure interventions and wider family support are offered prior to any enforcement action being undertaken. There has been a reduction in local

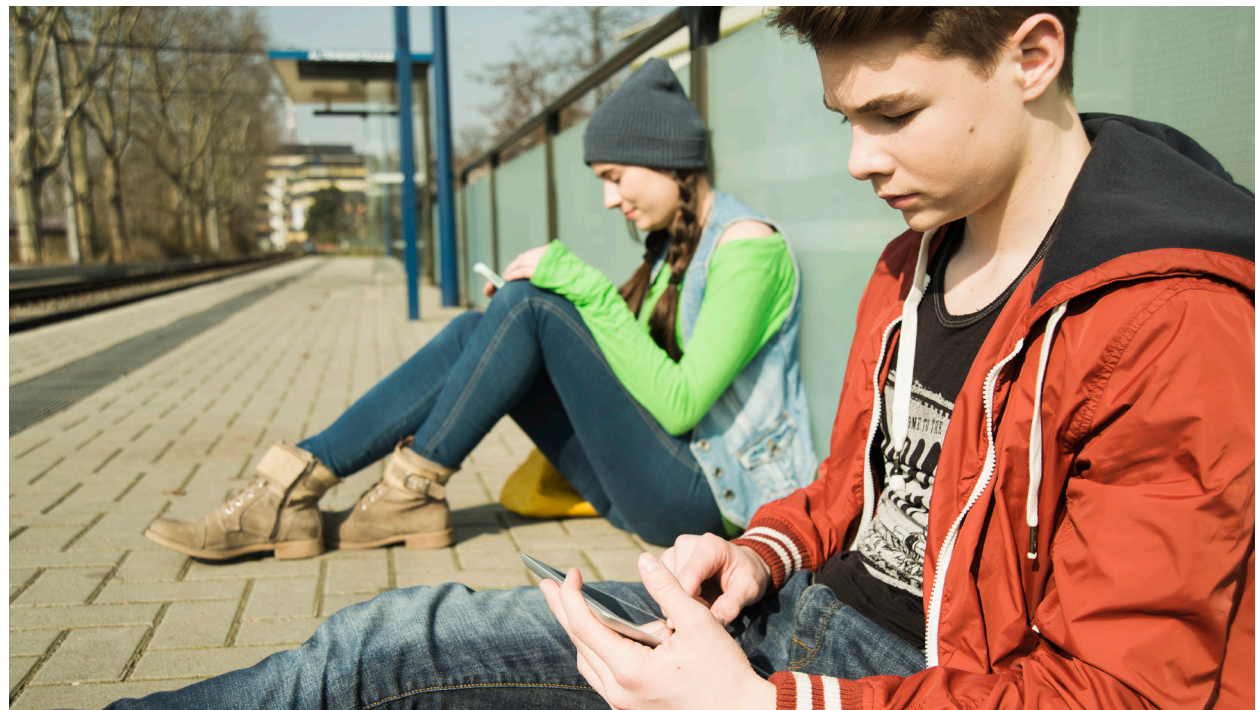
reported ASB, and resources created to address it. Working as a collaborative partnership team has also produced improved local practice across organisations and services such as advanced planning for key times of year such as Bon Fire Night, summer holidays and early action where emerging ASB issues arise.

Blackpool was delighted that it was recently chosen as the place to launch a new prevention initiative “**Turnaround**” scheme with a government investment of over £300 million. This included a visit by the Deputy Prime Minister, Dominic Raab, Minister Atkins and Keith Frasier, Chair of the Youth Justice Board, to see the boxing activities in action, speak to the children and young people, Youth Justice Service members and partners about our excellent recent HMIP inspection outcome and our prevention work.

- C) Further diversion work in Blackpool to keep children and young people out of the criminal justice system includes Out of Court Disposals (OoCD) for children and young people who commit low level offences and/or where it is not in the public interest to prosecute. Blackpool Youth Justice Service follows an agreed consultation process via a multi-agency disposal panel before deciding on the use of an OoCD disposal for children and young people. This process includes a Youth Justice practitioner undertaking a full

assessment, contacting victims if appropriate and producing a report for the panel to make informed decisions on the most appropriate disposal route. The agreed disposal could include non-statutory outcomes such as Outcome 22 or Community Resolution as well as statutory outcomes such as Youth Cautions with or without Conditions.

This process also ensures that children and young people considered vulnerable or at risk of further offending are signposted into support services at the earliest opportunity.



Voice of the Child

The YJS is an integral part of the Children’s Social Care and Adolescent Services within Blackpool Council and is accountable to the YJB. We know from recent experience that by putting the child at the centre of the work and seeking their views is key to understanding how we can improve our services. COVID-19 has shown us that, not only in difficult times, there should be more emphasis placed on seeking the views of children and young people, as they are the experts in knowing what works best for them. Listening to children and young people to tell us about the impact of COVID-19, helped us to develop services that can continue to help them recover from the pandemic.

YJS managers and practitioners also routinely advocate on behalf of children and young people who may not otherwise be heard by sitting on various panels to ensure that individual children and young people are brought to the attention of those making decisions about their future. Practitioners are also extremely skilled in engaging with young people. By listening to the children and young people, putting them at the centre of all the work we do, we can build trusting relationships, encourage them to share their views to effect positive change. We have several ways in which we seek to obtain the views of our young people. When we record dialogue with the child from every activity this will evidence any changes that have been made because of what they have told us. Along with

working together with other agencies and voluntary organisations within the community Blackpool YJS also seeks the views of parents/carers and victims. By ensuring that everybody involved in the criminal justice process has a voice, it has enabled us to be able to make decisions on how we develop the service to meet the needs of individuals and local communities alike.

We will continue to develop this area of work, current activities to capture the voice of the child include:-

- **Self-assessments:**
Case managers employ interviewing skills which allow them to explore with the young person their own story. Each young person completes the YJB self-assessments as part of their assessment. These documents are used to understand the young person’s perspective, their strengths and challenges. Parents and carers are also asked to complete these forms so it can help us understand how we can best meet the needs of their young person and support the family.
- **Record the voice of the child following every contact:**
The YJS introduced a recording ACORNS method (Aim, Content, Outcome, Risk, Next Steps & Safeguarding) to be used following every intervention and to promote consistency in recording. Guidance was issued which included

principles, including – “Record the child’s views, opinions, wishes and feelings wherever possible”.

- **Exit interviews:**
Team Managers undertake the end of order feedback ensuring they hear directly from our children, young people and their families to enable their voices to shape our service and future delivery. This has improved the quality and quantity of the feedback and helps us better understand what the young person perceived their order to be, what interventions they participated in and how useful they found this in avoiding further offending. Children, young people and their parents/carers are also asked how services could be improved to better meet their needs.
- **Reflective Supervision:**
In line with the whole of Blackpool Children’s Services Blackpool YJS undertakes monthly reflective supervision on every child they support. Policy, Guidance, templates and prompt cards have been developed and training delivered that ensures that consideration is given to the child’s voice and their daily lived experience as we prioritise the best interest of children and that any interventions provided are meaningful.

Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

The YJS Executive Board was established to ensure that Youth Justice Service is provided with clear and coordinated strategic governance and support to continue delivering high quality youth justice services with a focus on:

- Making sure children and young people are safe
- Reducing the likelihood of reoffending
- Minimising the risk of harm that children and young people can cause to other people and themselves

The Executive Board is operating under revised Terms of Reference that have been developed in line with the YJB guidance and all partners. The Board meets quarterly and comprises of senior representatives from the statutory partners across the Youth Justice partnership. The Board currently has an experienced independent chair, Linda Clegg, with a view to transition to the Director of Children's Services later this year. The Board has several responsibilities which include providing financial governance for the partnership, to oversee and drive delivery of the improvement plan, removing barriers where appropriate, to raise the standard of the service and improve outcomes for children and young people.

Overall, the board is responsible for ensuring there are effective multi-agency working arrangements, and proportional resources deployed to deliver high quality

youth justice services that meet statutory requirements and local need. The board is well established and provides the service with appropriate challenge and scrutiny. Each of the National Standard's themes has a nominated lead officer from the Board membership and their role is to ensure the delivery of actions from the improvement plan.

Members actively advocate for youth justice within their own core agency which assist in meeting the needs and gaps in services for children and young people at risk of offending.

The existing Board membership includes all key statutory partners (see Appendix 3) re Board Membership and Attendance.

A Shadow Board, comprising of operational staff has been set up to mirror the arrangement within children's social care; this has proven to be a successful means of engaging with the workforce and ensuring they are linked to the strategic elements of the service. The Shadow Board is currently chaired by Blackpool's Assistant Director of Children's Services and Executive Board member. A representative from the Shadow Board attends the Executive Board to provide input from a frontline worker perspective on the implementation of improvement plan actions and reflect on what is working and what is not working.

Underpinning the work of the Boards is a quality assurance and performance framework. This provides the boards with the quantitative and qualitative data required to scrutinise performance, drive improvements and monitor progress. The Executive Board reports to Blackpool's Children and Families Partnership.

The Youth Justice Service operates as part of Blackpool's wider Children's Services and participates in a wide range of multi-agency forums. Where appropriate, these partnership arrangements are reviewed and monitored through service level agreements, to ensure effective collaboration:

- Blackpool Community Safeguarding Partnership Board
- Lancashire Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs)
- Blackpool Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Blackpool Prevent Board & Channel Panel
- Lancashire Youth Magistrates Court Panel
- The YJS Manager also attends quarterly regional YJB Managers meeting and Pan Lancs YJS meeting which facilitates networking with YJSs and the YJB.
- Violence Reduction Network meetings
- Contextual Safeguarding Scrutiny Panel meetings

Resources and Services

The Youth Justice Service sits within the wider Adolescent Service a multidisciplinary service supporting vulnerable children and young people under age 25. In addition to our Youth Justice Team the service also includes:

- Our Family Worker Team provides targeted support for young people, as part of a statutory duty, to promote the effective participation in Education, Training or Employment. The team also provides holistic support for young people aged 16 & 17 who are homeless following a joint assessment of need via Children’s Services & Housing.
- Our Family Practitioner Team provides psychosocial, non-clinical support, for young people at risk of poor sexual health outcomes and young people mis-using substances. The team facilitate access to clinical support including, prescribing, community and residential detox and rehabilitation
- Our Leaving Care Team provides corporate parenting support for our care experienced young people from aged 16 to 25 years old, providing a statutory duty to enable ‘Our Children and Young People’ to achieve their potential and to prepare for independence.

The grant, partner contributions and other available resources via the other teams within Blackpool Adolescent and the wider Children’s Services enable the YJS to deliver the activities outlined in this plan. The finances are managed within the council’s financial regulations and are subject to stringent control and accountability mechanism. Alongside this, the YJS budget and spend is also regularly reported to the YJS Management Board.

A current overview is not able to be provided as the YJB Grants are still to be finalised. Extra funding to be received from MOJ due to the announcement highlighted above of approximately £270,000 over 3 years is also awaiting final confirmation. The police have confirmed that they have withdrawn future funding contributions to the YJS core budget therefore there will be a deficit in 22/23 and future years of £43,260 which will inevitably add budget pressures going forward.

Costs and Contributions 2021-2022 Budget

| Agency | Staffing Costs | Payments in kind | Other delegated funds | Total |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Police | 58,336 | | 43,260 | 101,596 |
| Probation | 24,608 | | 5,000 | 29,608 |
| Health | 39,974 | | 15,444 | 55,418 |
| Local Authority | 369,681 | | 156,806 | 526,487 |
| YJB | 392,663 | | 54,251 | 446,914 |
| Other | | | | 0 |
| Total | 885.262 | - | 274,761 | 1,160,023 |

Progress on Previous Plan

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) during May and June 2021. The service was rated 'Good' and in 3 aspects 'Outstanding'. The Inspectorate worked jointly with partner inspectors from policing, health, social care and education to undertake this inspection. Three broad areas were examined: the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service, the quality of work done with children and young people sentenced by the courts, and the quality of out-of-court work (such as community sentences).

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) have commended the progress and in a letter to the Director of Children's Services stated: 'To be rated 'Good' with three areas of 'Outstanding' is an incredible achievement and is a testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment by partners in Blackpool over the last couple of years to deliver better outcomes for children in Blackpool.'

Youth Justice Minister Victoria Atkins also commended the service via letter in October 21 and stated 'I was particularly impressed with the substantial improvement to the out-of-court disposal process. It is great to see that the joint working that underpins the delivery of out-of-court disposals has been exemplary. I was also pleased to hear about the improved quality of work to address desistance through court disposals. MP Atkins also commented that 'it is particularly impressive that the

YOS has significantly improved under such challenging circumstances. I am aware that, as HMIP noted in their report, nowhere else in the country has an equivalent concentration or extent of poverty and deprivation as Blackpool, and that in the year preceding the report Blackpool had been free from Covid-19 restrictions for just six weeks. I congratulate you on the improved delivery of services to vulnerable children and young people in the face of adversity'.

Six recommendations were made by HMIP following the inspection to further improve the service:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to ensure they are 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 dys-lexia.
- Reduce the unacceptably high NEET (not in education, training or employment) rates for the over-16 caseload by getting more children into further education provision and vocational training, including access to services where children can gain the personal, life, and social skills they need 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 is identified, put in place clear contingency planning for circumstances where the risk may increase.

Where risk to other people is identified, put in place clear contingency planning for circumstances where the risk may increase.

Progress on the above HMIP recommendations have commenced and are fully outlined in our improvement action plan, but include:-

- YJS Practitioners have transitioned to a new model of recording (the ACORN model- Aim, Content, Outcome, Risk, Next steps) for all interventions with children and young people to ensure clear and consistent delivery of interventions based on identified need. YJS Practitioners have begun to use the My Target Plan format with children and young people to further enhance the effectiveness of the YJS interventions.
- At the end of 2021 a series of audits were undertaken and learning circles held with YJS practitioners to further embed the use of ACORNs, My Target Plan and enhance contingency planning arrangements with plans for children and young people. YJS Team Managers are providing ongoing support to Practitioners to further refine contingency planning for all children and young people.

- The YJS Education, Employment and Training practitioner along with a YJS Team Manager are linking with local YJS who have been identified by HMIP as high performing in engaging children and young people, who are NEET, and supporting them in being in a positive destination. The aim of the visit will be to find out what, if anything, they are doing differently to Blackpool YJS so that we can look to emulate where we can.
- In addition, the YJS Education, Employment and Training practitioner has been supported to create a bespoke package of intervention to support children and young people who are not yet ready to engage with Education, Employment and Training. The interventions will support personal, life and social skills in order to develop children and young people's self-esteem, confidence and motivation. Our YJS Education, Employment and Training practitioner has launch a suite of direct work resources with practitioners in May 2022.
- An Executive and Shadow Board Development Day was held on 26th January 2022 to further strengthen our partnership, problem solve in order to achieve consistently great outcomes for all our children and young people and enabled contributions to this plan to get Blackpool YJS to outstanding.



Performance and priorities

USE OF CUSTODY

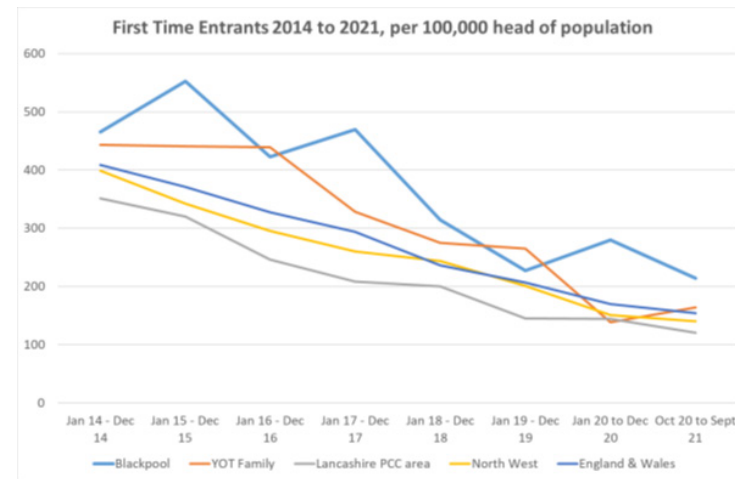
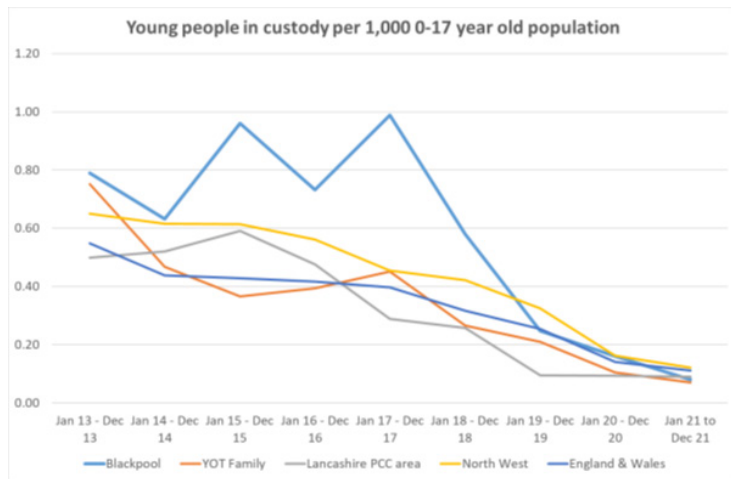
Remands to custody and custodial sentences have continued to decrease and remain well below comparators. This is against a backdrop of a smaller cohort of children and young people, but a more concentrated population of complex and vulnerable young people.

The continued low number is positive and points to our improved partnership working with Police, Courts and other partners. However, what this does mean is that the YJS is working with an increasingly complex cohort of children and young people in the post Court arena. This requires a fundamental shift in how interventions are delivered with a focus on evidence based and trauma informed approaches to support desistance to enable children and young people to serve their sentence whilst remaining in the community.

Reducing First Time Entrants:

First time entrants are reducing in Blackpool however remain significantly higher when compared locally and nationally.

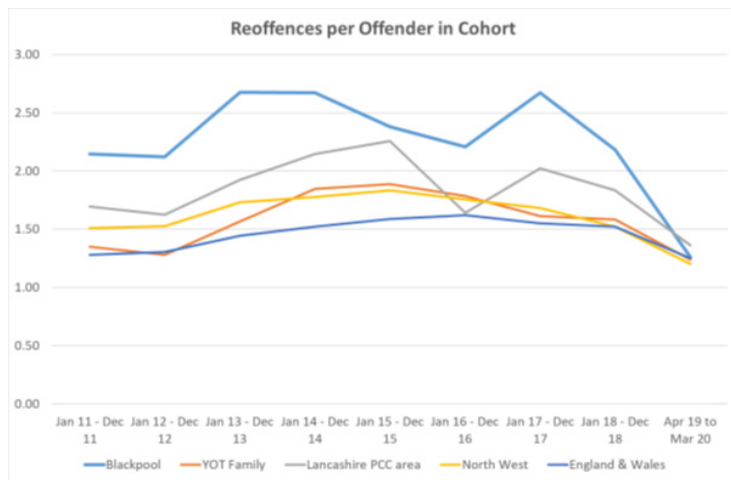
We will continue to work innovatively with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour which will also have an impact on first time entrants, this approach along with the “Turnaround” project recently announced by the government will also assist with addressing performance in this area.



Reducing Re-offending

The YJB have now published annual reoffending data in the latest Youth Justice Data Summary (YDS) for year ending March 2020. We continue to reduce our numbers and also remain just below local and national figures.

Reoffending rate (Reoffenders / Number in cohort) comparison



This is a reduction of -10 Compared to the same period the previous year



National Standards

In 2020 Blackpool YJS National Standard self-assessments on 5 themed areas were submitted to the Youth Justice Board - out of court disposals; in court; in the community; in secure and on transition and resettlement. These submissions were agreed by the Youth Justice Board as being an “evidenced reflection of the judgements against the service standards” and did not therefore require a validation visit. To ensure that the Youth Justice Service Executive Board has assurance that the Youth Justice Service would continue to take learning and improvement actions from the national standards self-assessment, along with a peer review and service audits, each of the national standards themes was appointed a nominated board member as the lead officer. Their role was to ensure the delivery of actions within each of the 5 themed improvement plans and provide updated reports on their progress at the Youth Justice Service Executive Board meetings. This work will continued throughout 2022-23 were some actions in some of the areas are continuing. An outline of the progress and outstanding work can be seen in Blackpool’s YJS Partnership improvement plan at Appendix 4.

Challenges, Risks and Issues

Budget pressures and funding uncertainty for Blackpool YJS is a challenge and a risk for 2022-23 and beyond. Within the last 12 months we have faced the challenges of an ongoing efficiency agenda at national and local levels and now find ourselves in a cost-of-living crisis. The impact on Blackpool will be particularly felt given that it was on the most deprived towns in England. This has already resulted in a significant reduction in our core budget due to no longer receiving Police contributions. We recognise that our partners will have similar pressures and a risk is that other partners will be unable to maintain support and/or resources for staff secondments

Currently there are unknown future pressures and/or costs as a direct or indirect consequence of recovering from Covid-19 across the town. For example, a potential increase in anxiety and emotional or mental health difficulties which, as a result, would impact on available services such as Health and Education, Training and Employment opportunities due to increasing demand. Such pressures on children, young people and their families would not only make them more vulnerable to unmet need but would result in affecting overall performance by YJS not being able to achieve KPIS.

Evidence Based Practice and Innovation

The work on anti-social behaviour described in section 3 Child First, was an innovative collaboration with our third sector partners, Police, Early Help and Leisure colleagues. The Local Government Association included the work as a case study and published the information on their web site as an example of innovative practice. This practice will continue to be developed as further issues emerge.

- The work of Blackpool's Out of court Disposal (OoCD) has been recognised as exemplary work "An extensive range of interventions is available to children within the out-of-court disposals arrangement.
- Caseworkers demonstrate commitment to the children and young people and form appropriately supportive and challenging relationships in an honest and open way.

The joint working that underpins the delivery of out-of-court disposals was exemplary. HMIP 202.

Looking forward

Whilst we have commenced work on working towards outstanding and our three cross cutting themes we acknowledge that there is more to do in 22/23:-

Understanding the health needs of our young people:-

- Continue to develop our trauma informed approach by further training and specialist support
- Employ the services of a psychologist to provide consultation/supervision/support
- Develop speech and language assessment, interventions and pathways by commissioning the services of a specialist practitioner

Promoting the decriminalisation of children by using Out of court disposals:-

- Regular audits to challenge the partnership on ensuring any disproportionality in decision making for children and young people of minority groups and other vulnerable groups including children looked after and care leavers
- Contribute to the Pan Lancs Scrutiny panel and bring learning and effective practice to Blackpool Youth Justice Service
- Enhance the out of court disposal intervention offer to ensure it is evidence based and focused on assessed need and risk

Ensuring our young people have access to suitable education, training or employment that meets their needs:-

- Ensure that emerging practice is embedded in YJS and partner's practice from current research and studies such as "professional perspectives: school exclusions, disproportionality and criminal exploitation"; HMIP Thematic Inspection on ETE (June 2022) and the effective Practice Guide from this inspection.
- Continue to develop bespoke pathways and services to support the ETE needs of children and young people in the Youth Justice System in Blackpool.

TurnAround Project:-

- Blackpool is looking forward to working on the new project announced by the government on a visit to Blackpool to work with children "teetering on the edge of criminality...for the first time ever, local authorities will be given specific cash to intervene early with teenagers displaying signs such as poor school attendance, troubles at home, and a history of substance misuse" (Press Release Published 20 May 2022 – MOJ, YJB, Keith Fraser, the Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP and Minister Victoria Atkins).

Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name

Interim Chair

Director of Children's Services

Signature

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Date

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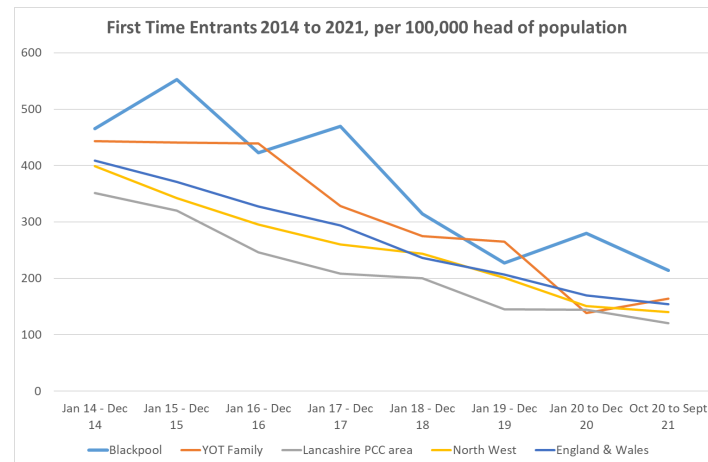
Appendix 1

Benchmarking Blackpool YJS Performance

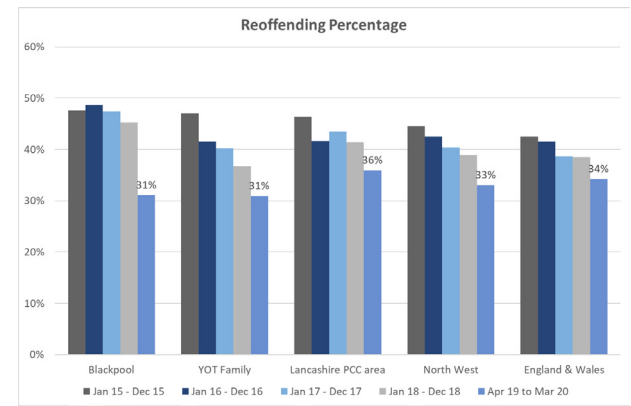
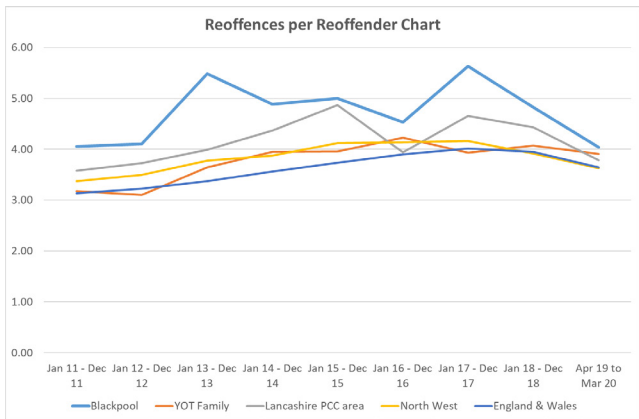
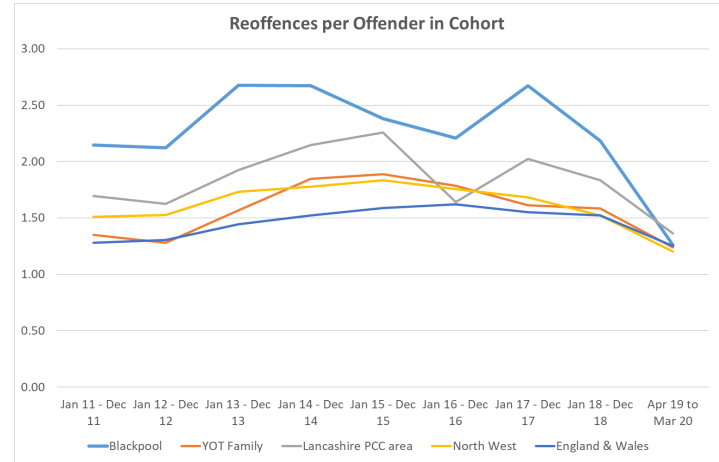
Blackpool YJS Performance & Analysis of the profile of children worked with in 2021/22

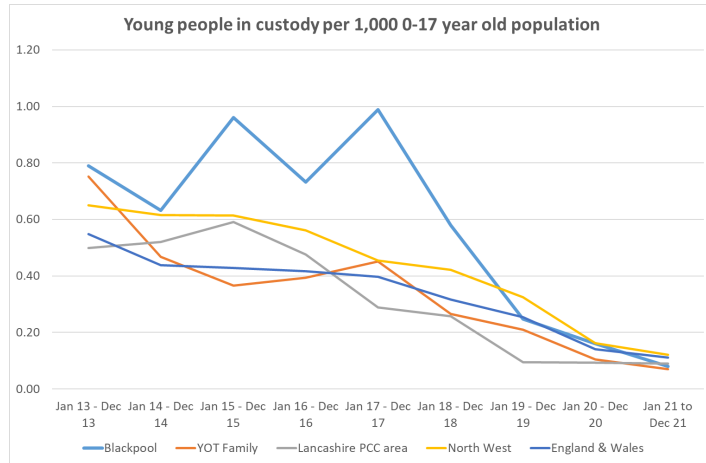
Key Performance Measures in most recent national dataset
&
'First Cut' Year End 2021/22 Analysis:
Children worked with during the year and Proven Offences & Outcomes

First Time Entrants & Custody

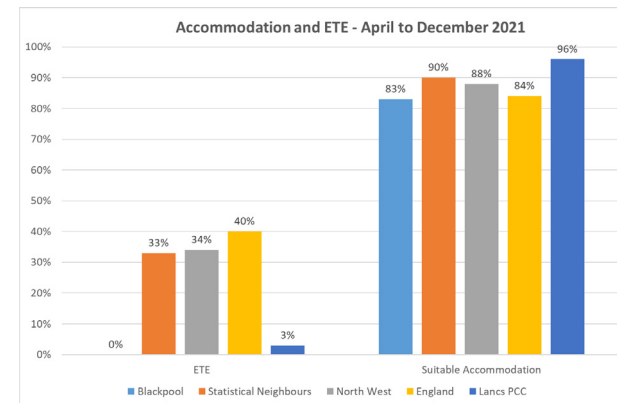


Reoffending





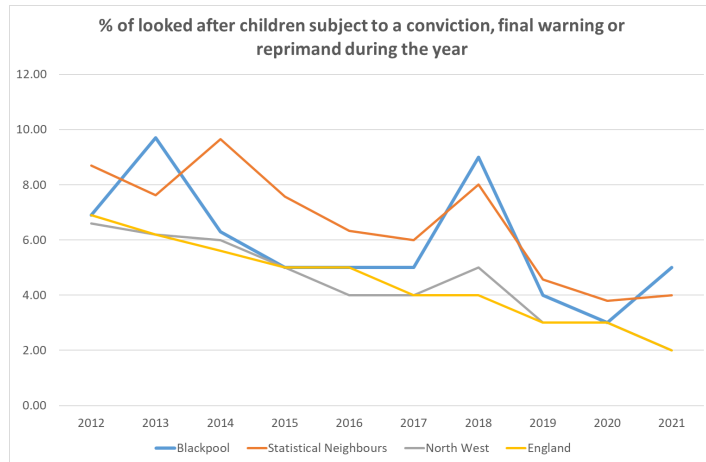
Education, Training & Employment and Suitable Accommodation



Children in Care & Offending

AssetPlus Assessments

Looking at the 2021/22 Completed Assessments – what do they tell us?



