

Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 17 June 2021

10:00

Council Chamber, County Buildings, Stafford

NB. The meeting will be webcast live which can be viewed here -
<https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Tradewell
Director of Corporate Services
9 June 2021

A G E N D A

PART ONE

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee held on 22 April 2021** (Pages 1 - 4)
4. **Introduction to the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
 - a) A brief introduction to the areas of work covered within the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee from:
 - Ruth Martin, Adults Safeguarding Team Manager
 - Helen Riley, Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities
 - b) Cabinet Member perspective on areas for possible future scrutiny
5. **Outcome Focused 1-1 Support, and Home Care and Community Support (including Domiciliary Care) for Staffordshire Children with Disabilities** (Pages 5 - 42)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
6. **Work Programme Planning** (Pages 43 - 60)

Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer
7. **Exclusion of the Public**

The Chairman to move:-

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below”.

Part Two

(All reports in this section are exempt)

nil

Membership

Gill Burnett (Vice-Chairman (Overview))	Gillian Pardesi
Janet Eagland	Kath Perry, MBE
Richard Ford (Vice-Chairman (Scrutiny))	Bob Spencer (Chairman)
Jason Jones	Jill Waring
Peter Kruskonjic	Mike Wilcox

Note for Members of the Press and Public

Filming of Meetings

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Recording (including by the use of social media) by the Press and Public is permitted from the public seating area provided it does not, in the opinion of the chairman, disrupt the meeting.

Scrutiny and Support Manager: Nicholas Pountney Tel: (01785) 276153

Minutes of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2021

Present: John Francis (Chairman)

Attendance

Ann Beech
Ron Clarke
Ann Edgeller
Bryan Jones

Paul Snape
Bob Spencer (Vice-Chairman)
Mike Worthington

Also in attendance: Mark Sutton

Apologies: Trevor Johnson

PART ONE

5. Declarations of Interest

There were none at this meeting.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 March 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee meeting held on 1 March 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

7. Contextual Safeguarding and Vulnerable Adolescents

Contextual Safeguarding is a theoretical response to safeguarding vulnerable adolescents outside of their family developed by Bedfordshire University. The Select Committee had first considered this approach at their meeting of 23 July 2019 and at a joint workshop with members of the Corporate Parenting Panel on 2 March 2020.

The Select Committee were aware that a Contextual Safeguarding Implementation Plan was in place to support improvement. This was a live working document to enable learning during development to be incorporated into the plan. There was now a Child Exploitation Strategy shared by Safeguarding Boards across the city and county. It had been intended to launch the Strategy in March 2020 but due to the pandemic this had been delayed until December 2020, at the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Virtual Child Exploitation Conference. The launch had included over 250 professionals and had focused on spotting and understanding the early signs of child exploitation. At the conference people with lived experience of exploitation had shared their experiences, both parents and children.

Members heard that extensive training had been delivered with all partners, with feedback from this being very positive and helping shape future practice. A level 2 Child Exploitation Training package was being developed which would be available through

the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board (SSSCB) to all partners. Several champions had been established across all local authority children and family services who worked to share specialist knowledge, embed good practice and raise professional awareness. "Top Tips" guides had also been developed around early identification, mapping of associates and safety planning to reduce risks.

Extra capacity within the existing service had been built to support development and had allowed the addition of a CSE co-ordinator and administrator. To support identification of vulnerable adolescents the existing Risk Factor Matrix (RFM) had been revised to include all exploitation. Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panels (MACE) received referrals from completed RFMs, with information cross referenced to identify links between vulnerable children and those causing harm, and to identify vulnerabilities. Vulnerable locations were also identified through this process, with the focus of Panels on disrupting and preventing those causing harm to children from doing so. Members were satisfied that the linkages made through the MACE Panels provided a joined-up approach to this work and noted that recommendations from the Panel were included on an individual's young person's care plan. They were also pleased to note that engagement and attendance at Panels was excellent, supported by digital technology and effective panel agenda management.

Members heard that District and Borough Council's had engaged well in supporting this work helping to make spaces safe for young people through safeguarding assessments of spaces and places.

A performance framework was being developed to help demonstrate impact and identify areas for improvement, best practice and trends. National funding had been secured to help with this, with work over a number of months with partners to develop the performance framework. A Child Exploitation Steering Group had been developed with responsibility for driving forward improvements in this key area.

Members raised the risks associated with social media and concerns at how young people could be safeguarded from these. Social media had a huge impact on safeguarding. Work was undertaken with schools, Police colleagues and parents to help identify and warn children about harmful sites. Whilst new sites were created all the time work was ongoing to mitigate the risks they presented.

Difficulties in engaging exploited young people was raised as a concern and Members heard that there was a need for patience and tenacity when working with these young people. It was necessary to target the exploitation and address this, recognising that child exploitation was a safeguarding issue.

RESOLVED – That:

- a) the considerable progress made on Contextual safeguarding be noted; and
- b) details of how the County Council is meeting the statutory requirements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who were being exploited or at risk of being exploited be welcomed.

8. Commissioning of Child Exploitation and Children and Young People Missing from Home or Care

The Select Committee considered an overview of the delivery and future commissioning intentions of the Pan-Staffordshire Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Children and Young People Service. The Service was currently delivered by Catch22 on behalf of Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Commissioners Office. The Partners of the Joint Commissioning Group had agreed that the Catch22 contract would remain in place until 31 March 2022, following approval to extend the provisions of the Deed of Agreement within the internal governance arrangement of each Partner. On 1 April 2021 Catch22 entered the final year of delivery under the current procurement arrangements. The Partnership are working collaboratively to co-produce future commissioning intentions. The intention was for the reconfigured Service to be inclusive of all forms of exploitation, configured around three components: child exploitation; lived experience; and statutory functions.

Members were reminded that Catch22 facilitated all independent Return Home Interviews (RHI) for missing children and young people aged up to 18 years residing in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. This included children and young people cared for in Staffordshire who were the Corporate Parenting responsibility of another local authority. Interviews were an opportunity to gather information from individuals, identify root cause factors contributing to the incident and aimed to protect and prevent future missing episodes.

Members received performance data for the period April 2020 to December 2020 and heard that throughout Covid-19, Catch22 had continued to offer face to face delivery of RHIs when they were requested. Flexibility of delivery had enabled Catch22 to provide virtual and phone RHIs when these were preferred, or necessity required this approach.

Covid-19 had resulted in an increase in overall declines of an RHI and this was seen across all quarters. Where families and carers had agreed to the RHI taking place there had been an increased parental and carer involvement which had seen positive results. The number of children and young people receiving an RHI remained consistent. Members were reminded that it was usual for the number of individuals to be less than the number of notifications and the overall RHI offer figure as regrettably multiple missing episodes took place in quick succession for some individuals.

Members raised some concerns around difficulties in scrutinising the performance figures owing to the discrepancy between the notification figures and figures for the number of RHIs offered. They were informed that, for those young people who were placed in Staffordshire from other Authorities, the LA with the corporate parenting responsibility could choose to undertake the RHI themselves and therefore decline Catch22's RHI offer. Equally in some circumstances the LA with corporate parenting responsibility may ask that no offer is made by Catch22 as they undertake the RHI themselves, however Catch22 would still receive the notification. Whilst understanding this Members felt the figures given prevented them from effectively scrutinising performance. Data recording was being addressed as part of the new commissioned service approach, allowing the specific data relating to those young people for whom Staffordshire was the Corporate Parent to be identified. However, it was necessary to continue to report the current figures as well as all missing incidents in Staffordshire potentially had a wider impact, allowing the whole picture to be better understood and helping to map the safeguarding impacts. This change in reporting would allow

Members to see the complexity of the picture whilst easily identifying performance specific to Staffordshire young people.

The Select Committee were pleased to note that there had been a reported overall reduction in the number of children and young people requiring intervention meetings for the 5+ or 9+ missing episodes over a 90-day period. The average number of episodes had remained between 2-4, suggesting that in many instances the first intervention meeting held at 3+ missing episodes had been impactful.

The Select Committee heard that Catch22 continued to deliver against the Performance and Quality Assurance Framework for the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Children & Young People's Service. They have adapted their delivery during the pandemic and their efforts with this have been recognised nationally.

RESOLVED: That,

- a) the performance of the Pan-Staffordshire CSE and Missing Children & Young People's Service provided by Catch22 be welcomed;
- b) the emerging future commissioning intentions in relation to the Pan-Staffordshire Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People's Service be acknowledged;
- c) the service delivery outlined within the report contributed to the delivery of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Child Exploitation Strategy; and,
- d) the proposed changes to performance data recording be welcomed.

9. Work Programme

Members received a copy of their Work programme. They noted this was the last meeting prior to the County Council elections and that any ongoing items would be considered for inclusion on the new Select Committee's work programme, once the remit and membership had been agreed at the 20 May Annual Council.

The complexity of the work undertaken by this Select Committee was raised and Members asked that ongoing training be included in their work programme going forward. They also highlighted the importance of wider training to all Councillors for specific issues.

RESOLVED: That the work programme be noted.

Chairman

Local Members Interest
N/A

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 17 June 2021

Outcome Focused 1-1 Support, and Home Care and Community Support (including Domiciliary Care) for Staffordshire Children with Disabilities

Recommendations

I recommend that:

Following an in-depth Options Appraisal, that Staffordshire County Council:

- a. Brings the commissioning of the previously separate arrangements for Children With Disabilities' Community Support and Aiming High 1-1 intensive support and short breaks together into one contracting arrangement, to achieve a more seamless and flexible system of support for eligible children, and one that is administratively more efficient for SCC to manage.
- b. Supports the open tender approach and implementation of a Dynamic Purchasing System detailed in the costed Options Appraisal to secure the required provision at optimal Value for Money commencing from April 1st 2022.
- c. Notes the regular break clauses in the proposed contracts (2+1+1 years), which will allow time to develop joint approaches to the commissioning and procurement of this provision with Adult Social Care colleagues and other Authorities including with other West Midlands Authorities to attempt to overcome the current challenges for providers (and especially new entrants) with respect to service volumes.
- d. Uses the first two years of the new contract to further investigate the merits and risks associated with In-house delivery of this support, and the efficacy of this model within the proposed new Children's System, as the Options Appraisal demonstrated a number of potential strengths to this approach.

Report of Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

1. Staffordshire County Council (SCC) has a legal duty to ensure Children's Community Support (including Domiciliary Care) provision is in place to support children, young people with a range of disabilities who have been assessed by a suitably qualified Social Worker as being eligible for a personal care service within the family home and local community.

2. Providers support children and young people with a range of disabilities, including children and young people with physical and learning disabilities, autism and challenging behaviours, and many children have multiple needs. They provide a range of care packages across Staffordshire which are tailored to the specific needs of eligible children and young people.
3. Similarly, SCC also has a legal duty to offer a range of commissioned community short breaks opportunities, ranging from community-based breaks of a few hours, to overnight short breaks for Children with Disabilities under the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children regulations 2011.
4. This programme of support is known as 'Aiming High for Children with Disabilities' in Staffordshire, and augments our in-house and commissioned Overnight Short Breaks Units, and the support of Short Breaks Foster Carers in providing the range of short breaks for children to give parents and carers a meaningful short break from their caring responsibilities in order that they can maintained for the long term.
5. SCC currently commissions a range of providers from across Staffordshire to deliver Children's Community Support and Short Breaks on behalf of the local authority, though these are currently commissioned and contracted as two separate support programmes. This proposal advocates the benefits of bringing these arrangements together under 1 commission, to provide more flexible, responsive support that draws on children and families' existing strengths, and focuses on development, independence, preparedness for adulthood, and cost effectiveness.

