

Schedule of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee recommendations made and actions in response

Meeting	item	Recommendations	Action	Status
5 July 2017	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017 – 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee welcomes the strategy, supports the priorities identified and agrees to provide a summary of comments and recommendations to the cabinet member; - The committee requests annual performance reports relating to the action plan in the strategy; - The committee provides a forum, where appropriate, for children and young people in care and care leavers to hold their Corporate Parents to account; - The members of the committee facilitate training, with officers, on corporate parenting to all members of Herefordshire Council; - The committee recommends that the cabinet member reviews the measures for success and outcomes sought in the action plan on a regular basis to see whether any measures need to be strengthened; - The committee recommends that procedures are introduced to ensure that significant decisions of the council take account formally of likely implications for looked after children; - The committee recommends that members undertake a mentoring role, where 	<p>Response of executive:</p> <p>The draft strategy was discussed at the children's scrutiny committee on 5 July 2017; they are supportive of the strategy and associated action plan and have requested that an annual update on its implementation is presented to the committee. The recommendations have been considered by the cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing and as a consequence children's scrutiny is referred to in the action plan:</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2017-20</p>	Action plan implementation update to be scheduled for 16 July 2018.

		<p>appropriate, for looked after children to share skills and experience to help enhance personal development and there is consideration of how this is best facilitated and publicised; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee recommends that methods and strategies are investigated to engage partners and businesses in corporate parenting. 		
	Annual reports for the fostering and adoption services	<p>Resolved – that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the committee notes the annual reports from the adoption and fostering services and agrees to feedback comments to the cabinet member; and b) the adoption and fostering reports are considered as separate agenda items in future years. 	Adoption service and Fostering service annual reports allocated to the draft work programme 2018/19 for committee on 16 July 2016.	Completed
2 October 2017	Commissioning intentions for universal and early help services for children, young people and families	<p>Resolved - That the committee:</p> <p>supports the extension of the family befriending services contracts with the existing providers to the end of March 2018;</p> <p>has significant concerns about the commissioning exercise proposed. The cabinet members for health and wellbeing and young people and children's wellbeing are asked to have regard to the committee's concerns, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - i) The reported lack of consultation concerning safeguarding arrangements and engagement 	<p>Response of executive:</p> <p>i) The intention to re-procure health visiting and school nursing services has been in the public domain since August 2016. CCG colleagues have been involved in steps taken thereafter to inform future commissioning intentions. There has been an opportunity to raise any issues or questions regarding procurement, during this time.</p> <p>A generalised concern regarding safeguarding arrangements had been</p>	Completed. Committee may wish to request an update report on the implementation of the contract.

		<p>with the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ii) The provision of services in rural areas; - iii) The requirement for additional detail in the report, in particular the contract specification ; and - iv) A reported lack of communication with the CCG. <p>requests that, before a decision is taken on the proposal, the cabinet members share additional information with the committee, including the contract specification.</p>	<p>raised by the CCG very recently prior to the scrutiny committee meeting and reassurances were provided to the CCG that discussions to understand the detail would be welcome and these have since been initiated.</p> <p>Issues relating to <i>safeguarding</i> commissioning responsibilities are resolvable through further discussion.</p> <p>There is no requirement to present the commissioning proposal to the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Board, because the service will be required to adhere to all national and local policies, guidance, standards and procedures.</p> <p>Further discussion and an agreed way forward have been made with the Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board, including a request to include reference to safeguarding within this paper (see para 7).</p> <p>ii) It is recognised that there are challenges in delivering timely and accessible services across a rural county and this has been reflected in the draft specification. To respond to those challenges, the provider will be required to ensure that access is available via drop-in sessions (which could be held in any community facility or venue), clinics, home visits, telephone contact, texting and other formats appropriate for the families and community. Broadband</p>	
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			<p>coverage across the county is currently 83% (30Mbps) so the provider will need to demonstrate how they will work with families who currently have no access to broadband or where phone signals are not available. The provider will also be expected to be organised around geographical areas/localities and pragmatically structured in line with local children's centre reach areas. The provider will also identify a named public health nurse link to each GP practice, children's centre and school, in order to facilitate local liaison, information-sharing and joint working in the best interests of families.</p> <p>iii) the draft specifications for the commissioning of 0-25 PH Nursing services and family mentoring services, to which have been added the requested additional detail relating to targets and outcomes and key issues outlined in the JSNA, have been made available, by exemption, to council members of the Children's Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>iv) This concern is not accepted and a summary of engagement activity is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the CCG have been engaged since August 2016 when CCG requirements were reviewed; • a public online survey was launched 	
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			<p>in November 2016;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stakeholder engagement events To which GP and CCG representatives were invited were held during December 2016 through to end of January 2017; • feedback events were held in February 2017; • an early years review/scoping workshop held in May 2017; • Soft market testing was undertaken June/July 2017; • Updates have been provided to a Joint Commissioning Board which includes representatives of the CCG and reports to the CCG Board in August/September 2017; • Engagement/information session with GPs on key principles to be incorporated into the specification, was held in October 2017.and ongoing engagement agreed re implementation arrangements. 	
	Herefordshire safeguarding	Resolved – that:	Update from Chair of HSCB containing <i>Model Initial Parish Action Plan for</i>	Completed