The Basics

- 104 children with an AssetPlus assessment completed by Blackpool YJS in the last year (a further 13 were completed by other YJS and transferred into Blackpool)
- 88% boys (vastly disproportionate to local population: 51:49 Male-Female), but in line with national pattern (85% boys).
- 87% White British (in line with local population: 87% in school census)
 - 7% of mixed heritage (White & Asian, White & Black African or White & Black Caribbean);
 - 1 eastern European young person (Latvia), one Vietnamese young person
- Average age of the young person at completion of assessment: 16.3

| | Age | | | | | | | | Total |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | |
| Female | | 1 | | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | | 14 |
| Male | 1 | | 7 | 11 | 14 | 27 | 28 | 15 | 103 |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 7 | 16 | 16 | 32 | 29 | 15 | 117 |

Children's Social Care Involvement & Family

- Just under a quarter of yp have been in care, with a fifth currently in care (*down on last year when it was a third*)
- Half have been subject to a child protection plan at some point
- 60% had social care involvement (a third had none), with 73% having had social care involvement with their family.

Yet.....

- Only a third of young people were assessed to have concerns around parental care and supervision (mental health issues most common issue)
- Less than half had concerns around family behaviour (witnessing domestic violence most common issue).

There were concerns about the young people's significant relationships, with

- Loss of contact affecting a quarter of young people; and
- Aggression and violence within the family also being a concern for a quarter of yp.

Criminal & Sexual Exploitation & Safety Concerns

- 40% of young people are vulnerable to criminal exploitation – *up from a third last year* (45 male, 2 female – *was all male last year*)
 - Slightly over a fifth were deemed to be either at risk, suspected to be involved or previously involved in 'county lines' (*as last year still all boys*); and
 - 12 young people (*up from 10 the previous year*) had been referred to the National Referral Mechanism (all boys, 9 White/British, 2 of mixed ethnicity and 1 Vietnamese yp)
- 15% of the young people were at risk of sexual exploitation – *down on last year (20%)*. All but three of these young people were boys. All were White British)
- There were concerns for safety for 67% of the young people assessed, with a risk of self harm for a fifth; and a risk of suicide for a small but significant number (11 young people)
- 70% have some level of substance misuse concerns, with concerns around addiction, or how the young person's time is being spent for 48% of the cohort.

Offending History & likelihood to reoffend

- 40% had previous convictions – *less than last year (50%)*
- Average number 2.5, most commonly only one previous offence
 - Average age at first conviction of 15.3;
 - Age at time of sanction of 15.2.
 - Average age at first sanction was 14.6
- Nearly half have a high (13%) or medium risk (32%) of reoffending.
- A quarter of the young people have a high (23%) or very high (2%) risk of serious harm – *up from a fifth last year*
- 4% are assessed to be a risk to children

Mental and Physical Health

- 70% quarters have mental health needs and for 38% it is a risk or concern
 - 13% have a diagnosed condition
 - 46% have had contact with mental health services
 - 41% suffer from stress or anxiety (*up 5% on last year*)
 - 29% have long-standing symptoms of over-activity, inattention & impulsivity
 - 30% have a history of self-harm (14% have previously attempted suicide)
 - 11% have flashbacks of past traumatic events
 - 10% have current symptoms of depression
- Half of the young people are identified as currently endangering their own health through their behaviour
- 18% had identified physical needs (*up 5% on last year*)

Special Needs & Communication Issues

- Three quarters are judged to have SEND or Communication issues
 - Between a quarter and two fifths have issues with communicating/explaining themselves and also understanding, remembering and following what others say to them.
 - A similar proportion experience social difficulties, find it hard to maintain relationships, or to show their emotions.
 - Half have difficulty thinking about the thoughts & feelings of others
 - Just over a third have either a family member or a professional expressing concerns about social communication skills, or learning needs.

All of the above is very similar to the analysis undertaken of the 2020/21 cohort

Relations with others, Attitudes & Behaviours

- Just less than half of the young people have significant problems relating to others (*up 7% on last year*)
 - Compared to last year, the underlying characteristics of this cohort has shifted towards susceptibility to manipulation & pressure and fear and mistrust of others, rather than over assertive and controlling behaviour.
 - Concerns about the attitudes of the young people are much less prevalent than concern about behaviours
 - Relatively few young people justified their behaviour or believed that their victims deserved it, either as individuals or members of a group (*& these figures have fallen compared to last year*).
- However,
- Over half of young people in the cohort had evidence of behaviours of concern
 - Violent or threatening and aggressive behaviour was the most common concern (for over a quarter of the group), with sexually inappropriate behaviour being a feature for 13% of the group.

Local Issues & Concerns, Accommodation & ETE

- Local issues are only a concern for a growing minority of the cohort (26%)
 - Localised offending patterns are the greatest concern – radicalisation or ethnic tensions do not feature.
- Accommodation is a concern for a third of the cohort at the time of assessment
 - A large majority of the young people live at home (75%), although a significant proportion live in residential units (10%)
 - Two thirds of those with current accommodation concerns live at home (*up from 50% last yr*)
- Two thirds of the young people have current education, training or employment concerns at the time of assessment (*up from 50% last year*)
 - Over a third have a history of moves, disruptions or exclusions
- Only 2 young people in the cohort are parents or parents to be (*down from 6 last year*)

Analysing Offending and Outcomes

Offences with Outcomes in 2020/21

Compared to last year

- Fewer offences (191, compared with 276 - a 30% reduction)
- Significantly fewer proven offences (93, compared to 195 - a 50% reduction)
 - Albeit with 21 in 2021/22 offences without an outcome as yet.
- Slightly fewer young people with an offence (84, compared to 92 last year – a 9% reduction)
- Significantly fewer young people with a proven offence (50, compared to 75 last year – a reduction of a third)
- Proportionate split of types of proven offence remain similar, but at a significantly lower volume – bringing Blackpool more in line with the national average

Number of Offences, by type, scaled by population

| Number of offences by offence group | England & Wales 2021 | England & Wales Rate per 100k | Blackpool actual figure 2021/22 | Blackpool rate per 100k | 2021/22 Ratio | 2020/21 Ratio |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Violence against the person | 12,437 | 228 | 33 | 264 | 1.16 | 2.00 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 2,884 | 53 | 1 | 8 | 0.15 | 1.35 |
| Other | 3,621 | 66 | 8 | 64 | 0.97 | 1.44 |
| Motoring offences | 4,382 | 80 | 3 | 24 | 0.30 | 1.38 |
| Drugs | 3,961 | 72 | 5 | 40 | 0.55 | 0.74 |
| Criminal damage | 3,481 | 64 | 7 | 56 | 0.88 | 1.88 |
| Public order | 2,236 | 41 | 10 | 80 | 1.96 | 1.59 |
| Robbery | 2,354 | 43 | 2 | 16 | 0.37 | 2.08 |
| Burglary | 1,339 | 24 | 7 | 56 | 2.29 | 2.48 |
| Breach of statutory order | 920 | 17 | 12 | 96 | 5.71 | 1.32 |
| Sexual offences | 903 | 17 | 5 | 40 | 2.42 | 6.46 |
| Total proven offences | 38,518 | 705 | 93 | 744 | 1.06 | 1.74 |
| Scaling population | 5,466,338 | | 12,494 | | | |

The 'Ratio' divides the Blackpool rate by the England and Wales rate.

A score above 1 means the offence is more prevalent in Blackpool than in England and Wales overall. A score of less than one means a lower prevalence.

The greater the number, the greater the disparity

Scaling population is the 10 to 17 year old population in the relevant area.

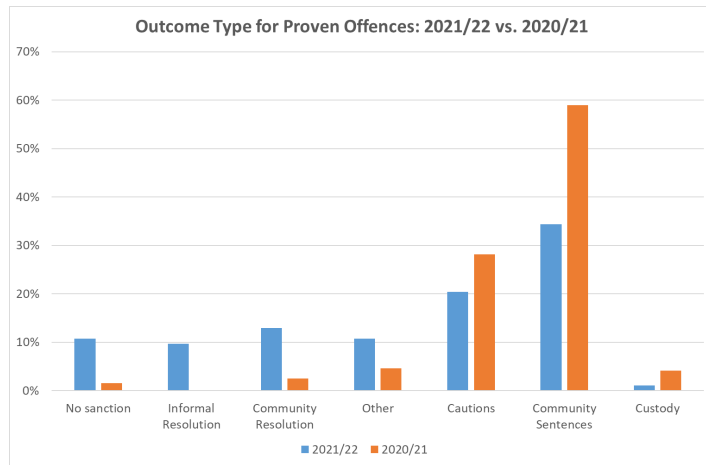
Knife related proven offences per 10k: England & Wales 64, Blackpool 80 (10 offences with an outcome) – Ratio: 1.25

Proven Offences in 2021/22

| List of offences | Proven Offences 2021/22 - Blackpool | | as % of total | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Number | Blackpool | England & Wales | Blackpool 20/21 | Yr on Yr Diff |
| Burglary | 7 | 8% | 4% | 5% | 2% |
| Domestic 3, Non-Domestic 4 | | | | | |
| Other | 8 | 9% | 10% | 8% | 0% |
| Breach of Bail 2, Vehicle Theft 3, Other 3 | | | | | |
| Breach of Statutory order | 12 | 13% | 3% | 3% | -10% |
| Criminal Damage | 7 | 8% | 9% | 10% | -3% |
| Drugs | 5 | 5% | 10% | 4% | 1% |
| Motoring offences | 3 | 3% | 10% | 8% | -4% |
| Public order | 10 | 11% | 7% | 6% | 5% |
| Robbery | 2 | 2% | 5% | 6% | -4% |
| Sexual offences | 5 | 5% | 2% | 7% | -1% |
| Theft and handling Stolen Goods | 1 | 1% | 10% | 8% | -7% |
| Violence against the person | 33 | 35% | 31% | 35% | 0% |
| Assault a constable in the execution of his/her duty | 0 | 0% | | 3% | -3% |
| Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm | 2 | 2% | | 5% | -3% |
| Assault by beating | 4 | 4% | | 6% | -1% |
| Assault by beating of an emergency worker | 2 | 2% | | 1% | 1% |
| Common assault | 9 | 10% | | 4% | 6% |
| Conspire to possess a firearm without a certificate | 0 | 0% | | 1% | -1% |
| Obstruct / resist a constable in execution of duty | 1 | 1% | | 2% | -1% |
| Possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence | 0 | 0% | | 1% | -1% |
| Possess an offensive weapon in a public place | 8 | 9% | | 4% | 4% |
| Possess offensive weapon on school premises | 1 | 1% | | 0% | 1% |
| Possess knife blade / sharp pointed article in a public place - Criminal Justice Act 1988 | 6 | 6% | | 8% | -2% |
| Threats to kill | 0 | 0% | | 1% | -1% |
| Wound / inflict grievous bodily harm without intent | 0 | 0% | | 1% | -1% |
| Total | 93 | | | | |

Proven Offences, with Outcomes in 2021/22

| List of offences | No Sanction | | Informal | | Community Resolution | | Cautions | | Community Sentences | | Custody | | Total | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | Absolute Discharge | Discharge | Verbal | Referral | Police Restorative | Other Agency | Youth Caution | Youth Conditional Caution | Referral Order | Youth Rehabilitation Order | Youth Rehabilitation Order with Supervision | Detention + Training Order | | | | | | |
| Breach of bail | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | | | | | |
| Breach of Statutory order | | | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | | | 12 | | | | | |
| Criminal Damage | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | | | | | |
| Domestic burglary | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 | | | | | |
| Drugs | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 5 | | | | | |
| Motoring offences | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | | | | | |
| Non Domestic Burglary | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | |
| Other | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 3 | | | | | |
| Public order | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 10 | | | | | |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | | | | | |
| Sexual offences | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | 5 | | | | | |
| Theft and handling Stolen Goods | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Vehicle Theft / Unauthorised Taking | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 3 | | | | | |
| Violence against the person | 4 | | 5 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 8 | 6 | 33 | | | | | |
| Total | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 93 |



Overall Conclusions

- Vast improvement on the 2017 position in key measures – moving to be in line with similar areas, the region and the national average.
- Still work to do in some key areas – esp. Education, Training & Employment.
- In line with the national pattern, the children with whom the service works are disproportionately male. But they are ethnically representative of the town.
- Common issues for the children worked with include – mental health, communication challenges, substance misuse, damaged relationships and loss; and patchy engagement with Education, Training and Employment (ETE)
- Types of offence committed in Blackpool are broadly in line with the national pattern, in terms of proportion – with a substantial reduction in the volume of offending scaled against population in the past year – moving more into line with the national pattern
- Outcomes for proven offences show a major shift away to lower tariff types of outcome and away from community sentences.

Young people with outcomes for violent offences – who are they?

Compared to the YJS cohort as a whole... they are similar to the wider group

| Age | Female | Male | Total |
|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 13 | | 2 | 2 |
| 14 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 15 | | 3 | 3 |
| 16 | | 9 | 9 |
| 17 | | 3 | 3 |
| 18 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 4 | 22 | 26 |

- Slightly younger average age: 15.3
- Similar gender split to the overall YJS cohort of young people (85% male)
- Similar ethnic representation (85% White British)
- Only 19% had a previous conviction (58% no previous sanction)
- Similar level of social care involvement, current and historical
- Higher involvement in criminal exploitation (42%)
- 65% live at home (lower than the wider cohort)
- Slightly lower identification of mental health needs (62%)
- Similar identification of SEND & Communication Needs (76%)
- Similar identification of substance misuse issues (70%)
- Similar number of young people with concerns for their safety (69%)

Appendix 2

Voice of the Child

Feedback from children

"Never let's me down. Always sticks to her word. Understands the situation, gives me a chance because of it."

"I'd like to be a YOT worker myself one day. They were really good at being open and considerate about my situation."

"He didn't treat me like a child or an adult. He treated me like a teenager, like I should be treated."



"The exercises sent were helpful. They made me think about how the victim might feel!"

"I have loved her, she is the best worker I have ever had!"

"It was good to have someone to talk to!"

"She helped me grow up to be honest, to mature."

"She listens and she's a good person. We have a good relationship!"

"When she says she's coming she's always there!"

Appendix 3

Outline of full board membership

Youth Justice Board - Attendance April 2021 to March 2022

Y=attended A=apologies D=Deputy Blank – no attendance, no apologies

| Agency | Role | Meeting date | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | 25 May 2021 | 20 July 2021 | 28 Sep 2021 | 24 Nov 2021 | 26 Jan 2022 (Full Development Day) |
| Independent | Chair | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Blackpool Council | Director of Children's Services | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Blackpool Council | Chief Executive | Y | A | A | A | Y |
| Blackpool Council | Elected Member | Y | A | A | Y | Y |
| Blackpool Council | Head of Adolescent Services | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Blackpool Council | Adolescent Service Manager Youth Justice | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Blackpool Council | Head of Corporate Development | Y | A | Y | | Y |
| CCG | Clinical Commissioning Group | Y | Y | A | A | A |
| | Chief Operating Officer | Y | A | D | Y | |
| Blackpool Teaching Hospitals | Head of Safeguarding | Y | Y | Y | A | D |
| | | | Also Natasha Wakin-Lewis | | | |
| Lancashire Constabulary | Lancashire Constabulary (Vice chair) Assistant Chief Constable/Superintendent | Y | Y | Y | Y | D |
| Lancashire Constabulary | Head of Criminal Justice (Theme leads for operational action plans (Out of Court Disposals)) | Y | A | Y | Y | Y |
| National Probation Service | Head of NW Lancashire | Y | Y | A | A | Y |
| Youth Justice Board | YJB North West Head of Business Area | Y | Y | Y | A | Y |
| | Courts youth lead | Y | Y | A | Y | A |

| Agency | Role | Meeting date | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | 25 May 2021 | 20 July 2021 | 28 Sep 2021 | 24 Nov 2021 | 26 Jan 2022 (Full Development Day) |
| Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner | Chief Executive | Y | A | | | A |
| HM Courts and Tribunal Service | Theme leads for operational action plans (In Court) | Y | A | Y | | A |
| Independent Reviewing Officer, Blackpool Council | Theme leads for operational action plans (In the Community) | A | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership | Theme leads for operational action plans (In Secure) | Y | Y | Y | No longer a member | No longer a member |
| Head of Service, Children's Services, Blackpool Council | | Not a member | Not a member | Not a member | A | Y |
| Education Inclusion Officer, Blackpool Council | Theme leads for operational action plans (Transitions and Resettlement) | Y | A | A | No longer a member | No longer a member |
| Assistant Director | | Y | Y | A | Y | Y |
| Blackpool Council | Shadow board member | A | Y | A | Y | Y |
| CPS | District Crown Prosecutor | Y | | Y | Y | A |
| | | A | A | Y | A | |
| Youth Justice Board | YJB police representative | A | A | | | A |
| Blackpool Council | Performance, Systems and Intelligence Manager | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Blackpool Council | Delivery Development Officer | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |

| Agency | Role | Meeting date | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | 25 May 2021 | 20 July 2021 | 28 Sep 2021 | 24 Nov 2021 | 26 Jan 2022 (Full Development Day) |
| HMYOI Wetherby | Head of Resettlement | A | | No longer a member | No longer a member | No longer a member |
| | | Not a member | Not a member | | | |
| Lancashire Constabulary | Head of Lancashire Violence Reduction Network | Not a member | Not a member | Not a member | A | A |
| Blackpool Council | Assistant Director | Not a member | Not a member | Not a member | Y | Y |
| | | A | A | A | Y | No longer a member |

Appendix 4

Youth Justice Improvement Plan

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

Part 1

Change Led by the Board

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|------|--|--|---|--------------------|--|--|
| LM18 | Blackpool YJS to be re-branded, including the development of an expectations of YJS document for young people, parents and carers. | Reinforce a child first/child friendly image for youth justice services in Blackpool. Young people and their parents have a clear understanding of what to expect from the youth Justice service. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | Service Manager | Update team name – September, 2022 | Team now known as Youth Justice Service rather than Youth Offending Team. All documentation to be updated. |
| | | | | | Refresh parental guidance – completed | Court Prep and Outcome documentation updated and Child, Parent & Carer leaflets launched. |
| | | | | | Update team logo – August 22 | Ideas from our children collaged. Logo to be revised in conjunction with Corporate Communications, Blackpool Council. |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

Recommendations from 2021 HMIP Inspection

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----------|--|---|---|--------------------|---|--|
| HMIP 1/21 | Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to ensure they are meeting children's needs and reducing re-offending. | Practitioners deliver purposeful interventions. | Children's needs are met via the interventions and re-offending is reduced. | Service Manager | Co-produce and implement evaluation schedule at key points (after intervention, exit interview C&F and post exit follow up) – Jan 2022 | <p>Audits undertaken in November 2021 to ensure MYPlan includes interventions as assessed per Asset+.</p> <p>Contacts have also been looked at to ascertain effectiveness via voice of child.</p> <p>The two YJS Team managers visited Blackburn YJS to meet with their manager and practitioners of their multi-agency sexually harmful behaviour team to discuss the development of their range of effective interventions. YJS managers have since arranged for Blackpool YJS practitioners to attend Blackburn's development and consultation meetings in the future to bring learning back to the team.</p> <p>Following our recent Trauma Training, commissioned from the Adolescent Service delivered by Research in Practice, all team members have been provided with</p> |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----------|--------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Page 118 | | | | | | access to their library of interventions. Feedback from children and parents undertaken by Team Managers. Key findings to be collated, shared with the Exec Board quarterly and identified improvement actions to be implemented. |
| | | | | | Implement peer audit to review effectiveness of interventions to be complete - mid Aug 2022 | Tool from Nottingham being adapted. Feedback to be shared with HoS/SM by 31st August. |
| | | | | | Implement new management oversight meeting to ensure that the right interventions are planned and match the risk factors - May 2022 | |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----------|--|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | Findings from audits to be incorporated into Service Manager report to the Exec on quarterly basis alongside analysis of children who reoffend quarterly and feedback to Exec Board – from Sept 2021 onwards | SYV analyse provided to board in Sept 21. Nov 21 audit findings shared with Board May 22 (due to development day in Jan). |
| HMIP 2/21 | Provide thorough and effective initial assessment of children’s health and educational needs, including communication skills and dyslexia. | Assessments of children’s needs are thorough and comprehensive. | Children’s needs are met as robust assessments inform intervention plans and re-offending is reduced. | Service Manager & Theme Leads | Best practice from other areas to be sought via AYM and shared at Exec & Shadow Board Development Days – Jan 2022 | Complete: ETE practitioner along with a YJS Team Manager linked with local YJS who have been identified by HMIP as high performing in engaging Children, who are NEET, and supporting them in being in a positive destination and shared at Development Day Jan 22. |
| | | | | | Review health section within Asset+ Assessment – Apr 2022 | Complete: YJS Team Manager completed template to capture Health Assessment for inclusion in Asset+ and shared with Named Nurse for Children’s Contextual Safeguarding in April 22. |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | <p>Meet with SLaC NHS CCG Commissioners re: pathways and review - Apr 2022</p> <p>Identify and roll out practitioner training and workforce development re: SLaC- Sept 2022</p> | <p>Complete: HoS & SM meeting with BTH provider in April 22.</p> <p>HoS & SM meeting with review lead from a Better Communication in April 22.</p> <p>SLA agreement between Blackpool YJS & Children’s Targeted Services, Children’s Therapy Team, Blackpool Teaching Hospital to provide YJS with specialist SLaC support for screening, intervention consultation, for children who may or may not be known to SLaC.</p> |
| HMIP 3/21 | Reduce the unacceptably high NEET rates for the over-16 caseload by getting more children | Practitioners deliver and have access to purposeful interventions to | Children have better access to services where they can gain the personal, life, | Service Manager, ETE Practitioner and | Youth Advisers appointed, peer consultation to take place - Sept 2021 | Complete: 7 Youth Advisors now appointed |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan


| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----------|---|---|--|------------------------|---|--|
| Page 121 | into further education provision and vocational training, including access to services where children can gain the personal, life, and social skills they need to work towards employment | develop children's skills towards employment. | and social skills they need to work towards employment. Increase in children accessing education, training or employment. | Transitions Theme Lead | Young People's Employment and Skills Strategy Board to be established - Oct 2021 | Complete: Board established and chaired by HoS and YJS SM board member. Operational Group launched and YJS ETE Officer is rep. |
| | | | | | Launch of 16+ Youth Hub – Jan 2022 | Complete: Service Manager attended launch and shared referral routes with the team. YJS ETE Officer supporting attendance. |
| | | | | | Young People's Employment and Skills Strategy Launched – date tbc | Workshops held re: implementation plan in March and April 2022. |
| | | | | | 16+ ETE Focus in Service Manager report to Exec - Sept 2021 onwards | Complete: Presentation and themed discussion took place Nov 21. ETE reported in every team performance report to board. |
| | | | | | Intervention re Personal and Social needs created and delivered by YJS | ETE Practitioner creating/collating preparation for ETE resources. Launched with YJS on 4th May 2022. |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | Practitioners – date tbc | |
| HMIP 4/21 | 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. | Safety and contingency planning routinely takes place and is recorded. | Children and other people are safe. | Team Managers | Series of learning circles to be co-produced, delivered and evaluated - by Dec 2021 | Complete: Audit completed in November 2021. Learning circle took place in December 2021 to feedback to the team on audit findings and contingency planning. Team crib sheet created to share learning re: contingencies. |
| | | | | | Findings of audit of children’s records to be collated - by June 2022 | |
| HMIP 5/21 | Where risk to the child’s safety or wellbeing is identified, put in place clear contingency planning for circumstances where the risk may increase. | Safety and contingency planning routinely takes place and is recorded. | Children and other people are safe. | Team Managers | Series of learning circles to be co-produced, delivered and evaluated - by Dec 2021 | Complete: Audit completed in November 2021. Learning circle took place in December 2021 to feedback to the team on audit findings and contingency planning. Team crib sheet created and shared learning re: contingencies. |
| | | | | | Findings of audit of children’s records to be collated - by June 2022 | |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| HMIP 6/21 | Where risk to other people is identified, put in place clear contingency planning for circumstances where the risk may increase. | Safety and contingency planning routinely takes place and is recorded. | Children and other people are safe. | Team Managers | Series of learning circles to be co-produced, delivered and evaluated - by Dec 2021 | Complete: Audit completed in November 2021. Learning circle took place in December 2021 to feedback to the team on audit findings and contingency planning. Team crib sheet created to share learning re: contingencies. |
| | | | | | Findings of audit of children's records to be collated - by June 2022 | |
| HMIP Area for Imp P16 | Develop an agreed protocol and shared understanding across the partnership for managing contextual safeguarding at the operational level. | Shared understanding for managing contextual safeguarding in place at the operational level. | Children are safeguarded. | Head of Service, Service Manager | Exec and Shadow Board to plan at development day - 26th Jan 2022 | Complete:  Extract from Youth Justice Service Develo |
| | | | | | Agenda item at Blackpool Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group and Pan-Lancs Contextual Safeguarding Group - Mar 2022 | Complete: Blackpool group (10th Mar 2022) and Pan-Lancs group (23rd Mar 2022). |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|--|---|
| HMIP Area for Imp P17 | YJS and partner agencies need to develop the way they manage information so that they communicate more effectively. | Communication amongst partners is effective. | Children are provided with the right support at the right time by the most appropriate partner. | TBC | Task & Finish Group to be established - May 2022 | |
| | | | | | Draft protocol to Exec Board - Sept 2022 | |
| | | | | | Exec and Shadow Board to discuss at Development Day - 26th Jan 2022 | Complete |
| | | | | | Establish timeline for Servelec roadmap for when Mosaic and Core+ can link – Feb 2022 | A view of a subset of information from Mosaic within Core+ and vice versa will be available following upgrade (timescale dependence on server upgrade in June 2022 with 3-month implementation plan). |
| | | | | | Health colleagues training and access to Core+ complete - Mar 2022 | Complete |
| | | | | | Arrange co-location of YJS Police Officer 2 days a week as restrictions ease in | Currently co-locating on Wednesdays. |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------|
| | | | | | line with emerging YJB protocol - May 2022 | |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

Part 2

Theme: Out of Court

Lead: Lesley Miller, Head of Criminal Justice, Lancashire Constabulary

Statutory guidance:

- [Youth out-of-court disposals: guide for police and YJSs - GOV.UK](#)
- [How to Use Out of Court Disposals](#)
- [Code of Practice Youth Conditional Cautions](#)
- [Reform of anti-social behaviour powers: statutory guidance for frontline professionals](#)

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--|---|------------------------------------|---|------------|--|
| 1a | Strategic planning: Scope out, create opportunities and promote the Prevention Offer, with Neighbourhood Policing and Community Safety, to divert children away from the Criminal Justice System | | | Service Manager, Michelle Bury, Jen Bradshaw, Suzy Robertson (Early Help Hub) | | Complete: Outreach & Diversion funding received from Lancashire Violence Reduction Network to support the creation of further Outreach and Diversion Opportunities. 3rd Sector Boys & Girls Club funded (July-Oct 2020) and (May 2021-Sept 2021). Further funding received for Summer holidays. |
| | | | | | | Complete: Increased prevention offer via Family Hubs as social distancing and lock down measures ease. Widely promote Family Hub |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | <p>Community Timetables across the partnership. Update July 2021- Family Hubs in North, Central and South Blackpool are now open for appointment based services, timetables for summer holiday period are in place which include a variety of all age activities. Further planning underway to consider extension of the offer as COVID restrictions are lifted. Update April 22: Early Help now based around the Family Hubs, new strategy launched & EH offer widely publicised.</p> |
| | | | | | <p>Jun 2022</p> | <p>Blackpool Youth Provision Review task and finish group formed in April 2021 inc. Head of Adolescent Service, Head of Leisure, Youth Group Providers and elected members. (Independent consultant to be commissioned and undertaking field work by July 2021). Up-date 07/09/21 Independent consultant National Youth Agency (NYA) commissioned July 2021. NYA meeting Blackpool Youth Provision Review task and</p> |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | | finish group 09.09.21 to begin work. Update April 22: Youth Provision Review draft summary report completed, once approved this will be published. |
| | | | | | | <p>Complete: Funding secured via Young ADDER project to undertake Awaken outreach work evenings and weekends to complement offer from Community Safety. This will include disruption of problem places, interacting with young people that are at risk of CE or MFH, a visible presence and interaction with others within the community in heightened locations of interest, to gather intel from out of hours working to be fed back into the Daily Exploitation Meeting to assist with targeting, disruption and mapping. Goes live w/c 17/05/21. Programme and extra outreach activities developed to be delivered over the summer holidays. Up-date 07/09/21 Community Safety leading Welfare and Disruption evenings each week usually Weds & Thurs supported by</p> |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| | | | | | | Awaken colleagues. Discussions underway with Awaken to explore Police staff also working out hours. Impact reports to CSAP Contextual Safeguarding Sub Group. Update April 22: Regular outreach activities undertaken which now includes weekends. Intelligence shared with all appropriate services at the DEM. |
| | | | | | | Complete: Work with Lancashire Violence Reduction Network to develop a pan-Lancashire targeted youth offer via Youth Endowment Bid for Pause for Thought. OPCC advised the bid was unsuccessful Jun 21. |
| 1b | Strategic planning: Undertake analysis and action planning to tackle any disproportionality. | | | Julie Cummins | Ongoing | A small working group has been established as part of the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board to review disproportionality in the CJS. The meeting is chaired by Lesley Miller, Lancashire Constabulary and agencies have been asked to provide data to enable an overview of related activity in Lancashire to be collated |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

