

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 30 November 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>

Please Note: There will be an informal Member only preparation session for the sexual harassment in schools spotlight review at the conclusion of this meeting.

John Tradewell
Director of Corporate Services
22 November 2021

A G E N D A

PART ONE

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14 September 2021** (Pages 1 - 4)
4. **Working Together to Keep Children Safe**

Presentation of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board
5. **Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2020/21** (Pages 5 - 34)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
6. **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Spotlight Review on Sexual Harassment in Schools - Scoping Report** (Pages 35 - 38)

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Officer
7. **Work Programme** (Pages 39 - 46)
8. **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

The Open (public) section of this meeting may be filmed for live or later broadcasting or other use, and, if you are at the meeting, you may be filmed, and are deemed to have agreed to being filmed and to the use of the recording for broadcast and/or other purposes.

Recording by Press and Public

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.

Minutes of the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2021

Present: Bob Spencer (Chairman)

Attendance

Gill Burnett (Vice-Chairman (Overview))	Gillian Pardesi
Richard Ford (Vice-Chairman (Scrutiny))	Kath Perry, MBE
Peter Kruskonjic	Mike Wilcox

Also in attendance: Johnny McMahon

Apologies: Janet Eagland, Jason Jones and Jill Waring

PART ONE

26. Declarations of Interest

There were none at this meeting.

27. Minutes of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on 3 August 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3 August 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

28. Adult Safeguarding Transformation Project

Staffordshire County Council had seen a year on year increase in the number of safeguarding concerns received, equating to a 63% rise since 2017. The Transformation Project had been developed to help address the issues concerned with this increase. The Project started in February 2020 and aimed to ensure the correct processes and resource were in place to deliver the Council's statutory responsibilities for safeguarding.

This increase in demand had led to an increase in time taken to process referrals, however Members were pleased to note that the Staffordshire Adult Safeguarding Team (SAST) reviewed all initial concerns received and risk assessed each one, with priority give to those at most risk.

Members considered detail of the Transformation Project including its review of:

- processes and systems use;
- resource capacity; and,
- quality assurance and performance.

This included changes to the Care Director management system to enable recording of safeguarding concerns against a care provider and help early identification of repeat or frequent issues.

Members received a timeline of Transformation activity with all changes expected to be in place by December 2021, including the additional three full time senior practitioner posts being filled.

The Committee were informed that there had been 1500 safeguarding concerns reported since the beginning of the year and some concerns were shared over the anticipated impact of pandemic lockdown in preventing safeguarding concerns being identified. Comparative data was requested to highlight whether there had been less GP referrals throughout the pandemic than in previous years. Fostering excellent relationships with other organisations, including colleagues in the CCGs, was key to help support the early identification and appropriate referral of safeguarding concerns.

Members heard details of the new quality assurance framework and the regularity of reviews. They requested that quality performance data against the new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be shared with the Committee to help in their overview of this work. This will be included on the work programme.

RESOLVED : That:

- a) comparative data with regard to GP referrals during the pandemic compared to the previous year be forwarded to the Committee;
- b) the update on the Adult Safeguarding Transformation, including changes to the Care Director system and processes be welcomed;
- c) the required increase resource capacity within the Staffordshire Adults Safeguarding Team be noted and supported; and,
- d) scrutiny of quality performance data against the KPIs be included on the work programme.

29. Safeguarding Adults on the Cusp of Care

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were aware that in some instances there were adults within the community who did not meet the requirement for a statutory safeguarding response but who came to the attention of partner agencies where there were high risks to them or the wider community. Currently there was no formal forum to help address such situations and agencies had reported feeling isolated in managing these risks.

A variety of different approaches were shared with Members, including the system used in Stoke-on-Trent which was led by a charitable organisation. Members heard that having a lead organisation other than the local council helped in fostering a more open forum with all organisations taking part feeling they are on a more even footing.

The Committee considered the virtue of creating a similar forum in Staffordshire, including looking at the work of partner organisation and specifically disruptive practice techniques and the disruptive practice toolkit developed by the Police.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) Staffordshire County Council's current position to safeguarding adults on the cusp of care be noted;
- b) the activities that occur within other Local Authorities regarding safeguarding adults be recognised; and
- c) consideration of similar activity being introduced within Staffordshire be included on the work programme.

