

## WORK PROGRAMME

### Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee 2020/21

This document sets out the work programme for the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for 2020/21.

The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee is responsible for scrutinising: children and adults' safeguarding; community safety and Localism. The Council has three priority outcomes. This Committee is aligned to the outcome: The people of Staffordshire will feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

We review our work programme at every meeting. Sometimes we change it - if something comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

#### Councillor John Francis

Chairman of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme, please get in touch with Nick Pountney, Scrutiny and Support Manager on 01785 276153 or by emailing [nicholas.pountney@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.pountney@staffordshire.gov.uk)

#### Membership – County Councillors 2020-21

John Francis (Chairman)  
Bob Spencer (Vice Chairman)  
Ann Beech  
Ron Clarke  
Ann Edgeller  
Trevor Johnson  
Bryan Jones  
Jason Jones  
Paul Snape  
Mike Worthington

#### Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2020-2021

28 May 2020 at 10.00 am <b>cancelled due to Covid 19</b>
7 July 2020 at 10.00 am <b>virtual meeting held on Teams</b>
1 September 2020 at 10.00 am <b>virtual meeting held on Teams</b>
13 October 2020 at 10.00 am – Extra meeting <b>virtual meeting held on Teams</b>
5 November 2020 at 10.00 am – <b>virtual meeting held on Teams</b>
6 January 2021 at 10.00 am (moved from 11 January 2021) - <b>virtual meeting held on Teams</b>
1 March 2021 at 10.00 am
22 April 2021 at 10.00 am

Meetings usually take place in the Oak Room in County Buildings.

## Work Programme 2020-21

Date of meeting	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
28 May 2020 10.00 am	<b>Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	Requested at their 28 May meeting – Members wish to see progress made with the Plan following their consideration at the May meeting.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting cancelled due to Covid 19</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Briefing notes were requested after the 7 July meeting to update members on these items and help prioritise future work programme planning.</i></p>
	<b>Domestic Abuse</b> Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	At their meeting of 1 October 2019 Members requested a six-monthly update on progress made with the newly commissioned New Era services Note that following the 7 November Triangulation meeting the Cabinet Member requested that this be considered in light of the new DA Act. The report needs to focus on the effectiveness of the new contract and the current shortfall in funding	
	<b>Catch 22</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:	Having met with members of the Catch 22 team the Vice Chairman and Members updated the select Committee on their work at their 1 October meeting. Members requested an update from Catch 22 in six month time	
7 July 2020 10.00 am <b>Virtual Teams Meeting</b>	<b>Update on Children's Transformation</b>	The Select Committee to receive an update on Children's Transformation in light of the impact of Covid 19 and the County Council's response to this.	The Children and Families Services approach and response to Covid-19 was endorsed and Members congratulated officers on their understanding of the impact and risks associated with the Covid-19 and responding to these. Members also asked for a letter of thanks be sent to Catch22 for their continued professionalism and commitment throughout the crisis.
1 Sept 2020 10.00am <b>Virtual Teams Meeting</b>	<b>Staffordshire &amp; Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board – response to Covid-19</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	Following the 7 July Select Committee Members requested another opportunity to consider the response to Covid-19 by the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board in more detail.	Officers were commended on the work undertaken and on their risk and recovery planning. The refreshed risk and recovery plan will be shared with the Select Committee once it has been updated to include demand following the return to school.
13 Oct 2020 10.00 am	<b>Children &amp; Families Transformation –</b>	An extra meeting requested for pre-decision scrutiny to look at progress with the Children and	An update on the 50% increase in EHE numbers and the impact of Covid 19 on these be include on the work programme.

<p><b>Extra meeting Virtual Teams Meeting</b> Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee Members invited to attend</p>	<p><b>update</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley</p>	<p>Families Transformation prior to the October Cabinet.</p>	<p>Members noted the progress made and recognised the impact of delays on both outcomes and the MTFS. Members comments on the update will be fed back to the October Cabinet meeting.</p>
<p>5 Nov 2020 10.00am</p>	<p><b>Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Adults Social Care</b> Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Officer: Kate Bullivant</p>	<p>Reports brought annually.</p>	<p>They heard that the number of complaints received during the year was as follows:- (i) 187 Stage 1 – Local Investigation complaints and; (ii) 35 Stage 2 - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman complaints. However, there had been no complaints requiring independent investigation. Members noted the main areas for complaint and were satisfied that the Authority had taken appropriate steps to improve service delivery where necessary. Also, they were encouraged that the volume of complaints had been relatively small having regard to the extent of Adult Social Services provided by the Authority during 2019/20.</p>
	<p><b>Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Children’s Social Care</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant</p>	<p>Reports brought annually.</p>	<p>They gave preliminary consideration to a report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on Customer Feedback and Complaints Service – Children’s Social Services Annual report 2019/20 and requested that the matter be brought back to their next meeting in January 2021 for proper scrutiny.</p>
	<p><b>Court Backlogs: Impact on Children’s Social Care</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Deborah Ramsdale</p>	<p>Requested by Members following concerns around the backlog that has resulted from Covid 19 restrictions</p>	<p>They heard that the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic had exacerbated a pre-existing backlog in the family and criminal justice systems which, unfortunately, had significant implications for those families and individuals concerned. In addition, there were considerable financial pressures on the County Council from delays in cases being heard. However, they were satisfied that appropriate action had been taken by the Authority to highlight the difficulties caused by delays, with Central Government, the judiciary, independent sectors and other stakeholders, as appropriate and looked forward to an improvement in the current situation, as soon as possible.</p>
	<p><b>Impact of Covid on Children appearing in Criminal courts</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Hazel Williamson</p>	<p>Requested by Members following concerns around the backlog that has resulted from Covid 19 restrictions</p>	<p><i>See above</i></p>
<p>6 January 2021, 2.00 pm (moved)</p>	<p><b>Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult</b></p>	<p>Consideration requested by the SSASPB to give assurance and an opportunity for the Committee</p>	