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|----|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | | which will inform areas for future consideration. Data has been submitted to LCJB, it didn't identify any disproportionality in terms of ethnicity however it was raised that there is disproportionality around CLA and leaving care. Update April 22: Review of LCJB sub-groups will be finalised at the next LCJB in May, it is anticipated disproportionality with sit across all business areas. |
| | | | | Michelle Bury | | Complete: 10 point checklist has been revised to include Child First, Trauma Informed, Restorative Approach and out for consultation with partners on Pan-Lancs basis. Update April 22: finalised and circulated. Launched across all Blackpool Children's Services for awareness. |
| 1c | Strategic planning: Develop a step-by-step flow chart for YJS police officers on what | | | Emma McCabe | | Complete: Work is underway to incorporate data recording guidance into the process. This will ensure that practitioners are fully aware of the process and what needs to happen as well as what |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| | needs to be done day by day. | | | | | needs to be recorded, by whom and when. Up-date 07/09/21 - flow chart complete and being tested. |
| 2a | Audit outcome: The audit identified time gaps due to a case going to CPS in 1 case and in another initial assessment received promptly however the investigation was incomplete. It was identified on 1 case the voluntary attendance interview took place 9 months after the offence. | | | Jen Bradshaw | | Complete: JB to discuss audit findings and on-going issue OIC and respective sergeant. Update April 22: feedback provided on implications of delay on children and young people. |
| | | | | | Oct 2021 | Complete: Quality Police Sergeants now in place in BCUs who will be reviewing quality and timeliness of investigations. Monthly audits are being conducted and outcomes will be raised at BCU's checkpoint meetings. |
| | | | | | Jun 2021 | Complete: Police Staff Evidence Review Officers are now in place across Lancashire. There is an ERO Team based at Blackpool to conduct evidential reviews and ensure cases to be submitted to CPS for a charging decision meet the right standard and contain all relevant material. |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 2b | <p>Audit outcome:</p> <p>Out of the 10 cases examined 6 cases were progressed promptly by the police. It was identified on 1 case which was a knife crime that the Officer in charge was unaware that youth knife crimes must be sent to Youth Justice Service. It was identified on 1 case that was a gravity matrix 4 and therefore CPS charging decision required which caused a slight delay and the next available panel date was 15 days after allocation.</p> | | | Emma McCabe / Fiona Downey | Develop and implement Knife crime intervention strategy. Deliver education on knife crime in schools - ongoing | Meeting to be arranged with Community Safety (Blackpool Council) and Education to scope out what has already been provided to prevent duplication. Update April 22: school input delivered in local secondary schools by Sgt Dan Whitaker, local policing team. Organised visits to see the Knife Angel in Blackburn completed. |
| | | | | YJS PC | Conduct Survey Monkey to gain an understanding of officers knowledge of Youth Justice - ongoing | Temporary seconded PC in place covering absence of substantive post holder. |
| | | | | Jen Bradshaw | | Complete: Gravity Matrix Awareness will be incorporated into officer briefings to ensure cases that meet the criteria for CPS pre-charge decision are submitted promptly. The Gravity Factor Matrix will be shared and discussed with Youth Disposal Panel |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|---|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | | <p>members to raise awareness of content and impact.</p> <p>Update April 22: Briefings delivered and details shared with Panel members of GFM.</p> |
| | | | | Michelle Bury | | <p>Complete: A Sherlock item will be created to reiterate correct procedures to police officers and remind them to link in with the YJS PC for guidance in cases involving children.</p> <p>Update April 22: Sherlock item published and officers now making contact in line with process.</p> |
| 2c | <p>Audit outcome:</p> <p>It was identified in the audit that cases that go to CPS or are bounce backs cause a slight delay on the 28-day process. A factor is that children who do not admit the offence in interview subsequently plead guilty at Court and</p> | | | Michelle Bury / Lesley Miller | May 2021 | <p>Complete: Bounce Back flowchart devised with multi-agency agreement and has already been presented to the Board. Now circulated via force intranet and across police departments.</p> <p>Posters have been created to display in police stations to remind defence solicitors of the need to attend in person to represent children in PACE interviews.</p> |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--|
| | become eligible for out of court disposal. | | | | | Action from Blackpool YJ Board - due to high numbers of no comment interviews defence solicitors were written to by former Director of Children's Services Diane Booth on behalf of the Board. The letter issued a reminder of the YJS aims to keep children out of the criminal justice process and to consider the child's best interests when eligible for out of court disposal. |
| 2d | Audit outcome: An independent sergeant reviewed the decision making on all 10 cases. The review identified some learning around veering off the Gravity Factor Matrix (GFM) and not documenting the aggravating and mitigating circumstances within the panel report. Good practice would be to include the | | | Jen Bradshaw | | Complete: The content and purpose of the Gravity Factor Matrix to be shared with Panel members to raise awareness. |
| | | | | Michelle Bury | | Complete: Amend Panel Report to make specific reference to GFM including any aggravating factors or mitigating circumstances. Update April 22: added to the Panel report. |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--|
| | gravity matrix starting point in the decision-making rationale within the panel report. | | | | | |
| 2e | Audit outcome: In 6 cases out of the 10 cases audited the outcome was clearly recorded on Core+. In this area some learning was identified around links with the Early Help hub as it wasn't evident on 1 case what work had been undertaken and it was also identified that recording on 1 case could improve as it had gaps in the case notes. | | | Jen Bradshaw | | Complete: New YJ PC to be trained on recording on Core+ and monitor to ensure police footprint on police records. Update April 22: PC received training and guidance in this regard. |
| | | | | Kerry Fisher | | Complete: Workshop to be arranged with Case Managers to share best practice cases identified within the audit. Update April 22: workshops delivered |
| | | | | Suzy Robertson | | Complete: Early Help Hub to feed back into OOC Panel details of interventions, outcomes and compliance - process to be devised. |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| | | | | | | Update April 22: Member of Early Help Hub now attends all Panels. |
| 2f | Audit outcome: Out of 6 cases resulting in a YC/YCC, 2 cases did not have a signed copy uploaded on Core+. | | | Kerry Fisher | | Complete: Workshop to be arranged with case managers to share best practice cases identified within the audit. Provide training to develop YJS working practices. |
| 2g | Audit outcome: In 8 cases audited there was evidence of work being delivered in accordance with the plan on Core+; however 1 case was identified whereby some improvement could be made on how work being delivered is recorded. | | | Kerry Fisher | | Complete: Workshop to be arranged with case managers to share best practice cases identified within the audit. Provide training to develop YJS working practices. |
| | | | | | | Complete: 6 week process has been developed to review progress. |
| 2h | Audit outcome: Further audit to be carried out in February 2022. | | | Kerry Fisher, Jenny Bradshaw, Michelle Bury, new YJS PC | Jul 2022 | 10 OOCDCases to be audited and report outcome into Blackpool Board meeting. Consideration to be given to peer audit by |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

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|----|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | | Lancashire or Blackburn with Darwen YJS. Update April 22: this was deferred due to Inspection activity and will be re-visited in the next quarter. |
| 3a | Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. Ensure all work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children. | To ensure local strategies and service in place to ensure positive outcomes for children, to prevent children from becoming involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour | | All | Aug 2021 | Complete: An induction pack and training plan is being devised for all new YJ PCs to provide a consistent introduction to Youth Justice area of work. |
| 3b | Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. Ensure | To ensure local strategies and service in place to ensure positive outcomes for children, to prevent children from becoming involved in | | All | Jun 2022 | All members of the working group to identify areas for continuous improvement. Update April 22: E2E practitioner developing interventions to deliver to children/young people to enhance their personal and social skills. |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

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|----|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| | all work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society. | crime and/or anti-social behaviour | | | | |
| 3c | Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers. | To ensure local strategies and service in place to ensure positive outcomes for children, to prevent children from becoming involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour | | All | Jun 2022 | All members of the working group to identify areas for continuous improvement. Update April 22: Feedback from children/young people is gathered at the end of every YJS intervention by the Team Manager, face-to-face or via phone call to the child and young person and their parent/carer to ascertain whether interventions are effective. Opportunities for improvement are also sought. |
| 3d | Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion | To ensure local strategies and service in place to ensure positive outcomes for children, to prevent | | All | Jun 2022 | All members of the working group to identify areas for continuous improvement. Procedures are being developed to identify and intervene early with children who |

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| | and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system. | children from becoming involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour | | | | are repeatedly arrested but no further action is taken. The intention is to identify further opportunities for diversion activity. Update April 22: 10 point Action Plan for Looked After Children implemented. Reducing criminality strategy in LAC. Pilot to commence to identify repeat NFAs and offer voluntary intervention/support proposed via OPCC / Violence Reduction Network. |
| 4a | Inspection outcome: Victim work was not delivered as required in a small number of cases. | | | | | Complete: YJS Victim worker now attends the fortnightly panel meeting. Update April 22: Victim worker will be included in new Case Management Meeting structure. Feedback from victims is now activity sought and included in Service Manager Performance Report to Executive Board. |
| 4b | Inspection outcome: Risk to safety and wellbeing and risk of harm to others was | | | | Jun 2022 | Update April 22: New Case Management Structure will ensure that all risks are considered within |

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| | given insufficient attention in a small number of cases. | | | | | assessments and appropriate interventions considered. |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

Theme: In Court

Lead: Lisa Moorby, Legal Team Manager, HM Courts and Tribunals Service (Blackpool)

Statutory guidance:

- [Work in court](#)
- [Reports for court](#)
- [Placing young people in custody guide for youth justice practitioners](#)
- [AssetPlus Joint Working Protocol](#)
- [Community Sentences if you are under 18](#)
- [Revised Referral Order Guidance](#)

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| 1 (NS Audit) | <p>Reports informed by a good assessment:</p> <p>Develop system to ensure self-assessments are completed with child, parents/carers in all cases.</p> | To ensure the child's and parents/carers' voices are fully reflected throughout assessment. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Team Manager | | <p>Complete: The service is confident that self-assessments are completed with children and parents/carers. Team Managers are asking for all self-assessment to be completed before countersigning Asset+ assessment. If there is a genuine reason why a self-assessment cannot be completed, a management oversight contact will be added to explain.</p> <p>Court Officers are providing in a pack a paper self-assessment to</p> |

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| Page 142 | | | | | | child and parent/carer, following sentence, for them to complete ready for the assessment commenced 13/05/21. |
| | Assessments to be updated for all sentencing episodes. | To ensure that every child has an up to date assessment completed to inform sentencing proposals and decisions. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Team Manager | Jul 2021 | Complete: An updated assessment is completed for all Pre-Sentence reports. Audit to be completed in July 2021 to evidence action is completed around self-assessments and assessments being updated for all sentencing episodes. |
| 2 (NS Audit) | Reducing delays: Processes developed to ensure early identification of children who require a referral through to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), to reduce unnecessary sentencing delay. | Early identification and referral through to the NRM, to ensure that children received the required support. NRM referral outcome to be shared with courts where appropriate. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool), Lancs Police Head of Criminal Justice, YJS Service Manager, CPS | Dec 2020 | Complete: Multi-agency meeting taken place in November to review learning from recent NRM. All acknowledged that practice had improved since February 2020 and agencies are working together better now when completing NRM referrals and are more pro-active in making and monitoring referrals. YJS now attend the DEM daily meetings where NRM's are discussed and YJS are able to take any concerns to this meeting for multi-agency discussion. |

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| | | | | | | <p>There are still delays in receiving outcomes from NRM's, however this is a national issue.</p> <p>The YJS, HMCTS, Awaken and the police will continue to monitor all NRM referrals and raise any issues/concerns at the multi-agency DEM meeting. If the concerns cannot be resolved, these will be highlighted and if necessary escalated for the YJS Executive board's attention.</p> |
| 3 (NS Audit) | <p>Is court necessary and appropriate:</p> <p>Reduce number of 'bounce backs' from the Court to the Police for consideration of an OoCD.</p> | <p>Continue to educate Police / YJS Police Officer's regarding appropriate cases for consideration for an out of court disposal.</p> <p>To develop a partnership approach to tackle, reduce and monitor the number of bounce backs occurring for children in Blackpool.</p> <p>Appropriate adult training will include</p> | <p>Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change.</p> | <p>Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool), Lancs Police Head of Criminal Justice, CPS, YJS Service Manager</p> | <p>Jun 2021</p> | <p><i>Link to OoCD theme/actions</i></p> <p>Examination of data shows that this appears to be an issue in Blackpool and not across pan-Lancs.</p> <p>Lancs Constabulary and CPS completed case audits of 10 cases and concluded that particular solicitors in the Blackpool area were providing different advocacy advice. YJS partnership agreed the promotion of out of court disposals was the preferred option to avoid cases being presented to court.</p> |

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| | | <p>guidance around sharing information and encouraging consideration regarding OoCD options with defence advocates.</p> | | | | <p>Complete: The Partnership has written to all Blackpool Solicitors to outline the desired outcomes of the Partnership and to encourage the firms to support this.</p> <p>Complete: The approaches in custody checked to ensure that the police are providing full disclosure to defence advocates.</p> <p>Complete: In Court lead to discuss bounce backs with defence advocates to establish themes/areas for further consideration.</p> <p>Complete: Appropriate Adults to ensure the defence advocate has a full understanding regarding the range of OoCD options that may be available to the child. AA training has taken place for new AA staff who were informed of this process. Quarterly AA meeting scheduled</p> <p>In court Theme lead will continue to monitor.</p> <p>Complete: Court/YJS continue to bring to Police attention bounce</p> |

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| | | | | | | backs to investigate reason and take whatever action is deemed appropriate if the case could have been progressed in a different manner to continue to influence a reduction in numbers. |
| 4 (NS Audit) | Reducing remand: High quality Bail assessments to be prepared promptly to inform discussions with the Court, CPS and defence solicitor. | Any child either held in custody overnight or appearing after being placed in a PACE accommodation have a bail assessment completed prior to court beginning so that the Court, CPS and defence are fully informed before making any bail or remand decisions. Examination of YJS data to ensure information, including bail/remand modules, are being shared with the YCS as early as possible. | Bail assessments to be presented to the court in a timely manner to enable children to be dealt with swiftly to reduce their time in custody. Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager, YJS Team Manager, YJS theme lead practitioners | Feb 2021 | Complete: Bail assessments are being completed in a timely manner to inform discussions with relevant partners. All Court Officer's ensure that prior to the court hearing they have completed the bail assessment with the child and parent/carer and that discussions take place in a timely manner with the defence and CPS solicitor and court clerk regarding the proposal. Practice example (AT, Sept 2020; TL March 2021). YJS Theme lead practitioners have developed and implemented a court officer's recording template to ensure recording is of high quality. No issues raised by the court regarding timeliness YJS Court Officers are sharing information with the YCS in a |

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| | | Suitable placements for children are identified at the earliest opportunity. | | | | timely manner to facilitate appropriate placement. |
| 5 (Recovery Plan) | Ensure children who are on remand awaiting sentence are dealt with as a priority during any future lockdown periods. | Children subject to a remand are dealt with as a priority to avoid unnecessary lengthy remand periods. | Where possible children on remand are not disadvantaged, as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. | Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool), YJS Service Manager | Dec 2020 | <p>Complete: Guidance on Court listings is produced by the Senior presiding Judge and HMCTS have to work to this.</p> <p>Technology within HMCTS and the secure estate has improved during the recent months and therefore virtual court hearings should be more accessible which would support swifter sentencing outcomes for children.</p> <p>Agreed that should there be a further period of lockdown, where the courts are disrupted the YJS should review any children on remand and highlight these immediately to HMCTS. HMCTS will then ensure that these children are dealt with and do not spend longer than required on remand. In previous lockdowns children have been able to make an additional bail application and therefore</p> |

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| | | | | | | should there be a further period of lockdown which impacts court hearings the YJS will review all children on remand and proactively complete bail applications (further lockdowns did not impact on court business). |
| 6 (NS Audit) | Sentencer confidence: Agree date for implementing revised Crown and Youth Court feedback form. | Regular feedback received from the judiciary to inform service developments and celebrate good practice. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager, Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool) | Jul 2020 | Complete: Pan-Lancs feedback form completed and in use. Feedback being used to inform service developments and recognise good practice. |
| | Ensure there is a consistent understanding and approach to enforcement of court orders. | To ensure that there is a consistent understanding and approach to the use of compliance panels to avoid unnecessary court breach | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Team Manager, YJS practice theme leads | Feb 2021 | Complete: Compliance meetings taking place for Referral Orders. Next step is to develop compliance panels for YRO's to reduce unnecessary court breaches. Practice theme leads will include best practice guidance/examples around compliance and share with YJS practitioners to ensure consistent understanding and approach, based on the needs of the child. Court Leads will create a |

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| 7 (Recovery Plan) | Ensure that a clear process is in place to facilitate enforcement of court orders if there is a further period of lockdown. | Breaches will be prioritised for priority 1 cases in a further period of lockdown. There may be a delay with regards to breaches for other children, not deemed to be priority 1. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool), YJS Service Manager | | flow chart of new process and breach pack by July 21. Evidence of Implementation to be reviewed through July 2021. Implementation to be reviewed through audit in August 2021. |
| | | | | | Jul 2021 | Complete: Audit undertaken, compliance panels now taking place where appropriate. |
| | | | | | Nov 2020 | Complete: The YJS to ensure regular communication with HMCTS where a child requires a breach hearing. Guidance on Court listings regarding breaches is produced by the Senior presiding Judge and HMCTS have to work to this. The YJS to highlight to HMCTS any children they assess as requiring a breach hearing before the court. Agreed that perhaps a virtual breach hearing could be held if face-to-face appearances cannot be facilitated (further lockdowns did not impact on court business). |

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| 8 (NS Audit) | Participation and engagement: Information to be provided to children and parents/carers to ensure they are fully informed regarding any court appearance and outcomes. | Review and re-introduce leaflets to be handed out at police stations to ensure that children and parents/carers are prepared and have an understanding regarding court hearings and processes. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager, YJS Team Manager, Lancs Police Head of Criminal Justice | Apr 2021 | Complete: System developed to ensure that information is provided to children and parents/carers at the police station. YJS Court Officers/Current case manager to review the court lists and make contact with any relevant child and parents/carers prior to ensure they have a good understanding regarding court hearings and processes. Practice development to be shared via Team meetings in April 2021. |
| | | | | | Mar 2021 | Complete: Leaflets are available and are given to children and parents/carers at court. Due to Covid restrictions challenging to hand out paper documents. Practice theme leads to review availability of electronic resources available. Court Officers to ensure they are fully communicating with the child and parent/carer to check understanding of the court |

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| | Court to develop feedback process for children and parents/carers capturing engagement with the magistrates. | Court feedback forms will be reviewed by HMCTS and the YJS to improve service delivery. | Children and parents/carers have an opportunity to share their experience of court appearances to inform practice developments. | Team Manager, Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool) | | outcome and recording in line with best practice. This will be included on the court officer's checklist to ensure it is completed. Implementation from 13/05/2021 and practice will be reviewed in audit in June 2021 (currently Youth courts are 1 x fortnightly). |
| | | | | | Jun 2021 | Complete: Leaflets now provided at completion of sentence during interview. |
| | | | | | Mar 2021 | HMCTS legal Team Manager to complete spot check observations on 04/03/2021 to ensure children and parents/carers are being engaged by the magistrates. HMCTS Legal Team Manager to provide feedback on observations. Feedback received regarding evidential observation re; DJ, but need to get for magistrates - Completed by LM |
| | | | | | Jul 2021 | Court feedback forms are given out to YP following court appearance and are collated at the first contact |

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| | | | | | | with supervising officer. – Court lead practitioner to co-ordinate and share findings. |
| 9 (NS Audit) | Information transfer for custody cases: Custodial warrants to be checked by the YJS Court Officer. | Process to be developed with HMCTS to ensure YJS Court Officers check Warrants to ensure they are correct before the child leaves for the custodial estate. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change | Team Manager, Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool), YJS Service Manager | Dec 2020 | Process has been developed by HMCTS to ensure custodial warrants are emailed to YJS court officers for them to check prior to the child leaving for the custodial estate. This procedure has been shared with HMCTS staff and YJS court officers. Compliance against the action and implementation will be reviewed in audit in April 2021. |
| | YJS Court Officers to develop their understanding regarding the Youth Custody Service requirements for sentenced and remanded to YDA children. | YJS Court Officers are aware, understand and follow the Youth Custody requirements in relation to children sentenced and remanded to YDA. | Ensure that relevant information regarding the child and family is shared with the YCS. | YJS Team Manager | Sept 2020 | Complete: Court officers are aware of the requirements and transfer information to the YCS via Post Court Report, email and telephone calls. Compliance against the action and implementation will be reviewed in audit in April 2021. |
| 10 (NS Audit) | Disproportionality: | To have a better understanding regarding the issues of | Every child exposed to the justice system is treated fairly, and | Legal Team Manager (HMCTS | Jun 2021 | A small working group has been established as part of the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board |

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| | The Police, Court and YJS should collate data to establish and identify the specific causes of disproportionality in Blackpool and develop an action plan to address. | <p>disproportionality that may be affecting children in Blackpool.</p> <p>To develop a partnership approach to address disproportionality in Blackpool.</p> <p>To ensure findings around disproportionality are feedback to HMCTS, the YJB and YJS Executive Board.</p> | there is no bias in decision-making. | Blackpool), YJS Service Manager, Lancs Police Head of Criminal Justice | | to review disproportionality in the CJS. The meeting is chaired by Lesley Miller, Lancashire Constabulary and agencies have been asked to provide data to enable an overview of related activity in Lancashire to be collated which will inform areas for future consideration. Lisa to ensure she is invited to all future meetings. |
| 11 (NS Audit) | Recording: Ensure that all court outcomes are recorded on the YJS case management system. | YJS case management records fully reflect all court appearances / outcomes including any conditions made. | YJS case management system correctly reflects all outcomes for children. | YJS Team Manager | Aug 2020 | Complete: all sentencing outcomes are being recorded on Core+. Compliance against the action and implementation will be reviewed in audit in April 2021. |
| 12 (Recovery Plan) | HMCTS to share data with YJS regarding backlog of cases in any future period of lockdown. | YJS will be able to use the data to assist with resourcing and anticipating work | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are | Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool), YJS | Nov 2020 | Complete: this action was completed after the last period of lockdown, however would need to be reinstated should a further |

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| | | coming into the service. | well supported to make change | Service Manager, | | period of lockdown occur which results in courts closing. |
| 13 (NS Audit / Peer Review) | Ensure the Voice of the Child is central to developments across this theme. | The voice of the child will be clearly captured in all development across the theme. Practice guidance will be developed that supports practitioners to capture the voice of the child. | Children will feel valued and listened to. Children's outcomes will improve. | YJS Team Manager, YJS practice theme leads | Apr 2021 | Complete: Agreed that the YJS young people's board would be asked to help with providing feedback regarding their experience of courts. Delay in YP board meeting due to COVID restrictions therefore the attached document is now included for all court officers to hand out to YP's /parents & carers attending court and implemented on 13/05/21. Once YP coproduction group fully formed, YP Feedback document to be reviewed. |
| 14 | To consider whether court community reviews could be developed to provide the judiciary with an opportunity to review a child's progress during their court order. | Regular review alongside the judiciary to monitor child's progress on a court order, review compliance and reduce the requirement for formal enforcement. An opportunity to consider early | Opportunity for the child to share progress with the judiciary and/or consider barriers to engagement/ compliance. | Legal Team Manager (HMCTS Blackpool), YJS Service Manager, YJS Team Manager, YJS practice theme leads | Jul 2021 | A pilot programme for community reviews was being developed within HMCTS in Greater Manchester. This has been suspended due to Covid. HMCTS are reviewing whether these can be developed virtually, however clear timescales are not available at present. Blackpool to monitor progress of this pilot and decide whether to |

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| | | revocation and celebrate good practice. | | | | implement similar approach when possible. LM to contact GM Youth Panel Chair for update. |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

Theme: In the Community

Lead: Anna Stowell, Independent Reviewing Officer, Blackpool Council

Statutory guidance:

- [Use of community interventions](#)
- [Revised Referral Order Guidance](#)
- [National protocol for case responsibility](#)
- [Support for parents of children in the youth justice system](#)

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| 1 (NS Audit / Peer Review) | <p>Improve the quality of assessments and reviews:</p> <p>To develop practice around the purpose and impact of assessment.</p> <p>To develop assessment skills incorporating Blackpool Families Rock ethos and ensuring that the voice of the child is central to the assessment.</p> | <p>Moving beyond the process of assessment into consideration of quality will help us understand what life is like for Children and Families.</p> <p>Practitioners will have improved assessment skills and increased confidence.</p> <p>Assessments will be holistic, plans will seek to fully address unmet need and intervention will be effective in</p> | <p>Children and Families will be supported to tell their story and make sense of their situation. This will contribute to a good quality assessment and lead to the right interventions to help children make positive sustainable changes.</p> | <p>In the Community theme lead; YJS Service Manager; YJS Team Managers; YJS theme lead practitioners</p> | <p>Jul 2022</p> | <p>Research in practice has been accessed to develop further insight within the team of the theory and practical aspects of trauma informed practice, this has developed insight for practitioners within the YJS service to develop skills. Further training is to be developed inclusive of the Violence Reduction Network.</p> <p>There has been a focus on developing practice in communicating with young people, when completing assessments, considering speech and language communication to include young people with Dyslexia, ensuring that</p> |

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| | | supporting positive change. | | | | <p>all young people’s needs are being met. A meeting has been held with health practitioners to explore referral pathways. There are currently long waiting lists for speech and language therapists, which is being reviewed. A model of assessment tool is being developed, that can be utilised as part of any assessment.</p> <p>There’s a focus on how the practitioners communicate with young people, with identified needs, specialist consultation is being explored to give guidance on how work is undertaken with the individual young person.</p> <p>Contingent plans – Workshops have now taken place within the service. To develop consistency within practice discussions have progressed within the service and peer on peer audits will be commence within 2 months and reflective discussions to feedback the learning from audits.</p> |

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| 2 (NS Audit / Peer Review) | <p>Ensure effective planning takes place for every child:</p> <p>To develop practice around the purpose and impact of planning effective intervention.</p> <p>Plans that are written for the child, with the child at the centre of their plans, embedding the Blackpool Families Rock model.</p> | Using the assessment to support the development of collaborative plans, which will seek to fully address unmet needs for purposeful intervention. | Children and Families will receive the right support at the right time, strengths and worries identified during our contact with them will inform planning and improved outcomes. | In the Community theme lead; YJS Service Manager; YJS team Managers; YJS theme lead practitioners | Jun 2022 | <p>‘My target plan’s’ are being used, with a focus now on consistency within the service. This is being reviewed through audits and supervision.</p> <p>Upon a new allocation of a young person within the service an initial reflective multi-agency supervision is to take place within 4 weeks, to include relevant professionals around the young person, it’s intended that this will provide a multi-agency approach to planning and intervention. The voice of the child is also to be captured through this planning. The plan will be reviewed through supervision to evidence the impact and outcomes for the young person.</p> |
| 3 (NS Audit / Peer Review) | <p>Effectiveness of interventions:</p> <p>Ensure the effectiveness of interventions to ensure they are meeting the children’s needs and to reduce</p> | Intervention will be effective in supporting positive change and reduce risk and re-offending. | Children and Families will receive the right support that meets their individual needs, which will lead to changes and improved outcomes. | In the Community theme lead; YJS Service Manager; YJS team Managers; YJS | Jul 2022 | Team managers have progressed with gathering meaningful feedback from the young people, parents/carers, following intervention. There has been positive feedback for practitioners, that’s included the flexibility of practitioners in working with the |

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| | re-offending. Including robust exit plans | | | theme lead practitioners | | <p>young person and family to ensure that they work with the young people and intervention is meaningful. The feedback is now captured as the young person's views on their files and shared with individual practitioners/ team development and used within performance reports.</p> <p>Where the young person has re-offended/significant incident this is to be reviewed within the initial supervision upon allocation (4 weeks).</p> <p>First time entries have been reviewed and are low. Blackpool YJS are to be involved in a pilot study to review the young people entering the YJS service.</p> <p>Reflective multi-agency supervision led within the YJS service will inform exit plans in place, working with partner agencies and shared ownership of the plan.</p> |
| 4 (NS Audit) | Improve the quality of recording: | Case recording will be clear, accurate, chronological and up | Children's records will clearly reflect the needs, support, | | | Complete: ACORNS is in place and model of practice is incorporating Blackpool Families rock. Practice |

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| | Develop model of recording to include the expectations of good quality case recording | to date. Case recording will capture safeguarding information, information shared, interventions provided and will provide an insight into the lived experience for children and families. | intervention provided and inform planning. The child's story and needs will be understood. | | | has been developed linking in with Blackpool young people's services. Audits have been completed to review quality and model of practice is being utilised. Reflective practice within the team is in place to develop consistent practice. |
| 5 (NS Audit/Recovery Plan) | Reparation: Development a clear service offer for reparation. | Meaningful reparation projects will be established within the local communities. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change | YJS Team Managers; YJS theme lead practitioners | | Complete: Reparation projects are kept under review and considered on an individual basis. Reparation at park run is in place. If required task and finish groups are implemented on a bespoke basis, to ensure individual and meet the needs of the young person. Supervision and audits contributes to practice development. Kick Start role is now in place and effective. |

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| 6 (Recovery Plan) | <p>Group work delivery / Co-production:</p> <p>Review group work delivery within the service, taking into account restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19. Develop co-production with young people who are supported by the service.</p> | To review whether group work activities can be delivered in a safe manner face to face. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YOT Team Managers; YOT theme lead practitioners | | <p>Complete: Significant efforts have been made in relation to both group work and co-production.</p> <p>Having listened to the voice of the young people, rather than group work per se, there has been a move to positive activities for the young people; this has increased young people participation. The kick-start role also supports group activities, listening to the young people and their interests. On the back of this young people continue to be encouraged to be involved in co-production. This will be ongoing with the young people working within the YOT service at any given time and kept under review, to meet the needs of the young people and in encouraging co-production.</p> |

Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

Theme: Children in Secure Accommodation

Lead: Amanda Lynch, Head of MASH / Assessment and Support, Blackpool Council

Statutory guidance:

- [How to place a child in secure settings](#)
- [Custody and Resettlement](#)
- [Detention and Training Orders section 73 – 79 C&D 1998](#)
- [Section 90 Criminal Justice Act 2003](#)
- [Section 91 Criminal Justice Act 2003](#)
- [Section 226 Criminal Justice Act 2003](#)
- [Youth to adult transition protocol \(England\)](#)
- [Youth to adult transition protocol \(Wales\)](#)
- [Transfers for over 18s to young adult estate](#)
- [Former looked after children in custody](#)
- [SEND code of practice](#)
- [Comprehensive Health Assessment Tool Manual](#)
- [Children and young people in the secure estate national partnership agreement](#)
- [Healthcare standards for children and young people in the secure estate](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)