NB: The comments from Committee Members at the June 17th meeting of the Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee will be reported to the County Council's Cabinet at their meeting on July 21st, 2021 for them to take into account in their consideration of this matter.

Report

Background

6. These service provisions have not previously been considered by the Select Committee. The bringing together of two previously separately commissioned service groups however means that the total lifetime spend on the proposed programme of support (c£2.4-£2.8M over 4 years) now exceeds the financial threshold for consideration as a Key Decision by Cabinet and also for Scrutiny.

Statutory Requirements

7. Staffordshire County Council (SCC) has legal duties (Set out in Section 17 & 20 of The Children Act 1989, The Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act 1970, The Children & Families Act & SEND Code of Practice 2014, and The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011) to ensure Children's Community Support (including Domiciliary Care) provision is in place to support children, young people with a range of disabilities who have been assessed by the Children With Disabilities Social Care Team as being eligible for a personal care service within the family home and local community

8. Similarly, SCC also has a legal duty to offer a range of commissioned community short breaks opportunities, ranging from community-based breaks of a few hours, to overnight short breaks for Children with Disabilities under the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children regulations 2011. This programme of support is known as 'Aiming High for Children with Disabilities' in Staffordshire, and augments our in-house and commissioned Overnight Short Breaks Units, and the support of Short Breaks Foster Carers in providing the legally required range of short breaks for children with a variety of eligible needs, as set out in the legislation above

NICE guidance for Children and Young People (including Learning Disabilities and Autistic Spectrum Conditions and behaviour that challenges): Service Design and Delivery

9. The preferred approach will help the Authority deliver on the recommendations of the National Institute for Health & Care Excellence (NICE); March 2018 in seeking to offer support and for Children & Young People that is:
 - a. Community-based and close to home
 - b. Available based on need, and at short notice both in crisis and to prevent a crisis
 - c. Tailored to the needs of the person and their family or carers, taking into account the person's interests and preferences
 - d. Able to provide a positive experience for the person being supported
 - e. Able to deliver what is agreed in the education, health and care plan or care and support plan; carer's assessment; or behaviour support plan
 - f. Planned in advance wherever possible and involve people and their family members and carers visiting the service first to see if it is suitable and to get to know the staff providing it
 - g. Provided by staff who understand and respect people's cultural norms and values and their choices about personal care, private life and lifestyle.
10. The guidance states that (support providers) should work with Children & Young People in a way which is:
 - a. Personalised
 - b. Flexible
 - c. Responsive
 - d. Accessible
 - e. Reflective.
11. This is in order to:
 - a. Deliver the outcomes agreed in a child or young person's education, health and care plan.
 - b. Provide support and interventions in line with NICE's guideline on [challenging behaviour and learning disabilities: prevention and interventions](#).
 - c. Maximise life opportunities for children and young people, including by ensuring they have access to meaningful education.

- d. Support smooth transitions between services in line with [organising effective care](#) in NICE's guideline on challenging behaviour and learning disabilities: prevention and interventions.
 - e. Support children and young people to develop skills for independence
 - f. Take a positive approach to managing risk.
12. Whilst NICE Guidance NG93 referred to above is focussed on Children & Young People with Learning Disabilities and Autism it should be clear that the principles apply absolutely equally to support for Children and Young People with Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairments too.

Current Provision and Commissioning Arrangements and budget

13. SCC currently commissions 5 providers from across Staffordshire to deliver Children's Community Support and Short Breaks on behalf of the local authority. In addition, on the limited number of occasions – and almost always as a result of provider capacity or difficulties in mobilising packages for children with the most complex needs - where Children's Framework providers are unable to mobilise support/packages of care we occasionally use providers commissioned by our Adult Social Care colleagues, utilising their Home Care framework.
14. Providers support children and young people with a range of disabilities, including children and young people with physical and learning disabilities, autism and challenging behaviours. Some providers will be working with children and young people who have been assessed as having multiple needs. They provide a range of care packages across Staffordshire which are tailored to the specific needs of children, young people and families, this could include:
- a. Getting ready for school or college in the mornings
 - b. One-to-one support focussed on the development of independence and preparedness for adulthood
 - c. Helping with access to community-based activities and shopping
 - d. Help with personal care and feeding
 - e. Attending medical appointments
 - f. Doing activities at home
 - g. Help with preparing the child for bed, and sleep
 - h. Supporting the family to establish daily routines, and to manage the care of their child independently of the support of our providers where possible
15. The 1-1 life skills programme, 'Moving Forward' currently forms part of the Aiming High Community Short Breaks programme, and comprises a maximum of 64 hours (annually) of 1-1 support from 4 commissioned providers, focussed on the achievement of specific outcomes, and geared to help the young person with preparation for adulthood
16. Spend on this provision over the last 4 years is as follows:

Community Care annual spend by provider	2017/18	2018/19**	2019/20	2020/21
Total spend	617,162.90	641,647.16	596,342.52	569,385.00*

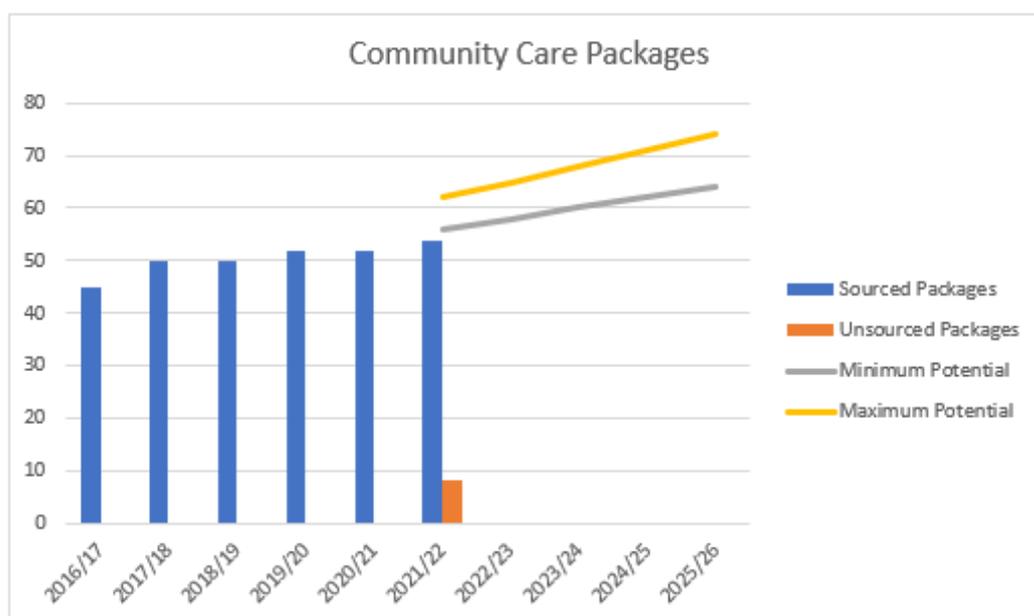
* Note 1-1 'Moving Forward' support provision spend was considerably lower than typical levels in 2020-21 due to the curtailment of the programme due to Covid-19 and families shielding clinically vulnerable/extremely vulnerable children

**Current Framework Contract established on April 1st 2018.

NB – Full detail on spend, broken down by provider, is included in the Options Appraisal document, attached as Appendix 2 to this report

Demand/projected demand

17. The table below shows demand for home care/community support over the last 4 years, and the capacity we could reasonably expect to plan for over the lifetime of this proposal. In 2020-21 56 Children & Young People are in receipt of home care and community support packages. In addition, in a typical year (2020-21 being far from typical due to Covid-19) between 80-110 young people access support through the 1-1 Life skills 'Moving Forward' programme



18. The reason the number of children requiring support has risen steadily over this period is largely due to the improvements in medical interventions and health support which are enabling some children with highly complex, life-limiting conditions to live longer than they would have done even a few years ago. It should be evident from the table in section 8 of this report above that from the point the current framework was established in April 2018 we have managed this increased demand whilst achieving efficiencies (largely due to the reduction/elimination of out-of-contract spot purchase arrangements) that this provision plays an extremely

important part in helping reduce or prevent unplanned entry to care for children in receipt of support, by helping families sustain their own caring responsibilities. This cost of this type of care is very much more effective than residential care for example. The average cost per child for this care in 2020-21 is £9877 per annum, which should be observed in the context of typical care costs of £3-4,000 per week (or more) for children's residential care.

Current Market Dynamics (and what we propose to do to overcome them)

19. The market for this provision in Staffordshire (and indeed regionally across the West Midlands, and nationally outside of London) is challenging, with huge pressure on care market provision and capacity to meet Adult Social Care needs and the (understandable) gearing of the market to meet this much greater volume of business in comparison to children's support. This has resulted in limited new entrants to the children's care market in recent years, as the limited number of packages any one Local Authority requires limits the commercial viability of entering this market.
20. This dynamic has been exacerbated further during the Covid-19 pandemic, as (as above) adult care is a larger market which has been under immense increased pressure, and therefore it has been a priority for the market, though as we emerge from the pandemic greater stability is starting to return.
21. Further compounding these difficulties is the difficulty generally (across both sectors) in attracting people to care provision as a vocation, in what is a low wage sector.
22. We will facilitate market engagement to stimulate the market locally to encourage new entrants, by offering support with required registration and CQC statement of purpose amendments, and by joint working with Adult Social Care colleagues and neighbouring West Midlands Authorities, especially where we have providers in common to ease the market pressures above, and to make entry to this market attractive and above all financially viable for providers.
23. We will seek to remove barriers to entry to the children's community support market to ensure choice, cost competitiveness and flexibility for children with a wide range of needs arising from disability. A Dynamic Purchasing System will allow us to add suitable new entrants at any point during the lifetime of its existence (maximum of 4 years) to improve choice for families and social care professionals and encourage cost-competitiveness between providers.
24. Regular break clauses in the proposed contract will allow us to flex arrangements, or change them at earlier points if it is apparent that entering new, joint contracting relationships with wider partners would be beneficial to both service users and more cost effective for the Authority.

Legal Implications

25. The recommended proposal ensures the Local Authority is able to meet its statutory responsibilities as they apply to this type of provision (Set out in Section 17 & 20 of

The Children Act 1989, The Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act 1970, The Children & Families Act & SEND Code of Practice 2014, and The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011. A more detailed guide for Local Authorities on this subject can be found here: [Statutory guidance on how to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children using short breaks \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/622222/statutory-guidance-on-how-to-safeguard-and-promote-the-welfare-of-disabled-children-using-short-breaks.pdf)

Resource and Value for Money Implications

26. Appendix 2, a fully costed options appraisal contains detail on the annual costs of each of the five options considered (including the recommended option) for the provision of this support. All costs have been worked up with the involvement of, and input from, our Senior Finance Business Partner Nikola Mihajlovic.

Link to Strategic Plan

27. This delivery of the preferred approach in this proposal supports the following outcomes, priorities, and principles within the **County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022**:

a. Outcomes

Everyone in Staffordshire will:

- i. Be healthier and independent for longer.
- ii. Feel safer, happier and more supported in their community.

b. Priorities

- i. Inspire healthy and independent living.
- ii. Support more families and children to look after themselves, stay safe and well.

c. Principles

- i. Encourage residents and communities to help themselves and one another.
- ii. Be digital, using data and technology to connect, inform and support our citizens.

28. The proposal also supports the 3 core aims of the County's **Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023**, which are:

- a. To build on the strengths disabled citizens have by focusing on their skills and qualities, those of their family or carers, and those of their community. *Helping people do things for themselves* as far as possible, rather than routinely *doing things for people* is a core principle
- b. To ensure appropriate support is available for people with a disability to maximise their independence, and prevents, reduces or delays additional needs.
- c. To ensure that the Council can continue to meet people's eligible needs in a way that is financially sustainable.

