

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, schedule of recommendations and responses

28 July 2020		
Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Schools Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee recommends that a further survey is undertaken concerning children’s mental health and schooling arrangements during the pandemic; A briefing note is circulated providing details of the number of private nurseries that have opened in September 2020 and stayed open in October and November; An update is provided regarding the national catch-up programme; The work on children’s mental health is prioritised by the committee and includes a review of school pastoral support and a mental health pathway for looked after children; Further detailed examination of the outcomes of the survey is undertaken to determine how the provision and effectiveness of mental health services were impacted during the lockdown; An update is provided regarding the attendance rates after the return to school in September. 	<p>This was undertaken in partnership with public health.</p> <p>Updates were provided at intervals throughout the year. A summary will be produced and circulated.</p> <p>We are awaiting further clarity on the national programme. Schools can access a database of consultants approved by the Department for Education and get funded accordingly. We do not have data at present as to how successful this is seen by schools.</p> <p>Completed. Item scheduled for 7 December 2021 meeting on Health and Wellbeing to include mental health in schools.</p> <p>This is provided monthly.</p>

19 January 2021

Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
<p>Provision of children centre service in Bromyard area: pre-decision scrutiny</p>	<p>1) Has significant concerns about the timing of the proposed decision during the current pandemic and the implications for services users. The committee recommends deferral of the decision and extension of the current contract up to 12 months to enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A comprehensive consultation with the local community, service users and voluntary sector organisations;• Engagement with the HOPE Family Centre to ensure that the Council has necessary evidence to conduct a full and detailed evaluation of the service provided by the HOPE Family Centre and how it compares to the in-house service;• Greater exploration of alternative options including a potential tendering exercise for a commissioned service;• Work to ascertain what staffing arrangements would be put in place to ensure existing HOPE Family Centre staff have a greater degree of understanding about their future roles within the service; and• The committee to undertake a detailed scrutiny exercise on the proposal involving evidence from service users. <p>2) Recommends that in future the committee is made aware of issues of a sensitive and emotive concern to local communities as potential items for scrutiny.</p>	<p>A decision was taken on 19 February 2021 to extend the current contract for the delivery of children’s centre services in the Bromyard reach area to no later than 31 March 2022.</p> <p>The decision also confirmed that further analysis would be provided regarding the benefits and risks of the different options for the future delivery of children’s centre services and that further community engagement would be undertaken to explore the different options for the future delivery of children’s centre services.</p> <p>A further decision on the future of the contract beyond March 2022 will need to be taken in the autumn of 2021 and is proposed to be subject to pre-decision scrutiny.</p> <p>The forward plan will be monitored for forthcoming items and regular liaison will take place between the chair / vice-chair and cabinet member.</p>

23 March 2021		
Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Children and Young People Mental Health	<p>That an update report on CYP mental health is presented to the meeting on 14 September;</p> <p>That the mental health and wellbeing survey is circulated to all members of the committee once completed;</p> <p>That the executive investigates an increase in the number of support assistants trained in emotional literacy in local schools;</p> <p>That the executive looks to work with schools to encourage the identification of safe spaces, as raised by Healthwatch.</p>	To be picked up as part of a themed Mental health agenda for the meeting on 22 March 2022
Herefordshire capital investment strategy 2021-2030 for specialist settings educating children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities SEND	<p>The committee supports the strategy but recommends:</p> <p>That the strategy clarifies that the outcomes of the 6th form consultation for Westfield school will inform the scope of the feasibility study; and</p> <p>Requests that further detail is presented to a future meeting of increasing provision offered for children with autism.</p>	<p>The strategy was approved at Cabinet meeting on 22 April 2021. Requested clarification was included in the final version of the strategy.</p> <p>It was agreed at the committee meeting 30 April 2021 that this be listed as an item to be allocated.</p>

20 May 2021

Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Update on children's legal team	<p>A scrutiny panel is established to monitor recommendations arising from notable cases and their implementation and to have an overview of care concern cases;</p> <p>A project plan with timescales of all legal services teams actions, required as part of the overall improvement plan considerations be produced for the July meeting of CYPSC. (e.g. new escalation protocol and end of life protocol); and</p> <p>As part of the project plan, a tasks vs resources available breakdown be produced to identify who does what to show: 1) Where resources and gaps exist; and 2) the actions and timescales to address them.</p>	<p>An update on the Children's Legal Team Improvement Plan was presented to the committee on 7 September 2021. This included a copy of the resilience and improvement plan and internal escalation policy. A further update was circulated in November 2021.</p> <p>The resilience and improvement plan includes details of activities with lead officers within legal services, target dates and current RAG rating.</p>