30. Work Programme

The Committee received a copy of their work programme and noted the following amendments/additions:

- an item to further consider adults on the cusp of care and the possible development of a multi-agency forum be included on the work programme, with further discussion between the Chairman and Vice Chairmen around the most appropriate way to undertake this work;
- quality assurance data for safeguarding adults, considered against their KPIs, be included on the work programme; and
- the request for details of sexual abuse investigation outcomes be withdrawn and removed from the work programme.

Members also received an update of progress with the spotlight piece of work on sexual harassment in schools.

RESOLVED: That the changes to the work programme be agreed.

Chairman

Local Members Interest
N/A

Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 30 November 2021

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2020/21

Recommendation

I recommend that:

- a. Members are asked to receive the report to understand the role and function of Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (hereafter referred to as the SSCB). Members are asked to consider or comment on the progress that the Board has made since the last annual report was presented to the committee in December 2019. This SSCB Annual Report sets out the progress made by the partnership during 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021.

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

Summary

What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?

1. The SSCB should report annually on the progress made by the Board to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable robust Member scrutiny of its statutory functions. SSCB Annual Reports provide a transparent, public account of the work of the partnership during 2020-2021.

Report

2. The SSCB works together in partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across three broad areas of activity all of which consider the need to promote equality of opportunity and to meet the diverse needs of all children living in our communities. Specifically:
 - a. Engage partner agencies to set the strategic direction for safeguarding all children;
 - b. Identify and prevent harm and impairment of health or development and help ensure that all children are provided with safe and effective care as they are growing up;

- c. Lead and coordinate on proactive work to target vulnerable groups;
 - d. Lead and coordinate on responsive work to protect children suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm; and
 - e. Lead and coordinate the development and delivery of multi-agency safeguarding training.
3. The objectives of the Board are pursued through core statutory functions which are set out within the Children Act 2004 and the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. These core functions are achieved through the work of the Board's revised subgroup structure. Each subgroup is responsible for measuring its performance against an annual work plan, which is derived from the SSCB Business Plan. Members of the Board and Scrutiny and Assurance group monitor the effectiveness of the work completed.
 4. Membership of the SSCB is set out in section 13(3) of the Children Act 2004 and has been updated in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. Organisations that include local authority, police and health are required to cooperate with the local authority in the establishment and operation of the Board and have shared responsibility for the effective discharge of its functions. The Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Children and Young People also attends the Board as a participating observer.
 5. Under the new arrangements for safeguarding partners, the Board took the decision to arrange alternative independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements in keeping children safe. This led to an external peer review in 2020 and resulted in modifications to the arrangements that concluded with Stoke-on-Trent local authority setting up their own independent arrangements in the City.
 6. The governance arrangements of the SSCB have been the subject of significant review since 2019 and are in line with the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The Board is confident that it is fully compliant with the statutory function requirements for local safeguarding children partnerships.
 7. Since the last report to the Committee the SSCB has made considerable progress on a wide range of objectives through effective local partnership working, despite the challenges presented by the current Covid-19 pandemic and the recovery phase, economic climate, and agency restructures. This includes engaging in activity which is targeted at groups of children and young people who have been identified as being vulnerable due to criminal exploitation, and neglect. The information provided in the annual report highlights some of the most noticeable

achievements in respect of the priority areas and work undertaken with partner agencies.

Link to Strategic Plan

8. The work of the SSCB contributes to and supports the values and principles detailed in the Staffordshire County Council's Strategic plan.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

9. The work of the SSCB links to Committee's overview of the local authority's Children's Social Care arrangements

Community Impact

Refer to CIA guidance on the [Learning Hub](#)

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2020/21

Contact Details

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Staffordshire
**Safeguarding
Children Board**



Annual Report

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board
2020/21

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This 2020/21 report will focus, in the main on the effectiveness of the new arrangements in keeping children safe for Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board. The Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership will follow their own separate arrangements for reporting on the effectiveness of their arrangements.

Foreword



Helen Riley, Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities, Staffordshire County Council
The pandemic has tested local services to the limit. The disruption of family life has posed significant challenges and risks for the new partnership to address. However, the maturing relationship and growing trust across Staffordshire partners have resulted in swift, integrated, effective and comprehensive actions to ensure that our children and young people have remained visible and safe. The focus of the partnership has never wavered despite all the pressures for individual organisations because of Covid-19. The necessity to work together to respond proactively and promptly to the pandemic has helped forge stronger bonds between us that places us in a promising position as we work to fully establish the Staffordshire Partnership in 2021/22.