29. Finally, the proposal supports the delivery of the 4 priorities identified within the **Staffordshire SEND Strategy 2020-2025**, namely:

- a. We communicate well with each other
- b. We work in partnership to meet the needs of children and young people
- c. We ensure that the right support is available at the right time
- d. We encourage communities to be inclusive

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

- a. Staffordshire Whole life Disability Strategy 2018-2023 (Joint scrutiny arrangement convened April 2018)
- b. SEND Strategy (scrutiny January 2021)
- c. SCC Adult Social Care Community Offer (scrutiny via Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee 2020)

Next Steps

- a. Tabled for discussion at Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee, June 17th, 2021
- b. All comments and feedback submitted alongside final Cabinet Papers following the above
- c. Corporate SLT - final comments – June 28th 2021
- d. Cabinet – July 21st, 2021
- e. Specification development & finalisation of procurement packs – July 21st -Sept 30th, 2021
- f. Tenders from Providers invited for place on Dynamic Purchasing System – Oct 1st – Nov 30th, 2021
- g. Tender submission deadline – Nov 30th, 2021
- h. Contract Award – prior to Christmas 2021
- i. Mobilisation January-March 2022
- j. New contracts commence – April 1st, 2022

Community Impact

30. A summary table of key risks and actions to mitigate these is included below; for full Community Impact Assessment please see list of additional Appendices as below.

Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
Securing more good quality providers who can offer support for required times in a stressed care market	<p>Panel to agree resources available</p> <p>Market engagement activity over summer 2021 and beyond to attract new entrants whilst retaining existing providers</p> <p>Working with neighbouring authorities to maximise availability/awareness of 'would be' providers</p> <p>Clear Pathways to access services</p>

Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
Management of differing demands and provider market	<p>Develop a dynamic cohort of dual (adults/children's) CQC registered providers and link to other provisions including alternative care provision</p> <p>Contracts and monitoring to focus on stability and sustainability of varying requests.</p> <p>Development of issues log, which feeds into routine contract monitoring</p>
Care sector pay rates make alternative employment sectors more attractive	<p>Benchmarking rates across neighbouring geographical areas.</p> <p>Ensure optimal long-term <u>value for money</u> not merely 'cheapest right now' options.</p> <p>Joint working with ASC care sector to make care giving an attractive option for suitably motivated individuals</p>
Costs to small businesses/community premises to ensure DDA compliant	<p>Grants for updating accesses and use, e.g. Disability Facilities Grant</p> <p>Joint working with District and Brough Strategic Housing Leads via SILIS steering group</p> <p>Joint working with OT teams</p> <p>Joint work with schools and other community venues</p>
Ensuring everyone understands their role in meeting the needs of Children & Young People with SEND	<p>This forms a key element of the implementation of the Children's System Transformation.</p> <p>Encourage families to access universal services independently</p> <p>Develop clear DBS information and support processes</p>

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1: Full Community Impact Assessment for this proposal

Appendix 2: Full costed options appraisal containing research behind the selection of the preferred approach

Contact Details

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Staffordshire
County Council

Community Impact Assessment

Name of Proposal: Individual Community Care and 1-1 Lifeskills & Independence support for Children and Young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities

**Project Sponsor: Martyn Baggaley Senior Commissioning Manager
Families and Communities Commissioning Team**

**Project Managers: Kaye Dixon and Paris Wood Commissioning Officers
Families and Communities Commissioning Team**

Date Completed: 28th April 2021

Completing a CIA

- A CIA will help you to identify the potential **impacts, risks and benefits** of your proposed policy, service or project. Doing this at an early stage enables engagement and research to be undertaken to identify actions that will either **lessen the risk** or **maximise the benefits**. The assessment will also help you to identify mitigating factors whereby risks may be balanced out to an extent by the benefits.
- This template should be used to support the development of a proposal during the **planning stage**, therefore supporting the council's approach of [Achieving Commissioning Excellence](#).
- A good CIA will involve input from more than one person. A **Project Team** should be identified with different, but relevant expertise to ensure that a full range of views are considered.
- **Engagement and/or consultation** should take place with appropriate and representative groups of people that are most likely to be affected. This must then be used to help shape the design/outcomes of the project. Please note that due to the publication of CIAs, it is advisable not to record personal details of members of the public, such as names or addresses.
- **Once completed**, the main findings from your CIA should be transferred to the '**Checklist and Executive Summary**' template. Then both documents need to be approved/signed off by the appropriate people. Depending on the size of your project, this could be your manager, project lead, sponsor or SLT.
- For CIAs that are going to **Cabinet**, only the '**Checklist and Executive Summary**' will be uploaded as part of the **Cabinet Papers**. The full CIA document will be uploaded as a **Background Paper**.

Completing the CIA Template

This table describes what is required when completing the key sections of your assessment.

Which groups will be affected	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>Which groups of people will be impacted by the proposed policy, service or project? This could be people in a particular area, a street, or a group of people with similar characteristics e.g. older people, young people or people with care needs. Also consider staff, residents and other external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Think about the impact the proposal may have on each of the different category areas and identify the benefits of each decision.</p>	<p>Think about the impact the proposal may have on each of the different category areas, and identify the risks associated with the proposal.</p>	<p>Set out any recommendations as to how the benefits will be maximised and the risks minimised.</p> <p>Also highlight any trade-offs that may occur.</p>
<p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts should not be included if it is considered highly unlikely that they would occur. • Where no major impacts have been identified, please state N/A. • Due to the publication of CIAs, it is advisable not to record personal details of members of the public, such as names or addresses. 			
<p>Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact) How certain are you about the assessment of each potential impact, and what evidence have you used to arrive at the decision? E.g. Data – population trends data, census data, service data. Research – national, regional, local research. Engagement/ Consultation – with partners, the public, the voluntary sector.</p>			

Use the following template to highlight the impacts of your proposal on each of the following categories: The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), Health and Care, the Economy, the Environment, and Localities/ Communities.

Community Impact Assessment

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

Use this section to identify if the proposal will impact on our legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 for both residents and staff. In summary, those subject to the general equality duty must have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity between different groups and foster good relations between different groups.

Please consider:

- Who is currently using the service, across the protected characteristics?
- What do we know about their experiences and outcomes?
- What relevant information is available from the Census and population trends data?
- What were the findings of the engagement/consultation?
- Is there any relevant national, regional and/or local sources of research/evidence available?
- Is there any relevant information from partners or voluntary, community, social enterprise organisations?
- What is the analysis of the impact on those with relevant protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristics:	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
Race	All families eligible for a service to ensure that there is full inclusion and consideration for everyone accessing the services - currently around 150 families	Multi-cultural and inclusion bringing together different experiences and an understanding of the different approaches to respect cultural differences	Integration and language barriers if not fully resourced	Careful matching of available staff, staff training, range of information formats Every effort will be made to ensure a breadth of provision is commissioned to meet the needs of families from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds
Disability	Specifically, around 150 Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities accessing support in and around the home environment	Statutory responsibility met. Duty of care and best practice demonstrated. Opportunity for early support via 1-1 lifeskills and links with early intervention/preventative support to avoid escalation for more services or input from SCC. The proposed option clearly offers a range of support to meet needs at the right time and place and efficiently. It is expected that by merging the enabling levels of the two	Securing providers who can offer support for required times in a stressed care market	Panel to agree allocation of resources. Clear pathways of step up and step down of provider input + Market Engagement activity to encourage new entrants from adult social care + Partnering with neighbouring authorities to increase commercial attractiveness to providers

Protected Characteristics:	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
		contracts, more providers will enter the care market for Childrens disability support as they will have greater opportunities to offer appropriate levels of care in the step up /step down arrangements.		+ Support will be provided with appropriate registrations (CQC, Ofsted) + Market engagement to understand barriers to new entrants, in order to remove them
Sex	M / F /transgender	Provision to meet needs regardless of gender	Risk of having sufficient and appropriate staffing and facilities	Centralised resource directory to ensure demands met
Age	0-18	Integration with other commissioned Children's Services. Clearly understood pathways and flexibility to meet escalating or reduced need quickly. Providers who are dual registered with CQC may be able to continue care across Childrens and Adults services	Ensuring age appropriate support and whole family consideration Changes when needing adult services, new assessments and continuation of support	Working with providers and families to offer a range of suitable family support alternatives Ensure Preparing for Adulthood pathway is understood, embedded and supported by providers. Links to Adult Social Care Young Adults team and MPFT teams clearly established
Religion or Belief	All	Multi faith awareness and understanding from everyone involved in delivery	Awareness of individuals needs and choices	Trained staff from a diverse range of backgrounds to deliver support. Information available in many formats. Expectations of providers set out in contracts
Gender Reassignment	Individuals who express requests	Personal choice respected. Opportunities to develop support from	Available resources i.e. Male and	Recruitment campaigns to

Protected Characteristics:	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
		similar or different aspects	Female and transgender support workers	develop provider market Providers agree to support all aspects of Equality and Choice
Sexual Orientation	Individuals who express requests	Personal choice respected. Opportunities to develop support from similar or different aspects	Available staff	Providers agree to support all aspects of Equality and Choice
Pregnancy and Maternity	All Providers	Staff ensured of employment opportunities and continuation of work	Providers recording risk assessments	To be include in Terms and conditions of any contracts and monitoring and Compliance documentation
Marriage and Civil Partnership	All Providers	Provision of service without discrimination. Staff ensured of employment opportunities and continuation of work	Any discrimination claims not resolved could affect personal and professional integrity	Providers agree to support anti-discriminatory practice. Evidence in compliance documentation
Impact on SCC Staff	Positive impact for SCC Social Care staff offering more choice of providers Any staff whose children access the service are enabled to continue their caring role alongside work commitments	Additional support for the families of Children and Young People with SEND to reduce the impact on demand for more Social Care Support. No TUPE or SCC staff changes as not affecting any in house services. Clear pathways of support enabling more choice for families	Understanding of eligibility and criteria for support	Clear pathways for accessing services. Engagement and discussions with staff members. Support from commissioning team staff to embed processes and monitoring
	The duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination also covers marriage and civil partnerships in relation to employment issues.			