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| 5.4 (HMIP 5) | Ensure that the Executive Board and the YJS have a clear understanding of the root causes for offending and the pathways into custody for young people. Multi-agency task and finish group to | Better knowledge and understanding of the needs of our young people to enable better planning of diversionary services and improved outcomes. Young people with a risk of exposure to the youth justice system | Fewer children are exposed to the justice system because issues are dealt with proportionately. Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are | YJS Service Manager; Business Development Manager (CSAP) | Case review completed – Apr 2020 Outcome reported to Exec Board – May 2020 | Complete: Verbal update provided by theme lead at Exec Board on 23/07/20. No significant findings resulting from case review and no further action required. |
| 5.5 (NS) | | | | | | |
| 5.6 | | | | | | |

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| | <p>undertake deep dive case review.</p> <p>Following the National Standards self-assessment, NS Lead to develop action plan to address areas for improvement</p> <p>Contribute to the reduction of remand financial implications to the authority through the use of creative bail support packages.</p> | <p>have clearly identified needs and have appropriate provision to meet those needs.</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved resettlement planning for children held in secure settings; Improvements around PACE; Greater sharing of information from secure settings; Improved recording of information on Core+. Increased understanding of the use of the funding allocation for remands to youth secure accommodation | <p>well supported to make change.</p> <p>Fewer children are reoffending after entering the justice system.</p> <p>Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change.</p> | | <p>Improvement plan developed – Jul 2020</p> <p>Report on progress to the Exec Board – by Jan 2021</p> | <p>Complete: In secure action plan further developed to include Audit findings.</p> <p>May 21 Custody Representatives invited to attend YJS Executive Board – Service Manager liaising with Head of Resettlement HMYOI Wetherby.</p> <p>Custody review panels on-going and will continue to feed into Themed plan.</p> |
| | | | | | <p>Annual overview of use of remand budget presented to the board – May 2021</p> | <p>Complete: Included in Service Manager’s report presented at Exec Board on 25/05/21.</p> |

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----|--|--|---|---------------------|------------------------|---|
| | | for children and young people. | | | | |
| 5.7 | Deliver a Learning Circle to YJS Practitioners, based on findings of custody panels to develop skills in managing children in secure accommodation with particular reference to resettlement planning. | Practitioners are able to confidently manage children in secure accommodation and effectively plan for their resettlement. | Children are not unnecessarily held in secure accommodation and are released to accommodation that meets their needs. | YJS Service Manager | End of Apr 2021 | Complete: Learning circle took place on the 29th April 2021. Session also attended by the wider Adolescent service e.g. Personal Advisers for our Care Experienced Young People and Family Practitioners (Substance Misuse & Sexual Health) who may also work with children in secure accommodation. |
| 5.8 | Provide written guidance to EDT staff to ensure that all are aware of processes for children at all stages of the criminal justice system. | All EDT staff are able to comply with expected processes. | Children will receive the expected outcomes out of hours. | YJS Service Manager | End of Jan 2021 | Complete: Appropriate Adult guidance written and shared with EDT colleagues. |
| 5.9 | Develop a protocol for joint working with children's social care for children in secure accommodation to ensure that work to find suitable | YJS and children's social care practitioners have a common understanding of expectations for | Children are released to stable and suitable accommodation that allows them to reintegrate into the community. | Service Manager | Jun 2022 | Confident in care, Confident in my future - Reducing criminalisation of our Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy drawn up by Service Manager in consultation with Theme Lead, Head of Adolescence and Head of |

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|------|---|---|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| | accommodation for release begins at a sufficiently early stage to be effective. | children in secure accommodation. | | | | Supporting Our Children, Adoption, Fostering and Residential Homes and launched at DCS brief 11/04/22. Roll out plan in place. |
| 5.10 | Develop Family Group Conferences for use with children and their families prior to release from secure accommodation to explore suitable resettlement plans, including for accommodation. | YJS officers have access to a specialist resource which can engage with children and their families to explore options. | Suitable accommodation within the family is identified wherever possible. | Targeted Intervention Service Head of Service | End of Sept 2021 | Complete: Referrals via Early Help or YJS Practitioners facilitating. |
| 5.11 | Broaden learning circles offered to YJS and adolescent service practitioners (5.7) to children social care practitioners who work with children in secure accommodation. | Child social care practitioners understand the processes and expectations for children in secure accommodation. | Children's time in secure accommodation and on release is managed effectively to secure their effective reintegration into their family and community. | YJS Service Manager | End of July 2022 | Currently being planned |

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Youth Justice Partnership Improvement Plan

Theme: On Transition and Resettlement

Lead: Paul Turner ADCS (Education), Blackpool Council

Statutory guidance:

- [Custody and Resettlement](#)
- [Youth to adult transition protocol \(England\)](#)
- [Youth to adult transition protocol \(Wales\)](#)
- [How to make resettlement constructive](#)
- [Beyond Youth Custody resources and research](#)

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1 (NS Audit) | Review of Service Level Agreement (SLA)/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure these processes and agreements around transitions are reflected, including information sharing. | SLAs/partnership arrangements are developed or reviewed to ensure they are up to date with local and national requirements and recommendations around transitions. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager; Transitions theme lead (National Probation Service); Health (Clinical Commissioning Group/ Provider); Education, Training & Employment; Accommodation leads | SLA's developed / reviewed - by Apr 2021 | Updated Pan Lancashire SLA in place between NPS and YJS which details the transition process. Health Partnership Principles complete May 2021. Review to be convened May 2022. Accommodation – 16-17 joint homeless protocol in place, which specifically references children open to YJS. Review underway April 2022. |

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----------------|--|---|--|---|--------------------|---|
| 2 (NS Audit) | <p>To develop a process flow chart for practitioner to assist in the understanding of the various transitions a child may make and processes to be followed for children who transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To an alternative health provision (e.g. different tiers of health provision; Community services to secure services and back again; Community forensic child and adolescent service; Adolescent forensic services; Learning disability services; Child and adolescent mental health services; | <p>Clear, high quality transitions processes are in place and completed in a timely manner to reduce delay and to ensure a child has a smooth transition to an alternative provision; improved resettlement planning for children being released from custody; clear processes in place to ensure a clear multi-agency plan is developed which includes timely coordination for a child's accommodation post custody; individuals understand legal implications and roles and responsibilities to facilitate good working together arrangements; to ensure coordination of timely planning/review meetings, e.g. remand/sentence planning</p> | <p>Children experience a smooth transition to an alternative provision; children and their families are kept fully informed and have an opportunity to contribute to transition plans; improved planning and coordination to provide better outcomes for children and families; improved outcomes for children to help reduce the risk of re-offending and ensure re-integration into the new provision.</p> | <p>YJS Team Manager, YJS practitioner theme lead; YJS health worker, YJS Education, Training & Employment officer, YJS seconded probation officer.</p> | Mar 2021 | <p>Complete: Process flow chart developed by practitioners which clearly details the various transitions between establishments/services and how information will be shared.</p> <p>Flowcharts completed and shared with partner agencies.</p> |
| | | | | | By Jun 2021 | <p>Follow-on action</p> <p>Flow-charts to be shared with YJS team and YJS specialist practitioners to share with their own agencies to ensure they have an understanding of transitions from a YJS perspective.</p> |

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|----|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------|
| | <p>Adult health services, such as secure provision, or to a secure welfare provision)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From a secure provision to home; • From children’s social care to adult social care; • To a different secure provision; • From a secure establishment for children into adult provision; • From the community into a secure provision (to include clear guidance around the legislation where the child comes into our care) | <p>meetings and children in our care meetings; practitioners working with a child have a clear understanding around what it means to be a child in our care during a period remanded to YDA; a clear process is in place to facilitate planning between the YJS and Children’s Social Care to agree coordination of services including identifying the lead professional ensuring a child first approach.</p> | | | | |

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|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For children transitioning to and from mainstream school and/or alternative provision For children transitioning home or into supported housing For children who transition to further education, training and/or employment. | | | | | |
| 3 (NS Audit/ Recovery Plan) | <p>Review Youth Justice Board National Protocol for Case Responsibility across local authorities and boroughs.</p> <p>Ensure process is in place to explore the home YJS maintaining virtual contact/</p> | Consistent, high quality approach to transitioning of cases in and out of Blackpool. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager, YJS Team Manager | May 2021 | <p>Complete: YJB National Protocol for Case responsibility is in place and implemented in practice in Blackpool.</p> <p>Further develop for Blackpool in line with Covid learning and the Youth Justice Board review of these procedures (no confirmed</p> |

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|-----------------|--|--|---|---|------------|--|
| | interventions where safeguarding/risks are low, rather than transitioning to Blackpool YJS for caretaking. | | | | | date as to when new procedures will be available). Ensure that local procedure reflects requirement to share information with partner agencies to see if they need to do anything with cases transferred. |
| 4 (NS Audit) | Review the arrangements for transition for children between YJS and National Probation Service. Meetings held between YJS and National Probation Service to ensure that where children are identified for transition that these are progressed swiftly to avoid drift. | High quality transitions process are in place to ensure these are completed in a timely manner to reduce delay; partners are confident that transitions to National Probation Service are occurring for relevant children; transition meetings are informed by discussions between YJS and National Probation Service managers and practitioners and are clearly recorded. | Smooth and supported transition, involving the child, from the youth justice service to the adult criminal justice service. | YJS Team Manager, National Probation Service Senior Probation Officer | Oct 2020 | Complete: National protocol is in place and is adhered to. Local transition arrangements in place and are working well. Documentation/guidance is being reviewed on a Pan Lancashire basis. |
| 5 | To ensure the Pan Lancashire transition programme is | Transition planning and intervention is clear on the child's intervention | Children experience a positive and smooth transition | YJS Team Manager, National | May 2021 | Complete: Pan Lancs transition proforma developed and in place. |

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|-----------------|--|---|--|--|-----------------|--|
| (NS Audit) | delivered to each child prior to their transfer to National Probation Service. | plan 3 months prior to transfer; specific transition interventions are clearly recorded on the child's file; there is evidence that the practitioner makes regular checks with the child to ensure their understanding around transition. | from the YJS to National Probation Service; the voice of the child is evidence throughout the transition process | Probation Service Senior Probation Officer | | YJS Team Manager to discuss with Pan Lancs YJSs and National Probation Service colleagues as to whether this programme is being run consistently, either face to face or virtually. |
| 6 (NS Audit) | Ensure the involvement of the virtual school in transition planning | To have improved joint arrangements between the virtual school and YJS which facilitate transitions for children. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager, Education, Training & Employment transitions lead | Feb 2021 | Complete: Virtual school staff for Our Children hold regular review meetings with YJS representatives. |
| 7 (NS Audit) | Ensure adherence to local agreement that YJS children are in school within 5 days of being out of school | Confidence that all school age children are receiving suitable and appropriate education and do not remain out of school for longer than 5 days. | Children are provided with an education provision swiftly to assist with supporting positive outcomes. | YJS Service Manager, Education, Training & Employment transitions lead | Feb 2021 | Complete: YJS Education, Training & Employment officer attends the monthly Blackpool Education Registration Admissions (BERA) panel meeting and monitors any children open to the service who are at risk of exclusion. Any children who are out of education |

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|------------------|--|---|---|--|------------|--|
| | | | | | | are then referred to and discussed at the in access panel. The YJS ETE officer confident that all children open to the YJS are in school within 5 days of being out of school. |
| 8 (NS Audit) | To develop practice and processes with the SEND team around community and secure transitions for YJS children. | To have clear practice guidance in place for YJS and SEND teams to facilitate transitions and positive outcomes for children. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager, Education, Training & Employment transitions lead | Jan 2021 | Complete: Transition policy in place between children's services and adult social care. |
| 9 (NS Audit) | Children who progress through the positive transitions housing model to have a clear plan in place | YJS practitioners and partners have a clear understanding regarding the positive housing transitions model. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager, Accommodation lead | Dec 2020 | Complete: This is in place through the positive transitions housing strategy. |
| 10 (NS Audit) | Improve working relationships between housing providers and YJS to promote good | Sharing relevant information between agencies to promote planning and to assist in identifying suitable accommodation/housing | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are | YJS Service Manager, Accommodation lead | Dec 2020 | Complete: The housing clinic is taking place monthly which YJS managers attend; there is a positive transitions steering group in place which has representation from the Service who are able to |

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|------------|--|
| | outcomes for children and families. | for children; clear partnership agreement is in place which enhances joint working practices; housing clinics attended by YJS managers. | well supported to make change. | | | raise any issues; an established pathway is in place and positive working relationships to support partnership working. |
| 11 (NS Audit) | Review the number of accommodation moves children open to the YJS experience. | Identify issues which contribute to accommodation moves for children and develop plan to address. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS Service Manager, Children's Social Care lead, In Secure Themed Lead | Jun 2022 | Confident in care, Confident in my future - Reducing criminalisation of our Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy drawn up by Service Manager in consultation with Theme Lead, Head of Adolescence and Head of Supporting Our Children, Adoption, Fostering and Residential Homes and launched at DCS brief 11/04/22. Roll out plan in place. |
| 12 (NS Audit) | Develop a clear multi-agency exit planning process for all children reaching the end of YJS involvement | Exit strategies are developed with all children 3 months prior to the end of their YJS orders. | Children and families are involved in bespoke exit planning and are fully informed regarding options for ongoing support. | YJS Team Manager | Jul 2021 | <i>Links to In the Community theme</i> Youth Justice Board Practice guidance is in place, which includes key principles to be considered when developing a child's exit plan. These plans are being reviewed in supervision. |

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|------------------|---|---|--|--|-----------------|---|
| | | | | | | Further Team development through peer supervision will take place, supported by YJS theme lead practitioners/ manager to embed good practice. |
| 13 (NS Audit) | To develop practice around resettlement to ensure every child leaving the secure estate has a clear plan in place (links with the In Secure theme 5.5. & 5.10). | Resettlement plans are started at the beginning of any period in the secure estate, to provide maximum time to plan for release to achieve positive outcomes for the child and their family. This to include planning around accommodation, Education, Training & Employment and Health which should be explored from the start of their custodial episode to promote good quality resettlement planning; practice developments around children who will need a Children's Social Care placement on | Ensure that the child is central in discussions regarding the various aspects of resettlement, their voice is central to the planning process and children and families are aware of plans in a timely manner. | YJS Service Manager, In secure theme lead, Children's Social Care lead, accommodation lead, Education, Training & Employment Lead, Health lead | Jun 2021 | YJS and partners to develop a clear resettlement offer for children and families. Custody Learning circle took place on the 29th April 2021. |

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|------------------|--|---|--|--|-----------------|---|
| | | release to ensure early placement planning is completed and a placement is identified at the earliest opportunity to aid resettlement planning for the child. | | | | |
| 14 (NS Audit) | Develop understanding and awareness across YJS and all partner agencies regarding roles, responsibilities and expectations around transitions. | Through the delivery of a workshop YJS practitioners will have an increased understanding around the expectations, roles and responsibilities of YJS practitioners and partner agencies when a child transitions; understand the importance of the voice of the child in the transition; have a clear understanding regarding the preparation work to be completed with a child prior to transition to another service; being | Children and families are central to the transition process and have an opportunity to engage in every step; | YJS Managers, YJS specialist practitioners | Jun 2021 | Flowcharts to be developed then shared in team meeting by specialist practitioners around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to NPS; • Health transitions; • ETE transitions; • Accommodation transitions. <p>YJS specialist practitioners to share with their own agencies to ensure they have an understanding of transitions from a YJS perspective.</p> |

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | confident in holding agencies to account | | | | |
| 15 (NS Audit) | Ensure that there is clear recording regarding transitions on the child's file. | This should include reflection of meetings, reviews, sharing of information, relevant documentation and management oversight by all relevant agencies which supports the transition process. | Clear, accurate records are held on children and families open to the YJS. | YJS Team Manager | Jun 2021 | Need to be confident that recording on the YJS system and partner's systems clearly identifies transitions that children make. ACTION - Develop recording guidance which specifically provides clarity of the recording around transitions. |
| | | | | | Jul 2021 | Implementation will be reviewed through a multi-agency transitions audit in July 2021. |
| 16 (NS Audit / Peer Review) | Ensure the Voice of the Child is central to developments across this theme | The voice of the child will be clearly captured in all development across the transitions and resettlement theme. Practice guidance will be developed that supports practitioners to capture the voice of the child. | Children will feel valued and listened to. Children's outcomes will improve. | All transitions and resettlement theme leads | Actions in place - Mar 2022 Audit - Jun 2022 | <u>Self-assessments:</u> Each young person completes the YJB self-assessments as part of their assessment. These documents are used to understand the young person's perspective, their strengths and challenges. <u>Record the voice of the child following every contact:</u> |

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| ID | Action | Anticipated Impact on the Quality of Practice | Outcomes for Children and Families | Accountable Person | Milestones | Notes |
|----|--------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | | <p>The YJS introduced a recording ACORNS method (Aim, Content, Outcome, Risk, Next Steps & Safeguarding) to be used following every intervention and to promote consistency in recording. Guidance was issued which included principles, including – “Record the child’s views, opinions, wishes and feelings wherever possible”</p> <p><u>Exit interviews:</u></p> <p>Team Managers undertaking the end of order feedback rather than a paper questionnaire. This is completed by the manager speaking to not only the child, but with their parent and carer face-to-face or by telephone. This has improved the quality and quantity of the feedback and helps us better understand what the young person perceived their order to be, what interventions they participated in and how useful they found this in avoiding further offending. Young people and their parents and carers are</p> |

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|------------------|--|--|---|----------------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | | <p>also asked how services could be improved to better meet their needs.</p> <p><u>Reflective Supervision:</u></p> <p>Blackpool YJS undertakes monthly reflective supervision on every child they support. Policy, Guidance, templates and prompt cards have been developed and training delivered that ensures that consideration is given to the child's voice and their daily lived experience to ensure we priorities the best interest of children and that interventions provided are meaningful.</p> |
| 17 (NS Audit) | Possible transitions to be identified at the start of each YJS order. YJS Practitioner and YJS specialist worker to proactively address to reduce any risk of drift and delay. | All children have possible transitions identified at the start of their YJS order and there is a coordinated multi-agency plan in place to proactively work with the child and family. | Children who are exposed to the justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | YJS team Manager | Jun 2021 | Pan-Lancs transition to NPS proforma developed and in place. |
| 18 | All partner agencies to contribute to the | All partner agencies will have an understanding | Children who are exposed to the | YJS Service Manager, | Dec 2020 | Complete: The regular multi-agency transition meeting hold |

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|------------|--|
| (NS Audit) | developments around transitions. | regarding transitions and their organisations role within these, to ensure smooth transitions for children and their families. | justice system achieve good outcomes and are well supported to make change. | Transitions theme lead | | each partner to account and ensures responsibility for actions are completed. Progress and challenges around transitions are communicated with the YJS Executive Board on a regular basis to ensure that these can be addressed at a strategic level and resolved in practice. |

Appendix 5

What works for children under 14 years old at risk of involvement with the Criminal Justice System

What works for children under 14 years old at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system

Case Study Questions

Date: Feb 2022

Location: Blackpool

For information, contact: Julie.Cummins@blackpool.gov.uk

The challenge:

Following the relaxation of lockdown restrictions in 2020, there was an increase in antisocial behaviour- particularly general nuisance behaviour, noise, fighting, damage to cars and vandalism- in three wards. Local councillors received a significant number of complaints from local residents; the police were seeking criminal behaviour orders against five children and were regularly using dispersal orders. With summer holidays approaching, the Youth Justice Service (YJS) wanted to put a rapid response in place to prevent further escalation and to address the community's concerns.

The approach:

Working with the local Community Safety Team, the YJS undertook a review of activities for children and

young people in the three target wards to establish any gaps in provision. Two wards had suitable activities and facilities, so effort was put into advertising for these rather than developing new activities. In one of these areas a core group of young people who were involved in antisocial behaviour were identified and offered targeted individual support by the YJS.

In the third ward the review identified a well-established Boys & Girls club with outdoor space, with football nets and other equipment, that was not being used by children in the area. The Community Safety Team engaged with children and young people, flying a drone as a way to initiate conversation, asking about activities they would like to have. Young people asked for boxing. The Violence Reduction Unit funding a collaboration between the Leisure Service and the Boys & Girls club to deliver two sessions of boxing and fitness training each week; an early evening session for 8-13 year olds and later one for young people aged 14 and older. These were supported by outreach work from the Boys & Girls club, and scheduled on evenings when the club was not already open. The sessions are popular, with an average of 20 children attending each, and are well staffed by outreach workers and staff from the Leisure Service.

A local social housing provider who was impressed by the success of the boxing sessions has taken over funding of the boxing sessions and outreach work.

Implementation:

The scheme has led to ongoing changes in practice. Police are engaging much more with the YOT and are more confident that the YOT will intervene and react to concerns. For example, where a local shopping centre raised concerns about a group of children and young people the police and early help team are developing a joint plan to offer support to specific individuals and their parents, to install a climbing frame and mobile boxing ring in the shopping centre.

The work of individual staff who have expertise, local knowledge and credibility with the children and families has been important. This takes place within a robust and co-ordinated response, including all partner agencies (the police, housing association, schools and the leisure department).

Consultation with children, responding to what they wanted and where they wanted it has meant the scheme is well-suited to the children's needs. Meetings are now also held to review activity provision more

broadly. For example, families pointed out that Sundays were problematic because there were few affordable/free activities open. Planning has begun to open the leisure centre on Sundays opening, with a boxing ring.

The impact:

No formal evaluation of the scheme has been undertaken, but local professionals report a positive impact. Since the additional activities have been introduced, the police have applied for only one civil orders and have not pursued any criminal behaviour orders against children or young people in the area. Previously, these were common. The most recent report from the Community Safety Manager (January 2022) showed that antisocial behaviour is at an 'all-time low'; with a decrease of 23% in the two wards where targeted activities have been introduced.

Quotes to choose from:

"I bring my daughter here from the other side of town, she loves it...keeps her out of trouble" (parent)

"me and my friends can all join in with the games, it's tiring" (female child)

"I like the pads work best, I'm good at that, better than the others" (male child)

"They're all right to be fair, we've not had the police around as much as we use to, it's dropped a lot... There use to be fires and there are no fires any more, its cause they are doing stuff, all enjoying it.. as you can see they're here now and they're teenagers, not causing trouble" (Boys & Girls Club outreach worker)

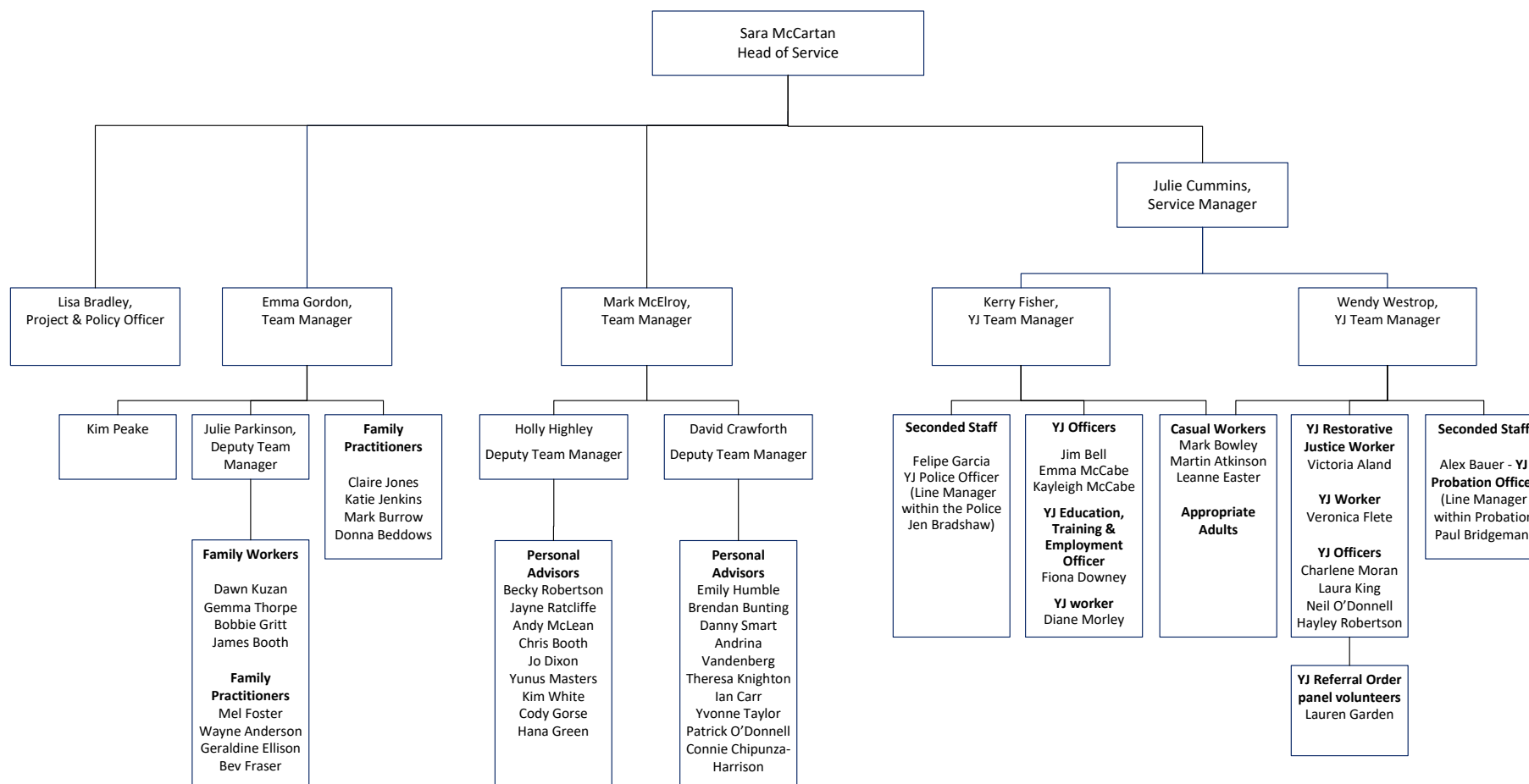
"I think the success shown with this scheme is particularly important. Instead of giving the young people what adults think they need, they have been asked what they want - as the data suggests this has led to a much greater level of engagement, and a huge improvement in our ASB levels in these areas. It has certainly shown us the way forward in future youth engagement as an authority"

(Cllr Gillian Campbell, Labour Councillor for Park Ward, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth & Transience, YJS Executive Board member, Blackpool Council)

Appendix 6

Adolescent Service Structure Chart

Adolescent Service Structure Chart



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Co-located Mental Health Practitioner, Sarah Hoggatt (Line Managed via YoutherapyY)

Co-located Employment Officer Linda Aiaken
(Line Managed via Positive Steps)

Specialist Health Practitioner Support (Contextual Safeguarding Team)

YJ Information Officer Nicola Wilson
(Line Manager Sara Coombs, Systems & Intelligence Manager)

Appendix 7

Common Youth Justice Terms

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ACE | Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices |
| AIM 2 and 3 | Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour |
| ASB | Antisocial behaviour |
| AssetPlus | Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour |
| CAMHS | Child and adolescent mental health services |
| CCE | Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity |
| Children | We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection. |
| Child First | A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion |
| Child looked-after | Child looked-after, where a child is looked after by the local authority |
| CME | Child Missing Education |
| Constructive resettlement | The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social |
| Contextual safeguarding | An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety |
| Community resolution | Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt |
| EHCP | Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs |
| ETE | Education, training or employment |
| EHE | Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school |
| EOTAS | Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting |
| FTE | First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal) |
| HMIP | Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services |
| HSB | Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves |
| JAC | Junior Attendance Centre |
| MAPPAs | Multi agency public protection arrangements |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| MFH | Missing from Home |
| NRM | National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them |
| OOCD | Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court |
| Outcome 22/21 | An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending |
| Over-represented children | Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average |
| RHI | Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing |
| SLCN | Speech, Language and communication needs |
| STC | Secure training centre |
| SCH | Secure children's home |
| Young adult | We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service. |
| YJS | Youth justice service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a Child First approach |
| YOI | Young offender institution |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health |
| Date of Decision/ Meeting | 22 September 2022 |

SCHOOL FOOD PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider an update on the School Food Plan with a particular focus on:

- Details of the Schools Food Plan
- Free School Meal uptake
- Free School Breakfast uptake
- Details of Fluoridated milk provision

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the content of the report and identify any areas for additional scrutiny, where appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The report was requested by the committee and the content provides an update on the current position in relation to these key areas.

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 School Food Plan

As part of the School Food Plan, a new set of standards for all food served in schools was launched by the Department for Education. The school food standards are designed to help children develop healthy eating habits, and ensure that they have the energy and nutrition they need to get the most from their whole school day. It is important to serve food that looks good and tastes delicious. The key principle of the standards is to provide a wide range of foods across the week. Use fresh, sustainable and locally sourced ingredients and to talk to children about what they are eating. The standards specify which types of food should be served and how often.

The standards encourage schools to use Sustainable procurements the government buying standards in order to reduce salt, saturated fat and sugar in children's diets.

A child's healthy, balanced diet should consist of:

- Plenty of fruit and vegetables
- Plenty of unrefined starchy foods
- Small amount of food and drink high in fat, sugar and salt

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) are undertaking a School Foods Standards discovery pilot, which Blackpool has been selected to take part in. The pilot is due to commence in September 2022. The pilot will involve Enforcement, Public Health and the Catering Services Team. The key aim of the pilot is to check whether schools are compliant with the School Food Standards as part of the regular food hygiene inspection. This work will help the local authority understand whether all Schools in Blackpool are meeting the School Food Standard. It is important to note that these standards are guidance and not enforceable, and so part of the pilot is to consider what powers the local authority has in order to ensure schools comply with the standards.

It is important to note that Blackpool Catering Services does not provide the Catering for every School in Blackpool. The Catering Team provide catering services for 31 schools across the town. Schools that do not utilise the catering services have contracts with private catering firms to deliver their school meals, therefore the local authority has no control on the quality of food delivered in these schools. However, Blackpool Catering provide Services to the majority of the School.

In addition to working to the School Food Plan, the Catering Team also meets the Food for Life Standard. The standard is about making a commitment to serve meals cooked from scratch, using sustainable fish, free range eggs and British meat that can be traced back to the farm. In addition it is about using locally sourced and ethical ingredients that support the local economy and are better for health, nature and the climate.