	children's board (HSCB) annual report 2016/17 and business plan 2017/19	<p>a) The annual report and effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Herefordshire as assessed by the Board are noted; and</p> <p>b) The strategic priorities identified by the Board are noted.</p>	<i>Promoting a Safer Church</i> and latest detail with reference to work on the role of Parish Councils in safeguarding children.	
	Outcomes of casework peer review	Resolved – that the committee notes the report and offers congratulations to the teams involved in the review for the positive feedback received.		Completed
	Children's Wellbeing self-assessment	Resolved – that the committee notes the draft self-assessment document for the Children's Wellbeing Directorate.		Completed
4 December 2017	Children and Young People Mental Health Partnership	<p>That the committee:</p> <p>supports the response of the CCG to the task and finish group recommendations;</p> <p>supports the objectives of the Herefordshire Children and Young People Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Transformation Plan 2015 – 2020; and</p> <p>requests an update report on the implementation of the plan in 2018.</p>	To determine the timing an update on the implementation of the plan in 2018.	Ongoing
	Children's Wellbeing self-assessment – update	<p>That the Committee:</p> <p>endorses the self-assessment in its current form; and</p> <p>agrees that the comments raised by the committee are circulated to the cabinet member.</p>	Excerpt of minutes detailing the discussion sent to the cabinet member for Children and Young People.	Ongoing

5 February 2018	School Examination Performance	<p>Resolved – that the committee:</p> <p>Recognises positive attainment in a number of areas of school examination performance but in particular in the field of phonics;</p> <p>Requests a briefing note on the current level of NEETs, the new data recording system and a breakdown of statistics to include indicators around rural/urban/market towns/gender/traveller community;</p> <p>Requests a briefing note on the role of the Regional Schools Commissioner and a focus on areas of overlap with the Council; and</p> <p>Agrees to write to government to express concern regarding the lack of regulation and monitoring in respect of home schooling. The correspondence should include reference to the potential impacts of home schooling upon the educational achievements of children and safeguarding responsibilities of the Council.</p>	<p>Correspondence sent to Nadhim Zahawi MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families. Copied to Jesse Norman MP and Bill Wiggin MP.</p> <p>Response received.</p>	
	Children and Young Peoples Plan	<p>Resolved - that the committee:</p> <p>Supports the inclusion of: obesity; dental health; mental health and wellbeing; transport; and youth facilities as key areas of focus for the plan;</p> <p>Supports the implementation of a robust monitoring framework for the new version of the Plan; and</p> <p>Asks for the draft Plan to be presented to the</p>	<p>Allocated to the committee's draft work</p>	Completed