Protected Characteristics:	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)</p> <p>Existing contracts offer different services to families which are currently recorded and used separately. Short breaks for SEND are recorded on Capita, assessed needs are recorded on CareDirector and there is no principal recording of different Tiered support for the family. The option to combine elements of two services will ensure that families will have access to varying levels of support and the recording of the impact and outcomes will be more straightforward.</p> <p>Resources will be directed when and where needed and step-up and step-down arrangements between levels of support will offer cost effective input at the right time reducing or delaying the need for higher levels of care.</p> <p>Service overlap will be avoided and more providers can join the Childrens Services Care Market through dual (Adults and Childrens) CQC registration. SCC Commissioners are working with adult care providers to increase their offer and apply for dual registration, which will also assist the adult brokerage team and the delivery of the preparing for adulthood pathway with the continuum of support for those with eligible needs beyond the age of 18..</p> <p>Families will have a greater input into their own personal care planning through choice of service and support as highlighted by SCIE report. SEND LAR (November 2018) reported positive feedback of short breaks service which offers families choices and the flexibility afforded by the preferred option will add to the resources available for families. Finance reports show that the current Aiming high life skills budget is underutilised and the approach advocated will make full use of this lower cost option in order to prevent, reduce or delay additional needs, and associated higher costs of support.</p> <p>Parent/carer survey undertaken as part of this exercise in March 2021 indicated that some families were not aware of the two support options and there were difficulties accessing different schemes. They were also not aware of the support that could be accessed <i>without</i> a Social Care Assessment, and were therefore missing out on earlier help and presenting at a later point when they had reached a crisis point.</p> <p>The outcomes of the finance and engagement survey are included in the options appraisal for this proposal</p>				

Health and Care

Use this section to determine how the proposal will impact on resident's health and wellbeing, and whether the proposal will impact on the demands for, or access to health and care services. Please consider the Care Act 2014 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Category Area (Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
Mental Health and Wellbeing Will the proposal impact on the mental health and wellbeing of residents or services that support those with Mental Health issues?	This provision is targeted at meeting and addressing the needs of around 150 families with complex children to enable their parent/carers to sustain their caring roles and help the C/Yp learn new skills	Meeting Statutory responsibilities. Support for the individuals and their families though short breaks and community-based support. Opportunities for families to link into other services and support.	Shortfalls in provision Gaps whilst packages are mobilised Ability of the market to manage needs flexibly	Vacancies and availability of providers to be monitored and reported to the Disability Resource Panel. Additional services utilised i.e. Childrens tier 2 Emotional Wellbeing service and Tier 2 Family Support Provision, and also HAF funded activities Contracts and monitoring to focus on stability and sustainability of varying requests. mitigation plan including issues log to be developed
Healthy Lifestyles Will the proposal promote independence and personal responsibility, helping people to make positive choices around physical activity, healthy food and nutrition, smoking, problematic alcohol and substance use, and sexual health?	Approximately 150 Staffordshire Children and young people with SEN and Disability and their families	Meeting statutory responsibilities and offering choices of short breaks and support in the home. Support for C/YP to develop lifeskills and promote independence and access to universal services. More effective linking	Enough care providers in children's services to support different levels of need including challenging behaviour and complex needs	Developing a dynamic cohort of providers including dual registered providers for adults and under 18's, and linking into other services e.g sitting services, foster carers, personal assistants. Providers will be required to evidence their effectiveness in encouraging individuals to take

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
		<p>to other commissioned services including 0-19 Healthy Child service, Childhood Weight Management Service etc. Positive goal setting and personalised outcomes. providers required to work with Voluntary organisations to enhance SEND support an upskill other providers</p>		<p>their own responsibility for the development and maintenance of healthy lifestyles through monitoring and KPI's</p> <p>The expectation that providers will work to upskills an agreed number of community volunteers and clubs to enhance their ability to be inclusive for CYP with SEND will be made a condition of contract</p>
Accidents and Falls Prevention	Around 150 Staffordshire Children and Young people with SEN and Disability and their families	<p>Involvement and early intervention by providers who will undertake their own risk assessments and monitor and feedback to SCC offer an additional level of involvement to ensure families stay safe. Providers committed contractually to SSCB safeguarding arrangements. Any concerns raised through monitoring and feedback</p> <p>+ Support will ensure CYP</p>	Lack of regular feedback may delay any remedial actions	<p>Contract monitoring to include “near miss” incidents, “no shows” for planned support and rigorous incident reporting.</p> <p>Sharing of vital information and training with providers to highlight accident avoidance</p> <p>+Links to made with Occupational Therapy service where appropriate</p>
Does the proposal reduce or increase the risk of: falls in older people, childhood accidents, road accidents, or workplace accidents?				

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)		understand the risks with community-based activities & support and develop the skills to manage their care independently as far as is possible		
Access to Social Care	Staffordshire Children and Young people with SEND and their families whose needs can be met by an effective 1:1 support service by earlier intervention and therefore reduce the reliance on the need for Social Care Support & more costly interventions	Step up and step down within services and support will enable the right support at the most appropriate and beneficial time. Different service providers will be able to work together to offer combined support	Having available resources 1) Dedicated finances 2) Dedicated social care staff 3) Resilient Market. Growth of 1-1 lifeskills and independence support market	1) Developing clear pathways of support offer 2) Engage with providers to build market provision
Independent Living	150 Staffordshire Children and Young people with SEND and complex needs and their families	C/YP will be supported to access opportunities independently at home and in the community. Providers will be expected to offer their skills to other groups and develop more inclusive community-based activities	Family and community hesitancy, and knowledge of possibilities	Working with agencies, providers and families to challenge barriers to inclusion for C/YP with SEND
Will the proposal impact on people's ability to live independently in their own home, with care and support from family, friends, and the community?				

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
Safeguarding	All Staffordshire Children and young people with SEND and their families who are in receipt of support	More cohesive and flexible support for C/YP – all involved in supporting the involvements will have agreed expectations, knowledge base, training to ensure C/yp and their families are safe. Agreed reporting processes and access to Safeguarding Teams and connections	“No shows” or concerns not recorded or followed up	Requirement of contract to undertake agreed safeguarding training and recording, processes & procedures, in line with SSCB policies
Will the proposal ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities?				

Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)

The C/YP accessing 1:1 Aiming High Lifeskills often request more hours from providers to enable achievement and sustainability of more independent outcomes, which result in less reliance on formal Social Care involvement in the future. However the life skills offer is currently underutilised with many providers able to offer more support to more families.

The enablement element of the community support framework supports C/YP to gain additional skills but partly replicates the outcomes of the Aiming High lifeskills intended outcomes. Some providers are registered on both schemes and are currently contractually restricted by the limitations of what hours of support they could offer – the proposed approach will remove this inflexibility from April 2022.

Current arrangements do not readily allow support to be flexed to meet rapid changes in need or allow for tapered support and input as outcomes are achieved.

Social care assessments take 45 days and up to 25% of these requests (i.e. those not progressed) are more appropriately supported by IAG and lower level intervention e.g. Tier 2 support. Costs are aligned to the step/level of need and enabling socialisation and independence; currently £15.66 per hour [\[current rates for community care support\]](#)

Between 25% -40% of people with LD also have Mental Health problems. Early intervention and support can help to identify any additional needs and potentially avoid escalation. [MH org research paper](#)

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
<p>However, Staffs & Stoke JSNA for Children & Young People Emotional Health 2018 indicates that the estimated MH for vulnerable groups is Children with Special Educational needs =44% and Children with LD =36%</p> <p>https://www.staffordshireobservatory.org.uk/documents/Health-and-Wellbeing/Emotional-wellbeing-JSNA-July-2018-FINAL.pdf</p> <p>The new support arrangements will be more quickly responsive to changes. The need to be able to offer a more flexible support was highlighted during the current pandemic.</p> <p>https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/2521/impact-of-coronavirus-pandemic-on-child-welfare-deaf-disabled-children.pdf</p>				

Economy

Use this section to determine how the proposal will impact on the economy of Staffordshire and the income of residents.

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
<p>Economic Growth</p> <p>Will the proposal promote the county as a “go to” location for business, and make it easy for businesses to start up, innovate and expand?</p>	Care market providers, agencies, voluntary sector	<p>New entrants to the Childrens Care market could develop their business & market share</p> <p>Current Adult Social Care providers could diversify and offer a greater range of age support.</p> <p>local economy would grow due to more local employment opportunities</p>	<p>Recruiting staff challenging in a stressed (post Covid) care market.</p> <p>Care sector pay rates make other employment more attractive</p>	<p>Benchmarking rates across neighbouring geographical areas. To ensure optimal <u>value for money</u> not merely cheapest options.</p> <p>Joint working with care sector to make care giving an attractive option for suitably motivated individuals</p>

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
Poverty and Income	Provider staff	Employees will have job opportunities to improve their income	Rates paid for care staff need to be realistic and attractive to maintain workforce	SCC assessments to include whole family needs
Will the proposal have an impact on income? Will it reduce the gap between high and low earners?	Families	Parent/carers will have opportunity to pursue work options whilst C/YP has support from SCC and their wider community	Suitable opportunities for parent/carers to access employment or training during care hours	Agency rates benchmarked against other West Midlands Authorities
Workplace Health and Environments	Provider staff	Improved understanding of SEND and working together with other agencies and SCC	None	Feedback from service delivery
Will the proposal impact on working conditions and the health of Staffordshire's workforce?	Social care staff	SCC staff have opportunities to help shape the market and include providers in SEND knowledge	SCC time and commitment	
	Families	Families will be able to inform delivery through experience & choice	Ensuring mechanisms in place to capture parent/carer feedback	
Access to jobs/ Good quality jobs	Providers	Opportunity for dual registration for adults and children giving employees additional scope	Limited market resources and high demand for adults packages of care.	Commissioned services to identify any gaps and maximise use of available staffing resource
Will the proposal create the right conditions for increased				

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
employment in more and better jobs?	Families	<p>of employment and to enhance their skills</p> <p>Parent carers may have opportunity to seek their own employment</p>	<p>Contracts of minimum hours may be requested by providers.</p> <p>All CYP typically require support at the same time (6-9.00am, 18.00-21.00)</p> <p>Parent/carer work patterns</p>	<p>SCC assessment to include whole family needs. Further investigation into parent carer needs</p>

Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)

Prior to framework arrangements some providers demanded minimum hours contracts of 4 hours when 1 hour support was required. As the opportunity to combine Children's Community Support was not included in the Adults Domiciliary Care framework social care Children Social Care staff have been reliant on what support they could broker from a limited number of agencies. Since the establishment of the current framework contract in 2018 more realistic hourly rates have been agreed which are comparable with other authority arrangements (see [West Mids benchmarking spreadsheet](#)) However there are still only 4 main providers for Childrens community care and efforts are ongoing to encourage more care providers to dual register with CQC as both Childrens and Adults providers.

There are also only 4 Aiming High lifeskills providers 2 of which also provide community care but at different (lower) rates, and its this which presents us with an opportunity to both meet need earlier, but also more cost effectively.

Parent and Carers have fed back (March 2021) that do not know of, or find information on how to access the current schemes and support opportunities difficult ([parent carer survey](#)) and find navigating systems overwhelming at times of stress.

Environment

Use this section to identify the impact of the proposal on the physical environment. How does the proposal support the utilisation and maintenance of Staffordshire's built and natural environments, thereby improving health and wellbeing and strengthening community assets?

Category Area (Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
Built Environment/ Land Use Will the proposal impact on the built environment and land use?	Premises/facilities and users	Providers to utilise available premises and work with businesses to ensure compliant for C/YP with SEND needs Could make better use of School and especially Special School premises for delivery of support	Costs to small businesses to make DDA compliant	Grants for updating accesses and use, e.g. Disability Facilities Grant Joint working with District and Brough Strategic Housing Leads Joint working with OT teams Joint work with schools and other community venues to maximise use of facilities
Rural Environment Will the proposal impact on the rural natural environment or on access to open spaces?	Not applicable to this proposal			
Air, Water and Land Quality Will the proposal affect air quality (e.g. vehicle, industrial or domestic emissions), drinking water quality or land quality (e.g. contamination)?	Not applicable to this proposal			
Waste and Recycling Will the proposal affect waste (e.g. disposal) and recycling?	Providers	Providers will need to evidence safe and appropriate disposal of any waste	Provider fined if not compliant and could affect reputation of SCC	Ensure compliance documentation and insurances cover responsibility of Providers

Agriculture and Food Production	Providers	Providers expected to adhere to SCC expectations to promote healthy eating and prepare culturally/faith appropriate food where required	Working with families to promote best choices	Include in specification, tender process and monitoring of service delivery
Will the proposal affect the production of healthy, affordable and culturally acceptable food?				
Transport	Support providers	Opportunity to include independent travel training as part of service delivery	Lack of suitable affordable transport and carer/companion. Existing transport policies inflexible to fulfil family's needs Difficulty of access in rural locations such as Moorlands & South Staffs	Providers will be required to offer support at accessible venues (where not home-based support) and encourage sustainable transport options wherever safe and possible to do so
Will the proposal affect the ability of people/ communities/ business to travel? Will the proposal impact on walking/ cycling opportunities?				
Noise	None noted			
Will the proposal cause disruptive noise?				
Climate Change	None noted			
Does this proposal have any Climate Change implications?				
Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact) Families have commented (March 2021) on time used for travel makes some support options unrealistic. More provision is needed closer to families or providers include transport to other localities.				