6.2 Free School Meals

Children in Blackpool face particular high levels of poverty, with 38.56% of children living in income deprived households. The Schools, pupils and their characteristics: Academic Year 20/21 report highlights there were 7526 pupils known to be eligible for free school meals across both primary and secondary schools. The table below provides a breakdown of the percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school emails for each individual school.

| School Name | Headcount of pupils | No. of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | % of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals |
|---|---------------------|--|--|
| Spenn Brook School | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Educational Diversity | 128 | 73 | 57 |
| Anchorsholme Primary Academy | 589 | 97 | 16.5 |
| Baines' Endowed Primary School and Children's Centre, A Church of England Academy | 542 | 176 | 32.5 |
| Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School | 378 | 126 | 33.3 |
| Blackpool Gateway Academy | 374 | 238 | 63.6 |
| Blackpool St John's Church of England Primary School | 207 | 99 | 47.8 |
| Blackpool St Nicholas CofE Primary School | 403 | 56 | 13.9 |
| Boundary Primary School | 375 | 247 | 65.9 |
| Christ The King Catholic Academy | 236 | 91 | 38.6 |
| Devonshire Primary Academy | 431 | 272 | 63.1 |
| Hawes Side Academy | 567 | 187 | 33 |
| Holy Family Catholic Primary School | 211 | 40 | 19 |
| Kincraig Primary School | 210 | 103 | 49 |
| Langdale Free School | 94 | 24 | 25.5 |
| Layton Primary School | 622 | 266 | 42.8 |
| Marton Primary Academy and Nursery | 276 | 121 | 43.8 |

| | | | |
|--|------|-----|------|
| Mereside Primary Academy | 279 | 179 | 64.2 |
| Moor Park Primary School | 421 | 137 | 32.5 |
| Norbreck Primary Academy | 614 | 101 | 16.4 |
| Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School | 198 | 16 | 8.1 |
| Revoe Learning Academy | 439 | 240 | 54.7 |
| Roseacre Primary Academy | 614 | 171 | 27.9 |
| St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School | 204 | 29 | 14.2 |
| St Cuthbert's Catholic Academy | 226 | 94 | 41.6 |
| St John Vianney's Catholic Primary School | 448 | 94 | 21 |
| St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School | 210 | 34 | 16.2 |
| St Teresa's Catholic Primary School | 204 | 40 | 19.6 |
| Stanley Primary School | 572 | 153 | 26.7 |
| Thames Primary Academy | 439 | 244 | 55.6 |
| Waterloo Primary Academy | 602 | 310 | 51.5 |
| Westcliff Primary Academy | 232 | 36 | 15.5 |
| Westminster Primary Academy | 391 | 294 | 75.2 |
| Armfield Academy | 684 | 194 | 28.4 |
| Blackpool Aspire Academy | 786 | 441 | 56.1 |
| Highfield Leadership Academy | 630 | 250 | 39.7 |
| Montgomery Academy | 1154 | 367 | 31.8 |
| South Shore Academy | 750 | 421 | 56.1 |
| St George's School A Church of England Academy | 1017 | 282 | 27.7 |
| St Mary's Catholic Academy | 1225 | 291 | 23.8 |
| Unity Academy Blackpool | 973 | 568 | 58.4 |
| Highfurlong School | 104 | 58 | 55.8 |
| Lotus School | 20 | 15 | 75 |
| Park Community Academy | 304 | 169 | 55.6 |
| Woodlands School | 118 | 82 | 69.5 |

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support

- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

The responsibility for checking the eligibility of applicants for free school meals rests with the individual schools. Schools can choose to work with the local authorities to carry out these checks. In Blackpool, our Benefits team carry out the service of checking eligibility for Free School Meals and undertake the service for a few Academies who have signed up to this. Therefore we are not in a position to fully understand the uptake of Free School Meals but know that 3545 children are registered for Free School Meals in the town. However, we are aware that not all families take up the offer of meals and further work needs to be done to improve the uptake.

Since September 2014, state funded schools in England have been required by law to provide free lunches to pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2, who are not otherwise entitled to benefits-related free school meals.

For 2022/23, funding of £470 is allocated to schools for each pupil eligible for FSM. This equates to £2.47 per day (over 190 days) if every child takes a meal every day. The table below provides the details of the funding each school receives, which is based on the number of children eligible to claim free school meals.

| School Name | Free School Meals (Primary) | Free School Meals (Secondary) |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | £2,118,070 | £1,322,986 |
| Layton Primary School | £122,200.00 | £0.00 |
| Kincraig Primary School | £39,480.00 | £0.00 |
| Boundary Primary School | £112,800.00 | £0.00 |
| Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School | £63,450.00 | £0.00 |
| Blackpool St Nicholas CofE Primary School | £30,080.00 | £0.00 |
| Blackpool St John's Church of England Primary School | £46,530.00 | £0.00 |
| Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School | £10,810.00 | £0.00 |
| St John Vianney's Catholic Primary School | £42,300.00 | £0.00 |
| St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School | £19,740.00 | £0.00 |

| | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Holy Family Catholic Primary School | £16,920.00 | £0.00 |
| St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School | £14,570.00 | £0.00 |
| St Teresa's Catholic Primary School | £18,330.00 | £0.00 |
| Moor Park Primary School | £67,210.00 | £0.00 |
| Stanley Primary School | £71,440.00 | £0.00 |
| Revoe Learning Academy | £110,450.00 | £0.00 |
| St Cuthbert's Catholic Academy | £41,360.00 | £0.00 |
| Marton Primary Academy and Nursery | £52,640.00 | £0.00 |
| Blackpool Gateway Academy | £94,940.00 | £0.00 |
| Roseacre Primary Academy | £87,420.00 | £0.00 |
| Westminster Primary Academy | £130,190.00 | £0.00 |
| Hawes Side Academy | £83,660.00 | £0.00 |
| Norbreck Primary Academy | £47,940.00 | £0.00 |
| Anchorsholme Primary Academy | £50,290.00 | £0.00 |
| Thames Primary Academy | £106,220.00 | £0.00 |
| Waterloo Primary Academy | £145,230.00 | £0.00 |
| Westcliff Primary Academy | £16,920.00 | £0.00 |
| Mereside Primary Academy | £78,490.00 | £0.00 |
| Baines' Endowed Church of England Primary Academy | £78,490.00 | £0.00 |
| Christ The King Catholic Academy | £40,420.00 | £0.00 |
| Devonshire Primary Academy | £124,080.00 | £0.00 |
| Langdale Free School | £11,750.00 | £0.00 |
| South Shore Academy | £0.00 | £212,910.00 |
| Blackpool Aspire Academy | £0.00 | £217,610.00 |
| Highfield Leadership Academy | £0.00 | £123,610.00 |
| Montgomery Academy | £0.00 | £189,880.00 |
| St George's School A Church of England Academy | £0.00 | £148,990.00 |
| St Mary's Catholic Academy | £0.00 | £141,000.00 |
| Unity Academy Blackpool | £107,160.00 | £167,790.00 |
| Armfield Academy | £34,560.00 | £121,196.00 |

6.3 Universal Free School Breakfast

The universal free school breakfast scheme (UFSB) was introduced by Blackpool Council in 2013. The scheme provides a universally free school breakfast and fortified milk to all primary and special needs schools. The UFSB is funded by Public Health at a cost of £800,000 and

delivered by Catering Services. Breakfasts are delivered on every school day to Reception to Year Six classes inclusive, providing a range of bread, dairy and fruit options. Breakfast provision varies between schools, with most schools providing a pre-wrapped disposable model in the classroom provided during the first 10 minutes of the school day. A canteen service is provided in schools that have the facilities and staffing, but these schools are the minority.

At the present time Public Health is undertaking a review of the scheme to ensure that the scheme is providing a healthy breakfast that meets the requirements of the School Food Plan and ensuring that the most vulnerable children are benefitting from the scheme, as well as being delivered in the most cost effective way.

As part of the review work it is important that we seek the views of the primary schools about the scheme. In September, a member of the Public Health team will be circulating a survey to all schools in order to gather these views. In addition to this, Public Health also want to seek the views of the parents and a survey will be sent out to them to also gather their views and opinions. All the data/information gathered will be anonymised and will be used to help the Public Health and Catering Services consider future service delivery models.

Fluoridated Milk Scheme

The fluoridated milk scheme was introduced in November 2016 as an additional vehicle for fluoride administration in the town, to contribute towards reducing the high prevalence of dental caries in children. Prior to implementation, urinary fluoride excretion levels were monitored in a sample of children. The results indicated that the levels were below the range recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO recommends fluoridated milk as being effective in reducing the incidence of dental decay.

Fluoridated milk was offered to all children in Years 1-6 via the universal Free School Breakfast initiative (FSB). Parents were provided with information on fluoridated milk and were able to decline inclusion in the scheme if they preferred their child(ren) to receive non-fluoridated milk. Approximately 52% of the milk ordered by schools is fluoridated, with an estimated 4,500 children therefore drinking fluoridated milk on a daily basis. Work is ongoing with the schools to improve the update of fluoridated milk and to achieve the levels of consumption that were in place prior to COVID.

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 Pressure of increasing costs of food and ability to continue meeting the standards of the School Food Plan and maintaining the required quality standards.

The cost per head of £2.47 is restrictive in the current financial climate.

Pressure on the Public Health Grant

9.0 Legal considerations:

- 9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

- 10.1 Due to the increase in cost of living and the price rises in food, this puts schools under pressure to meet the School Food Plan.

The continual tendering of school catering services by the Schools has the potential to destabilise the delivery of school food plan. It is risk for the local authority if the catering team are not able to retain the contracts and reduces the local authority's ability to shape and influence food quality in schools.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

- 11.1 There are no concerns around equalities. The report focuses on children who are eligible for free school meals. The free breakfast scheme is a universal offer so not discriminating against specific groups. The Fluoridated milk scheme is offered to all children in all primary schools across Blackpool from Year 1 to Year 6.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

- 12.1 The Catering Team works with the Food for Life Standard which means there is a commitment to serve meals cooked from scratch, using sustainable fish, free range eggs and British meat that can be trace back to the farm. In addition it is about using locally source and ethical ingredients that support your local economy and are better for health, nature and our climate

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

- 13.1 There will be a consultation about the Free School Breakfast scheme with Schools and parents to consider how the scheme could be improved.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None

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| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Lisa Arnold, Strategic Head of Service - Community and Wellbeing |
| Meeting | 22 September 2022 |

CHEFS ACADEMY PROJECT – PREPARING THE FUTURE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide the committee with background information on the Chefs Academy Project.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To support the vision and direction of Chefs Academy and identify any areas for additional scrutiny, where appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Support young people in gaining skills, qualifications and experience in the Catering and Hospitality industry increasing employment and further education opportunities.

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
- Cease delivery which will have an impact on twenty young people currently signed up to the additional provision.
 - Use external providers. However, the existing provision is well embedded to the existing Catering Services and works in partnership with our schools while working towards council priorities

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool."

- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience."

6.0 Background information:

- 6.1 Blackpool Catering Service has been established for over twenty five years and has a dedicated team of local staff and management serving over 27,000 meal per week across thirty two kitchens. We are passionate about food and serving the community, recognising that partnership is the key to the future of a sustainable service, working with children, schools and families to improve nutrition, health and education across the town.
- 6.2 In 2021, Catering Services opened the Chefs Academy "Headquarters Kitchen" at Highfield Day Centre after the existing kitchen was refurbished to an industry standard. The project works alongside High Schools, offering additional education pathways to support years 10 and 11 on a learning pathway to developing a career in the hospitality sector.
- 6.3 Chefs Academy Aims:
- Ensure young people are engaged in alternative education and realise their potential.
 - Give young people the skills and confidence to be industry ready with a career as a chef.
- 6.4 The project has been a joint venture with Children's Services, specifically education. The project shares common aims with the DFE Opportunities Area, supporting an overall vision to provide every child and young person in the area with the chance to reach their full potential.
- 6.5 The project supports the Council's priorities and aspirations linking to the hospitality and tourism sector:
- "The economy: The project is supporting and engage young people to gain skills and qualifications for careers in Hospitality
 - "Communities: Ensuring young people to have access to additional provision to increasing resilience and career opportunities.
- 6.6 The Chefs Academy is working with students from the following schools and settings:
- Armfield Academy
 - Blackpool Aspire Academy
 - Highfield Leadership Academy
 - Montgomery Academy
 - South Shore Academy
 - St George's School A Church of England Academy
 - St Mary's Catholic Academy
 - Unity Academy Blackpool
 - Educational Diversity
 - Blackpool's Virtual College

- Project Search
- 6.7 The Chefs Academy has adopted a blended approach, delivered in a real working environment, by industry professionals. Consisting of culinary skills and skills for life, learning is split between:
- 80% practical sessions delivered in a real working environment to develop confidence.
 - 10% work experience utilising internal and external work experience to create work-related skills (dependent on ability).
 - 5% theory-based knowledge linked to craft skills and compliance.
 - 5% supplier and producer visits to understand ingredient quality and the wider supply chain.
- 6.8 The Chefs Academy can deliver industry-recognised qualifications to a professional standards and has access to City and Guilds and Highfield Qualifications to accredit learners in the Chefs Academy :
- Food Safety for Catering Level 1
 - Food Safety for Catering Level 2
 - Allergen Awareness Level 2
 - Introduction to Hospitality Industry
 - NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Professional Cookery
 - NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Food Production and Cooking
 - NVQ Certificate in Food Prep and Cooking
- 6.9 In developing the Chefs Academy, officers engaged with Blackpool and The Fylde College. It was identified that an additional provision for mainstream pupils was needed in Catering and Hospitality. The project set out to bridge the gap between Secondary Education and Further Education.
- 6.10 Year one was launched in September 2021 and engaged eight students from South Shore Academy and Aspire Academy successfully for two days a week and further provided taster sessions to High Schools ahead of the 22-23 intake. The project hosted several Chef takeover visits from Quorn Foods, The Vegetarian Society and a Local guest chef.
- 6.11 Year two now has eighteen places confirmed ahead of September 2022 – 2023 from Aspire Academy, Unity Academy, South Shore and St Marys and the academy will operate four days a week. Chefs Academy will be working with Educational Diversity from September and delivering cookery sessions at Pegasus two days a week.
- 6.12 The Chefs Academy Project has aspirations to engage with suppliers and partners in the local community to build pathways and partnerships to improve the education provision and employability opportunities while engaging with internal departments to develop an

approach to food education for all ages.

6.13 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 9(a) - Chefs Academy Brochure

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The Chefs Academy Project is covered through cost recovery via the schools.

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 Catering Services is committed to sustainability procuring food locally to reduce food miles, the service has been awarded the Soil Associations Bronze Food For Life recognising this commitment.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

BCS

Blackpool Catering Services

BCS

**Chefs
Academy**

PREPARING THE FUTURE



KEY INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS
Serving Our Community and Preparing the Future

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catering@blackpool.gov.uk
www.blackpool.gov.uk



About Us

Blackpool Catering Services is passionate about food and serving our community. We recognise as a team that partnership is the key to the future of a sustainable service, working with our children, schools, families, and the local community.

Food plays a significant part in every young person's development and we understand that to have a meaningful impact in our community, we need to diversify, not only to provide an excellent quality Catering Service, but to use our skills and experience to contribute to improving health, nutrition, education, and employment.

Blackpool Catering Service Chefs Academy

Your career as a chef starts here! With us, you will learn all the skills that you will need to secure your first job in the catering industry.

You'll be working in our professional kitchens from the start, learning the skills that all chefs need, whilst having the opportunity to use state of the art equipment. As part of this program you will join an amazing team and undertake work placements to boost your confidence and get you ready for your first job.



When will I start the course and how long will it take?

Our Chefs Academy is a unique learning pathway open to students from the beginning of Year 10 through to the end of Year 11. Dedicated to studying as a Chef, this will be the best opportunity to start your career whilst also giving you relevant insight into today's industry.

What will I study?

During this course, you will be working to achieve a Level 2 Certificate in Hospitality & Catering covering the following units:

- Introduction to the catering and hospitality industry
- Food safety in catering
- Health and safety awareness for catering and hospitality

Principles of Producing -

- Meat Dishes
- Pasta Dishes
- Vegetable Dishes
- Hot Sauces
- Cakes, Sponges and Scones
- Bread and Dough
- Basic Pastry
- Hot and Cold Desserts



How is it assessed?

You will be assessed in a real working environment, mostly through observations of you preparing, cooking and serving food, a few short tests, and by building your Portfolio of Evidence.

Do I need any previous qualifications to start this course?

You do not need any formal qualifications, just passion and a commitment to your studies and learning new skills in a real work environment.

Achieving a good standard of English and Maths is a key requirement for many jobs, as well as for courses you may wish to progress on to. As a Chef, English, Maths and Science are key to your success - it is also a requirement that you continue to study hard at school.

What can I go on to do once I have completed this course?

After studying this course, experiencing the buzz in the kitchens and realising how rewarding it is to cook amazing food, the team will support you to secure a full time Further Education Course with Blackpool & The Fylde College or an Apprenticeship.

If you have any further questions in relation to this course and wish to receive further information, please submit your enquiry here.



Blackpool Catering Services

catering@blackpool.gov.uk
www.blackpool.gov.uk

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Paul Turner – Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years. |
| Meeting | Thursday 22 Sept 2022 |

EARLY YEARS GRANT FUNDING

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform members about how the Early Years Grant Funding is administered and to give insight into uptake, parental satisfaction with the offer and to provide generalised commentary on quality.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the report be noted and that any areas for additional scrutiny be identified, where appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

To allow Members of the Scrutiny Committee an overview of the administration of Early Years Grant Funding, its uptake and quality.

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

3.2 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

Local authorities are required to administer Early Years grant funding for their areas and

ensure that there is sufficient availability of childcare to meet anticipated demand. We receive funding from the Department for Education which is allocated in accordance with a national funding formula. This formula calculation is presently being reviewed nationally.

Local authorities are able to devise their own systems for payment, following consultation with providers. We are required to pass through at least 95% of three and four year old funding, any retention is used to cover the council's own costs. Currently the council's retention is 4% and we continue to make savings where possible.

Early Years providers are paid monthly in arrears for childcare hours that have been delivered. Providers are required to register children and their attendance in accordance with agreed procedures.

Each provider receives a bespoke hourly rate for children aged 3 and 4, this takes into account a deprivation supplement based on the ward where the parent resident.

6.1 Number of registered children

| | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 15 hour entitlement | Registered 2 year olds | 576 | 580 | 496 | 550 |
| | Registered 3 and 4 year olds | 3161 | 3004 | 2900 | 2884 |
| 30 hour entitlement | Registered 3 and 4 year olds | 779 | 843 | 836 | 850 |
| | Total | 4516 | 4427 | 4232 | 4284 |

Data source = DFE early years annual census

There has been a reduction in number of children attending since COVID partly due to the number of parents continuing to work from home and partly due to a slight decline in the Early Years population, this follows national trends.

6.2 Percentage of eligible children attending

| | Blackpool 2022 | England 2022 |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Eligible 2 year olds | 73% | 72% |
| Eligible 3 and 4 year olds | 89% | 92% |

Blackpool percentages are broadly in line with England averages.

6.3 The local market

| Blackpool Childcare Providers - 2022 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Childminders | 31 |
| Private nurseries | 41 |
| School nurseries | 18 |
| Total | 90 |

The number of providers has remained reasonably constant over recent years. The latest formal Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was undertaken summer 2021 and at that time there were sufficient places to cover anticipated demand.

A further survey is currently in progress. It is anticipated that there will be no significant changes and that there is still a sufficient supply of places. The market is reasonably stable but the decline in demand since COVID and raising cost of living are presenting challenges to some providers. The council have no control over the overall funding rate, and providers concerns are communicated to the Department for Education.

The Early Years Provider Strategic Group meets termly and has representation from elected Providers and council officers. The Group is a mechanism for discussion and consultation on funding and sustainability issues.

6.4 Support to parents

Parents that are potentially eligible for 2 year old childcare are contacted at the beginning of each term and invited to apply to an eligibility check. Once eligible a parent receives a code that they can take to their chosen nursery and they then can register their child's attendance. The code is sent to the parent by SMS text message.

Those parents that do not reply are reminded, support with applications is also provided via Community Hubs, Betterstart Community Connectors and Health Visitors.

The Childcare team also provide brokerage support via telephone and email for any parents that may need assistance finding a suitable place, or more information with regard to eligibility.

The Universal offer for 3 and 4 year olds is promoted via social media, advertising campaigns eg Your Blackpool, libraries and community hubs.

Details of all childcare providers are also available at www.fyidirectory.co.uk and search functions have recently been improved to enable the provision of short lists of selected providers and also radius searches eg tell me all childminders within one mile of a certain

6.5 post code etc. Further work is planned to show all providers on website interactive maps.
Parents views

A parent/carer survey was undertaken during Summer 2021. A further survey is due for Autumn 2022.

Parents were asked to rate the quality of the childcare they received:

| Age group | Outstanding | Good | Satisfactory | Poor | Very poor | Total responses |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Below school age | 124 (62%) | 60 (30%) | 15 (7.5%) | 1 (1%) | 0 | 202 |
| School age | 0 | 24 (57%) | 15 (36%) | 3 (7%) | 0 | 42 |
| Overall | 124 (51%) | 84 (35%) | 30 (12%) | 4 (1%) | 0 | 244 |

Parents were asked to rate the value for money for the fees they paid for non funded childcare they received.

For below school age children 117 respondents (59%) told us they did not purchase additional hours.

| Age group | Good value | Satisfactory value | Poor value | Total responses |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Below school age | 135 (68%) | 56 (28%) | 4 (2%) | 195 |
| School age | 24 (60%) | 13 (33%) | 3 (7%) | 40 |
| Overall | 159 (30%) | 69 (64%) | 7 (11%) | 235 |

Parents were asked how easy it had been to find suitable childcare:

| Age group | Very easy | Easy | Neither easy or difficult | Difficult | Very difficult | Total responses |
|------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| Below school age | 36 (36%) | 28 (28%) | 22 (22%) | 12 (12%) | 2 (2%) | 100 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| School age | 7 (24%) | 4 (13%) | 7 (24%) | 8 (27%) | 3 (10%) | 29 |
| Overall | 43 (33%) | 32 (25%) | 29 (22%) | 20 (15%) | 5 (4%) | 129 |

Parents were asked how they felt providers had handled issues associated with COVID and lockdowns:

| Age | Handled issues well | Handled issues satisfactorily | Handled issues poorly | Total responses |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Below school age | 135 (68%) | 56 (28%) | 4 (2%) | 195 |
| School age | 24 (60%) | 13 (33%) | 3 (7%) | 40 |
| Overall | 159 (30%) | 69 (64%) | 7 (11%) | 235 |

6.6 Current plans and work in progress

- A new sufficiency assessment will be published during Autumn term 2022
- Continued development of FYI directory with new search options including interactive maps
- Publicity campaign Autumn 2022 to encourage parents to take up childcare

Continued work with the Early Years career academy and Blackpool and the Fylde College to encourage more people to train as Early Years workforce professionals

6.7 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.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Paul Turner – Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years |
| Meeting | 22 September 2022 |

THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON EARLY LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform members of the impact of the pandemic on early language acquisition.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the impact of the pandemic on early language acquisition and identify any additional areas from scrutiny, where appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

To allow Members to be fully informed of the impact of the pandemic on early language acquisition.

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

3.2 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

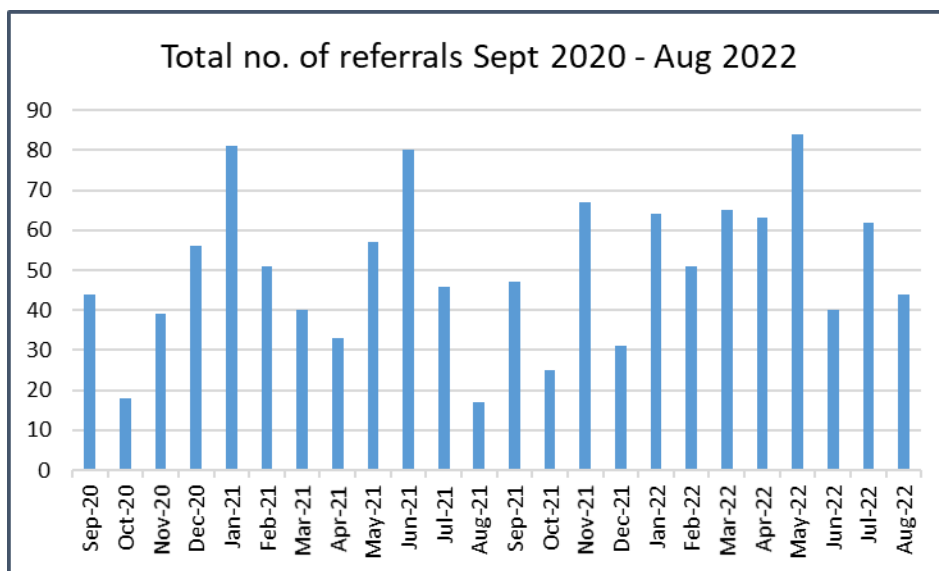
Developmental gaps between disadvantaged children and their peers are particularly pronounced in early language, these gaps have a profound impact later in life. High quality early education (DfE 2019) and intervention can have an impact on social mobility and improve children's life chances (EPPE 2004). Evidence also suggests that children who start school with poor vocabulary are twice as likely to be unemployed as an adult. (Bercow 2008). NAEYC (2019) research on the 'Word Gap' details how children from less advantaged backgrounds may here 30 million fewer words spoken to them by the age of four, these children with language difficulties are then: four times more likely to have reading difficulties in adulthood; three times more likely to have mental health problems; and twice as likely to be unemployed when they reach adulthood.

This paper documents some of the work to date the under 5 Speech, Language, Communication landscape, and aligns with the Better Start pledge regarding children, families and the workforce reaching their potential, families having the right support at the right time and babies and children being offered high quality Early Years education and experiences.

Triage Panel and Identified Interventions

The vast majority of children aged 0 – 5 who need support with their speech and language development are referred in to the Post WellComm Speech Language and Communication Triage Panel (The Panel). (There are some children referred directly to the NHS by GP’s and Paediatricians).

6.1



Numbers referred to panel Sept 2020 – August 2022

| Month | Total no. of referrals |
|--------|------------------------|
| Sep-20 | 44 |
| Oct-20 | 18 |
| Nov-20 | 39 |
| Dec-20 | 56 |
| Jan-21 | 81 |
| Feb-21 | 51 |
| Mar-21 | 40 |
| Apr-21 | 33 |
| May-21 | 57 |

| | |
|--------|----|
| Jun-21 | 80 |
| Jul-21 | 46 |
| Aug-21 | 17 |
| Sep-21 | 47 |
| Oct-21 | 25 |
| Nov-21 | 67 |
| Dec-21 | 31 |
| Jan-22 | 64 |
| Feb-22 | 51 |
| Mar-22 | 65 |
| Apr-22 | 63 |
| May-22 | 84 |
| Jun-22 | 40 |
| Jul-22 | 62 |
| Aug-22 | 44 |

Looking at the data we can predict spikes in January and May. January could be due to settings having a term of quality first teaching to explore the route of the SLCN, then making a referral for additional support after that term. The May/June spike could be a more reactive response from settings for children going to school that September (we are encouraging settings to get referrals in before April each year for those leaving for school). Referrals from health colleagues are consistent across the months.

Interventions referred to for those children discussed at triage

| Month | ITT TT | Setting Support | Target Word | Home Visiting | NHS Drop In | NHS Com Clinic | NHS Early Years |
|--------|--------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Sep-20 | 14 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 25 | 1 |
| Oct-20 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 0 |
| Nov-20 | 13 | 21 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 31 | 0 |
| Dec-20 | 16 | 39 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 35 | 8 |
| Jan-21 | 10 | 50 | 5 | 24 | 0 | 26 | 7 |
| Feb-21 | 13 | 30 | 3 | 15 | 4 | 4 | 18 |
| Mar-21 | 9 | 22 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Apr-21 | 11 | 19 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| May-21 | 13 | 25 | 6 | 15 | 2 | 10 | 9 |
| Jun-21 | 28 | 30 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 10 |
| Jul-21 | 9 | 22 | 5 | 15 | 4 | 9 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Aug-21 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Sep-21 | 9 | 24 | 5 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 12 |
| Oct-21 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Nov-21 | 19 | 35 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 11 | 11 |
| Dec-21 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Jan-22 | 21 | 38 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 20 |
| Feb-22 | 17 | 33 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Mar-22 | 21 | 31 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 13 |
| Apr-22 | 24 | 38 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| May-22 | 28 | 44 | 1 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 16 |
| Jun-22 | 13 | 17 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 7 | 12 |
| Jul-22 | 20 | 19 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 10 |
| Aug-22 | 9 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 |

Triage Panel and Identified Interventions

The following table indicates the WellComm score for individual children being referred into panel from March 2020 to September 2022. The WellComm Assessment score children out of ten based on a set of ten developmental milestones (five regarding speech/communication, and five regarding understanding). This score out of ten determines whether children fall into the red, amber or green category, red being the greatest need, amber being moderate need and green indicating there is no Speech language and Communicate need. Usually children with a red score, and their families/early years setting are offered targeted intervention in their homes or setting whilst they await NHS Specialist intervention. Children who have an amber score are offered targeted intervention as above.

A percentage column has been added to the table below which identifies the difference between the number of children presenting to panel with a red score and those with an amber score.

6.3

| Month | Red | % of referrals | Amber | % of referrals | No WellComm | % of referrals | TOTAL |
|---------|-----|----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| Mar-20 | 19 | 63 | 10 | 33 | 1 | 3 | 30 |
| Apr-20 | 21 | 58 | 6 | 17 | 7 | 20 | 34 |
| May-20 | 3 | 15 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 69 | 19 |
| Jun-20 | 10 | 33 | 5 | 16 | 15 | 50 | 30 |
| Jul-20 | 8 | 28 | 8 | 28 | 12 | 42 | 28 |
| Aug-20 | 12 | 42 | 8 | 28 | 8 | 28 | 28 |
| Sep-20 | 12 | 25 | 2 | 4 | 33 | 70 | 47 |
| Oct-20 | 7 | 38 | 3 | 16 | 8 | 44 | 18 |
| Nov-20 | 3 | 21 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 64 | 14 |
| Jan-21 | 37 | 46 | 24 | 30 | 19 | 23 | 80 |
| Feb-21 | 25 | 49 | 6 | 11 | 20 | 39 | 51 |
| Mar-21 | 25 | 62 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 30 | 40 |
| Apr-21 | 14 | 43 | 4 | 12 | 14 | 43 | 32 |
| May-21 | 31 | 55 | 13 | 23 | 12 | 21 | 56 |
| Jun-21 | 46 | 59 | 15 | 19 | 16 | 20 | 77 |
| Jul-21 | 29 | 64 | 5 | 11 | 11 | 24 | 45 |
| Aug-21 | 12 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 30 | 17 |
| Sep-21 | 27 | 57 | 9 | 19 | 11 | 23 | 47 |
| Oct-21 | 14 | 58 | 6 | 25 | 4 | 16 | 24 |
| Nov-21 | 40 | 60 | 11 | 16 | 15 | 22 | 66 |
| Dec-21 | 20 | 66 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 3 |
| Jan-22 | 42 | 65 | 12 | 18 | 10 | 15 | 64 |
| Feb-22 | 36 | 70 | 8 | 15 | 7 | 13 | 51 |
| Mar-22 | 40 | 62 | 10 | 15 | 14 | 21 | 64 |
| Apr-22 | 44 | 70 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 62 |
| May-22 | 56 | 70 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 79 |
| Jun-22 | 26 | 68 | 5 | 13 | 7 | 18 | 38 |
| Jul-22 | 34 | 55 | 15 | 24 | 12 | 19 | 61 |
| Aug-22 | 27 | 62 | 7 | 16 | 9 | 20 | 43 |
| Sep-22 | 30 | 68 | 8 | 18 | 6 | 13 | 44 |
| Average | 25 | 53% | 8 | 17% | 11 | 28% | 43 |

This table indicates that there has been no significant rise in the number of children presenting with a red score for the time this data has been collected, with the average number of children being referred into triage each month being 43, and 53% of those with a red score, 17% with an amber score and 28% with no WellComm score.