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Jennie Mattinson, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police

Covid-19 has created significant difficulties for all agencies and there have been particular challenges around child safeguarding. I am confident that across the partnership our staff and officers have risen to these challenges well with new and creative ways of working which have overcome the risks often associated with isolation. Despite the individual pressures within each organisation, all three statutory partners have remained engaged and committed to child safeguarding and the board priorities. The experiences during Covid-19 have highlighted the importance of close partnership working and I'm confident the board will continue to mature over the coming year.



Heather Johnstone, Executive Director of Nursing and Quality, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent CCGs
The NHS has faced its biggest ever test throughout the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout this time partnership working has been essential to the continued provision of high quality, safe services. The extension of remote working and remote access has provided a further challenge particularly in relation to safeguarding where previously face-to-face encounters with children, young people and their families would have provided the opportunity to identify risk. The continued evolution of the Safeguarding Partnership and associated sub-groups has enabled the collaborative management of safeguarding risks throughout and neither standards nor expectations have been allowed to drop as a result. As the work of CCGs and wider system partners transitions into the Integrated Care System I believe the partnership work will go from strength to strength and that together we will continue to do everything we can to safeguard the children and young people of Staffordshire.

Introduction

The Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) 2020/21 annual report aims to present how we as safeguarding partners report the effectiveness of the arrangements to keep children safe. Whilst remaining compliant with Working Together 2018, changes to our governance arrangements as well as the impact of Covid-19 have afforded us an opportunity to embark on a more efficient and effective way of reporting. This is without doubt the beginning of a new, exciting, and continuous journey of improvement and self-reflection for the safeguarding partners in Staffordshire, and we hope this report offers you a sense of our journey, based on our collective efforts to work together to keep children safe.

Clearly, we cannot go on without reporting on the two biggest changes to the arrangements during this financial year.

Covid-19 continues to provide new, and exacerbate existing, challenges to everyone working with children and families. This report will provide an overview of how the safeguarding partners have responded to the pandemic and will share examples of where this has been evaluated as good practice. Equally, we will include areas that still present a degree of concern or have become an area of concern. The safeguarding partners recognise and appreciate the persistent struggle agencies have with staffing levels, unmanageable waiting lists alongside a reduced capacity supported by an increasingly exhausted workforce. The safeguarding partners wish to extend their sincere gratitude to all for their commitment to keeping children safe.

Changes to our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements - the joint Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board separated in November 2020 after which the SSCB moved to a single Board with a revised structure including the publication of their new arrangements. An agreement was reached between the safeguarding partners that the Board would continue to support Stoke-on-Trent's transition to a new partnership, by retaining some existing elements including the business arrangements for the management and coordination of ongoing Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR), along with the revision and hosting of local joint policies and procedures. Joint training products would also remain available with a distinction, where appropriate, between the differing products available to those working with children and families across the two geographical areas.

Existing quality assurance processes remained, with revisions to certain groups and terms of reference. The sub-group section sets out those changes in further detail, and where available, the impact.

Working together to keep children safe

Our response to Covid-19

During the period of Covid-19 restrictions, services for children and young people were operating in limited capacity or virtually online with face-to-face meetings available only for those at most risk, in line with national guidance. Staff sickness, shielding and self-isolating affected service delivery across most of our services for children and families and many were operating to exceptional delivery models.

A joint Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children 'Covid-19' sub-group was established in June 2020 to identify and mitigate the immediate and on-going risks to service delivery and safeguarding for children and young people across the area. The challenges of the pandemic were felt to have strengthened communication, information sharing and supportive partnership working through sharing of ideas to work more creatively together to keep children and young people safe during the year.



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Concerns around reduced face-to-face opportunities

- Professional concern regarding the virtual offer and the challenges in the identification of physical or emotional neglect, abuse, and domestic abuse
- Face-to-face visits cancelled or delayed due to lack of personal protective equipment
- Difficulties building relationships with families (also a theme from rapid reviews)
- Vulnerability of certain groups such as young carers, babies and children with special educational needs and disabilities were identified as a priority group for face-to-face visits

Concerns around provision of early help and safeguarding

- During the first lockdown, Local Authority early help services were suspended to new referrals, despite this there was an overall increase in new referrals to early help by 10% from the previous year (1,800 additional referrals)
- There was however a decline in overall safeguarding referrals to children's social care, a reduction of 13% (1,000 less referrals) with referrals more complex with children and families escalating into statutory services more quickly

It is not yet clear whether this reduction in referrals is due to the increase in early help activity or a reflection of missed opportunities due to Covid-19 related restrictions. Outlined are some of the specific challenges and concerns we identified and responded to.