Localities / Communities

Use this section to identify the impact of the proposal on communities. How will the proposal strengthen community capacity to create safer and stronger communities? It is important to recognise the different localities and communities your proposal may impact upon and identify any communities that could be more adversely impacted than others. Strategic Delivery Managers (SDMs) have a great deal of knowledge about their relevant locality and they must be engaged with as part of your Project Team at an early stage of the process.

Category Area (Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>Community Development/ Capacity</p> <p>Will the proposal affect opportunities to work with communities and strengthen or reduce community capacity?</p>	<p>Providers</p> <p>Voluntary sector</p> <p>Universal services</p>	<p>Increased employment opportunities and SEND knowledge and training across all sectors within the community</p> <p>Commissioned providers will be required to “upskill” and involve community workers and voluntary sector in service delivery</p>	<p>Shortage of available workers or access to universal services.</p> <p>Changes in staffing and process costs of DBS’s</p>	<p>Local community involvement and local delivery</p> <p>Investigate the possibility of SCC as DBS organiser</p> <p>Make this a clause within each contract</p>
<p>Crime/ Community Safety</p> <p>Will the proposal support a joint approach to responding to crime and addressing the causes of crime?</p>	<p>C/YP with SEND and their families</p> <p>General public</p> <p>Agencies</p>	<p>Additional support for vulnerable families</p> <p>Greater understanding of public responsibility for safer communities</p> <p>multiagency support for families</p>	<p>Ensuring SEND on everyone’s agenda, and raising the profile of Disability hate crime</p>	<p>Multiagency support on SEND groups</p> <p>Involvement of BRFC and local leads</p> <p>Develop links with SPACE programme and the Office of the Staffordshire Commissioner (for Police/Fire)</p>

<p>Educational Attainment and Training</p> <p>Will the proposal support school improvement and help to provide access to a good education? Will the proposal support the improved supply of skills to employers and the employability of residents?</p>	<p>C/YP with SEND</p> <p>SCC Staff</p> <p>Commissioned providers</p> <p>Other agencies/providers</p>	<p>C/YP and their families supported to enable positive outcomes and have short breaks involving learning experiences</p> <p>Inclusion of Education and SCC staff to support delivery of EHCP needs and outcomes</p> <p>Providers can develop support to include e.g ASDAN,</p> <p>Building relationships with other associations e.g. Princes Trust</p>	<p>Coordination of effective support and maximising resources without duplication</p>	<p>Recording all input and outcomes in accessible formats and C/YP “file” eg capita – EHCP</p> <p>Ensuring information included as part of Preparation for Adulthood pathway and shared with Adult Services</p>
<p>Leisure and Culture</p> <p>Will the proposal encourage people to participate in social and leisure activities that they enjoy?</p>	<p>Commissioned providers</p> <p>Universal services</p> <p>Families</p> <p>C/YP with SEND</p>	<p>Specific use of L& C opportunities to be included in delivery of support</p> <p>L&C to ensure availability and inclusive activities</p> <p>Family and siblings to have opportunities to be supported to enjoy L &C</p> <p>L&C to offer support for C/YP to access independently</p>	<p>Restrictions on equipment or staff</p> <p>Availability of appropriate staff</p>	<p>Training for L&C providers</p> <p>Investigate carer options and work with carer organisations</p> <p>Core focus of proposals will be twofold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Encouraging CYP and their families to access local community facilities & resources, independent of SCC paid-for support 2) Upskilling local non-specialist groups and community providers to help them become

				more inclusive for CYP with SEN and Disability
Volunteering Will the proposal impact on opportunities for volunteering?	General public and voluntary organisations	Public awareness and understanding of the SEND agenda and needs of C/YP. By providers working within local communities more opportunities may arise for people to volunteer which in turn offers Increased skills for volunteers for future employment	DBS checks and continuity of volunteers.	Planning of resources and DBS support
Best Start Will the proposal impact on parental support (pre or postnatally), which helps to ensure that children are school-ready and have high aspirations, utilising a positive parenting approach?	Families accessing the services	Families are supported by providers and agencies Links to other commissioned support C/YP have enabling opportunities ASDAN and learning opportunities	None	Pathways and clear eligibility for support
Rural Communities Will the proposal specifically impact on rural communities?	Families across all of Staffordshire	Equitable access to support for families from new providers for all areas	Providers equipped for rural communities including travel time into support without detriment to costs and delivery	Explore community rural resources to match supply and demand for services

Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)

The Send Local Offer Task & Finish group have developed [Champions](#) within agencies and Services to promote activities and support across Staffordshire. The group was developed in 2020 to scope and promote IAG for families and professionals and providers.

Greater involvement across the community gives more opportunities to providers to utilise facilities and engage with universal services to upskill staff and deliver care and support within the community. More organisations have the SEND and Inclusion agenda embedded into their everyday business and promote the support for families within their local community via the Staffordshire [Connects](#) webpages and Enjoy Staffordshire has been updated with SEND information

A [briefing paper](#) has also been prepared for Members to highlight the efforts to support families of C/YP with SEND

Submitting a CIA

Now transfer the main findings of this assessment to the '**Checklist and Executive Summary**' template. Then both documents need to be approved/signed off by the appropriate people. For CIAs that are going to **Cabinet**, only the '**Checklist and Executive Summary**' will be submitted as part of the **Cabinet Papers**. The Full CIA document will be submitted as a **Background Paper**.

Staffordshire County Council, Families & Communities Directorate

Children's Community Support Delivery Options

April 2021

Produced by: Paris Wood- Commissioning Officer (Children with Disability), Families and Communities

Contributors:

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- Nicky Evans (Senior Brokerage Liaison Officer, Adult Social Care Brokerage Service)
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- Claire Owen (Service Lead: Children with Disabilities)

Overview:

Document Purpose:

- Reviewing the current commissioning arrangements for the delivery of Children's Community Support. This includes reviewing the delivery, demand, statutory functions, efficiency, quality, service scale, finance and sustainability.
- Identify and evaluate potential delivery models for the service and assess financial implications and highlight any potential risk to the proposed models.
- To make recommendations to the Director of Children's Services and the Families & Communities Senior Leadership Team (F&CSLT) and ultimately to Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet in relation to the future arrangements for Children's Community Care.

Background:

- Staffordshire County Council (SCC) has a legal duty to ensure Children's Community Care provision is in place to support children and young people with a range of disabilities, who require care and support at home and within the community.
- SCC currently commissions a range of providers from across Staffordshire to deliver Children's Home Care on behalf of the local authority. Providers support children and young people with a range of disabilities, including children and young people with physical and learning disabilities, autism and challenging behaviours. Some providers will be working with children and young people who have been assessed as having multiple needs. Providers provide a range of support within Staffordshire which are tailored to the specific needs of children, young people and families, this includes: preparing for independence, enablement and socialisation, community support, domiciliary care, and sitting and complex needs support.
- SCC wishes to develop and enhance, models of practice across a broader range of services.

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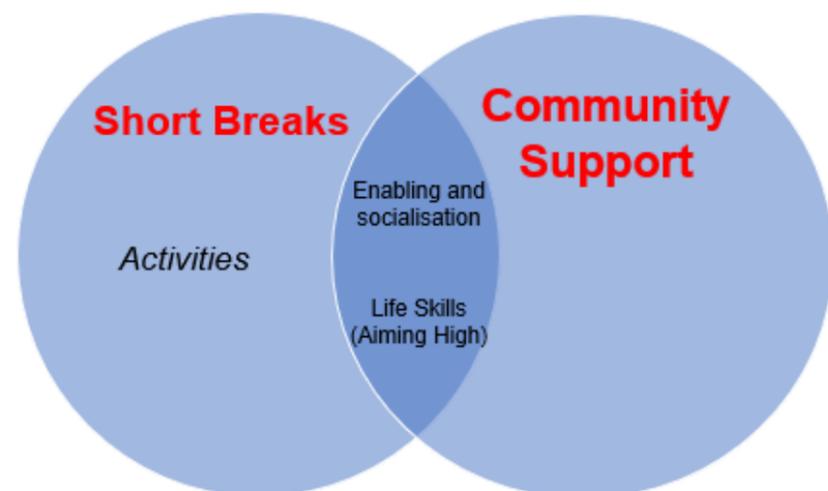
There are several factors the Families and Communities Management Team must consider in reviewing the current commissioning arrangements for Children's Community Support, which are outlined below.

- Current commissioning arrangements for Children's Community Care and Aiming High Short Breaks expire on the 31st March 2022, with current contracts due to go out to tender during autumn 2021.
- To ensure SCC is compliant with appropriate requirements as outlined in guidance, regulation, and legislation, including those set out in the Children Act 1989, Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2013), the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, and the Children & Families Act 2014.
- To ensure a range of market providers have the capacity to deliver quality care and support for the fluctuating needs that eligible children require, quickly and flexibly
- To ensure providers have the right skills, knowledge, and experience to provide high quality support and care which is focused on individual's needs and outcomes at the most cost-effective price.
- To realign existing contract delivery in order to avoid duplication and maximise opportunities from a range of providers.
- To ensure flexibility across all community support for children and young people with SEND.

Children's Community Care in Staffordshire:

Overview of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Staffordshire:

- In Staffordshire there are around 17,000 Children and Young people with SEND living with their families who need support to remain at home, to avoid their needs, and access to other services, escalating. Approximately 6,000 of these children are known to us through the Education Health & Care Planning (EHCP) process and associated assessments
- There are approximately 550 Children/Young People in Staffordshire who have been assessed as being eligible for Social Care support by the Children with Disability Social care teams. Approximately 300 of these children are in receipt of 'paid for' support, the majority (200) manage their own care via a Direct Payment to their parents/carers, with around 55 children supported by agency delivered home care
- There are a range of needs of Children with SEND, with many Children/Young People having multiple and complex needs
- The services in scope for this Options Appraisal are the current Aiming High Life skills programme ('Moving Forward') and our commissioned agency delivered home care and community-based support



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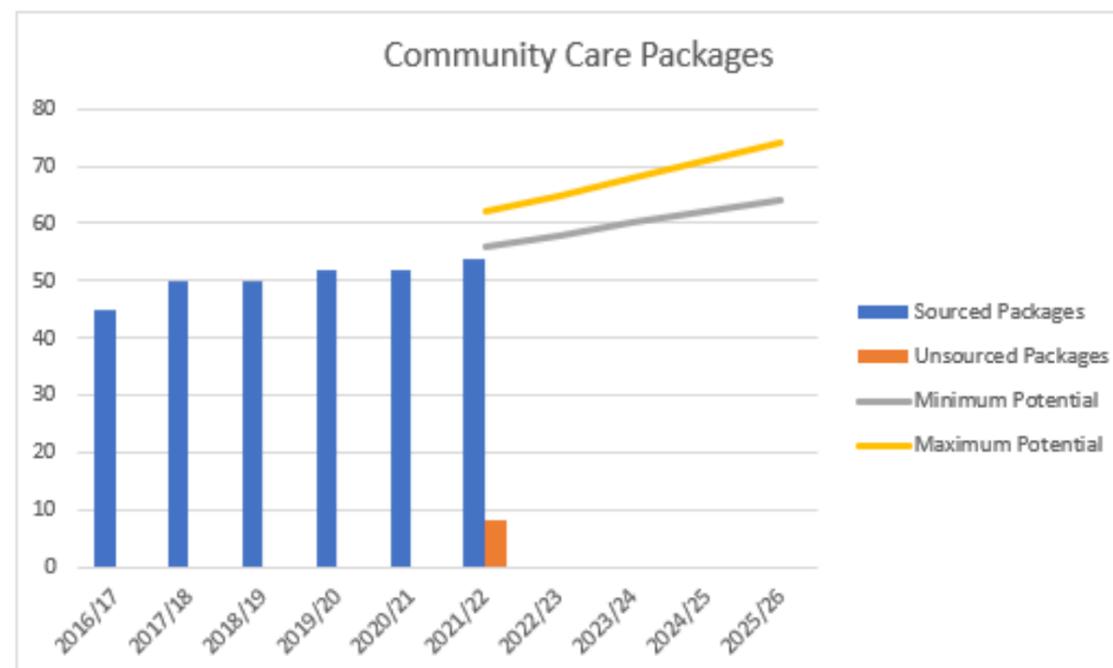
Overview of Current Commissioning Arrangements:

- Current commissioning arrangements for Children's Community Care and Short Breaks Life Skills expire on the 31st March 2022.
- Both current contracts for care and support are provided by a relatively small number of organisations.
- Currently where a child, young person or family is assessed by the Children With Disabilities Social Care Team as being eligible for community support, the appropriate case manager seeks the approval of the Team Leader (Children With Disabilities) before approaching a provider to deliver the support package. Providers are ranked by 'care type' within each area, this rank indicates which provider practitioners should approach first. Once a package of care is agreed, social care staff liaise with the framework provider to match the request.
- Aiming High services are accessible for any child with SEN by referral by any professional; no social work assessment is currently required to access this provision.
- The current arrangement's for commissioning, has led to an inconsistency in the desired level of affordable, accessible, efficient, outcome focussed, flexible and high quality care services to meet the individual assessed needs.
- 56 Community Support care packages are in place during the current reporting period

Current Challenges:

- Sourcing and accessibility of appropriate support based on the varying needs. The fluctuation of children's situations and plans means that the existing provision limits opportunities and choice.
- Relatively low numbers of children requiring community care services – and the concentration of this demand at either end of the school day - makes it difficult to encourage providers to enter the market as it is difficult to provide assurances on volume and likely demand (and therefore income for the providers).
- Provider reluctant to take on care packages, particularly those requiring behavioural skills management and for community outings.
- Capacity within providers is stretched in certain in-demand hours
- Hours providers would prefer are often limited by block contracts and and the tendency to favour larger/longer term packages of care.
- Current contracts don't complement each other fully, resulting in overlapping provision.
- Interaction with universal services is currently minimal, up-skilling opportunities are limited within organisations across all provision.
- Expectations and understanding of children's levels of care needs is currently limited within organisations.

Demand:



- In this reporting period there are currently 8 unsourced community care packages, demonstrating a significant rise in requests for community support. Capacity within agencies continues to be stretched due to factors such as staffing levels/COVID-19.
- This trajectory indicates a steady increase at both the minimum and maximum potential when forecasting demand over the life span of the contract (4 years).
- The reason for this increased demand over time is that some children with complex and life-limiting conditions are now living longer than they were even a few years ago as a result of improvements in medical science and research

Overview of Finance:

- The total current average annual spend for Children’s Community Care is approximately £569,385.00. This is calculated using the current arrangements for Children’s Community Support, however this will vary from year to year depending on the individual needs of children, young people and families.
- The total current budget available for the Short Breaks Life Skills is £150,000
- The average rates for each of the contracts differ dependant on the level of need and involvement from providers.
- The total annual spend for both contracts will differ depending on the number of children, young people and families requiring support. It is challenging to provide an accurate projection of demand for this reason.

Community Care spend by provider	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
AMG	79,747.23	153,323.72	287,306.47	223,077.55
Progress	0	0	7,508.51	12,945.75
Freedom	46,712.31	103,686.68	95,401.49	120,341.61
Crossroads	426.50	10,403.50	26,807.66	33,456.90
Non-Framework Provision	490,276.86	374,293.26	179,318.39	179,563.19
Aiming High	157,397.00	170,162.00	111,792.00	16,241.00 *
Total costs	617,162.90	641,647.16	596,342.52	569,385.00

- This table demonstrates budget expenditure for community care from 2017 onwards. Split between the 4 current framework provider, non-framework provision and also Aiming High. This indicates that the framework has provided cost savings for the authority.

* The lower spend for the 2020/21 Aiming High programme has been a direct result of COVID-19, due to children and their families shielding and limited face to face contact due to social distancing measures. Most sessions have been completed virtually which has not had the uptake that previous years of Aiming High activities have seen.

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Engagement:

Engagement with families who access these services has been completed via an online survey and virtual engagement sessions, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We found-

- Majority of parents/carers who responded were not aware of the Aiming High Lifeskills or Community Support services.
- Those who had used the services felt that their child/young persons had benefitted from them and that they provide an invaluable break for their family

The following **issues/barriers** to accessing the services were identified-

- Lack of awareness of services - information often difficult to find
- Eligibility – Several parents/carers stated that their child could not access services as they don’t have a formal diagnosis – this is a misconception and open access for 1-1 lifes kills and independence activities needs highlighting more clearly in promotional material.
- Lack of suitable services especially in their local area.
- Greater partnership working with schools, and especially special schools, is needed.
- Parents/carers feeling overwhelmed – too much emphasis on families having to seek out services themselves, often at a time when they are already overwhelmed.

- The recurring theme throughout parent/carer feedback is access to information.
- There is a clear need to ensure parents/carers and practitioners have up-to date, relevant, easy access information surrounding these services and a clear route how to access. This would allow greater awareness of the services to families who would benefit
- Wider promotion of services on appropriate media outlets with our partners.
- Joint working across SCC Families and Communities team, to ensure there is no duplication of services and greater enhancement of the current services e.g Govt Healthy Activities Fund provision

Future Options For Children Community Care in Staffordshire:

No:	Option:	Option Outline:	Strengths:	Opportunities:	Risks:	Cost per annum
1	Option One: Continue with current commissioned services i.e. framework and separate independence short breaks	Option one proposes two separate contracts run parallel to each other, i.e. 1- Children's Community Support Commissioning Ranked Framework is developed to include more providers within Staffordshire and 2- Short breaks (Aiming High) independence skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues to meet statutory duties for Children's Community Care. SCC is compliant with appropriate requirements as outlined in guidance, regulation and legislation, including those set out in the Children Act 1989, Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2013) and the Children & Families Act 2014. Allows for different levels of access Has been effective in supporting some children and young people Creates an outcomes commissioning environment that can secure value for money through better relationships with other bodies: public, private and voluntary. Offers value for money in challenging market environments Promote responsible commissioning in terms of addressing social, economic and environmental issues, equality and diversity. Help deliver a consistent shared understanding of Staffordshire's Vision, Values and Principles for delivering Children's Home Care. Ensure openness, transparency and value for money, at all times, through the application of consistent commissioning standards and approaches across the commissioning of children's care needs. Both offer payment by results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the market has the right skills, knowledge, and experience to provide high quality support and care which is focused on outcomes as opposed to "time and task". Both contracts deliver outcomes based, individual bespoke results Providers can excel in a specific area of the care market Providers can enter the market at different levels of involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not meet the needs of all children's/young persons. Cannot increase or decrease support easily, in line with the needs of the individual. Often encourages practitioners to source packages off the framework. Relatively low numbers of children, young people and families requiring Community Support Services has made it difficult to encourage providers to enter the market as it is difficult to provide assurances on volumes and likely demand. Hours offered are above the assessed need, as agencies block charge for 3-4 hours minimum, irrespective of the requirements of the care plan. Framework does not allow for additional providers to join in the same way as a DPS Duplication of outcomes from different contracts C/YP information on different systems i.e. Capita and CareDirector with no overall "vision" 	<p>Community Care = 569,385.00</p> <p>AH short breaks independence skills = £150K</p> <p>Total = c£720K</p>
2	Option Two: In House Delivery	Option two proposes that Children's Community Care is provided directly by SCC through the Children & Families System. This provides an increased opportunity for SCC to maximise the resources available to Children's Community Care in order to ensure affordable, accessible, efficient, outcome focussed, flexible and high-quality care services to meet the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues to meet statutory duties for Children's Home Care. Provides the Local Authority control to ensure fast and response services, which have a consistent level of quality. SCC is compliant with appropriate requirements as outlined in guidance, regulation, and legislation, including those set out in the Children Act 1989, Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2013) and the Children & Families Act 2014. Enables SCC to develop a workforce with specific skills, knowledge and experience in order to meet the specific needs of individual children, young people and families. Deliver services that meet the holistic needs of children, young people and families. Seek to improve services through innovation. Allows SCC more control over quality, cost and capacity within the marketplace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market facilitation in order to meet the holistic needs of children, young people and families. SCC can support the market to capture and share market intelligence in order to influence and support market development. Ensure the market has the right skills, knowledge and experience to provide high quality support and care which is focused on outcomes as opposed to "time and task". Enables SCC to develop robust Quality Assurance and contract management. Allows SCC to access emergency support packages Local delivery of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively low numbers of children, young people and families requiring Community Support Services may make it difficult to develop an internal service delivery model which is sustainable. An internal delivery model may lead to increased staffing costs leading to the total spend on Children's Community Care increasing (because of the uncertain nature of demand). An internal service would lead to challenges in the delivery of specialist specific services to meet the holistic children, young people 	<p>450k (Not inclusive of additional costs if emergency /on call care staff required, or specialist training costs)</p>

		individual assessed needs and demonstrate progress towards agreed outcomes. This option suggests that the service would be fully integrated with the wider Children & Families System.			and families which would normally be provided by specialist providers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C/YP moving above tier 2 unnecessarily if integrated into SCC services. ▪ Reliance on fewer staff ▪ Could still become reliant on non-framework provision 	
3	Option Three: Aligning children's community care with adult framework	Option three proposes that the children's community support framework is an additional part of the adult's domiciliary care framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to a bigger market of providers, more choice for families ▪ Bigger pool of care staff, to meet growing demand ▪ Allows joint working across SCC children and adults, enabling fluidity when transitioning to adulthood (Preparing for Adulthood Pathway) ▪ Creates more competition within the all age care market, helping to drive down costs, whilst encouraging a high quality of service ▪ Consistency in regulatory body i.e.CQC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourages more providers to engage further with the delivery of children's care. ▪ Encourages current adult providers to 'upskill' current carers i.e. complex health children's packages ▪ Learning and development opportunities for carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of continuity of care for our children's families due to the upskilling of the all staff within each provider ▪ Systemic quality issues identified in adults may filter into children's services due to factors such as a high turnover of staff and increased pressure with stretched capacity ▪ Currently, commissioning cycles with adults SCC not aligned. 	17.89 (adult framework provider rate) x hours of care = 513,000 (figure IF all hours of care were delivered at framework rate) NB this figure does not include the 1-1 'Moving Forward' element.
4	Option Four: One lead provider to deliver all services for children with SEND across a range of needs	Option four- Step up/down service, combining existing contracts 1. Children's Community Support Commissioning Ranked Framework and 2- Short breaks independence skills via 'Aiming High'. All to be delivered by one lead provider.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to allow access at different levels within the service. • Flexibility to step up/down support as required across all community support. • One singular point of contact for practitioners. • Continuity of care for children/young people and their families • Enables the delivery of a personalised bespoke service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to enhance quality by directly working with one singular organisation/provider ▪ Capital investment for one service that can utilise funding in a proactive way, ensuring quality services can be delivered in terms of the number of skilled staff working in the service ▪ Opportunity to enhance all staff skill set, within lead provider ▪ Enables SCC and families to build a strong rapport with the provider ▪ Allows SCC to establish key contract management and delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially a significant financial risk for SCC and families supported by the service should there be quality concerns/provider breakdown ▪ Limits engagement with wider care markets ▪ Lack of market stimulation and growth ▪ Cost of management fee for one provider to coordinate all care and support ▪ Limits choice for families 	700k
5	Option Five: Combine Community Support and 1-1 Independence & Lifeskills provision	Option five- Step up/down service, combining existing contracts 1. Children's Community Support Commissioning Ranked Framework and 2- Short breaks independence skills via 'Aiming High'. To be delivered by a range of providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to allow access at different levels of support • Access to a wide range of providers • Flexibility to step up/down support as required across all community support • More choice of service types to offer families • Potential cost saving by decreasing duplication of services (1:1 life skills & low level community support) • Ability to meet the needs of more children using less resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages more providers who can offer lower levels of support onto the framework, could also lead to providers wishing to 'upskill' carers to obtain more packages, enabling greater financial security • Opportunities for joint working across organisations as children step up and down the service • Competitive costings as the number of providers who can offer support will be greater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could still see practitioners sourcing packages off the framework if capacity becomes stretched 	650k