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 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.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services, Blackpool Council Margaret Williams, Chair of Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Executive Board (and Head of Safeguarding, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board) |
| Date of Meeting: | 22 September 2022 |

CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING ASSURANCE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Annual Report

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the contents of the report, provide challenge and identify any issues for further scrutiny.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To allow Members of the Scrutiny Committee to be fully informed of the work of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership.

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 This is the annual report of the Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Children’s Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP), covering the period 1st October 2020 – 30th September 2021.
- 6.2 The annual report provides the CSAP with an opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved during the reporting period, reflect on what could have been done better and identify what can be done in future years.
- 6.3 The report acknowledges the impact of the Covid pandemic in respect of safeguarding children and on the operational demands placed on our agencies.
- 6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No
- 7.0 List of Appendices:**
- 7.1 Appendix 12(a) – Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Full Annual Report for the Year Ending 30th September 2021
Appendix 12(b) – Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Easy-Read Annual Report for the Year Ending 30th September 2021.
- 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's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership

Blackburn with Darwen - Blackpool - Lancashire



CSAP Annual Report 2021

The Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Annual
Report for the year ending 30th September 2021

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Foreword

Thank you for taking the time to read this, the annual report of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP). CSAP is the statutory multi-agency safeguarding arrangement for our area. Our annual report, required by *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*, is an opportunity to celebrate what we have achieved, reflect on what we could have done better and identify what we intend to do in the future.

No annual report published during this period could fail to acknowledge the impact of the Covid pandemic. This was particularly acute for our the children and families in our operating area, in which many parts remained under higher tier restrictions throughout the year. We would therefore like to put on record our condolences to all who have lost loved ones, and to pay tribute to our frontline practitioners who have worked tirelessly throughout this time.

For CSAP, the pandemic has undoubtedly meant that we have approached our safeguarding priorities differently, as the concern has shifted to how we safeguard children who are less visible as a result of repeated lockdowns. Equally, the operational demands placed on our agencies have been such that quality assurance activity has been undertaken in ways that place fewer demands on operational staff.

Looking to the forthcoming year, we will continue to champion the right of children to be proactively safeguarded from abuse and neglect, and will hold each other and our partner agencies to account for our combined role in this.

Jayne Ivory, Strategic Director of Children's Services, Blackburn with Darwen Council

Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services, Blackpool Council

Edwina Grant OBE, Executive Director Education and Children's Services, Lancashire County Council

Ian Dawson, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary (*CSAP Executive board member September 2021 – present*)

Joanne Edwards, Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary (*CSAP Executive board member until September 2021*)

Neil Drummond, Detective Superintendent, Head of Public Protection Unit, Lancashire Constabulary

Margaret Williams, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) Safeguarding Health Executive

Our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Everyone in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire shares a commitment to and responsibility for safeguarding children. Under *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*¹ the three safeguarding partners of the local authority, police and health hold the statutory responsibility to support and enable local organisations to work together to safeguard children.

The three local safeguarding partners jointly leading the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) are:

- Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Constabulary
- The eight Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Chorley and South Ribble, East Lancashire, Fylde and Wyre, Greater Preston, Morecambe Bay and West Lancashire, who are represented through the Safeguarding Health Executive group

CSAP's purpose is to harmonise, but not aim for total consistency across multi-agency responses, wherever possible, and therefore achieve the best outcomes for children. Below is our statement of purpose:

"The safeguarding partners and all relevant agencies that work with children and families are committed to ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are of the highest quality, that they consistently promote the welfare of children and effectively safeguard them whatever their circumstance"

The work of CSAP is driven by the Executive Board, which has a membership of the statutory safeguarding partners noted above. Its role is to ensure that CSAP discharges its statutory functions and to drive forward work in respect of the current safeguarding priority areas for CSAP (contextual safeguarding, neglect and domestic abuse). The Executive Board has also served as the Vulnerable Children cell of the Lancashire Resilience Forum as part of the response to the pandemic. During the reporting period the Executive Board established a Steering Group in order to complete more detailed pieces of work and provide advice to the Executive about decisions to be taken.



Supporting the work of the Executive Board are the North, Central and East Tactical Groups on which the safeguarding partners are joined by the designated relevant agencies in order to oversee the delivery of work tackle the safeguarding priority areas and to gather evidence of the effectiveness of local arrangements. The tactical groups collate evidence from the local operational groups for each safeguarding priority area and, in turn, report to the Executive Board. All agencies are able to report any emerging safeguarding themes into tactical groups for consideration and potential escalation to the Executive Board.

Tactical Groups

North corresponds to the police west division and covers Blackpool, Fylde, Lancaster and Wyre local authority areas

Central corresponds to the police south division and covers Chorley, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire local authority areas

East corresponds to the police east division and covers Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale local authority areas

The roles of the Operational Groups that report to the Tactical Groups are covered throughout the following report, with a governance structure provided at Appendix A.

CSAP forms part of the wider partnership architecture for Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire, which includes Children's Partnership Boards, Local Safeguarding Adults Boards (LSAB), Health and Wellbeing Boards and Community Safety Partnerships. There are standing items on Executive Board and Tactical Group agendas for updates from other boards. Close operational linkage has been established between these partnerships; for example, with Community Safety Partnerships and the Violence Reduction Network (VRN), in our contextual safeguarding response.

All safeguarding children partnerships are required to obtain independent scrutiny of their arrangements, which is provided to CSAP by Stephen Ashley who has provided comments below at page 20. During the reporting period Stephen stepped down as chair of the Executive Board and Tactical Groups, in order to be able to provide proper independent challenge to the partnership in these meetings. The safeguarding partners have agreed that he should provide an in depth assessment of their progress in respect of each

priority areas and the first of these reports, on contextual safeguarding, was nearing completion at the end of the reporting period.

Business management and support is provided to CSAP by the joint safeguarding business unit. This also provides support to the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), and the three corresponding Local Safeguarding Adults Boards and Children and Family Partnership Boards, thereby allowing for close alignment of their activities and efficiencies to be achieved through shared systems.

Existing financial arrangements were rolled over during the reporting period, while a working group met to review partnership financial contributions and recommend future funding arrangements.

Changes to Published Arrangements

It is a requirement of Working Together that safeguarding partnerships report changes to their published arrangements² within their annual report. The conclusion of this reporting period marks the two years since to formation of CSAP and as would be expected of any complex partnership arrangement, there has been a degree of finessing of arrangements. These primarily relate to the governance structure (Appendix A), with specific changes made this year:

- The creation of a Steering Group, CSAP Business Group and Learning and Development Task and Finish group, the purpose of all being covered elsewhere within this report;
- The management of CDOP will remain within the joint safeguarding business unit on a permanent basis and not an interim measure;
- CSAP Executive meets on a monthly, rather than quarterly, basis;
- The Independent Scrutineer no longer Chairs the Executive Board or Tactical Groups, has no involvement in the Rapid Review Meeting process, or in escalations;
- Proposed quality assurance processes, including Section 11 and Section 175 audits, have not been delivered. This has been to relieve demands on partner agencies as they continue to respond to the Covid pandemic and will be instigated as soon as possible in 2021-22; and
- CSAP will not directly engage with children and families, but instead seek assurance that partner agencies have arrangements to do so.

An external perspective on the effectiveness of CSAP

In his *Sector expert review of new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements*, published in May 2021, Sir Alan Wood provided an assessment of the effectiveness of safeguarding children partnership arrangements nationally 18 months after their implementation. He specifically comments of CSAP:

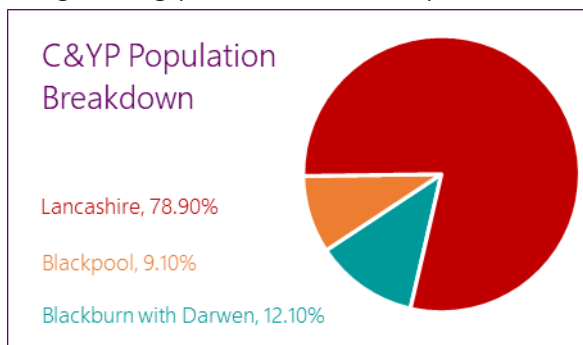
- "The partnership has developed a strong structure and assurance process. A key achievement is a comprehensive guide for staff – '*Working Well With Children and Families in Lancashire.*' This guide along with the documents that support it:
- Cover the values underpinning the work of all those who work with children in Lancashire;
- Establish and promote the principles underpinning the partnership's Assurance Framework;
- Confirmation of the effective performance management within partner organisations; and
- Identified the three priorities for cross agency focus (Neglect, Exploitation and Domestic Abuse).

The work of the partnership is supported by the Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Integrated Care System Model which is followed by the eight CCGs and ensure consistency of high quality safeguarding practice by NHS staff within the wider safeguarding partnership"³

The children of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire is a large and diverse area with a child population of over 320,000. By monitoring broader population trends the safeguarding partners can develop an understanding of current and emerging needs, ensuring that help is provided at the earliest possible opportunity, without the need for more invasive safeguarding interventions.

Within the wider child population a small number will require the involvement of statutory services to ensure that they are kept safe from abuse and neglect. The safeguarding partners seek to monitor and understand this cohort, to ensure that interventions are timely and effective throughout the area, with operational groups receiving data relevant to their area of concern.



The following Tables provide a high-level overview of our population:

| How many people live in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire ⁴ and what proportion of the estimated populations are children ⁵ ? – Understand the demographic breakdown | | |
|--|--|--|
| The total population of Blackburn with Darwen (2020) was estimated to be 150,000 | The total population of Blackpool (2020) was estimated to be 138,400 | The total population of Lancashire (2020) was estimated to be 1,227,100 |
| 38,653 (25.8%) are children aged 0-17 years - this accounts for 12.1% of the CSAP area's total child population | 29,110 (21.0%) are children aged 0-17 years - this accounts for 9.1% of the CSAP area's total child population | 252,984 (20.6%) are children aged 0-17 years - this accounts for 78.9% of the CSAP area's total child population |

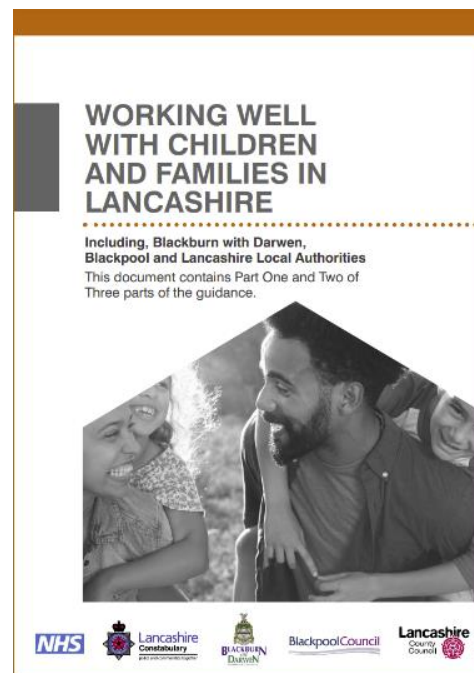
| Blackburn with Darwen | Blackpool | Lancashire | North West Region | England |
|--|-----------|------------|-------------------|---------|
| Children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception ⁶ – A key measure of early years and childhood development. (2018/19) | | | | |
| 68.4% | 67.9% | 69.2% | 68.9% | 71.8% |
| Level of educational attainment at Secondary School ⁷ – Children achieving a GCSE score of 8 as an indicator of learning, educational achievement and development of skills important for a children's wellbeing and future prospects. (2020/21) | | | | |
| 50.7% | 42.9% | 50.3% | 49.6% | 50.9% |
| 16–17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) ⁸ – young people whose life chances are being compromised and who may be more vulnerable to safeguarding risks. (2020) | | | | |
| 3.8% | 8.9% | 5.8% | 5.3% | 5.5% |
| Infant mortality ⁹ – The infant mortality measure is the number of children aged under 1 who die per 1,000 live births. Infant mortality is an indicator of the general health of the population. It reflects the relationship between causes of infant mortality and upstream determinants of population health such as economic, social and environmental conditions. CDOP works to reduce infant mortality through the safer sleep and ICON campaigns. (2018/20) | | | | |
| 4.1 | 5.4 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 3.9 |
| Population Vaccine Coverage ¹⁰ – MMR for one dose (2 years) – The percentage of 2-year-olds who have received 1 dose of the MMR vaccination. The MMR combined vaccine protects against measles, mumps and rubella; 3 highly infectious, common conditions that can have serious health complications. (2020/21) | | | | |
| 91.6% | 92.1% | 89.4% | 90.3% | 91.0% |

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Percentage of school pupils identified to have social, emotional and mental health needs ¹¹ - (based only on those pupils with a Special Educational Need). (2021) | | | | |
| 3.23% | 3.94% | 2.08% | 2.88% | 2.79% |
| Percentage of school pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) ¹² – based on the number of children identified as having special education needs. (2018) | | | | |
| 18.1% | 17.9% | 12.3% | 14.6% | 14.4% |
| Rate of inpatient hospital admissions for mental health conditions (per 100,000 of the 0-17 population) ¹³ - One in ten children aged 5-16 years has a clinically diagnosable mental health problem and, of adults with long-term mental health problems, half will have experienced their first symptoms before the age of 14. (2020/21) | | | | |
| 129.4 | 120.2 | 87.0 | 106.9 | 87.5 |
| Rate of inpatient hospital admissions as a result of self-harm for children aged 10-14 years (per 100,000 population) ¹⁴ Self-harming and substance abuse are known to be much more common in children and young people with mental health disorders. Failure to treat mental health disorders in children can have a devastating impact. (2020/21) | | | | |
| 361.8 | 440.6 | 345.5 | 336.1 | 213.0 |
| Rate of children in care (per 10,000 child population) ¹⁵ – children who need to be taken into the care of the local authority for their own safety or because their parents are otherwise unable to care for them (31 st March 2021) | | | | |
| 97 | 210 | 79 | 97 | 67 |
| Rate of First-time entrants to the Youth Justice System (per 100,00 child population) ¹⁶ – This information is indicative of vulnerabilities that a young person may face (2020) | | | | |
| 78.9 | 280.1 | 135.5 | 147.8 | 169.2 |
| Percentage of households with dependent children or pregnant women who are homeless ¹⁷ – Every child has a right to an adequate standard of living. Children from homeless households are often the most vulnerable. (2017/18) | | | | |
| 0.6% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 1.0% | 1.7% |
| Percentage of all school children who have free school meals ¹⁸ – The percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals. This measure is a proxy measure for the number of children from low-income families. Poverty can be, but is not always, associated with neglect. (2018) | | | | |
| 14.8% | 25.3% | 13.4% | 16.0% | 13.5% |
| Percentage of working age adults claiming benefits ¹⁹ – This information, which will be impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, indicates the health of the labour market and the demand for support from the Welfare State (14 th October 2021). | | | | |
| 6.7% | 8.7% | 4.5% | 5.4% | 4.9% |
| Percentage of people in employment ²⁰ – This information indicates the labour market and uptake of paid employment (2020/21) | | | | |
| 65.3% | 72.6% | 75.3% | 73.2% | 75.1% |

Working Well with Children and Families in Lancashire

A key achievement for the safeguarding partners during the reporting period has been the agreement and launch of Working Well with Children and Families in Lancashire²¹ (WWCFL), which is the threshold document required by *Working Together*.

WWCFL provides shared principles for working with children and families, utilising a strengths based approach, together with example indicators and expected courses of action at each level of need. Parts 1 and 2 are shared across the CSAP area and provide an overview, together with more detailed guidance, as to expected actions and examples of children at each level of need. By working to the same levels of need, practitioners throughout our operating area know that they will receive the same response from the local authority irrespective of where the child lives. A separate Part 3 is available for each Local Authority area and provides information about local processes for early help and statutory intervention, together with details of services available to support practitioners' work with children and families.



CSAP Executive members launched WWCFL to a virtual audience of around 700 practitioners on the CSAP YouTube Channel in June 2021. A recording of the event remains available as a resource for individual practitioners and can be used as a basis for induction training programmes.

Our shared values for working with children and families (WWCFL p.3)

- Being respectful and building relationships by working alongside children, young people and families and seeking their informed consent and agreement.
- Being understanding, kind and empathic. Recognising and working to families' strengths – especially those of parents and carers and taking the time to understand their needs fully.
- Being purposeful. Focusing on preventing problems before they occur and offering flexible, responsive and constructive support when and where it is required.
- Being constructive. Helping to build the resilience of, children, young people, families and communities to support each other.
- Being open and transparent with each other as well as with families. Working together across the whole system engaging well with communities and aligning our resources to best support families and do what needs to be done, when it needs to be done.
- Being fair. Basing all that we do on evidence and analysis of both what is needed and of what works and being brave enough to stop things that are wrong.
- Being honest. Being clear and consistent about the outcomes we expect.

Our Safeguarding Priorities

Contextual Safeguarding

Why is it a priority?

Contextual safeguarding is the umbrella term for work to protect children from abuse and exploitation that they may experience outside their family home. The term itself has only come to the fore in recent years, although the recognition of the threat to children of sexual exploitation (CSE) and criminal exploitation (CCE) is well established and subject to multi-agency action nationally and locally.

Contextual safeguarding was adopted as a priority by CSAP in 2019 in view of national guidance and reviews, together with emerging concerns in respect of child criminal exploitation that were coming to the fore locally. Contextual safeguarding is an area that requires a strong multi-agency operational approach that is already provided through well-established multi-agency exploitation teams across the area.

Governance arrangements

The Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Board was established in March 2020, assuming responsibility on behalf of the CSAP executive for contextual safeguarding. It was agreed that the remit of the group would include CSE, CCE, Child Trafficking and Modern Slavery, and Missing from Home. Three operational groups, based on local authority footprints, provide oversight of the multi-agency operational teams in their respective areas and report to both the strategic board and CSAP Tactical Groups.

During the reporting period the safeguarding partners have agreed a Contextual Safeguarding Strategy for 2021 – 2024, together with an operational action plan for its delivery. The Strategy adopts the 4P model, used in a number of national strategies:

- Prevent to prevent children and young adults experiencing exploitation, modern day slavery and going missing; and to ensure children and young adults, and their families and their communities are supported to build resilience against exploitation;
- Pursue to successfully prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate the exploitation of children and young adults;
- Protect to provide appropriate support, protection, intervention, information and services to children, parents, carers, friends and communities via a multi-agency whole family approach;
- Prepare divert, disrupt and actively pursue those intent on exploiting children and adults.

A key development in this strategy is the intention to move toward an 'all age' approach. This will initially be with a view to providing services to 18 – 25 year olds during the first two years of the strategy, but with a longer term aspiration to provide a service to all adults and children who may be exploited, be victims of modern day slavery or human trafficking or go missing.

Operational Response

The operational response to contextual safeguarding is provided by multi-agency teams situated through the Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire area. At their core they are made up of police, children's social care and health practitioners, with some additional local variation depending on identified needs. During the reporting period the police have provided a significant uplift to their staff in these teams to provide a greater investigative and analytical capability.

Contextual safeguarding principles are applied in specialist assessments completed by social workers within the teams, which will consider both the child's needs and strategies to disrupt perpetrators. Social workers act as a specialist resource within the wider children's social care team, who have the necessary expertise, together with time and space to develop a trusted relationship with the child, while a named statutory social worker will manage formal safeguarding processes. This serves to build experience of contextual safeguarding within social care teams and allows the contextual safeguarding teams' social workers to become points of reference within the wider children's services workforce.

The teams will draw on the expertise of practitioners in other agencies, for example youth justice and schools, both to develop their understanding of the child's needs and to keep them safe. This is formalised in multi-agency meetings which are routinely held in all three local authorities' teams, using models that fit the local context.

All three operational groups receive (primarily local authority) data in respect of the cohort of children that their teams work with. During the reporting period the overall number of children open to the teams

remained broadly stable, however the increase in the number of children experiencing CCE noted in our last annual report continued. By the end of the reporting period there were slightly more children with CCE rather than CSE concerns across the area, albeit with some significant local variation. This change in profile brings with it an increased number of boys and a older age profile than had previously been the case. At an operational level individual teams collate information to develop a picture of people, premises and areas of concern that can be used to both safeguard children and disrupt perpetrators. Colleagues in Blackburn with Darwen have begun a neighbourhood mapping exercise to understand localised risks and threats, while the Lancashire Constabulary Operation Empira mapped connections between perpetrators on a whole force basis. The safeguarding partners have committed to developing a wider scale problem profile to pull this information together and enable agencies to plan strategically plan their services for the future.

As noted above the intention of the current strategy is to open provision to young adults, although there is no statutory framework to do so, beyond the general safeguarding provisions of the Care Act 2014. By the year end Blackburn with Darwen were offering to continue to work with children already open to the service once they turned 18, with their consent. It is envisaged that this will be the starting point of a wider offer, with the care leaver cohort being identified as one with particular vulnerabilities.

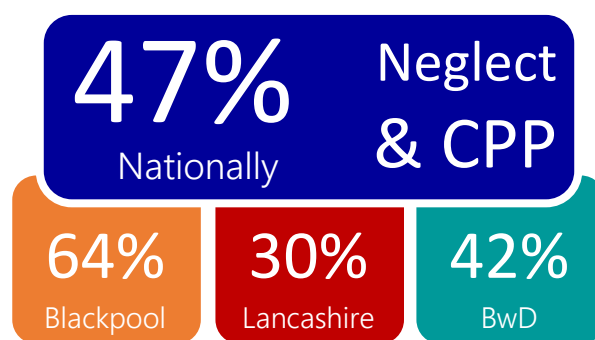
The number of children missing from home or care fluctuated throughout the year, with increases evident after periods of Covid restrictions, and some evidence in changes to the cohort, for example in Blackpool there was a shift to older boys and a smaller number going missing more frequently. The current missing from home protocol was adopted in 2014. Despite ongoing work throughout the reporting period a revised missing from home protocol has not yet been finally agreed, although work has improved. The delay in final publication has been largely due to discussions in respect of whether and how the nationally promoted Operation Philomena can be adapted to meet local needs. All areas nevertheless have robust missing from home processes in place, with new trigger plans having been adopted in Blackpool to provide for a multi-agency pre-determined response for children known to be at risk of going missing.

Finally, a repeatedly reported issue has been looked after children from other local authorities being placed in the CSAP area without notification and in placements that increase their risk of exploitation or going missing. While health agencies and the Engage team as a whole in Blackburn with Darwen will provide these children with a service, the partnership are developing guidance for placing local authorities and residential settings to enable them to understand risks, safeguarding processes and services available in the area.

Neglect

Why is it a priority?

Neglect is the most common form of child abuse in England and the main cause of concern in 47% of Child Protection Plans nationally. The proportion varies in the CSAP area from 30% in Lancashire, to 42% in Blackburn with Darwen and 64% in Blackpool.²² Neglect has additionally been a significant feature of a number of recent SCR and CSPR (Lancashire Child LW, Child AB and Child AC; and Blackpool Ava and family, and Mia), and was the primary concern of 5 out of 14 referrals during the reporting period (see below). These reviews have covered a range of neglectful situations, including poor home conditions, a lack of supervision, children whose medical needs are neglected and children who are not educated. Operationally, Lancashire Constabulary saw a 66% increase in child cruelty crimes (which includes Neglect) from 289 in 2020 to 492 in 2021.



Governance arrangements

In common with the other CSAP priority areas, the response to neglect is driven by three operational groups based on local authority footprints. The operational groups are responsible for the delivery of their respective neglect strategies. These were agreed by the predecessor LSCBs and have overarching aims that broadly coincide, namely to drive a consistent multi-agency response to neglect that enables practitioners to identify, respond to and ultimately prevent neglect. How these are delivered varies according to the needs within each local authority area. Given the time elapsed since these strategies were agreed, each area had either agreed to, or was in the process of revising its strategy at the end of the reporting period. In order to promote a consistent response to neglect across the area, the safeguarding partners were also in the process of agreeing a set of principles that will underpin the three strategies.

Operational Response

The safeguarding partners have an ambitious goal to empower the wider children's workforce to identify neglect at the earliest possible opportunity and to provide families with the means to overcome the adversities that they face, without the need for more intensive interventions. This has resulted in an ongoing focus on training, which has included the ongoing CSAP programme (see below), together with a significant push by both Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool local authorities to provide internal and partnership training. This is supported by materials made available to all police officers through their handheld devices and a Think Neglect booklet for the multi-agency workforce in Blackburn with Darwen.

Separately, Lancashire local authority has launched its Family Safeguarding model which focuses on working with the whole family and with partners to build on strengths and identify positive changes. This approach supports parents to become better equipped to meet the demands of parenting so families can stay together safely.

The launch of WWCFI provides a common set of indicators and language for practitioners throughout the CSAP area. This is supported by the ongoing use of the same assessment tool, Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2), in Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, which has also agreed to be adopted by Lancashire during the forthcoming year. This should enable practitioners across the area to have a common language and threshold in their response to neglect. In order to continue to drive forward and develop practice Blackpool has developed its own neglect screening tools for use with unborns and all other children, while Blackburn with Darwen is currently part of a national pilot of an antenatal GCP2 and national evaluation of the overall impact of GCP2.

Each operational group has identified concerns about an increasing prevalence of neglect that has been exacerbated by the additional pressures brought on families by the pandemic and shielded by the reduced visibility of children who have not been in school for extended periods. While the training and routine use of assessments tools should enable this to be addressed, Lancashire has also sought to promote its take up of free early years hours in order to bring children into the sight of professionals and will likewise focus on cohorts of children who are not in education and therefore less visible in the forthcoming year. The safeguarding partners also intend to develop a neglect awareness raising campaign for both the general public and organisations who employ tradespeople and others who have access to houses and might therefore be in a position to report neglect concerns.

Finally, in order to better understand the experiences of children who are neglected, what works well in the professional response and what could be developed, the safeguarding partners commissioned a thematic review of neglect. This reviewed the interventions provided to six families from across the CSAP area and the findings will be included in our next annual report.

Domestic Abuse

Why is it a priority?

National and local data suggest that a substantial number of children within the CSAP operating area experience Domestic Abuse (DA), while a significant proportion of the safeguarding partnership's operational safeguarding activity consists of responding to and protecting children from DA.

Domestic abuse requires a multi-faceted response to meet the needs of the victims, perpetrators and children in the household. CSAP identified this as a priority in order to ensure that the children's element of this response was co-ordinated and effective.

Governance arrangements

Overall responsibility for the response to domestic abuse sits with the Community Safety Partnerships, although the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which was enacted during the reporting period, also placed a responsibility on upper tier local authorities to establish a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. CSAP's role is to be assured that children are safeguarded from domestic abuse and rather than have its own operational groups, as for contextual safeguarding and neglect, it holds the existing governance forums to account for their work to keep children safe.

Operational Response

It goes without saying that the reporting period was dominated by the Covid pandemic, which brought with it its own challenges in respect of domestic abuse. Briefly put, the concerns were that victims would become increasingly vulnerable due to spending longer periods, in isolation, with their perpetrators, while children, similarly isolated, would not be seen by the professionals able to keep them safe. The safeguarding partners consequently supported a significant public awareness raising campaign, #noexcuseforabuse. The aim of the campaign was to raise public awareness of support available for victims and perpetrators of DA, together with providing the means to report concerns. The campaign was promoted through a dedicated website, social media (including CSAP), posters across the area and radio adverts. The safeguarding partners have also supported the national 'Ask for ANI' campaign under which victims can ask for support through pharmacies. While there were changes in how victims, including children, engaged with domestic abuse services, overall contacts remained either stable or increased, potentially indicating the success of the campaign, which remains ongoing. Overall Police reported domestic abuse incidents remained broadly stable during the reporting period.

The success of two ongoing operations was developed by their expansion during the reporting period. Operation Encompass is an initiative which allows the Police to share information about a child with whom they have had contact with an education setting's trained 'Key Adult' prior to the start of the next school day. This covers all vulnerable child incidents, the bulk of which relate to Domestic Abuse. Encompass initially launched in 2019 and has over 700 schools signed up, during the reporting period this was expanded to cover further education settings thereby enabling information to be shared about many of the older children in the area who experience DA. Lancashire Constabulary have supported the operation

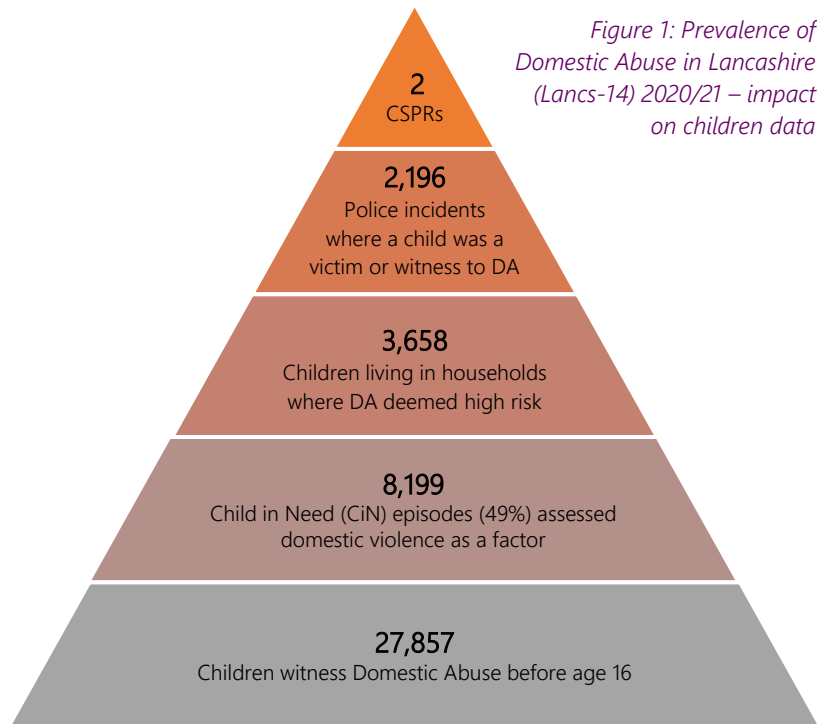


Figure 1: Prevalence of Domestic Abuse in Lancashire (Lancs-14) 2020/21 – impact on children data

with ongoing work to improve their reporting and ability to capture children's education settings at incidents, thereby allowing notifications to be made. The percentage of incidents resulting in a notification steadily increased throughout the reporting period. During 2021-22 scoping work will be undertaken to determine how Operation Encompass could be further expanded to incorporate early years settings.