		committee ahead of consideration at Cabinet and full Council.	programme 2018/19 for committee on 16 July 2018.	
16 April 2018	Autism Strategy for Herefordshire 2018 – 2021	<p>Resolved – that:</p> <p>(a) the significant successes achieved in the first Herefordshire autism strategy published in 2014 be recognised;</p> <p>(b) the outcomes identified by the strategy and the means in the action plan to achieve these ends be supported but noting that the committee would like to see more detailed milestones;</p> <p>(c) it be requested that as the action plan evolves additional base line data is included in the action plan to ensure tangible and quantifiable measures of performance and success, particularly in respect of improving diagnosis rates;</p> <p>(d) the executive be asked to investigate the development of a system/process to ensure an accurate picture of the incidence of autism across Herefordshire can be produced;</p> <p>(e) efforts to improve diagnosis rates and the recording of autism within GP patient records be supported and Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group asked to take this initiative forward as a matter of priority;</p> <p>(f) the executive be asked to take steps to work more closely with independent and private schools in Herefordshire to share data regarding enrolled autistic pupils to enable the production of comprehensive statistics of pupils in the county with</p>	<p>Resolutions of the Committee sent to the Executive for a response.</p> <p>Resolution (e) sent to the Herefordshire CCG for consideration.</p>	<p>Awaiting Executive Response.</p> <p>Strategy to be presented to Cabinet later in 2018</p>

		<p>autism;</p> <p>(g) the executive be asked to consider methods to promote employment at the council to people with autism;</p> <p>(h) the executive be asked to consider contacting key local organisations, such as Halo leisure, to ensure they promote autism-friendly service provision;</p> <p>(i) the executive be asked to ensure that the Herefordshire branch of the National Autistic Society and the Hereford Autism Partnership are consultees during the planning process to ensure that new housing and public access buildings have autism-friendly design considerations;</p> <p>(j) the executive be asked to investigate proposals to ensure that new and existing council buildings and facilities are autism-friendly; and</p> <p>(k) the executive be asked to consider autistic-awareness training for new members of staff and elected members of the Council and ensure that all members are able to disseminate good practices within their local communities.</p>		
	LGA Safeguarding Peer Review Feedback	<p>Resolved – that:</p> <p>(a) a report be submitted on the referrals to the MASH, in particular those by West Mercia Police, for review by the Committee;</p> <p>(b) it be requested that corporate parent training for all members be made mandatory;</p>	<p>(a) scrutiny arrangements to be determined at work programming session for 2018/19.</p> <p>(b) corporate parenting is a mandatory training module and must be completed within three months of being elected.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p>

		<p>(c) progress on actions in the finalised improvement plan is reported to the Committee, at 3, 6 and 12 months to enable it to be monitored; and</p> <p>(d) the Committee's recognition and support of the work of staff in this challenging area be noted.</p>	<p>(c) briefing notes for progress at 3 and 6 monthly intervals added to the work programme. The 12 month progress report to be allocated to the first committee in the new term.</p>	Completed
14 May 2018	Learning Disability Strategy 2018 – 2028	<p>Resolved – that the committee:</p> <p>(a) supports the strategy and requests the missing information, concerning health and wellbeing outcomes and social impact, and the implementation plan is shared with the committee when available;</p> <p>(b) requests that the executive prioritise the incorporation of improved metrics in the strategy to measure progress and provide evidence that objectives are realising desired outcomes;</p> <p>(c) requests that the executive considers making updates on the development and implementation of the strategy available through an appropriate forum e.g. the corporate budget and performance report;</p> <p>(d) asks the executive to provide a report to the committee, in due course, on the re-modelling of the Learning Disability Partnership Board;</p> <p>(e) asks the executive to consider appointing a member champion for learning disabilities;</p>	<p>Executive response, 7 June:</p> <p>(a) Agreed. The information will be circulated to committee members by 01 October 2018 and it will be for the committee to determine whether to include further consideration in its work programme;</p> <p>(b) Agreed. This will form part of the first years activity in the implementation plan.</p> <p>(c) Agreed. Progress will be reported through the quarterly corporate performance reporting process.</p> <p>(d) Agreed. The information will be circulated to committee members by 31 December 2018 and it will be for the committee to determine whether to include further consideration in its work programme</p> <p>(e) Agreed. A draft role profile will be prepared and the Leader of the Council will consult with political group leaders before making an appointment.</p>	