Outcomes and Tests

1. The following outcomes and tests have been used to evaluate the options for community support

Outcomes	Tests	
Enables delivery of statutory duties and responsibilities	1	Promotes individual wellbeing, supports the provision of information and advice, and the identification of services, facilities, and resources already available within the community, which could be used to meet needs.
	2	Enables a flexible support system for all families where support can be increased/decreased as and when required.
	3	Supports all stakeholders - the NHS, SCC Adult Social Care and Children's and Families, to meet their statutory duties and responsibilities to children/young people with disabilities, in terms of assessment and support planning particularly in Preparing For Adulthood ensuring future cost saving.
Supports the delivery of Children System transformation principles	4	Encourages market stimulation to ensure capacity and choice within local organisations meets demand from SCC.
	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is flexible • Local – fits with corporate view of PBA, children stay within their localities/county • Works better for the child and their family and all practitioners • Designed against Demand, Co-produced with families.
	6	Encourages effective cost management whilst delivering high quality care.
Financially sustainable and value for money	7	Is cost-effective and financially sustainable in the long term
	8	Delivers process and financial efficiencies to drive performance improvements.
	9	Utilises local community support and allows families to connect with others in their local area both for support and to make the best use of existing community resources
Offer's social value by supporting to increase individual and community resilience	10	Provide a safe and high-quality system of support, that is flexible and equitable across the county.
	11	Offers opportunities for new entrants into the children with disability care market in Staffordshire, increasing our preventative offer, and reducing the need for more costly services/interventions, and especially avoidable admission to Local Authority Care
	12	Delivers innovation and creativity to work in more modern, effective, and lower cost ways.
Manages operational and reputational risk	13	Supports and enhances the delivery of council and NHS* agenda's and enablers e.g. "people helping people", "#doingourbit, #didyouknow, and encourages people to take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and plan for their future, so that we can ensure continuity of support for those who most need it.
	14	Considers the outcome of engagement with parents and carers of children with disabilities, and other stakeholders, whilst delivering value for money for Staffordshire residents.
	15	Supports Council's strategic priorities e.g. create more better paid jobs for Staffordshire residents, inspire healthy and independent living, access to employment, education and training opportunities, support more families and children to look after themselves, stay safe and well.

Evaluation Matrix

Options	Enables delivery of statutory duties and responsibilities			Supports the delivery of Children with Disability transformation principles			Financially sustainable and value for money			Offer's social value by supporting to increase individual and community resilience			Manages operational and reputational risk			Outcome
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
1	P	N	P	P	P	Y	Y	P	P	P	N	P	P	Y	P	
2	Y	P	Y	N	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	P	Y	Y	Y	
3	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	P	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	
4	P	Y	P	N	P	P	P	P	P	P	N	N	P	P	N	
5	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	<i>Preferred option</i>

Scoring Methodology

Yes	Strong delivery against drivers/ tests
Partially	Partial delivery against driver/ tests
No	No or minimal delivery against drivers/ tests

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Recommendations:

- The above tests were discussed and evaluated between a panel of 5 professionals within SCC Social Care from F&C Commissioning Team, the adult Brokerage Service and team manager for the Children's Disability Service.
- Scores from the evaluation matrix **indicate option 5- combining Community Support and 1-1 Independence & Life skills provision- is the preferred option** for SCC Children with Disability, Families and Communities.
- The highlighted risk of option 5, that of the potential risk of practitioners still sourcing off the framework, could be resolved with the use of a DPS call off when making an off-framework purchase. This would allowing SCC to continue to source value for money services within the security of a contracted arrangement whilst meeting the eligible need of the C/YP.
- For the life skills element to be truly maximised, detail surrounding specific outcome focused targets are required in the service specification, allowing more emphasis on measurable outcomes for the C/YP
- The current provision for 1-1 Independence & Life Skills is accessible for young people up to the age of 25, this consideration needs to be addressed in the service specification as the current Community Support Framework is 0-18.
- Detail surrounding definitions of 'care types' is required in the service specification, to ensure accurate requests are made by practitioners resulting in accurate charges matching the care required.
- **Option 2- in house delivery- requires further investigation for future service delivery** as a significant number of strengths and opportunities were established over the course of the evaluation panel which is also reflected in the scoring of the evaluation matrix.

Local Members' Interest
N/a

Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 17 June 2021

Work Programme Planning 2021/22

Recommendation

1. That the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider and agree an initial list of priorities to form the basis of the work programme for 2021/22.

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Officer

Summary

2. The revised scrutiny structures have been designed to ensure effective accountability for the delivery against the Council's key outcomes set out in Staffordshire County Council's Strategic Plan. The Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutiny of:

Children and adults' safeguarding
Community safety
Localism

3. In developing a work programme the Committee is encouraged to identify issues that are a current priority for local people and communities and/or are a priority for the Council and partners. If a matter is a recurring issue for the people you collectively as Councillors represent, then the likelihood is that it is something the Committee should spend time on. The more relevant the issue is to local communities then the greater the likelihood of engaging those communities in the scrutiny process and of producing outcomes that will be visible to those communities. Members are encouraged to raise and discuss issues that should form the basis of the work programme and review these periodically throughout the year to ensure they remain relevant and will add value to what the Council and partners are doing.

Report

Remit of the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee

4. The Committee will lead on ensuring effective accountability of safeguards in place to protect adults and children and young people whilst scrutinising the wider community safety and localism priorities. The Committee is the designated crime and disorder committee. This is distinct from the role of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel, who are responsible for scrutinising the decisions of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, but to whom it may refer matters. Full details of the role of Police, Fire and Crime Panel are available here:

Developing the Work Programme

5. This meeting is an opportunity for the Committee to begin to identify and prioritise what it wishes to scrutinise during the current municipal year. Officers and Cabinet Members will be present at the meeting to outline the County Council's responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, public protection and localism, and highlighting priorities for the Council going forward.
6. When agreeing matters for your work programme you are encouraged to ask the following questions:
 - Is the matter of particular concern to local people? You may wish to reflect on topics raised with you when canvassing.
 - Is the issue an identified priority for the County Council or partners?
 - Does the issue relate to an area of service with a trend in weak performance? For example, has this issue been identified by external auditors or inspectors?
 - What difference could scrutiny make?
 - What would happen if you did not look at this issue?

Matters Arising from Last Year's Work Programme

7. The Committee met eight times during the last municipal year, with the majority of meetings held virtually as a result of the Pandemic. A copy of the 2020/21 work programme is attached at Appendix 1 outlining the areas scrutinised during that period, which included:

Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan, with this Plan becoming part of the **Children & Families Transformation**. The then Select Committee had previously scrutinised the Transformation programme at Phase 1. Phase 2 had been included on 7 November 2019 agenda, with progress considered on 13 October 2020. The Transformation programme took into account learning from the Serious Case Review. It is an aspirational transformation of children and family services, creating an environment where families are supported to stay together safely and live well within their communities by building upon their strengths. The Programme set out proposed plans for future services, the investment required and recommended a model which would embrace all parts of the existing children and families' system and improve outcomes including educational achievement, emotional wellbeing and stability for our children and families.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Children and Young People Missing from Home or Care have been a key strategic priority for the County Council and its partners since 2014. The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee had received reports on a six monthly basis to scrutinise this work. Following the OFSTED Inspection and subsequent report and recommendations in March 2019 Staffordshire moved

towards a contextual safeguarding approach. **Contextual Safeguarding** is a theoretical response to safeguarding vulnerable adolescents outside of their family, developed by Bedfordshire University, and this theoretical framework is fast becoming the practice model in safeguarding vulnerable adolescents and is the approach now being developed within Staffordshire. Contextual Safeguarding was scrutinised by the then Select Committee, most recently at their 22 April 2021 meeting. Working Together Revised Guidance December 2020 changed the definition of Contextual Safeguarding to “Abuse outside of the family home”.

Domestic Abuse services across Staffordshire have been jointly commissioned by the County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Commissioners Office. The Service Contract for provision of services for Victims was awarded to Victim Support and the Service Contract for the provision of Domestic Abuse Services for Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to the Reducing Reoffending Partnership. Both services are provided under the brand name of New Era and the jointly commissioned service began on 1 October 2018. A report had been due for the 28 May 2020 Select Committee agenda. This meeting had been cancelled due to the Pandemic and Members had instead received a briefing note. A report had been requested to update Members on the New Era commissioned service and to highlight the impact of the Pandemic on these service, and in particular whether there had been an increase in Domestic Abuse resulting from the Pandemic. This has been suggested for inclusion on the new Scrutiny Committee’s work programme, for the 6 July agenda.

The **Regional Permanency Partnership** is the Partnership between Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council, fulfilling the statutory requirements of the Education and Adoption Act 2016, and delivering the vision set out by the Government in “Regionalising Adoption” (DfE 2015). In April 2017 these four local authorities established the North Midlands Regional Adoption and Permanency Partnership. The Partnership aimed to improve outcomes for children who entered care and required permanent care away from their families of origin. This included children who were adopted from care, children living with special guardians and kinship carers, and those who required long-term foster care. This was last scrutinised in 2019 and is suggested for inclusion on the 6 July agenda.

Safeguarding adults on the cusp of care is an outstanding item from the 2020/21 work programme. The suggestion had been to consider any gaps in provision between community adult provision for adults on the cusp of care and any safeguarding issues they may present.

A draft 2021/22 Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

Matters arising on Forward Plan of Key Decisions

8. Two key decisions are due to be considered by Cabinet at their 7 July meeting on:
 - “Child Exploitation & Missing Children and Young People Service” – future commissioning and procurement arrangements. (previously scrutinised by the Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee at their 22 April meeting); and
 - “Community Support (including Domiciliary Care) and 1-1 intensive support for Children with Disabilities” (included on the 17 June agenda).

Recurring Work Programme Items

Complaints and Representations Annual Report – Children’s Services. Children’s services are required to submit an annual report on complaints and representations to the relevant County Council Committee. Trends in complaints are used to inform the Scrutiny Committee’s work programme.

Complaints and Representations Annual Report – Adults’ Services. Whilst there is no statutory obligation for Adults’ Services to submit a report to a County Council Committee, the ‘safeguarding’ scrutiny committee has scrutinised this report on an annual basis. Trends in complaints are used to inform the Scrutiny Committee’s work programme.

Annual Report of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults’ Partnership. The Committee has received this report on an annual basis for comment.

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board. The Committee has previously received the Board’s Annual report for comment.