from 11 January 2021, 10.00 am)	<b>Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) – Annual Report</b> Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Officer:	to reflect on adult safeguarding and seek answers to any questions. Inclusion in Work Programme agreed by Chairman 22 October 2020.	
	<b>Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Children’s Social Care (including learning from Complaints)</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant	Reports brought annually. First considered at meeting on 5 November but further report to include additional information.	
	<b>Elective Home Schooling</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officers: Jenny Dodd, Karl Hobson		
tbc	<b>Safeguarding Adults on the cusp of care</b> Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Lead Officer: Jo Sutherland	At the 7 November Triangulation meeting it was proposed to look at any gaps in provision between what is happening in the community for adults on the cusp of care, the <b>neighbourhood coaches/provisions</b> and any safeguarding issues this may present.	
tbc 6 monthly update from 7 November meeting (May/June 2020)	<b>Regional Permanency Partnership</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale & Jo Sullivan	Following consideration of the arrangements at their 7 November Select Committee Members had requested an up-date on progress with the arrangements in six months’ time.	
tbc	<b>Contextual Safeguarding Review</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officers: Vonni Gordon Hazel Williamson	Following the introduction of the Contextual Safeguarding approach a review at the end of its first year will consider progress made and the Select Committee will consider the results of this review.	

## Standing Items 2020-21

Item	Details	Action/Outcome
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<b>Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:	Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Select Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review	Some areas picked up by the DHR review process
<b>MTFS Reforms and assessing the “no impact claims”</b>	<p>Suggested at the 29 May Triangulation meeting.  To scrutinise those areas of the MTFS that promise “no impact” from the changes made to assess if this was accurate and/or whether the identified mitigating action has been effective.</p> <p>This is routinely scrutinised by Corporate Review, with that Committee referring specific issues to the appropriate Select Committee for further scrutiny as and when necessary.</p>	

### Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2020-21

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
	<b>Progress with the Children’s Services Improvement Plan</b>	Requested at their 28 May meeting – Members wish to see progress made with the Plan following their consideration at the May meeting.  <i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i>	Special Meeting 13 October 2020
	<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	At their meeting of 1 October 2019 Members requested a six-monthly update on progress made with the newly commissioned New Era services Note that following the 7 November Triangulation meeting the Cabinet Member requested that this be considered in light of the new DA Act. The report needs to focus on the effectiveness of the new contract and the current shortfall in funding.  <i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i>	Circulated to Members 14 October 2020
	<b>Catch 22</b>	Having met with members of the Catch 22 team the Vice Chairman and Members updated the select Committee on their work at their 1 October meeting. Members requested an update from Catch 22 in six month time.  <i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i>	Circulated 21 September 2020

## Working Group and/or Inquiry Days 2020-21

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
January 2021	<b>Transition &amp; Preparation for Adulthood</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale	At their 22 January 2019 meeting Members requested this issue be included on their work programme – with consideration to be given to whether this should be considered by a working group. In particular they wanted to look at the transition between children's and adult services, the gaps, those that remained vulnerable but under the Care Act did not meet the criteria to receive adult services and how to prepare individual's to be resilient and prepare for as independent an adulthood as possible.	Deborah Ramsdale is working on adults' transition, including transition clinics. TSU have undertaken a piece of work in this area. A Peer Review on Adults is due in October 2019. Proposed to stall working on this until post the Peer Review.  A protocol has now been agreed and will be implemented in November 2019.  Following their meeting of 13 January, the Select Committee agreed to postpone a decision on establishing this working group to allow the protocol, which went live in November 2019, to bed in. A report will be brought to the Select Committee in 12 months' time (January 2021) to evaluate progress made and Members can consider whether there remains a need for a working group at that point.
ongoing	<b>Children &amp; Families Transformation System progress</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Janene Cox/Helen Riley	To scrutinise progress made with the Transformation programme on a monthly (or as appropriate) basis.	At their 13 January 2020 meeting Members agreed that the Chairman (and/or Vice Chairman or Shadow Vice Chairman) will attend the monthly Children's Improvement Board and report back to the Select Committee rather than duplicating work already underway by establishing a separate working group.  Consequently, an oral report will be given by the Chairman (and/or Vice Chairman or Shadow Vice Chairman) to the Select Committee reporting on progress.
March 2019 -	<b>SEND Working Group</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Tim Moss	Following the joint Ofsted and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) a joint working group was established with Members from the Prosperous Staffordshire, Healthy Staffordshire and Safe and Strong Communities Select Committees to look at progress in implementing the WSoA.	
	<b>Children's Improvement Board informal briefing</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	At the 7 July Select Committee the Chairman requested an informal briefing for all Members to update them on the work of the Children's Improvement Board.	

**Children's Improvement Board – monitoring of the Children & Families Transformation System progress**

Date	Who attended from the Select Committee	Items discussed	Information
30 January, 25 February, 29 June 2020	Cllr Francis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Focus area for discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tribunals and the cost implications of SCC conceding/losing at tribunal</li><li>• Progress overview</li></ul></li><li>2. Performance – EHCP data</li><li>3. Emergent risks</li><li>4. Forward plan</li></ol>	To be reported at the meeting. At the 7 July Committee meeting members asked for an informal workshop to discuss the improvement plan in detail.