Operation Provide originated in the Blackpool area and enables closer work between police immediate responders and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA), who attend incidents after the initial response to engage with, and provide for the safety of, victims in the immediate aftermath of an incident. Early contact with victims was seen to increase subsequent engagement with DA services (thereby improving the safeguarding of involved children), and the likelihood of the victim supporting a prosecution. The operation has won a national Nursing Times award and since been expanded to cover the remainder of the police west division and parts of east Lancashire.

Our last annual report referred to an ongoing review of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), which are the key for a for multi-agency information sharing information sharing and co-ordination of actions to safeguard victims and children from domestic abuse. The review had concluded that the model of monthly (or fortnightly) meetings was overly resource intensive and did not provide a sufficiently flexible or responsive system to meet individual needs, and particularly those of children. The review proposed a new model in which practitioners from core agencies, including those working specifically with children, will provide an immediate response to high risk incidents with plans drawn up for children, victims and perpetrators. At the year end planning was underway to implement the new model, initially in the unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool.

Learning and Improvement

Arrangements for learning from practice

Working Together requires the safeguarding partners to make arrangements to review serious child safeguarding cases, and others where there may be learning, in order to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents. Rapid review meetings, held within 15 days of the incident coming to the attention of the safeguarding partners, will gather facts about the case, identify whether any immediate action is required to secure the child's safety, whether

there is any immediate learning, and whether a local or national Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is warranted. Where a decision is taken to commission a local CSPR this will be led by an Independent Reviewer using a systems methodology, and will seek to involve practitioners and family members, including surviving children. Final review reports will be published. Learning extracted from the case at any stage during the process will be acted on and disseminated to agencies and practitioners as soon as is possible.

During the reporting period the CSAP Executive established a CSPR Business Group, whose responsibility is to manage the review processes, collate learning themes and to hold partner agencies to account to ensure that meaningful actions are taken as a result of learning from reviews which have an impact on safeguarding practice.



Serious Child Safeguarding Cases (SCSC) notified to the safeguarding partners during the reporting period by locality:

| | Child Population (0-17 yrs) | SCSC notifications received | Rapid Review Meetings held | Local CSPR commissioned |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Blackburn with Darwen | 38,653 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Blackpool | 29,110 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Lancashire | 252,984 | 8 | 7 | 3 |

Based on the information available from the initial notification and the rapid review meeting the primary concern that prompted the notifications were Neglect (5), Abusive Head Trauma (4), Safer Sleep (3), Child Criminal Exploitation (1) and Fabricated and Induced Illness (1). Underpinning factors of Parental Mental Health (5), Parental Substance Misuse (3) and Domestic Abuse (4) were commonly noted. Two notifications related to children who were the subject of a current child protection plan, while one related to a looked after child. The prevalence of notifications for Abusive Head Trauma and Safer Sleep is reflected in the age of the children involved with 10 being under 1 year. Of the remaining children, 3 were aged between 1 and 5 years, 6 between 11 and 15 years and 2 were 16 or 17 years old (the 14 notifications related to 21 children).

Local CSPR progress during the year was as follows:

| | Ongoing at 1st October 2020 | Commissioned in year | Published in year | Ongoing at 30th September 2021 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blackburn with Darwen | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Blackpool | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Lancashire | 5 | 3 | 0 | 8 |

A number of the Local CSPR noted above have extended over the six month timeframe expected by *Working Together* from rapid review meeting to publication. This is primarily due to delays caused by parallel investigations. The safeguarding partners do recognise that processes could be developed to improve timeliness and this will be a focus of work for the CSPR Business Group during 2021-22.

The safeguarding partners work to act on learning from reviews as soon as it becomes apparent. Learning from review activity during the reporting period has therefore informed the re-writing of the Pre-Birth Protocol, the Concealed and Denied Pregnancy Protocol and Fabricated and Induced Injuries guidance. The wealth of learning about neglect has resulted in the revision of Neglect strategies within two local authority areas, together with the development of the use of neglect assessment tools. Learning in respect of safer sleep, together with the findings of the National CSPR Out of Routine: a review of Sudden

Ryan, Nathan and Amelia

This Child Safeguarding Practice Review considered the response of partner agencies to a family of three children, the older two of whom had substantial additional needs. The review considered the multi-agency response to the family over a three and a half year period, prior to one of the children being taken into the care of the local authority. Their mum was a single parent who had her own learning needs, and understandably found parenting a considerable challenge. The elder boys had been open to the children with complex needs team for a significant number of years and were educated in a special school. A number of other statutory and voluntary agencies also supported the family, although it was not always clear how they co-ordinated their work. The review highlighted the need for practitioners working with children with additional needs to remain aware of the potential for their being abused or neglected; the need for consistent use of neglect, parenting and pre-birth assessments; the delivery and review of Education, Health and Care plans, the use of escalation processes when plans are not progressing as envisaged, and the role of charities in safeguarding.

Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm²³ has been referred to the Child Death Overview Panel and has informed ongoing safer sleep activity. This has included the development of a series of animations and the introduction of a safer sleep assessment that is undertaken by all police officers attending houses where babies are present. Any concerns about sleeping arrangements are reported to health visiting services who will make contact with the family.

Legacy Serious Case Reviews

It was noted in the last CSAP annual report that material relating to 13 Serious Case Reviews (SCR) was passed over to the safeguarding partners by the three former LSCBs. A number of these had been significantly delayed by parallel investigations, although learning had been acted on and practitioner briefings produced, where appropriate. During the reporting period a further four were published, with a decision taken to step down another one. It is envisaged that the remaining eight will be concluded in 2021-22.

Workforce Development

The safeguarding partners are required to consider what multi-agency safeguarding training is required locally and to make arrangements to evaluate the effectiveness of that which is commissioned. Like most safeguarding partnership, CSAP discharges this duty through the delivery of its own training programme.

As would be expected training provision has continued to be severely disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and, with a few exceptions, continued to be delivered on a virtual basis throughout the year. Work has continued to bring together the training programmes from the three former LSCB areas and to develop a consistent offer, delivered by multi-agency practitioners, across the area. In order to better reflect the safeguarding priority areas of neglect, contextual safeguarding and domestic abuse a decision was taken to focus the training offer on these topics, with other commissioned and hosted courses being phased out.

The longer term goal is to deliver an introductory course on each priority area, delivered by multi-agency practitioners, with additional courses covering more specialist aspects of the priority area.

Courses delivered during the reporting period reflect this transition and were attended as follows

Priority Areas

| | Number of Courses | Attendance |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| Domestic Abuse | | |
| Domestic Abuse and the impact on children | 6 | 170 |
| Introduction to Domestic Abuse | 1 | 56 |
| Domestic Abuse and Teen Dating | 5 | 92 |
| DASH checklist | 8 | 217 |
| Neglect | | |
| Recognising and overcoming childhood neglect | 5 | 59 |
| Graded Care Profile 2 assessment tool training | 10 | 101 |
| Graded Care Profile 2 revisit | 2 | 8 |
| Contextual Safeguarding | | |
| Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding | 8 | 173 |
| Modern Day Slavery awareness | 1 | 45 |
| Total | 46 | 921 |

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Hosted and other courses | | |
| Practitioner Resilience | 2 | 24 |
| Problematic Gambling | 3 | 90 |
| Youth Mental Health First Aid | 3 | 32 |
| Safer sleep awareness for professionals | 1 | 41 |
| Total | 9 | 187 |

Attendees are asked to evaluate courses on completion, with comments received during the year including:

"The contextual safeguarding training was very hard hitting information. The mix of different professionals help to keep this interesting. The passion that was portrayed by the team delivering the course was infectious. Real life experiences and examples were infectious"

"The participants were from different agencies that look after children and I learned a lot from all of them. I hope my own contribution as the only doctor on the course was also useful"

[As a result of the training] *"I will continually challenge myself to refocus on keeping the 'a day in the life of the child' as my focus"*

"We already had a good understanding of the issues that were raised but myself and staff that I train will certainly be more vigilant and liaise more with CSE and CCE teams particularly around the modern-day slavery aspects"

Evaluation of training should be a multi-layered process starting with on the day evaluations, but extending to assess the impact of training on practice and, ultimately, on the lives of children and families

in the area. to this end multi-agency audits underway at the year end on neglect, child criminal exploitation and safer sleep practice should begin inform this assessment.

CSAP's formal training is supported by a wide ranging e-learning offer. This is delivered on the platform previously provided by Blackburn with Darwen LSCB, which is now available to practitioners in Blackpool and Lancashire. This includes Level 1 and Level 2 Safeguarding Children training, courses in respect of each CSAP priority area and other specific areas of safeguarding practice.

CSAP has continued to promote good practice through the publication of 7 minute briefings, which may be prompted by changes to guidance and legislation, learning from reviews, or emerging safeguarding themes. Briefings published in the reporting period have included Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence, Contextual Safeguarding, the ICON campaign and Restrictive Practice. These are supplemented by bespoke briefings published alongside CSPR or following audit activity.



Online Safeguarding

The safeguarding partners employ a specialist online safety advisor in order to ensure that good practice is identified and disseminated, in what is a rapidly changing area of practice. Online safeguarding has



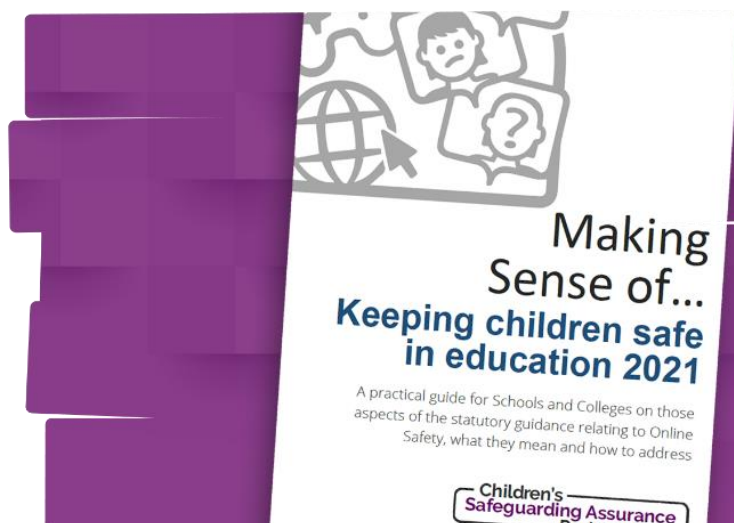
continued to see a number of developments during the reporting period with a variety of new and evolving challenges for partner organisations. Requests for specific advice relating to the online aspects of safeguarding have continued to increase and have included queries around online grooming, sexting, policy development, social media concerns, recommended learning resources and escalation enquiries. In particular, queries relating to video sharing apps and questions relating to the *Everyone's Invited* platform and subsequent Ofsted Rapid Review have seen recent focus. Other enquiries to note include queries around supporting emotional health and wellbeing and addressing both misinformation and

disinformation online, particularly in relation to fake, false or misleading news about the Coronavirus pandemic and are evidenced through the engagement with related posts through the CSAP Twitter account.

The continued requirement for remote learning opportunities during 2021 has brought a renewed focus on safeguarding considerations, resulting in numerous enquiries and requests from school-based colleagues. As a result, a dedicated CSAP resource to support colleagues with *Safer Remote Learning* was developed. The resource development was part of ongoing partnership activity with the Lancashire County Council Schools' Safeguarding Team and was released during the Autumn Term 2020. Feedback received to-date on the resource has been positive and has seen a corresponding reduction in the number of related enquiries.

Relatedly, it is clear that the CSAP publications produced to support colleagues with statutory safeguarding requirements continue to be extremely popular and well-received. Both the CSAP *Making Sense of... Keeping Children Safe In Education* and *Governor Online Safety Self Review Tool* have seen Edition 5 updates to reflect the 2021 changes and continued emphasis on online safety in the statutory Department for Education guidance, with both resources continuing to be popular both within and outside of the Pan-Lancashire region.

Due to continued Covid-19 restrictions, the Partnership was unable to host the extremely popular Online Safety Live (OSL) sessions held annually in January. Enquiries regarding the OSL events have been a regular request and therefore alternative plans have been put in place to host a comprehensive livestreamed OSL offer for January 2022. Relatedly, whilst face to face activity has largely ceased, a number of requests for single agency support have been possible using a variety of online platforms.

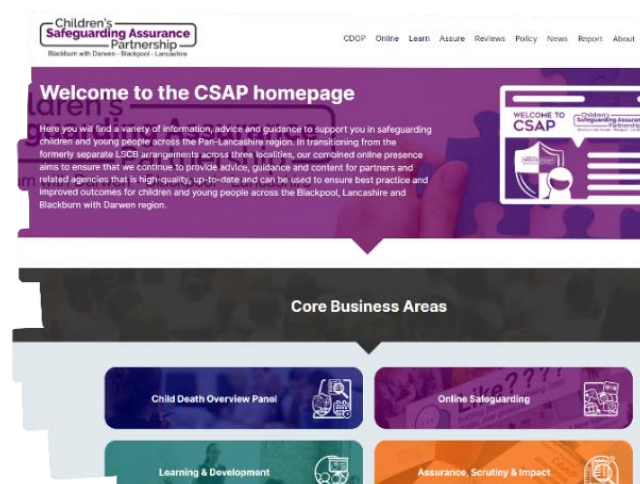


Whilst it undoubtedly remains the case that online safety can sometimes be perceived as an ICT rather than Safeguarding issue, there is evidence that this perception continues to shift and is increasingly addressed as part of a mainstream safeguarding approach in-line with national guidance and best practice. Relatedly, the development of the local Section 175/157 Self-Assessment for education settings on behalf of the Blackpool and Lancashire local authorities provides an invaluable opportunity to develop a formal education dataset relating to online safeguarding provision in schools and colleges across the region.

It continues to be the case that children's social lives and therefore their broader emotional development are intrinsically linked to their use of online technologies. As such, it is clear that we are unable to consider the safeguarding or wellbeing of our children and young people without addressing their relationship to technology and this is reflected through the provision of a dedicated online safeguarding section on the CSAP website to support children's workforce colleagues in this continually evolving area of safeguarding provision.

Communications & Engagement

Arrangements to support and develop CSAP Communications and Engagement activity have continued to progress over the reporting period. A key aspect of this progression has been in establishing a collective online CSAP identity as activity has transitioned from the former Safeguarding Children Board arrangements. Whilst it is clear that the Partnership's wider presence is an area which will continue to be further developed, a key area of progress has been in establishing a new Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership website for release during Autumn 2021 to replace the previous LSCB websites. In doing so, it has been paramount to retain a high-quality presence valued by



colleagues across the children's workforce and has highlighted the different approaches and broad range of content and resources previously available.

In April 2021, agreement was reached to combine the Twitter social media accounts for the 3 previous LSCBs under a single CSAP presence to provide a collective and co-ordinated social media point of reference. Numbers following the combining of accounts have continued to increase and as such, the platform provides an invaluable means of engagement across the wider workforce. During the reporting period, information posted on a variety of safeguarding subjects through the Partnership's Twitter presence was viewed over 110,000 times with two main areas seeing the majority of engagement.

As in previous years and highlighted below, the two most popular CSAP engagement topics have been CDOP (Safer Sleep) or Online Safety-related posts. Other notably popular engagement topics include 7-Minute Briefings, ICON guidance and national safeguarding campaign activities such as Safer Internet Day and Anti-Bullying Week.

Snapshot - Top 6 CSAP Tweets 2020/21 (in order of popularity)

1. TikTok Privacy Features (January 2021)
2. High-powered Magnets (June 2021)
3. Safer Sleep - Every Sleep (March 2021)
4. Safer Sleep - Banners (November 2020)
5. Remote Learning – Parental Safety Guides (January 2021)
6. Online Predators – IWF Hotline (March 2021)

Activity remains ongoing around the broader aspects of communications and engagement and how this can be further developed as a key aspect of the Partnership arrangements. Links continue to be established to related communications groups such as those from the Local Authorities, Lancashire Constabulary and other Safeguarding Partnerships. Whilst the geographic region covered by CSAP is considerable and undoubtedly presents challenges across such a large and diverse area, the Partnership arrangements equally provide a significant opportunity to promote guidance, advice and supporting resources with a combined and cohesive approach.



Priorities for 2021/22

During the forthcoming year CSAP will maintain its current safeguarding priority areas of contextual safeguarding, neglect and domestic abuse; with a focus on continuing to deliver against strategies and action plans, while also enabling our children and services to recover from the Covid pandemic. This is not to say that these priorities are set in stone and all partner agencies are actively encouraged to report emerging safeguarding issues into tactical groups where consideration can be given to the need for a CSAP response. There will be an increased focus on the quality assurance functions of CSAP, with plans well underway to undertake single agency section 11 self-evaluation audits and section 157/ 175 audits of schools. Work to complete the significant number of SCR and CSCR will continue apace with an increasing emphasis on the delivery of resulting action plans. As our quality assurance activity ramps up, we will seek to better understand the effectiveness of our work through the most important lens of all – its impact on our children. Finally, we will increase public awareness of our work through the development and launch of a new website and continue to support practitioners through our training programme.

Independent Scrutiny

As the independent scrutineer I am able to confirm that this annual report provides an accurate reflection of the work carried out by the Safeguarding Partners from the beginning of October 2020 to the end of September 2021.

The shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic has of course continued to impact greatly on the safeguarding services provided by the statutory safeguarding partners and the relevant agencies who engage with them. There continues to be very real concerns amongst safeguarding professionals at all levels around the longer term effects the pandemic will have on children and families and how this may be exacerbated when family incomes fall.

In fulfilling my role, I have regular meetings with the three local authority lead members, chief executives and council leaders; senior police officers, including the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner; and with Directors of CCGs and senior safeguarding officers from health commissioners and providers. In addition, I have one to one meetings with each member of the Executive Board. I have had one to one meetings with two district council chief executives. I have attended a number of other partnership meetings including the Health and Wellbeing Boards, the Local Resilience Forum and Council Scrutiny Panels.

Key Themes

Structure

The structure of the Safeguarding Partnership is fit for purpose and represents a model that fits with the legal requirements of Section 16 and 17 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (as amended). The structure also provides a robust structure in which safeguarding strategies and positive outcomes can be achieved. The systems for reporting have been improved and there is a clear system for reporting areas of concern through the operational groups and tactical groups of the Executive board.

Executive Board

The Executive Board consists of senior member of each statutory Safeguarding Partner. Those members have been able to make decisions on behalf of their agency. The Board membership is restricted to the three statutory partners. Meetings have taken place on a flexible basis with short one hour meetings taking place weekly during key periods and reverting to monthly meetings at other times. This flexibility is a strength that has proved to be of value to partners. This approach has been particularly beneficial during this period, and it is intended that this approach will be maintained through the next year.

The achievements of the Executive Board should not be underestimated. The Working Well with Families document for instance provides front line professionals with a tool that is essential in delivering targeted support to families and assists professionals when providing a multi-agency response to safeguarding concerns. This document has been developed in a way that takes account of local issues avoiding the 'one size fits all' approach that can lead to gaps in provision. This is just one example of and Executive Board that has been able to work across boundaries to provide more effective and efficient services.

Tactical Groups

There are three local tactical groups in place and meetings are well attended. There have been important areas of work discussed and partnership priorities have remained an agenda item at each meeting.

I have noted that the Tactical Groups have become far more focussed as they have developed. Membership of the tactical groups had largely been based on the membership of the previous LSCB but since September 2019 the chairs have slimmed down attendance and as a result there is a more focussed approach. There may be some further development required of these groups

to ensure the geographical footprint meets the needs of all agencies. Attendance at Tactical Groups is at the right level and remains a strength. Meetings are all chaired by an executive Board member.



Operational and Other Groups

Each tactical group area has an operational group for each priority area. A chair is in place for each of these groups and regular meetings take place.

It was agreed that partners would build on operational groups already in existence in each of the tactical group areas. This approach has continued to work well. Each operational group have realistic action plans which are reported on to the Tactical Group.

In addition to the operational groups, there is also a contextual safeguarding strategic board. This board provides a real emphasis on this issue and has developed an action plan for the operational groups building on previous good practice.

Each local authority area has a Children and Family Partnership Board or equivalent. These are multiagency groups and much of their work focusses on issues that fall outside of the remit of the CSAP. Whilst there is considerable crossover I have been invited on to these Boards as an observer and they are dovetailing with the work of CSAP.

I have been invited to attend the CCG performance meeting and police protecting vulnerable persons performance meetings in addition to the performance meetings held by each of the children's social care agencies. This gives me a clear perspective on the performance of those agencies.

Priorities

The three priorities were determined following detailed discussions between safeguarding partners. There is little doubt in my mind that these three priorities are entirely justified. An additional priority has now been added which reflects the concerns about the effect of the pandemic and the recovery from it.

Neglect

Each area has a neglect operational group feeding into the tactical groups. There is a neglect strategy in each area supported by action plans. The operational groups are based on the local authority footprints. Children's services take the lead on neglect issues across the County as might be expected but there is clear evidence that all agencies are engaged with the process.

A neglect multi-agency audit is being completed and CSAP have conducted a survey of frontline staff. I will be publishing an in depth review of neglect in the first quarter of 2022.

Domestic Abuse

The situation around domestic abuse remains largely the same as the annual report reflected last year. There is evidence of considerable work being put in place around domestic abuse. Liaison with key groups has improved with a CSAP presence on the pan Lancashire Domestic Abuse Steering Group and the Strategic Community Safety Partnership Board. There will be an in-depth scrutiny report in to domestic abuse conducted in 2022.

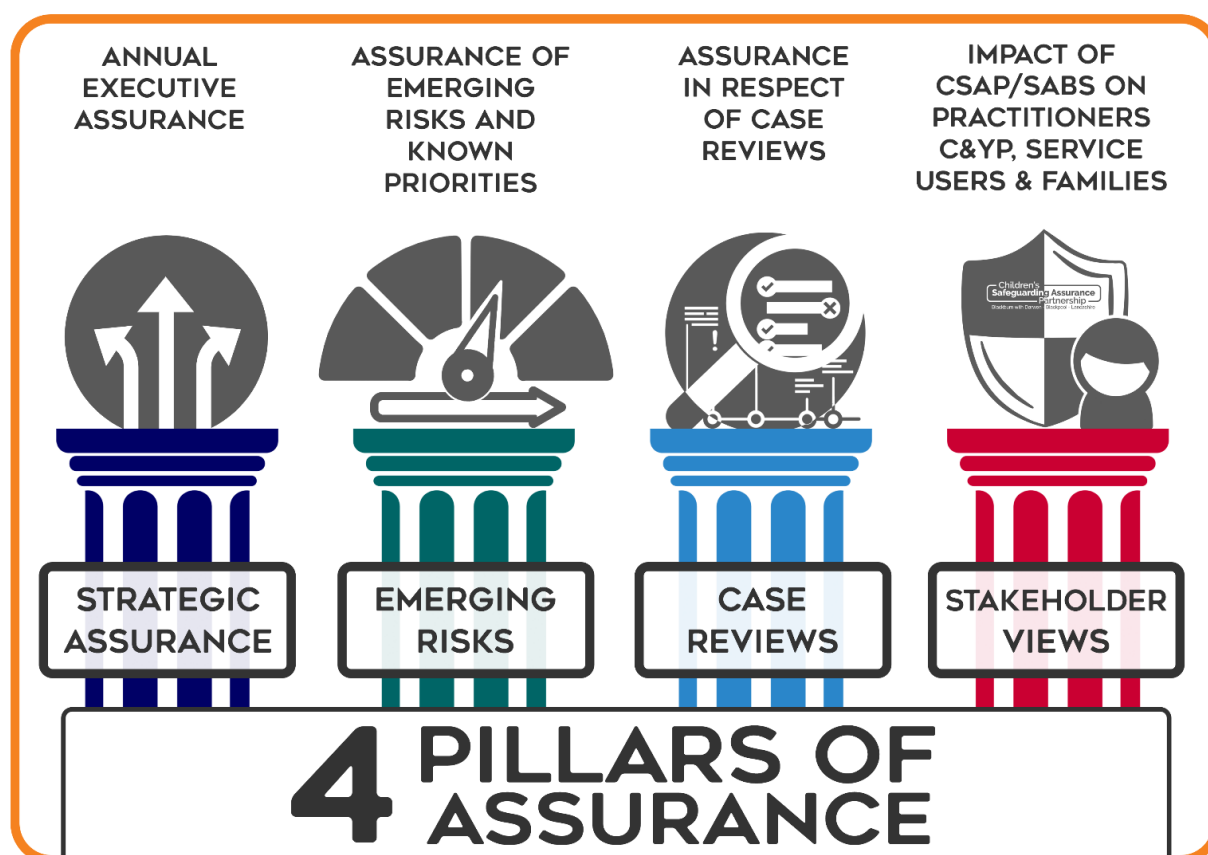
Contextual Safeguarding

The Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Board has been established and deals with all issues relating to contextual safeguarding. The Board has terms of reference and takes the strategic lead on behalf of CSAP in this area. An action plan has been developed with clear expectations around outcomes. This Board ensures that local operational groups are able to work together to achieve the required outcomes.

I have completed and presented an in-depth scrutiny report to the Board on contextual safeguarding. As a result, the findings and recommendations now form part of the contextual safeguarding action plan which I continue to monitor.

Scrutiny

Process



The scrutiny process is in place and has been agreed. The agreed system is based on 4 Pillars of Scrutiny as illustrated above.

The model is intended to seek assurance from different levels of the partnership and to build upon scrutiny and assurance mechanisms already in place. The 4 Pillars approach categorises CSAPs scrutiny, assurance and impact responsibilities into 4 distinct pillars of activity; each related but with a different level of focus. This approach aims to:

- Ensure consistent focus on performance, scrutiny and assurance in respect of multiagency safeguarding
- Consider how agencies work together in respect of safeguarding at a strategic level
- Promote greater awareness and consideration of risk
- Gain assurance in respect of Care Review processes
- Measure impact; listening to and engage with practitioners, service users and their families

Under pillar 1; Annual Executive Assurance, a full Section 11 audit and a Section 175 audit have been planned in conjunction with agencies and will be conducted at the beginning of 2022.

As Independent scrutineer, I have been provided with an open invitation to multi-agency partnership meetings and have found all agencies to be open and transparent in their provision of information and documentation. I am able to undertake my role in the way that statutory provision allows.

Conclusion

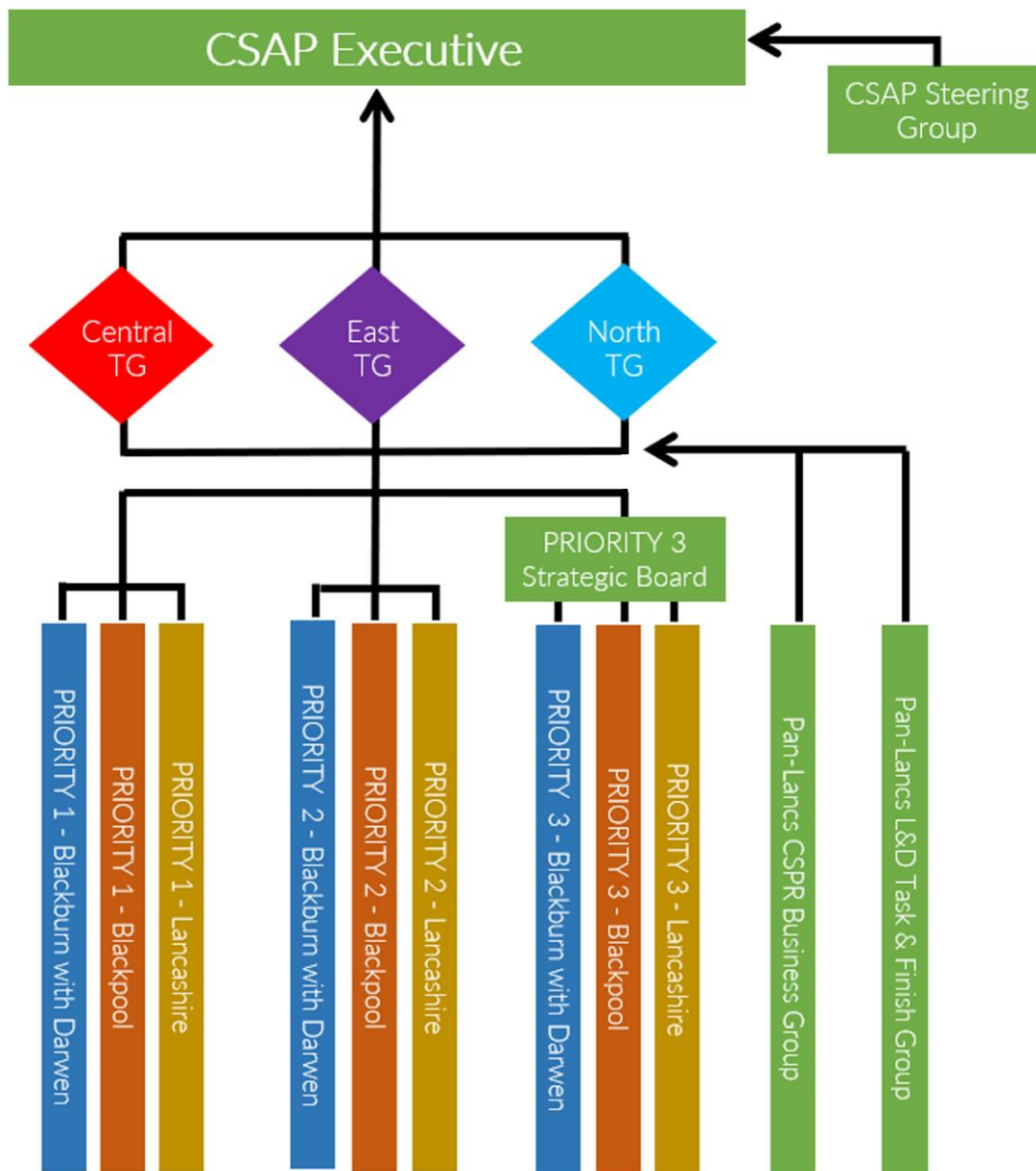
This year has continued to be extremely challenging for partners and this challenge will continue. There will be a wide range of inspection activity likely to be undertaken across agencies over the coming year and statutory partners have arranged a number of independent reviews of their own.