Babies and infants - Covid-19 has created additional challenges for families with babies under two.

- Learning from a local review suggested this area could be strengthened to ensure that appropriate care and support is available to ensure children's outcomes are maximised
- Maternity services had to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions which meant that users were affected, for example partners were not able to attend antenatal appointments for parts of the year. However, Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP) champions ensured lines of communication were open to all maternity services users through digital and social media channels with positive feedback
- Health visitors despite reduced capacity continued with some face-to-face visits at home or in clinic when there were concerns for a child and where it was safe to do so with one parent, alongside virtual/telephone contacts
- It is likely that opportunities for early help and support were missed through lack of face-to-face visits

"Thank you so much to the [MVP] champions for the COVID Facebook page - it has reduced my anxiety tremendously."

"Thank you for keeping us all informed. I agree times are hard and people are missing out but the most important thing for me is that my little one is safe."

"It's a great group that has been set up and I appreciate that people are working hard for the physical safety of pregnant women."

[Feedback from maternity services users](#)

Impact on education and wellbeing

Whilst early years education remained mainly open uptake fell slightly due to parents concerns particularly during the first lockdown. When schools reopened in Autumn 2020, many children missed school due to self-isolation. The local authority in partnership with schools set up systems for monitoring attendance for children who were vulnerable with practitioners following up persistent non-attendance with families.

Children's emotional health and wellbeing

Children suffered because of Covid-19 with 43% of young people locally reporting being away from education during lockdown had negatively impacted on their wellbeing.

- 58% of young people in Staffordshire said they struggled to stay engaged with learning during lockdown
- 62% of parents struggled to keep children engaged with learning
- 53% of young people in Staffordshire felt communication between school and themselves had been good during lockdown; in contrast 69% of parents felt communication with schools had been good
- Only 14% of parents found home schooling to be a positive outcome

Impact on family vulnerability

Family vulnerability increased including reduced household income, employment insecurity, insecure tenancy, lack of access to food, domestic abuse, and mental health concerns and demand for early help and domestic abuse services have risen across the County during 2020/21 compared to previous years.

Despite the UK Government's ongoing campaign "At home shouldn't mean at risk" focusing on tackling domestic abuse during the coronavirus pandemic, 36% of young people in Staffordshire said that they were isolating with a verbally abusive or physically abusive partner or family member but only one third of them knew how to access victim support for domestic abuse

Staffordshire Youth Commission Annual Report 2020

Ongoing feedback from parents has enabled the local authority to receive more information directly from parents which has offered insightful feedback and identified areas for improvement, particularly in relation to how we planned for and responded to Covid-19. As a result, the voice of parents is being shared with the Early Years Advisory Board to influence changes in practice that will result in a safer and more effective system for other parents.

Impact on training and development

The Board training programme was suspended from April 2020 and transferred its existing training and new products to a virtual platform by September 2020. This method of delivery transformed the way people are now able to access training and resulted in significant cost savings for the Board. Coupled with a newfound confidence by trainers in virtual delivery, products became more attractive to the delegates, with increases in attendance levels as well as a reduction in non-attendance and cancellation charges. Feedback from delegates showed an increase in confidence and knowledge in the workforce to achieve better outcomes for children.



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Impact on the judicial services - courts experienced considerable delays and backlogs particularly in private law cases, adoption and the youth courts due to Covid-19. Partners including Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Youth Offending Service and Cafcass worked closely to manage the expectations of children and families during the initial phase and recovery plans led to easing of restrictions through the availability of buildings along with evening and weekend sittings, an increase in the number of sittings and block hearings for cases involving adoptions. The long-term effects of the pandemic still present on going demand for agencies, with concerns over capacity and allocation of increasing numbers of private law cases.

Learning from rapid reviews nationally

During the pandemic learning from rapid reviews nationally were identified as:

- an increase in parent and family stress factors
- exacerbated vulnerabilities for children and young people
- impact of school closure
- identification, contact with and support for vulnerable children and young people
- impact of adaptations for Covid-19 safe practice.

