

Blackpool Better Start Scrutiny Review Action Plan

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

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R2	That Better Start works in conjunction with the Council's Performance, Systems and Intelligence Manager to target future interventions where appropriate more specifically to those parents identified as being at risk of having their children taken into care, with a periodic review of the subsequent impact on the data of children born into care.		Yes	Update to Committee December 2021	Director of Centre for Early Child Development Performance, Systems and Intelligence Manager	Work is underway with Robert Arrowsmith and Oxford University to link Council data with Better Start Data. In addition, Better Start funds are being invested in undertaking a review of pathways and support from Lancaster University to compare local and national research and best practice in preventing children being born into care. The work also includes learning from those with lived experience to support this recommendation.
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R3	That Better Start should produce a Communication Strategy within the following six months outlining how best practice will be better shared locally, with the aim of raising awareness of the positive outcomes of Better Start interventions and of upcoming events. This should address how communication will be improved with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.		Yes	December 2021	Director of Centre for Early Child Development	Better Start has a Communications Strategy which was written in 2020. The strategy is due to be updated along with the broader Better Start Strategy in early 2022 to support and reflect the plan for the next three years.
R4	That Better Start should introduce within the next six months a regular update bulletin to Councillors informing them of recent achievements and forthcoming events, as well as information on how they can get involved in any programmes.		Yes	December 2021	Director of Centre for Early Child Development	Councillor Williams is a member of the Better Start Executive Board where quarterly updates are shared in relation to communications, data, finance and programme developments and events. An additional bulletin can be provided if still required.

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