Outcomes from inspections. Adults and children’s services are subject to a programme of announced/unannounced inspections throughout the year. The Committee will be updated on the outcomes from inspections and Members may be required to contribute to them.

Meeting with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The Committee has the opportunity to scrutinise the work of the Commissioner specifically in regard to community safety. The Chairman is copied into the agenda and minutes of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and every effort is made to ensure that the Committee is not duplicating the work of the Panel.

Training and development

9. Member and Democratic Services ran induction sessions on an Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny in May 2021. Further training and development sessions will be run for Members as required. Members are invited to make any suggestions for development to the Chair or the Scrutiny and Support Officer.

Method of Scrutiny

10. Once Members have identified the matters they wish to scrutinise, consideration needs to be given to the most appropriate timing and method of scrutiny for that issue. Members may wish to:
 - consider an item at a single meeting;
 - consider an item over a series of meetings;
 - allocate the work to a small group of Members to look at over a period of 2-3 months; or undertake an inquiry day
 - Undertake joint scrutiny with members of another Scrutiny Committee.
11. The choice of method will depend in part on the scope of the matter, capacity and the opportunity for locality working and community engagement in the review.

Experience suggests that single issue meetings and small task groups tend to deliver better recommendations and outcomes, than having a lengthy agenda at scheduled committee meetings. A scoping report will be produced for new items that Members wish to consider. This will contain background research on the matter and will assist Members in deciding how to take the proposal to scrutinise forward.

12. Members can request more information on a subject to assist them in deciding whether or not additional scrutiny is required. A Briefing Note is requested and circulated to Members in advance of the meeting and then Members are asked if they consider additional scrutiny is required.

Reviewing the Work Programme

14. There will be an opportunity to review the work programme at every Committee meeting. Members are encouraged to raise issues at any point during the year and this can be done by:

- talking to the Chair/Vice Chairs and Scrutiny and Support Team;
- raising items under the 'Work Programme' item on the meeting agenda.

15. In developing a work programme, Members do not need to set in stone the work programme for a full year. It is important to plan items for the next two to three meetings. Time needs to be allowed for officers to prepare reports and for the Cabinet Member(s), officers and witnesses to diary their attendance at meetings. It is possible that new issues may arise that need to be given priority and therefore it is advisable to review the work programme quarterly and treat it as a dynamic document. This way the Committee will be better able to respond to community concerns as and when they arise.

Link to Strategic Plan

16. The remits of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees link to the strategic priorities set out in the County Council Strategic Plan. Work programmes should link to community priorities or strategic outcomes if they are to deliver noticeable outcomes for local communities and the organisation.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

17. Scrutiny Committees are encouraged to identify whether any of the issues for their work programmes are 'cross cutting' and would benefit from joint working.

Equalities and Legal Implications

18. The County Council has a responsibility to undertake adequate Equality Impact Assessments to ensure services do not have a negative impact on any one section of the community and the scrutiny committees have a role in ensuring that this responsibility is fulfilled, particularly in regard to health impact. Scrutiny as a function must also comply with the relevant legislation. When considering work programme items, especially when undertaking reviews of policy, the scrutiny committees must always consider whether their recommendations may impact differently on various individuals/sections of the community.

19. The Scrutiny Committees will be updated as necessary on any matters affecting their operation that relate to legislation, regulations, and the County Council's Constitution.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

20. Work programmes which are effectively prioritised will ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit.

Risk Implications

21. The key aspects of risk management in regard to scrutiny work programmes are:

- ensuring that there are clear outcomes from the scrutiny process that impact positively upon the people and communities of Staffordshire and link to corporate priorities; and
- that there is adequate capacity for the Scrutiny Committees to complete the work that has been agreed.

Climate Change Implications

22. The Committee will need to consider the implications for climate change of any recommendations it makes in relation to those issues included on the work programme. The Committee should also consider the implications of the scrutiny methods it decides to utilise – for example, travelling for best practice visits.

Contact Officer

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Appendices/Background papers

Appendix 1 – 2020/2021 Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee Work Programme

Appendix 2 - Draft 2021/2022 Work Programme

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

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 cancelled due to Covid 19
7 July 2020 at 10.00 am virtual meeting held on Teams
1 September 2020 at 10.00 am virtual meeting held on Teams
13 October 2020 at 10.00 am – Extra meeting virtual meeting held on Teams
5 November 2020 at 10.00 am – virtual meeting held on Teams
6 January 2021 at 10.00 am (moved from 11 January 2021) - virtual meeting held on Teams
1 March 2021 at 10.00 am - virtual meeting held on Teams
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	Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan 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;">Meeting cancelled due to Covid 19</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>
	Domestic Abuse 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	
	Catch 22 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 Virtual Teams Meeting	Children's & Family Services response to Covid 19	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 Virtual Teams Meeting	Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board – response to Covid-19 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	Children & Families Transformation –	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.

Extra meeting Virtual Teams Meeting Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee Members invited to attend	update Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	Families Transformation prior to the October Cabinet.	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.
5 Nov 2020 10.00am	Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Officer: Kate Bullivant	Reports brought annually.	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.
	Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant	Reports brought annually.	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.
	Court Backlogs: Impact on Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Deborah Ramsdale	Requested by Members following concerns around the backlog that has resulted from Covid 19 restrictions	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.
	Impact of Covid on Children appearing in Criminal courts Cabinet Member: Mark	Requested by Members following concerns around the backlog that has resulted from Covid 19 restrictions	<i>See above</i>

	Sutton Officer: Hazel Williamson		
6 January 2021, 2.00 pm (moved from 11 January 2021, 10.00 am)	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) – Annual Report Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Officer: John Wood (Independent Chair)	Consideration requested by the SSASPB to give assurance and an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on adult safeguarding and seek answers to any questions. Inclusion in Work Programme agreed by Chairman 22 October 2020.	Members highlighted the need for more consistency in methods of data capture between Authorities to enable benchmarking. They were encouraged by the lessons which had been learnt and commended all Officers and the Independent Chair on their excellent work and commitment to safeguarding.
	Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019- 20 – Children’s Social Care (including learning from Complaints) Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant	Reports brought annually. First considered at meeting on 5 November but further report to include additional information.	Members noted the main areas for complaint and were satisfied that the Authority had taken appropriate steps to learn from the criticisms made and improve service delivery where necessary. Also, they were encouraged that the volume of complaints had been relatively small having regard to the extent of Children’s Social Services provided by the Authority during 2019/20. However, they expressed their wish to receive more real-time data relating to complaints in order to assist them in their overview and scrutiny role.
	Elective Home Schooling Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officers: Jenny Dodd, Karl Hobson		Members were updated on progress with regard to the outcomes of a review of EHE support undertaken in Staffordshire during 2018 relating to:- (i) off rolling pupils from school to EHE; (ii) an annual event to celebrate achievements of EHE students and; (iii) Staffing levels within the EHE service. They agreed to continue their efforts to achieve legislative changes for the establishment of a register of children not attending mainstream schools and associated duties on parents/proprietors of certain educational settings.
1 March 2021 10.00 am	Children & Families Transformation and learning from the Serious Case Review Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Helen Riley	Requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021 to review progress on remedial measures following publication of the Serious Case Review final report.	Members discussed in detail the presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families & Communities, considering learning from the Serious Case Review and how this had influenced the Children & Families Transformation programme in the development of services.
22 April 2021 10.00 am	Commissioning of Child Exploitation & Children & Young people Missing from Home or Care (‘Catch 22’)	Originally requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021 following Briefing Notes circulated in July 2020. Recommissioning this service is due in April and therefore the report will focus on the Commissioning of Child Exploitation & of Children	Members welcomed the performance of the Pan-Staffordshire CSE and Missing Children & Young People’s Service provided by Catch22 and the emerging future commissioning intentions in relation to the this Service. Members were pleased to note the proposed changes to performance data recording which would help scrutiny of future performance delivery.

	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Natasha Moody & Joe Sullivan	& Young People Missing from Home or Care	
	Contextual Safeguarding Review Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Chris Heeley & Hazel Williamson	Requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021. 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.	The Select Committee were pleased with the considerable progress made on Contextual safeguarding and welcomed details of how the County Council is meeting the statutory requirements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who were being exploited or at risk of being exploited.
tbc	Domestic Abuse: Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Requested by the Committee on 1 January following Briefing Notes circulated in October 2020.	<i>Suggested for inclusion on the 2021-2022 work programme</i>
tbc	Safeguarding Adults on the cusp of care 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 neighbourhood coaches/provisions and any safeguarding issues this may present.	<i>Suggested for inclusion on the 2021-2022 work programme</i>
tbc 6 monthly update from 7 November meeting (May/June 2020)	Regional Permanency Partnership 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.	<i>Suggested for inclusion on the 2021-2022 work programme</i>

Standing Items 2020-21

Item	Details	Action/Outcome
Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews 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

Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2020-21

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
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	Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan	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
	Domestic Abuse	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
	Catch 22	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	Transition & Preparation for Adulthood 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	Children & Families Transformation System progress 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 -	SEND Working Group 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.	
Page 55	Children's Improvement Board informal briefing 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"> 1. Focus area for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribunals and the cost implications of SCC conceding/losing at tribunal • Progress overview 2. Performance – EHCP data 3. Emergent risks 4. Forward plan 	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.

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2021/22

This document sets out the work programme for the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee for 2021/22.

The Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny 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.

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Councillor Bob Spencer

Chairman of the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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Membership – County Councillors 2021-22

Bob Spencer (Chairman)
Gill Burnett (Vice Chairman - Overview)
Richard Ford (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny)
Janet Eagland
Peter Kruskonjic
Jason Jones
Gillian Pardesi
Kath Perry
Jill Waring
Mike Wilcox

Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2021-2022

17 June 2021 at 10.00 am
6 July 2021 at 10.00 am
3 August 2021 at 10.00 am
14 September 2021 at 10.00 am
4 November 2021 at 10.00 am
10 January 2022 at 10.00 am
28 February 2022 at 10.00 am
21 April 2022 at 10.00 am

Meetings usually take place in either the Council Chamber or the Oak Room in County Buildings.

Work Programme 2021-22

Date of meeting	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
17 June 2021 10.00 am	Community Support (including Domiciliary Care) and 1-1 intensive support for Children with Disabilities Cabinet Member: Lead Officer: Martyn Baggaley	Pre-decision scrutiny prior to its inclusion on the July Cabinet agenda	
	Introduction to the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Officers: Helen Riley & Ruth Martin	To consider the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
	Work programme Planning Lead Officer: Helen Phillips	Within the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, begin planning the work programme for 2021-22.	
July 2021 10.00 am	Domestic Abuse Cabinet Member: Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	A briefing note had been considered by the previous Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee during the Pandemic. A report was requested for post lockdown to outline the impact of the Pandemic on DA.	
	Family Hub Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Joseph Sullivan	Item for pre-decision scrutiny	
	Regional Permanency Partnership Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale, Scott Crawford & Jo Sullivan	Following consideration of the arrangements at their 7 November Select Committee Members had requested an up-date on progress with the arrangements.	
3 August 2021 10.00am	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel	Report brought annually	

	Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant		
	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant	Report brought annually	
14 Sept 2021 10.00am			
4 Nov 2021 10.00 am			
10 January 2022 10.00am			
18 Feb 2022 10.00 am			
21 April 2022 10.00 am			
tbc	Safeguarding Adults on the cusp of care 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 neighbourhood coaches/provisions and any safeguarding issues this may present.	

Standing Items 2021-22

Item	Details	Action/Outcome
Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:	Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review	Some areas picked up by the DHR review process

Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2021-22

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome

Working Group and/or Inquiry Days 2021-22

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome

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

Date	Who attended from the Select Committee	Items discussed	Information