During the pandemic learning from our local rapid reviews during this period were similar and included:

- impact of virtual/telephone versus face-to-face with professional contacts on identification of vulnerability such as domestic abuse
- assessments and support
- building relationships
- suspension of some regular physical health and development checks such as growth monitoring including weight to support assessments.

Although acutely aware of the initial findings from those directly impacted by the pandemic through our reviews, further work by the safeguarding partners must continue to truly appreciate and understand the broader picture felt by those directly impacted by service changes.

Focus for 2021/22:

We will continue to monitor and provide assurance that the impact of Covid-19 on safeguarding and the welfare of children is understood in terms of both services and outcomes. We will continue to provide assurance that plans are developed and acted on to address/mitigate challenges and emerging risks with particular focus on those areas of concern identified within this report.

Our priorities

Neglect

Neglect has featured in both local and national serious case reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews. There remain concerns over our collective response to neglect, particularly for families that are re-referred once support is withdrawn, be it early help or statutory intervention. Neglect also remains the largest category of abuse for children subject to a child protection plan and at the end of March 2021 featured in around 65% of child protection plans in Staffordshire.

During 2020/21 we undertook a multi-agency analysis of single-agency audits and case studies to understand how agencies currently operate and the challenges within the system in relation to neglect. Low level neglect and its impact remain difficult to recognise and respond to and whilst there was good evidence of how the lived experience of the child and/or the use of restorative practice approaches have improved outcomes in some settings this was inconsistent across the area and between settings. Many of the themes we identified are similar to those previously identified and grouped into three key areas; workforce (skills, knowledge, and confidence); understanding services and pathways (both from a professional and child/family perspective); and commissioning.

Our Priorities



During 2020/21 safeguarding partners continued to progress improvements for children who were neglected. These include:

Prevention and early help

Continuing to seek assurance from partner agencies and from each other, on the work with other strategic partnerships and influence the importance of early help and support through a whole family approach. An example of this is whereby the early years delivery plan now has a “Staying Safe” section in which all partner agencies have agreed to contribute to activities that will impact positively for under ones. During the year we also identified a training need for education settings in relation to early help and have rolled out training to support our education colleagues to build confidence and recognise that many are already providing early help and support. Neglect has also been a key area of focus for our primary care colleagues during the year with communications focusing on neglect within newsletters and featuring in the GP annual safeguarding audit. There has also been a focussed effort with dental safeguarding leads to improve safeguarding training and increase recognition of neglect including dental neglect. We will track progress on early help outcomes through our performance framework, and work with the Health and Wellbeing Board to negate some of the parental risk factors for neglect.

Development of multi-agency guidance for neglect

Using the learning from rapid reviews, and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, the guidance brings together evidence-based approaches to preventing and responding to neglect such as the NSPCC’s Spotlight on Preventing Child Neglect and is aimed at improving our ability to spot the emerging signs of neglect, to listen to the voice of the child, appreciate their lived daily experience, and respond much earlier to prevent an escalation of abuse or need for a much higher and longer intervention.



Commissioning of evidence-based Graded Care Profile (GCP2) assessment tool

In July 2020, both local authorities commissioned the use of GCP2 to improve our response to neglect at the earliest opportunity. With support from the NSPCC, a multi-agency steering group was set up to oversee implementation across the area. During March 2021 we trained 30 professionals from a range of agencies to become GCP2 champions. Our champions will deliver awareness sessions and training events to help other professionals become licensed to use the GCP2 tool. A peer support programme has been set up to support our champions and we now have dedicated communication channels across the Partnership. We have also updated our training packages to reference the use of GCP2 and are working to monitor the impact of GCP2 locally.

"For too long, staff have struggled to evidence that there is neglect present making their challenges with parent or professional even harder. Using GCP2 assessments they can evidence areas of neglect to both parent/carer and other professionals."

"It is important that staff working with children and families on a daily basis have the opportunity to understand how useful this tool is and to use this tool in a way that supports families when issues and concerns are identified ensuring better outcomes for the children."

NSPCC

Focus for 2021/22:

Following several rapid reviews for under ones in the area where neglect appeared in all of the children's daily lived experience the Board will be focusing their efforts next year on babies and infants and will continue to roll-out the GCP2 assessment tool across the County.