This partnership continues to develop and is intending to undertake a review of partnership arrangements in the later months of 2022. There is a huge amount of very positive work being undertaken by partners in an environment that none of us has ever experienced. I am grateful for the incredible work being undertaken on the front line and would like to thank members of the Executive Board for their openness and transparency over this year, which has enabled further progress to be made.



Stephen Ashley
Independent Scrutineer
Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire CSAP

Appendix A: Governance Structure



| CODE |
|---|
| Pan-Lancashire (Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire) |
| Central Tactical Group area (Chorley, Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire) |
| East Tactical Group area (Blackburn with Darwen & Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley, Rossendale) |
| North Tactical Group area (Blackpool & Fylde, Lancaster, Wyre) |
| Blackburn with Darwen (Blackburn with Darwen district only) |
| Blackpool (Blackpool district only) |
| Lancashire (12 districts – Lancashire County Council footprint) |
| Priority 1 – Neglect |
| Priority 2 – Domestic Abuse |
| Priority 3 – Contextual Safeguarding |

Appendix B: Glossary

| | |
|-------|---|
| CCE | Child Criminal Exploitation |
| CCG | Clinical Commissioning Group |
| CDOP | Child Death Overview Panel |
| CSAP | Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership |
| CSE | Child Sexual Exploitation |
| CSPR | Child Safeguarding Practice Review |
| DA | Domestic Abuse |
| GCP2 | Graded Care Profile 2 |
| IDVA | Independent Domestic Violence Advocate |
| LSCB | Local Safeguarding Children Board |
| MARAC | Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference |
| OSL | Online Safety Live |
| SCR | Serious Case Review |
| SCSC | Serious Child Safeguarding Case |
| WWCFL | Working Well with Children and Families in Lancashire |

Appendix C: References

- ¹ [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- ² Published arrangements
- ³ [Wood Review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk), p.80
- ⁴ ONS – NOMIS Labour Market Statistics/Profile - <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx>
- ⁵ ONS – Estimates of the population for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>
- ⁶ School Readiness data – 2018/19. Fingertips Public Health data – Child Health Profiles
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- ⁷ Educational attainment – 2019/20. Fingertips Public Health data – Child Health Profiles
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- ¹⁰ MMR Population vaccine coverage – 2020/21 – Fingertips Public Health data – EY Supplementary Information
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- ¹¹ Social, emotional, mental health needs – 2020 – Fingertips Public Health data – Long Term conditions and complex health
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- ¹² Special Educational Needs – 2018 – Fingertips Public Health data – Long Term conditions and complex health
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- ¹³ Hospital Admissions for Mental Health Needs – 2019/20 – Public Health data – Long Terms conditions and complex health
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¹⁷ Family homelessness – 2017/18 – Fingertips Public Health data – Child Health Profiles

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²⁰ Wider determinants of health – 2020/21 – Fingertips Public Health Data – Local Authority Health profiles

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²¹ <https://www.safeguardingpartnership.org.uk/wwcf-guidance-2021/>

²² Proportion of child protection plans with a latest category of neglect on 31st March 2021 <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/fast-track/da8e60a5-4df1-4aa5-5b3a-08d98e357d76>

²³

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Children's **Safeguarding Assurance** Partnership

Blackburn with Darwen - Blackpool - Lancashire



CSAP Annual Report 2021 Easy Read Summary



Lancashire
Constabulary



Page 251

Blackpool Council





Our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements



Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) is the agreed safeguarding partnership arrangement for our area, legally required by *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2018).

It is made up of the key safeguarding partners (local authorities, NHS clinical commissioning groups and Lancashire Constabulary), together with relevant agencies all of whom are required to keep our children safe.

Our aim is to make sure that these agencies work together to keep children safe and achieve the best possible outcomes for them.

We do this by identifying priority areas for action which are Neglect, Contextual Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse. We then check and examine the arrangements put in place to safeguard children. Our Independent Scrutineer is someone who provides an external view and challenges what the partners are doing to keep children safe

Working Well with Children and Families in Lancashire



A key success for the Safeguarding Partnership during the reporting period has been the agreement and launch of Working Well with Children and Families in Lancashire (WWCFL) – this is the threshold document required by *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2018).

WWCFL provides shared principles for working with children and families and includes example indicators and expected courses of action at each level of need. Separate sections for each local authority area provide details of local services and processes.

A recording of the virtual launch event, attended by over 700 practitioners is available on the CSAP YouTube channel for practitioners new to the area.

Contextual Safeguarding



Contextual safeguarding is the umbrella term for work to protect children from abuse and exploitation that they may experience outside their family home.

CSAP's Contextual Safeguarding strategy for 2021-24 sets out our approach for forthcoming years, a key element of which is the intention to expand our provision to young adults.

Our operational response continues to be provided by multi-agency teams who assess and provide a all-inclusive service to children who are, or at risk of being, sexually or criminally exploited, going missing or trafficked. This is combined with targeted work to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators. Local operational groups manage action plans for each area, co-ordinating delivery of the strategy and monitoring activity within the teams.

While the picture varies between areas, there has been an overall increase in criminal exploitation concerns. We will continue work to expand our offer to young adults and to agree an update process for our response to missing children.

Neglect



Neglect is the most common form of child abuse in England and the main cause of concern in almost half of child protection plans nationally. Locally, it has been the primary concern in a number of recent reviews.

Whilst each local authority area has its own neglect strategy, the partners have agreed common principles for our response to neglect. Over the coming year, partners will move to using a common assessment tool for neglect throughout our area. We will also continue to provide training to the workforce to support their response to neglect and raise wider community awareness of neglect.

Domestic Abuse



National and local information suggests that a substantial number of children within the CSAP operating area experience Domestic Abuse (DA). We also know that a significant proportion of the Safeguarding Partnership's operational activity consists of responding to and protecting children from DA.

Overall responsibility for DA sits with Community Safety Partnerships, meaning that CSAP's role is to be assured that children are effectively safeguarded from DA. Given the increased concerns in respect of DA during the pandemic, CSAP has supported the #noexcuseforabuse campaign which raised public awareness and provided additional ways to report concerns and seek help.

The safeguarding partners have continued to support two successful DA operations. *Operation Encompass* provides schools with next-day notification of DA incidents attended by the Police to enable them to support vulnerable children and has recently been expanded to include further education providers. *Operation Provide* enables early Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) contact with victims and has been found to increase victim engagement which then enables services to be provided to children in the household.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

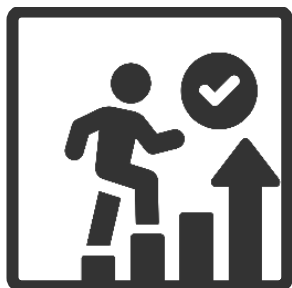


CSAP continues to meet its statutory obligations to undertake rapid reviews of potential serious child safeguarding cases and, where appropriate, to progress these to local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR). During the reporting period we held 13 (thirteen) Rapid Review Meetings and commissioned 5 (five) CSPRs, with neglect, abusive head trauma and safer sleep the most common reasons for notification.

One review was published during the year and is available on our website with an associated practitioner briefing. 11 (eleven) reviews were ongoing at the year-end and, with delays caused by police investigations having been largely resolved, it is anticipated that the majority will be published in their coming months.

Learning from reviews has influenced the development of the Safer Sleep campaign and our response to neglect. This has resulted in revised processes for safeguarding children in particular circumstances including Fabricated and Induced Illness and Concealed and Denied Pregnancy.

Workforce Development



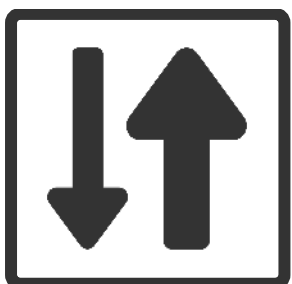
The safeguarding partners are required to consider what multi-agency safeguarding training is required locally and to make arrangements to evaluate the effectiveness of what is commissioned. Like most safeguarding partnerships, CSAP discharges this duty through the delivery of its own learning and development (L&D) programme.

Training is based on the three CSAP priority areas and has continued to be delivered virtually as a consequence of the Covid pandemic. During 2020-21, 1,108 practitioners attended our training courses. Our training is supported by a wide ranging e-learning offer, along with our successful range of 7-Minute Briefings that have recently included Child-to-Parent violence, Contextual Safeguarding and Restrictive Practice.

CSAP has continued to employ a specialist Online Safeguarding Advisor to identify and disseminate good practice and to support the children's workforce in a rapidly changing area of safeguarding. A particular area of focus in the last year has been the implications of remote learning, with a *Safer Remote Learning* resource developed and published on the CSAP website.

As referred to above, CSAP now has its own website which has brought together content included on the three former Local Safeguarding Children Board websites. We also have a single Twitter presence which we use to promote our work to safeguard children and adults. Followers have increased substantially to 1,250+ and was viewed over 110,000 times during the reporting period.

Priorities for 2021/22



During the forthcoming year, CSAP will maintain its current safeguarding priority areas of Contextual Safeguarding, Neglect and Domestic Abuse. Our focus on delivering against strategies and action plans will continue, while also enabling our children and services to recover from the Covid pandemic.

There will be an increased focus on the quality assurance functions of CSAP with plans already underway to undertake single-agency Section 11 self-evaluation audits and Section 157/ 175 audits of schools. As remaining CSPRs are completed, there will be an increased emphasis on the delivery of actions plans and identifying if they have had the intended impact. As our quality assurance activity increases, we will seek to better understand the effectiveness of our work through the most important lens of all – its impact on our children.

Independent Scrutiny



As the Independent Scrutineer, my job is to look at what the 3 (three) partners (Police, Local Authorities and Health) are doing to keep children safe in their area. I can say that the work they have reported in the annual report is true and shows how much work has been undertaken by social workers, family support officers, nurses, doctors, police officers, teachers and many others to help keep children safe.

These professionals have had to do this work at the time of the Covid pandemic which has made their work even more difficult. More importantly, this time has continued to be difficult for everyone and we are all concerned about the long-term effect Covid will have on children and families.

In order to do my job, I meet with senior people across all agencies and attend the key meetings which they hold. I am satisfied that the partners have the structures and processes in place that are required by law and they are working effectively in their safeguarding work.

The partners have developed four main areas of work which they are prioritising:

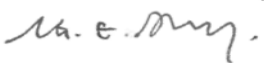
- *Neglect*
- *Domestic Abuse*
- *Contextual Safeguarding*
- *Covid recovery*

These are the areas that the partners focus on and there is a lot of work being done to make sure the arrangements in this area are working well. Whilst in all of these areas there is further room for development, the partners have developed action plans which will see further improvement.

Conclusion

It has continued to be a difficult time for everyone and this includes the Safeguarding Partnership but I can report that real progress has been made and the partnership has been able to identify those areas where they need to make improvements.

I am grateful for the incredible work being undertaken on the front line and would like to thank members of the Executive Board for their openness and transparency over this year, which has enabled further progress to be made.



Stephen Ashley
Independent Scrutineer
Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire CSAP

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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: | 22 September 2022 |

CORPORATE PARENT PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2022

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report 2022.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the contents of the report and identify any areas for additional scrutiny.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 For Members of the Scrutiny Committee to be aware of the Corporate Parent Panel's work during 2021/2022.

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 Blackpool Children's Services hold four Corporate Parent Panels (CPP) each year. The Justuz Children in Care Council also attend every meeting to update the Panel on their ongoing work, activities and events they have attended as well as raising any new issues and share

positive experiences.

- 6.2 The Corporate Parent Panel is chaired by Cllr Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Schools. The Director of Children Services, Vicky Gent, also attends along with representatives from the Justuz group, Elected Members representing all parties and all Heads of Service for Children’s Social Care.
- 6.3 The Corporate Parent Panel continues to work to a Plan which outlines the reports that are required for consideration by panel members, to monitor annual progress and supports the development of children’s services.
- 6.4 At each Panel meeting individuals representing Children Services teams and partnership organisations are invited to present their Annual Reports, which give detailed accounts of the work being done to deliver support and services to our children and young people. Justuz members are presented with the reports and invited to give their feedback prior to each Panel and asked to comment, raise concerns on any progress made or ask questions. Their feedback is included in the finalised reports, to ensure we capture the views and opinions of our children and young people and ensure that these influence actions required.
- 6.5 The Annual report attached at Appendix 13(a) outlines the work that has been undertaken in 2021-2022.
- 6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 13(a) – Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report 2022

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 N/A

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 N/A

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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Corporate Parent Panel Report June 2022

Blackpool Council



Overview of Panel

Blackpool Children's Services hold four Corporate Parent Panels (CPP) and a take-over meeting by our children and young people each year. The Justuz Children in Care Council start every meeting to update the Panel on their ongoing work, activities and events they have attended as well as raising any new issues and share positive experiences.

What children and young people bring to CPP is decided by the young people themselves either following wider consultation with other children and young people in our care what they have decided as a group need to be discussed or improved. Justuz will also feedback on the work they are involved in for specific areas of services provided to our children and young people including their views and co-production of possible solutions/ changes required to improve outcomes for children and young people. Justuz are actively encouraged by panel members to be open and honest about their experiences as children and young people cared for by Blackpool Children's Services.

The Corporate Parent Panel is chaired by Cllr Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools. The Director of Children Services, Vicky Gent, also attends along with representatives from the Justuz group, Elected Members representing all parties and all Heads of Service for Children's Social Care.

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At each Panel meeting individuals representing Children Services teams and partnership organisations are invited to present their Annual Reports, which give detailed accounts of the work being done to deliver support and services to our children and young people. Justuz members are presented with the reports and invited to give their feedback prior to each Panel and asked to comment, raise concerns on any progress made or ask questions. Their feedback is included in the finalised reports, to ensure we capture the views and opinions of our children and young people and ensure that these influence actions required.

It is an expectation that all reports submitted to the Panel will have had consultation with our children and young people and their views incorporated into the report.

There are other set agenda items which includes monitoring the progress of the action tracker. Individuals are tasked with actions to complete and report back on at the next Panel. It is imperative that tasks are completed in order to continue to improve the services delivered to our children and families.

Following the ongoing review of the Corporate Parent Panel, the membership has been extended to include representatives of partner agencies, including Housing, Health and Education and Lancashire Constabulary.

The 5 Promises

One of the tasks of Panel is to continue to monitor the delivery of **The Pledge** making sure at all times we are fulfilling the commitment and promises made to our children and young people.

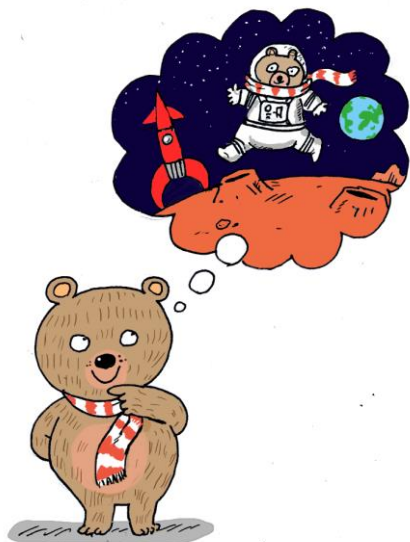
Following the results of the Annual Survey which was based on The Pledge and through discussions with Justuz it was agreed that our pledge needed a revamp. Our new 5 Promises needed to be incorporated and it was felt that a younger version needed to be created so our children under the age of 8 know what promises we have made to them too.

A Co-Production Group was created from Justuz members, the Participation Service and Stephen Donnelly who is a graphic designer with our Communication Team. The co-produce group met over several sessions to look at the content and to create a new brighter, colourful and fresh design and give the pledge a new look.

The children and young people decided to re-name The Pledge to **The 5 Promises!**

They said “Everyone understands what a promise is and it isn’t something that should be broken unlike a pledge”

The younger version of the 5 Promises will feature our very own Blackpool Bear, Benny as chosen by our children.



Benny will feature on every page of the story book as we explain how we promise to care for him, keep him safe, help him learn, be happy and healthy, make sure he see his family and support him as he grows up to be whatever he wants to be in the future.

The 5 PROMISES

Blackpool's Pledge to Our Children and Young People

As your corporate parents, we want you to know that we will keep you safe, treat you with care and respect, support you to have meaningful relationships, have a good education and make sure you are happy, healthy and ready to make your way in the world so you can go on to achieve all your hopes and dreams.

1. Care & Respect

WE PROMISE to CARE about you, so you feel safe and loved and we will always treat you with RESPECT.

- Listen to you
- Keep you safe
- Be honest and open
- Involve you in the decision made about your life
- Talk to you and write about you with care and respect and in a way that you can understand
- Come and see you when we say we will and be on time
- Return your calls and messages and be there when you need us
- Do the things that we say we will
- Celebrate your Successes
- Spend time with you so we get to know you really well
- Never give up on you



Friendships

2. Your Relationships

WE PROMISE to build a trusting RELATIONSHIP with you and makes sure you see and spend time with the people who are important to you.

- Make sure you live with people you like and who really care about you
- Make sure you keep in touch and see the people who are important to you as long as it is safe
- Continue to work together with your family to look at ways that you could return home safely in the future
- Make sure you spend time with your brothers and sisters if you can't live with them and keep working to bring you back together whenever possible
- Work really hard to make sure you don't have lots of changes of people who support you
- Support you to build a good network of people around you who you like and trust
- Spend quality time with you so we get to know you really well
- Come and say goodbye if we have to leave



Included

3. Your Health

WE PROMISE to make sure you are HAPPY & HEALTHY

- Make sure you have the right support to meet any health needs you have
- Make sure we arrange your health check with you
- Make sure you understand the reasons why you are in our care
- Make sure you know your family's history in a way that you can understand
- Make sure you get the right support around your mental health
- Help you to make and keep friendships
- Give you opportunities to learn new skills to keep fit and healthy within your local community
- Make sure you have your passport to leisure
- Make sure you know your health history when you turn 18



4. Your Education

WE PROMISE to care about your EDUCATION and give you every opportunity to learn and achieve.

- Make sure you attend a Nursery/School/College where you are happy and able to achieve
- Make sure you get the right support around your learning if and when you need it
- Give you lots of opportunities to learn new things and take part in after school activities
- Try our best not to move your school unless it really isn't working for you
- Make sure you don't get taken out of your lessons just because we need to see you
- Provide opportunities for you to come and work with the council if it is right for you
- Support you to achieve your goals and career path whatever you choose to do
- Give you opportunities to have meaningful work experience
- Make sure you have the right equipment to support your learning



Happiness

5. Your Future

WE PROMISE to help prepare you for the FUTURE and support you to fulfill your hopes and dreams

- Support you to learn life skills so that you can be independent in the future
- Be ambitious for you and encourage you to dream big
- Make sure you know how much money you are entitled to and learn how to manage it
- Make sure you know and understand your rights as a child/young adult who has experienced care
- Help you to find a good home when it is time for you to live independently
- Support you to stay with the people you live with at 18 with if it's what you both want
- Work with you to create the right plan for your future
- Support you into education, training or work so you can achieve your goals
- Continue to work with the Care Leavers Covenant
- Listen to you and your experience so you have a voice in how our services continue to develop
- Keep the door open for you so you can come back if you need us



Careers

Each Elected Member on the Panel has agreed to be the champion for each one on the promises.

- Care and Respect (overarching theme) – Cllr Hobson
- Your Relationships – Cllr Burdess
- Health and Happiness – Cllr Scott
- Your Education – Cllr Stansfield
- Your future – Cllr Critchley

Alongside the 5 Promises, work is also being undertaken to develop a new Corporate Parenting Strategy. Several workshops and consultation events have taken place, to gain views and ideas of current members, as well as identify any gaps in membership. The Strategy will support the Panel's governance and will identify key activities that will formulate a delivery plan for each of the 5 themes. Some of this will be delivered and monitored by other services and partnerships so there will be some alignment of governance structures, reporting and monitoring arrangements. It will also identify performance indicators for each theme that will form a corporate parenting dashboard.

An event is being planned to take place during September, to support our Blackpool partners to sign up their commitments regarding our new 5 Promises.

Celebrating Our Children's Achievements

Our **You Rock Awards** took place on Friday 12th November '21 in The Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens. It was amazing to be all back together following Covid preventing us from holding the awards earlier in the year. 165 of our children and young people were nominated by their Social Workers, Personal Advisors, Independent Reviewing Officers, Foster Carers, Teachers and Support Workers. 105 of these children and young people came to collect their awards in person on the night. They were all given an invite to bring several guests of their choice to come along and celebrate with them, as well as the person who nominated them. The event was supported by our Elected Members from Corporate Parenting Panel, as well as Cllr Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council. Officers from Children's Services also were in attendance and our DCS, Vicky Gent, did a wonderful job of hosting the event.

It is always a great sense of pride and privilege to hear what our children and young people have achieved over the past year, however it was especially poignant this time, as they had all managed to continue to achieve and do some amazing things despite dealing with the Covid restrictions, being in and out of lockdown, not attending school, not being able to see their family and friends, as well as coping with life in general. It was a brilliant night and the feedback from our children and young people was extremely positive and something they say they look forward to each year.



This year awards will be held on **Friday 25th November 2022**



War Against Words and Blackpool Families Rock

Justuz have created a poster to promote and highlight the importance of the use of language when we speak and write about our children. It has been brilliant to see the progress we have seen over the last two years. The way our practitioners, Social Workers, IROs, PAs and Family Support Workers are recording on their children's records shows real awareness of the language they use when speaking to them and about them. The electronic recording system Mosaic records for our children will soon be changing to reflect this and the old language is due to be removed from the electronic forms which social workers use for our children's report, reviews and assessments etc.

Justuz will continue to remind us and promote their war against words to ensure we continue to show them how important they are to us by using a language that cares.

WAR AGAINST WORDS

JUSTUZ

The Children in Our Care Council on behalf of all the children we care for. Have asked us all to stop using these words and phrases and speak to them and write about them in way that shows we really care. No social work jargon, No abbreviations, No formal language, nothing that highlights us as being in care, just plain simple language that we all understand.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THE CHANGE! Let's show our children and young people how important they are to us by using a LANGUAGE THAT CARES!

LAC CIOC's, SOC's or CLA's BANNED
Dont abbreviate us, we dont LAC in anything we arent CIOC's or SOC's or CLA's. We are children and young people who are in your care. So claim as yours, talk about us collectively as being our children and young people. Or maybe call us by our names !!

STAT VISIT BANNED
Just tell us... You are coming to visit us and see how we are doing. We dont need to know about Stat visits, this make us feel you are only coming to see us because you have to.

PLACEMENT BANNED
just say or write our home or where I live. Living in a placement makes us feel like it is not our home and not somewhere where we can settle and belong. We don't want to live in placements we want to live in homes with people who care about us. So when you are looking for a home for us , or if things are not working out for us where we are, don't talk or write about it being a placement that is breaking down, or searching for a new placement, find us a new home or somewhere for us to live.

BEING DESCRIBED AS A CASE BANNED
Makes us feel like we aren't a person and that we aren't cared about, just part of your job.

CONTACT BANNED
Just say or write... you are making plans for us to see our family, you are going to see your Mum, Dad, Nan or your brother and sisters...

HEALTH ASSESSMENT BANNED
We prefer it to be called a HEALTH CHECK it doesn't sound as formal or scary and we understand what it means.

THE LAC REVIEW BANNED
Just call it MY REVIEW

CARE PLAN BANNED
We know we have to have a plan but its name highlights us as being in care! Just call it MY PLAN.

RESPITE BANNED
This can make us feel like we are an inconvenience and not a part of the family. We prefer SLEEPOVERS or STAYOVERS as everyone has them!

REMEMBER YOU ARE SPEAKING AND WRITING ABOUT OUR LIVES. THIS NEEDS TO BE DONE IN A LANGUAGE THAT SHOWS US YOU CARE.

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

Illuminate Project with Blackpool Grand Theatre



The project is now in its 2nd year and so far we have 35 of our children age 8 to 13 years take part in the sessions that have been held for two days every school holiday. It has been amazing to watch our children grow in confidence, stand up and perform in front of others, express their thoughts and feelings, make new friends and create some brilliant artistic creations. We have more sessions planned during the summer holidays and then will preparing for our finale in October half term with a Premier showing of **Illuminate The Movie!** All the children's work and performances has been recorded over the 2 years and will be showcased at the theatre at a red carpet event.

Watch out for your invite!

JUSTUZ - TRAINING FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Two young people from Justuz have created their own training programme for newly qualified social workers. They have used their knowledge and expertise of what it like to be in care and receive social workers support. They know first-hand what makes a good social worker and what it takes to build meaningful relationships so they can build trust which they have told us is the most important thing to have.

With support from our Children's Services Practice Development Team and the Participation Team they will be delivering the training to 15 Social Workers in June. We will report back at Panel and hopefully they can let you know how they got on!

YOUNG INSPECTORS

The Young Inspectors Programme continues to evolve and develop, being co-produced with our Young Inspectors. They have now created a short training session for any new inspectors joining the scheme. Through consultation with our young people, workers and semi-independent providers a charter mark has now been developed.

This list of Standards is what our young people tell us what makes a good home and what support it is that they need to move on successfully and become independent. The Charter Mark is now being used during inspections to measure the home and if all standards are met the home will receive the Charter Mark. Homes can also apply to be considered for a Gold Charter Mark if they can evidence how they go above

and beyond what's expected. A Panel of Young Inspectors and Commissioners will together award the Charter Mark and Gold Mark if deserved. We hope that all our Semi-Independent Homes will strive to make the improvements necessary to gain the Charter Mark and then go on to push for the gold mark, so continually driving up the standards for our young people and creating a consistently excellent offer of care and support whichever home they live in.

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. |
| I know what money I have to pay each week. |

The costs are reasonable and I understand what I am paying for?

Home is clear on any extra cost that I have to pay, this needs to be clearly stated, easy to understand and YP aware of what they are paying for before they move in.

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 |

Young Inspectors remit already is being widened to look at Residential Children’s Home, they have recently being approached by Commissioning Service to support the setup of a new Children’s Home in Blackpool who wants to care for children. They have been to visit the property being proposed and given their views and expertise on what makes a good home. They made such a good impression that they have been asked if they will support the recruitment of staff for the new home to make sure they employ the best possible people.

SHAKE IT UP 2022



The invites have now gone out for our 2nd Annual Children in Our Care Conference SHAKE IT UP 2022.

The conference will take place on Monday 25th July at

The Winter Gardens in Blackpool. We have a great day planned which hopefully will allow our children age 10 and above to come together and give them the opportunity to tell us about the things that really matter to them, spend a fun day together with their social workers, IRO’s, support workers etc., meet some of the decision makers in Children’s Service, share their voice and of course a have a really good time.

Engagement Lead overview of partnership update provided to the Corporate Parenting Panel

Over the last 12 months the Corporate Parent Panel has received assurance from a number of services about the work with they have been undertaking with our children and young people who have left our care, to fulfill the commitment and promises we have made within our Pledge. Justuz have been consulted on all of these reports. These reports have included:

- Educational Achievements & Destinations for Our Children
- Co-Production of Health Assessments for Our Children
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report
- The Care Leaver's Offer
- Youth Justice Annual Report
- Regulation 44 Visits including Young Inspectors
- Virtual School Annual Report
- Adoption Services Annual Report
- Fostering Services Annual Report
- Opportunities Update for Our Children.

Document Control

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|--------------------------|---|
| Report to: | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| Relevant Officer: | Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager. |
| Date of Meeting: | 22 September 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.

2.0 Recommendations:

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

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

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

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

3.2 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 14(a) is a draft of the proposed Workplan for 2022/2023, which will be used as 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. 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 **Implementation of Recommendations/Actions**

The table attached at Appendix 14(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.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 **List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 10(a) - Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Draft 2022/2023 Workplan.
Appendix 10(b) - Implementation of Recommendations/Actions.
Appendix 10(c) - Scrutiny Selection Checklist

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 2022/2023 | |
|---|--|
| 30 June 2022 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Social Care Improvement – To receive a report on the number of children and young people who are re-referred back into the social care system following discharge. 2. Oracle Building Update – To receive an update on SEND provisions at the Oracle building. 3. Literacy Strategy Update – To receive an update on the implementation of the Literacy Strategy. 4. SEND Strategy – To receive the final version of the SEND Strategy. 5. CYP Workplanning – To receive the scoping documents for the Mental Health for Young Men and Suicide Prevention Review and Young People classed as NEET Review. |
| 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. Early Years Funding – To receive information on funding for Early Years. 5. Education/SEND – To receive information on the impact of the pandemic on early language and speech development. 6. CSAP Annual Report – To consider CSAPs annual report. 7. 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. Young Inspectors – To receive an update on the work of the Young Inspectors. 3. Literacy Strategy Update – To receive an update on the implementation of the Literacy Strategy. 4. Schools Response to the Pandemic Scrutiny Review – Recommendation monitoring and the impact of the pandemic on pupil attainment. 5. 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. 6. Library Service – To receive a report on the Library Service. 7. HeadStart Final Report – To receive HeadStart's final report. |
| 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 | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Started July 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> |
| 3 October 2022 | <p>Catch-Up/Recovery Premium Spend Review</p> <p>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> |
| 26 September 2022 | <p>Young People classed as Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET)</p> <p>To consider this cross-cutting issue which disproportionally 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</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> |
| October 2022 | <p>DfE Safety Valve Programme</p> <p>To review details of the Council's participation in the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme</p> |
| TBC | <p>SEND Review Recommendations</p> <p>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</p> <p>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. | |
| 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. | November 2022 | Kirsty Fisher, Engagement Officer | To be provided at the Committee meeting in November 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) | | Complete |
| 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 | | Complete |
| 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) | | Complete |
| 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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