

**Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee  
11 December 2018**

**Edge of Care Inquiry - Executive Response**

**Recommendation**

That the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee consider the Executive response to the final report and recommendations of their Inquiry Group on Edge of Care.

**Report**

**Report of Scrutiny and Support Officer**

**Reason for recommendation**

The investigation by the Inquiry Group considering children on the edge of the care system was completed in September. Their final report and recommendations were considered by the Select Committee at their meeting of 3 September 2018. At that meeting Members agreed the report and recommendations and endorsed their submission to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for his Executive response. The Executive response is now attached (appendix A).

**Report**

**Background**

The Head of Families First reported to the MTFS Working Group in 2016/17 that there was a projected overspend of £3.5m in the Looked After Children budget. He reported that there were a significant number of initiatives in train to prevent those 'on the cusp of care' from coming into the system and various projects were showing positive outcomes.

Performance figures on the numbers of looked after children and the performance of the Looked after Service area are regularly reported to the Corporate Parenting Panel (non-public meeting). Wider performance is also reported each month to the Children's Improvement Board. However no recent scrutiny had taken place by the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee.

At the Select Committee meeting of 26 September 2017 Members agreed the scope and terms of reference for this inquiry.

The Group held an inquiry session on 30 January to consider the work already undertaken around children on the edge of the care system, current services and commissioning, proposed new developments and local member feedback. They held further meetings to

address queries and gather information, submitting their final report and recommendations to the 3 September Select Committee for their consideration.

## **Summary**

Following the Select Committee's endorsement of the Inquiry report and recommendations they were submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. His Executive response is now attached.

## **Next Steps**

The Select Committee need to consider the Cabinet Member's response to the Inquiry report and recommendations and how they will monitor the agreed actions.

## **Link to the Strategic Plan**

Ensure Children and Families have a network of support to help manage their own problems and stay safe and well.

## **Implications**

The equalities and legal; resource and value for money; and risk implications are set out in the attached report.

## **Contact Officer**

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## **Appendices/Background papers**

- Executive Response to the Edge of Care Final Report and Recommendations