The Board will also continue to strengthen their relationship with other Strategic Boards to align and agree how they can work together to reduce the impact of parental neglect on infants across the County and develop a Voice of the Child e-learning package to support our aim of ensuring that the voice and lived experience of children and families is utilised in driving service improvements.



Child exploitation

Research conducted by the Staffordshire Youth Commission found that over three in five (62%) of young people were worried about knife and gang crime. Exclusion from mainstream school is a key trigger point for significant escalation of risk and serious harm and up until last year rates in Staffordshire were higher than statistical neighbours.

The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Child Exploitation Joint Task Group, set up in 2019/20, continue to lead on this priority for the Board with the key priorities being to develop a child exploitation strategy and performance framework to monitor its impact. Plans were in place to launch the strategy in March 2020, but this was delayed due to the pandemic and the **child exploitation strategy** was therefore formally launched this year with around 500 delegates attending two virtual conferences. The focus of the conferences was on spotting and understanding early signs of child exploitation and involved people with lived experiences of exploitation as well as the voices of children and families.

Since the conference:

“I have been more professionally curious when having conversations with parents and students to see if they are being subject to exploitation”

“I have been able to offer families and children the support when the signs of possible exploitation were visible”

Our Priorities



Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) support programme

As part of the TCE we have been supported in developing a performance framework. Partners were strongly committed to ensuring that the lived experience of the child was at the heart of the framework and the TCE workstream resulted in the identification of multi-agency datasets across the partnership. The task group are now in a stronger position to develop the framework with a data leads group in place to bring these multi-agency datasets together.

As part of the implementation of the strategy individual organisations have developed their own operational plans to tackle child exploitation. During 2020/21 safeguarding partners continued to develop or progress improvements for children who were exploited or at risk of exploitation.

Some of the achievements include:

Extensive **training** was delivered to all partners. Feedback has been positive, and this has helped shape future practice including developing Level 2 child exploitation training.

County Lines awareness campaigns delivered throughout the year which focus on encouraging parents and carers to spot the signs of child exploitation and drug activity as well as identifying young people who are at risk so they can be offered early help. Campaigns were also accompanied by 'intensification' operations by officers across the area.



Working together to keep children safe



Activities aimed at reducing **knife crime**: training within hospitals; 'Ditch the Blade' campaigns; knife bins; knife wands in schools; and encouraging professionals to talk about knives to children when they are known or thought to be carrying them and sharing intelligence with the Police to support disruption. Staffordshire Police with partners also delivered over 4,000 letters to local schools for parents and carers to encourage engagement with children during an intensification campaign.

Continuing to develop our responses to **children who go missing** through a Strategic Missing Group which was evidenced by an overall reduction in the numbers of children who go missing during 2020/21.

Development of 12-month pilot which has a **targeted intervention programme** for children at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation which is now being evaluated.

During 2020, around 420 children were discussed across **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panels** across the County, which is a significant but expected increase on the previous year (230 children). The increase is due to all exploitation being considered rather than just child sexual exploitation along with the impact of training professionals to spot the signs. Learning and good practice from the panels are also shared regularly with practitioners to strengthen good practice across the Partnership.

The introduction of police staff on the **Early Intervention and Prevention Unit (EIPU)** helps with a wider focus on prevention of exploitation as they link with schools, hotels, and other premises.

Experts in the field of Child Criminal Exploitation were brought to the police to offer guidance as part of their **force peer review** from the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP). Feedback has already been implemented with a force action plan. One of these actions is implementing a multi-agency tool to better measure and understand child exploitation in the County and map the extent of the issues.

Working together to keep children safe

Methods by the police to introduce the **Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)** has assisted with a greater focus on the higher risk children for Child Criminal Exploitation and helps build rapport and assist in diversion.

Several **multi-agency operations** have been run with local partners from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent targeting the four Ps (outlined in the CE strategy). Operation Campus - secured eight charges for modern day slavery (MDS) offences and conspiracy to supply. Operation Glera diverted several males and resulted in drugs charges for the core nominal.

Focus for 2021/22:

Our focus will be on the continued implementation of the child exploitation strategy and to build on the work of the TCE programme to ensure that we have an intelligence-driven and child-focussed performance framework that allows us to monitor outcomes through the joint task group. We will also develop our training efforts on recognising and responding to the early signs and emerging signs of child exploitation. We will specifically focus on children who present as both victim and perpetrators to challenge our thinking of how we see the vulnerability of the child before we see the perceived criminality.