1 June 2021		
Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Children's Services Improvement Plan	<p>That the improvement notice is noted</p> <p>That Jane Ellis, Director of Healthwatch Herefordshire be invited to join the improvement board.</p> <p>That the chairperson of the children and young people scrutiny committee attend the first meeting of the improvement board and that a decision be taken at a future meeting as to whether they should be a permanent member of the board, considering advice from the improvement advisor.</p> <p>That additional meetings of the committee be added to the work programme to deal with improvement board matters.</p> <p>That details be provided to the committee of other authorities who could act as examples of good practice.</p> <p>That the improvement advisor be invited to attend a future meeting of the committee.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This was discussed at the improvement board meeting of 9 August 2021. Healthwatch will be invited to take a seat on the operational group to be convened by the interim director for children and families.</p> <p>The chairperson attended the improvement board held on 14 June 2021. Membership of the board was discussed at the improvement board meeting of 9 August 2021. It was agreed that the chairperson of the scrutiny committee should not be a permanent member of the improvement board to maintain independence and enable the committee to undertake scrutiny of the activities of the work of the board.</p> <p>Work programme updated with additional improvement focus meeting for September 2021. Requirement for additional meetings to be reviewed as part of work programming.</p> <p>The improvement advisor, Gladys Rhodes-White, attended the work programming session on 16 July and will be invited to attend future meetings of the committee on appropriate occasions.</p>
Looked After Children Performance Report	<p>That the work programme be updated to include a report on corporate parenting and a report on the independent reviewing service and that these should be included in training.</p>	<p>Added to work programme as agenda items for scheduling. The Annual IRO report was presented to the Committee at their meeting on 23 Nov 2021.</p>
Update on Peer on Peer Abuse Recommendations	<p>An update on the investigation into the historic lack of sharing by the council, including the terms of reference, be shared with the committee by the July meeting.</p>	<p>Terms of reference shared with committee members 28 July and briefing provided to committee members by Natalia Silver.</p>

	<p>That consultation take place with families ahead of the signature of the contract for the mediation service.</p> <p>A quarterly update on peer on peer abuse be shared with the committee, ahead of the July meeting if possible.</p> <p>A list of consultees and approvals be included in the final guidance to schools and included as standard in any similar documents produced in future'</p> <p>That the offer from a member of the public to share their understanding of the Human Rights Act be reviewed at the next committee meeting.</p>	
<p>Report of work of prevent and disrupt group to address child exploitation and the current risk of exploitation in Herefordshire</p>	<p>The committee recommends that arrangements for future meetings and sessions of the prevent and disrupt group that committee members could attend should be advised to the committee.</p>	<p>Invite to Serious Organised Crime Professional Development day (SOCJAG Training) held 2 July 2021 circulated to all councillors.</p>

5 August 2021		
Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Youth Justice Plan 2021-2022	<p>The committee endorse the Youth Justice Plan 2021-2022 for presentation to Council.</p> <p>A written briefing be provided on diversionary schemes and activities.</p> <p>A copy of the national standards and improvement plan be shared with the committee.</p> <p>For the 2022/23 iteration of the plan the committee recommends the inclusion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased evidence of consultation with young people and the wider public; • evidence on staff consultation; and • more information on progress on county lines, exploitation and peer on peer abuse. 	<p>Noted. Presentation of the plan to Cabinet for recommendation to Council has been delayed.</p> <p>Briefing received and circulated to members of the committee.</p>
Co-optee membership of scrutiny committees	<p>The process for the appointment of co-optees set out in appendix one is adopted.</p> <p>The process is used to appoint one representative from the teaching sector.</p> <p>The term of service of co-optees be reviewed with a view to making appointments for more than one year and up to four years, linking to the election cycle.</p> <p>The process is used to recruit an adult representative of families who are or have been supported by social workers and Council be asked to appoint an</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Advertisement is 'live'. Final date for expressions of interest is 14 Jan 2022.</p> <p>14.2.22 Unfortunately those who expressed an interest were ineligible due to the criteria laid out in 3.2 of the Co-optee protocol</p> <p>To be reported to the next Annual Council meeting in May 2022.</p> <p>Advertisement is 'live'. Final date for expressions of interest is 14 Jan 2022</p> <p>14.2.22 Recruitment process underway</p>

additional co-optee at its next suitable meeting.