		<p>(f) asks the executive and the CCG to investigate methods of utilising learning disability registers, held by GP surgeries, to provide evidence for those with learning disabilities to more easily obtain bus passes;</p> <p>(g) asks the executive to investigate the promotion of a scheme, similar to the Gloucestershire 50/50 strategy, in Herefordshire to encourage employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities; and</p> <p>(h) ensures that following the adoption of the strategy, the CCG and the 2gether Trust are held to account for those elements of the strategy for which they are responsible.</p>	<p>(f) Not agreed. Whilst the problem is recognised, there are still complex issues with accessing and sharing learning disability registration data in order to achieve this specific outcome. The requirement for and provision of qualifying information for exemption schemes will be considered across the whole of the health and wellbeing pathway.</p> <p>(g) Agreed. Knowledge gained from the Gloucestershire 50/50 learning disability employment strategy will be incorporated into planned work to promote employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities in Herefordshire and that this will form part of the 2018-19 implementation plan;</p> <p>(h) This is not a function of the executive. The scrutiny committee may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in its area and make reports and recommendations directly to the relevant body.</p>	
	Children's safeguarding and family support performance data	Resolved - that a report concerning referrals to the MASH is added to the work programme for the committee in September to include an invitation to Sally Halls to participate in the item and access to comparative data from other local authorities.	Item added to the Committee's work programme for 17 September.	

16 July 2018	Minutes of the previous meeting (14 May)	<p><i>'f. asks the executive and the CCG to investigate methods of joint working with GP surgeries to assist those with learning disabilities to more easily obtain bus passes'</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: that subject to the change outlined above the committee approves the minutes of the meeting on 14 May 2018.</p>		
	Fostering and Adoption Annual reports	<p>RESOLVED: that the committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Expresses concern regarding the lack of progress in joining a regional adoption agency and the executive is requested to undertake any available actions to expedite membership of Adoption Central England; 2) Requests clarification regarding how the overspends of the fostering service and external fostering budget in 2017/18 have been addressed; 3) Asks the executive to approach local cultural and leisure providers to attempt to secure concessionary rates for looked after children; and 4) Notes the annual reports 2017/18 for the 	Executive response	

- 1) The council has been working in line with the DfE expectations in joining a regional adoption agency and has recently received guidance on the requirements for the next stage, which involves providing a submission to ACE for their consideration. The council aims to join ACE by 31st March 2019 pending agreement by ACE and Cabinet.
- 2) The budget for 2018/19 was adjusted to provide more resource for anticipated spend in these areas when the budget was set. Work to reduce the numbers of children and young people in the care of the authority continues.
- 3) Agreed.

		fostering and adoption services.		
	Children and Young People Plan 2018 - 2023	<p>RESOLVED: that the Committee recommends that the Plan includes reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the impact of poverty and deprivation on children and young people; b) refugee and migrant children and families; and c) the issue of County lines under the <i>be safe from harm</i> priority. 		
17 September 2018	Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019	<p>RESOLVED: that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. endorses the Plan for presentation to full Council; b. notes the improvement in the rate of first time entrants across West Mercia but recognises further progress is required to reduce the rate in Herefordshire; c. supports an increase in the use of informal responses, such as community resolution, to divert young people from the formal justice system and recommends that this is progressed as a priority; d. expresses concern regarding the persistently high level of reoffending in Herefordshire and recommends that the General Scrutiny Committee review the reducing youth 		

		<p>offending delivery plan, being produced by the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership, and also scrutinises the CSPs approach to youth crime and anti-social behaviour;</p> <p>e. agrees witnesses from the police, the CSP and other relevant partners such as Addaction will be invited to participate in the committees future consideration of the Youth Justice Plan; and</p> <p>f. requests that the Plan incorporates clarity regarding why it is produced, to whom it is aimed and the communities it serves.</p>		
	Corporate Parenting annual Update	<p>RESOLVED: that the Committee:</p> <p>a. notes the update and recognises the progress made;</p> <p>b. asks the executive to encourage all members to use local contacts to identify employment and work experience opportunities for LAC; and</p> <p>c. agrees to write to local cultural providers to request concessions for LAC.</p>		
	Education, Development and Skills Strategy 2018-2021	<p>RESOLVED: that the Committee:</p> <p>a. supports the Strategy as a high level statement of intent and requests that further detail on the individual projects are circulated when available; and</p> <p>b. requests that the committee is involved in the review of the SEND strategy.</p>		