

**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"><li>• increased evidence of consultation with young people and the wider public;</li><li>• evidence on staff consultation; and</li><li>• more information on progress on county lines, exploitation and peer on peer abuse.</li></ul>	<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 additional co-optee at its next suitable meeting.</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>

	<p>The induction of co-optees be more structured and include safeguarding training.</p> <p>Consider how the participatory officer could bring the voice of the child to the committee as and when needed.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>A meeting is to be set up between the Committee and the Participation Officer</p>
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**7 September 2021**

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

	<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>(a) That the Executive consider if an exemption to the contract procedure rules should be applied for.</li> <li>(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> <li>(c) That evidence be provided on how discontinuing services from an established provider impacts those currently using the service.</li> <li>(d) The Committee receive testimony from the Hope Centre and consider a visit there to understand the activities provided.</li> </ul>	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>(a) The Committee agrees to engage with the LGA training and development offer.</li> <li>(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</li> <li>(c) Notes that the LGA training will dovetail with the offer from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny</li> </ul>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Noted.</p>

<p>Work Programme Review</p>	<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>
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**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"><li>a) The Committee receive the IRO Report as an annual agenda item.</li><li>b) The next iteration of the report should include comparator data with statistical neighbours where this was available.</li><li>c) A workshop be arranged with the participatory officer on how to include the voice of the child in future meetings.</li><li>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.</li></ul>	<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"><li>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</li><li>b) Work on mental health in schools be highlighted in the Committee work programme</li></ul>	<p>Noted</p> <p>A mental health agenda is scheduled for the March meeting of the Committee</p>

<p>Work Programme Review</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>b. The scheduled meeting on 7 December 2021 be cancelled.</li> <li>c. A workshop to go through the following items be organised for 7 December 2021             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the headline budget proposals ahead of public scrutiny of the budget in January</li> <li>2. the LGA scrutiny self-assessment exercise</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. A themed mental health agenda be scheduled for the March meeting and that a range of different bodies be asked to submit reports.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Outstanding</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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**11 January 2022**

Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
2022/23 Budget Setting	<p>Having discussed the budget proposals for 2022/23 as they related to the remit of the Committee, the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Noted and accepted the children and young people services budget for 2022/23;</li><li>2. Requested that they be provided with a more detailed breakdown of where money was being spent in the budget on specific service areas; and</li><li>3. Recommended that in future budgeting there be an increase in the allocation for early help/early years funding.</li></ol>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Noted</p>

**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"><li>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.</li><li>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.</li><li>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.</li><li>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.</li></ul>	<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"><li>a) An overview of the amended improvement plan be presented at a forthcoming workshop, focussing on the framework activities for performance and management;</li><li>b) A report on the outcomes of the external peer review of SEND provision be allocated to a forthcoming meeting, as soon as available;</li><li>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 and</li><li>d) 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.</li></ul>	

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"> <li>c) The Committee promotes the opportunity for elected members of the Council to sit on the Fostering Panel and encourages nominations from current councillors;</li> <li>d) Officers from the Fostering Service provide their assessment of the challenges and opportunities for improvement that exist in the Service.</li> </ul>	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"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
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"> <li>a) That that the next meeting on 22 March would have a mental health focus.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Meeting went ahead on 09/03/2022 with the vision of planning in more of these meetings ahead of mainstream meetings.

**22 March 2022**

Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Impact Of The Pandemic On The Mental Health And Wellbeing Of Pupils In Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) If/when a child is excluded from a school, the money follows the child within a month so that their special /mental health needs are addressed quickly. To include lobbying the CCG for funding</li> <li>b) A report and methodological approach is prepared to review the progress at the CYPSC meeting, including national comparator data to report to the committee about what action planning Herefordshire is considering to address the problems within our county.</li> <li>c) A review be undertaken and a report be prepared on the impact of COVID 'enrichment' initiatives, including the WEST programme, is reviewed and the analysis provided as to which schools have been involved in this initiative, how many schools knew about it.</li> <li>d) Consideration be given to a T+F group or spotlight review with schools to encourage and support parents to ask for and take up the various mental health initiatives in their school setting. To be added to the work programme.</li> <li>e) More resource to be allocated for Brookfield's and the other special schools – with particular emphasis on investment in early years, and Yr 1 and 2 to prevent problems being exacerbated in relation to the impact COVID</li> <li>f) CYPSC to lobby local MPs to lobby DfE to prioritise funding, supported by a funding bid and business case, to fund two attendance officers... Ceri Morgan/Hilary Jones/Matthew Sampson to send text.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted</p> <p>To go to the Business Working Group</p> <p>To go to the Business Working Group for further consideration</p> <p>""</p> <p>Noted</p>
Children And Young People's Mental Health And Wellbeing: Data And Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The children's commissioners' newsletter be circulated across all councillors.</li> <li>b) Local government level social media platforms are explored in their relation to their impact on the wellbeing of young people and the risks presented to young people into being drawn into sexual exploitation and bullying using these platforms be investigated</li> </ul>	

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**28 April 2022**

Item	Recommendations	Executive responses / update
Increased Budget For Children's Services: Investing In Children's Services Transformation	<p>A. To bring a draft proposal with the advice of officers back to a future committee group in regards to reviewing retention and recruitment in the form of a Task and Finish Group. With opportunities to meet frontline staff.</p> <p>B. Key weakness areas in the service be reviewed, with view of moving beyond recruitment and key performance indicators. Looking at additional metrics to evaluate the service and be reported quarterly.</p>	
Children And Young People' Improvement Plan - Progress Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular updates be circulated to members on the progress on Corporate Parenting.</li><li>• Monthly updates starting the end of May on the progress of the improvement plan, to all members via briefing note</li><li>• New format for looked after children to be updated and provided to the committee in the form of a briefing note within two weeks of the committee meeting.</li><li>• Version 2 of the improvement plan be updated and circulated to the committee by the 6th May</li><li>• Understand what reflection there is in the feedback we get in regards to the voice of the child and will be within the first quarterly report in July</li></ul>	