The induction of co-optees be more structured and include safeguarding training.

Consider how the participatory officer could bring the voice of the child to the committee as and when needed.

Noted

A meeting is to be set up between the Committee and the Participation Officer

7 September 2021		
Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Children's services improvement journey	That progress on development with heat maps be shared with the committee by 23 November 2021	Completed
	That development sessions include members of children's services legal team as well as social workers	Noted
	That the committee review all the challenges identified in the report with a view to identifying areas where scrutiny can contribute	Update report to reflect on progress was presented to the Committee at their meeting on 23 Nov 2021
	That examples of audit documentation be shared with the committee by 23 November 2021	Outstanding
	That a link to relevant information on the council website be provided to the committee	Outstanding
	That the voice of the staff be captured in an appropriate form as evidence for external review and the scrutiny committee	Outstanding
Update on children's legal team improvement plan	The committee notes the progress made to date and the plan to continue with improvements in the Children's Legal Team	Noted.
	Further updates on the legal team improvement plan be presented to the committee bi-monthly, with evidence in the next meeting (23 November 2021) on the service level agreement, knowledge and understanding of when to access legal services by middle managers	A further update was circulated to the Committee on 17 Nov 2021
	Add more clarity on the status of HRA cases and include evidence of training / workshops of areas of concern	
	Post court proceedings meetings be required rather than optional (Q7 in Children's Legal Team Improvement Plan relates);	

	<p>A review of the escalation process be undertaken in relation to decision making by senior officers within the escalation process and support for them, including the criteria under which a second opinion is sought</p> <p>Training be provided to councillors to help them be confident in instigating the call in procedure</p>	
Work Programme Review	<p>Agrees the work programme at appendix 2 with the following amendments:</p> <p>A report on health and wellbeing be scheduled for the December meeting, to include mental health in schools</p> <p>A report on holiday activities provided by schools during covid be scheduled for the December meeting, with a focus on contextual safeguarding</p>	<p>Added to work programme for December 2021.</p> <p>This has been added to the meeting agenda for March</p>

12 October 2021

Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update	
Provision of children centre service in the Bromyard area	<p>The Committee notes the proposals to recommission the provision of the Children's Centre Service in the Bromyard area for two years and makes the following recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="416 459 1267 523">(a) That the Executive consider if an exemption to the contract procedure rules should be applied for.<li data-bbox="416 560 1267 651">(b) That the Executive consider whether further market testing should be carried out to evidence if there are any other potential providers and include details of what they will be asked to tender for.<li data-bbox="416 687 1267 746">(c) That evidence be provided on how discontinuing services from an established provider impacts those currently using the service.<li data-bbox="416 783 1267 847">(d) The Committee receive testimony from the Hope Centre and consider a visit there to understand the activities provided.	To be updated	
Effective scrutiny of children's services: training and development offer	<p>That the Committee notes the LGA training and development offer as set out in appendices A-C to the report and makes the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="416 1129 1267 1193">(a) The Committee agrees to engage with the LGA training and development offer.<li data-bbox="416 1230 1267 1353">(b) The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to draft a response to the self-assessment tool after completing the Leadership Essentials Course and then discuss with Committee members in November 2021	Noted.	Completed

	(c) Notes that the LGA training will dovetail with the offer from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny	Noted.
Work Programme Review	<p>Agrees the work programme at appendix 2 with the following amendments:</p> <p>23 November agenda to include items on IRO, carers portal and exit interviews in children's service</p> <p>A workshop be arranged ahead of the 23 November meeting on the IRO service and carers portal</p> <p>Consider use of performance challenge sessions to cover information items</p>	<p>IRO report scheduled. Briefing note to be provided on Carer's Portal</p> <p>Scheduled</p> <p>Noted</p>

23 November 2021		
Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Annual Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Report	<p>Having reviewed the Independent Reviewing Officer's Report for 2020/21 the Committee recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Committee receive the IRO Report as an annual agenda item. b) The next iteration of the report should include comparator data with statistical neighbours where this was available. c) A workshop be arranged with the participatory officer on how to include the voice of the child in future meetings. d) Health partners be asked to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss barriers for children and young people accessing CAMHS or other therapeutic support and counselling. 	<p>Noted and included in the work plan</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Invited to the meeting on 22 March 2022 which has a mental health focus</p>
Children Improvement Plans – Progress Update	<p>That the Committee noted the progress update and made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Feedback from the third sector (for example community groups and charities) be recognised as an additional source of information informing the whole system approach to quality assurance and performance management b) Work on mental health in schools be highlighted in the Committee work programme 	<p>Noted</p> <p>A mental health agenda is scheduled for the March meeting of the Committee</p>
Work Programme Review	<p>The Committee recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reports on dental health and obesity which were provisionally scheduled as agenda items for the December meeting be instead presented to the Committee as a briefing note, and circulated to the Committee outside of the meeting schedule. 	<p>Outstanding</p>

	<p>b. The scheduled meeting on 7 December 2021 be cancelled.</p> <p>c. A workshop to go through the following items be organised for 7 December 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the headline budget proposals ahead of public scrutiny of the budget in January 2. the LGA scrutiny self-assessment exercise <p>d. A themed mental health agenda be scheduled for the March meeting and that a range of different bodies be asked to submit reports.</p> <p>e. A monthly programme of scrutiny meetings be continued until the end of this municipal year at which point the practice would then be reviewed. There was a caveat placed on this that a meeting should not be held for the sake of it and that if the meeting was not needed it would be cancelled.</p> <p>f. When appropriate to do so, workshop training sessions on upcoming agenda items be organised before the meeting and that they be held online and preferably from 5pm onwards to enable greater participation. Members also requested that the sessions be recorded so those unable to attend could catch up.</p> <p>g. The Chair and Vice-Chair meet with lead officers to further discuss and populate the work programme. Outstanding items to be included were the Director of Public Health's Annual Report and an Improvement Plan focussed paper on workforce and resourcing issues.</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Scheduled</p> <p>Scheduled</p> <p>Scheduled and noted.</p> <p>Noted Scheduled</p>
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22 February 2022

Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Workforce Report	<p>Having reviewed the information provided, the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Noted and welcomed this first workforce report to the Committee as an interim report, being part of the improvement plan process, and also welcomed the progress being made, including feedback and data from Council care workers and families, as part of the Committee’s aim to help improve openness and transparency in line with a “bottom up” scrutiny approach.b) Asked that the detail and information contained in the pdf documents on the Herefordshire Social Work Academy website be reviewed and brought up to date and that the Academy be promoted more widely so that it was more visible.c) Asked that in future the report provides more detail on the issues emerging from the exit interviews and includes a greater level of quantitative data.d) Suggested that to encourage a greater uptake of the offer of an exit interview that there is also an option that they be conducted by an independent interviewer.	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
Children’s Services Improvement Plan – Progress Update	<p>The Committee recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) An overview of the amended improvement plan be presented at a forthcoming workshop, focussing on the framework activities for performance and management;b) A report on the outcomes of the external peer review of SEND provision be allocated to a forthcoming meeting, as soon as available;c) A report giving detail of the access of social workers to legal advice and support when undertaking casework be provided to the Committee at a future meeting andd) In future the report reflects how relationships are positively managed with staff in line with management philosophies and that these are more widely advertised as a unique selling point in recruitment strategies.	

Fostering Service Update	<p>The Committee reviewed and accepted the Fostering Service Annual Report April 2020-March 2021 and recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) The Committee promotes the opportunity for elected members of the Council to sit on the Fostering Panel and encourages nominations from current councillors; d) Officers from the Fostering Service provide their assessment of the challenges and opportunities for improvement that exist in the Service. 	To be discussed on how Cllrs wish to promote this opportunity
Children's Performance Report	<p>The Committee received and approved the Children's performance report and recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A workshop development session on understanding and analysing the Safeguarding and Family Support Scorecard be scheduled; to include an overview and examination of other data sets used by the Committee and with a narrative to support the presentation of data. b) The current report be used as a bench mark against which the performance of the service will be judged during the course of the year. 	
Work Programme Review	<p>The Committee reviewed the draft work programme for 2021/22 and agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That that the next meeting on 22 March would have a mental health focus. b) That the Chair and Vice-Chair, along with any other members of the Committee that wished to attend, hold a business planning session with officers to look at agenda items for the meetings of the next municipal year. The session would also include a review of outstanding actions from this year. 	Meeting went ahead on 09/03/2022 with the vision of planning in more of these meetings ahead of mainstream meetings.