Working together to keep children safe

Ensuring effective multi-agency safeguarding practice

As part of our core business the focus of this overarching priority is to demonstrate that there is a multi-agency approach to our safeguarding practice which is effective. We will ensure that learning is identified, its improvements embedded at both individual and multi-agency level, be alert to emerging risks and understand systemic issues which policy and practice changes will address. These are implemented and monitored through our structure and sub-groups.

Sub-groups



Scrutiny and assurance

'The safeguarding system is complex with many different organisations and individuals playing their part. Reflecting on how well that system is working is critical as we constantly seek to improve our collective public service response to children and their families'

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

A strategic partnership group was set up to support the Board to fulfil its statutory functions as laid out in Working Together 2018 with one of the key roles being to provide assurance that the system is working well across the Partnership and that learning, and improvements are being embedded to improve practice through sharing of intelligence. Following the new arrangements, a revised Partnership group was set-up with updated Terms of Reference and membership including a new Chair to reflect these arrangements.

During 2020/21, the group developed and agreed a Performance and Quality Assurance Framework as well as their workplan for the year. The framework allows learning to be identified through a range of methods including the use of single and multi-agency performance and audit data as well as feedback from children, young people, and practitioners. This intelligence, in-conjunction from feedback from other sub-groups, is used to identify where and what improvement activity may be required across the system with a particular focus on the Board's priorities.

Focus for 2021/22: our focus will be on monitoring **impact and outcomes**. A multi-agency performance dashboard was developed to focus on our outcomes, initially for neglect as well as some of our 'core' safeguarding business of keeping children and young people safe across the pathway from early help to looked after children and care leavers. This has allowed us to monitor how we are doing against our priorities and by triangulating this with other insight across the Partnership continually challenge ourselves and identify gaps to improve our outcomes for children and families. The dashboard will be further developed to include child exploitation and measures around the critical moments in children's lives when a decisive response is necessary to make a difference to their long-term outcomes.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR)

The CSPR sub-group is a multi-agency group, comprising of the statutory partners as well as education, probation, youth offending service, voluntary sector services and representatives from other agencies on a case-by-case basis, that has delegated responsibility from the Board to oversee reviews and to report to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel on learning and progress made in line with Working Together 2018.

During 2020/21 there were five rapid reviews, three for Staffordshire children and two for Stoke-on-Trent children.

Prior to this between September 2019 and March 2020 there were seven rapid reviews involving babies under one year of age (from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent) which resulted in the decision to complete a thematic CSPR of infants under one, which was finalised in March 2021.

There were three Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) or Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) which were also completed during the year of which one has been published whilst the other two are yet to be published due to parallel legal proceedings.

Key themes identified from the reviews (some of them recurrent) include.

- Neglect
- Physical harm to babies under one year
- Intra-familial child sexual abuse



Working together to keep children safe

Findings have been identified using a systems-focussed approach with positive outcomes achieved through agencies working together to improve systems and processes and ultimately improving safeguarding practices to improve children's lives. Examples include the ongoing collaborative working towards.

- Multi-agency chronologies
- Improvements in strategy meetings and core group membership where the sharing of information is critical
- The capturing of family history in the child protection medical process
- Recognition of the vulnerability of babies under one year where there is domestic abuse
 - Listening to the voice of the child
- Early identification of the need for support where neglect is emerging and the implementation of the GCP2 assessment tool
- Introduction of the multi-agency neglect performance framework as an assurance tool to identify gaps across the safeguarding system and make improvements in early identification and response to neglect
- Approaches to increase practitioner confidence enabling professional challenge and escalation
- Going live with Operation Encompass which is a significant step towards better partnership working to protect children living in households where domestic abuse occurs. Operation Encompass ensures that information is shared between the police and the child's school so that effective support and safeguarding can be provided

Sharing learning / feedback from practitioners - the Board have developed a series of feedback and engagement events as well as improvement to our communication channels to share the learning as soon as possible after a review. The Board recognise the importance of the voice of front-line staff, sharing their experiences and thoughts to understand how the learning can be embedded tangibly and with confidence in day-to-day interactions with their families and children. The essence of learning from reviews is to change hearts and minds, process, and practice by the inclusive involvement of our valuable workforce.

Focus for 2021/22: We will continue to provide assurance that learning and improvement activity from reviews and thematic reviews are identified and find new and innovative ways to embed messages. We will also aim to measure the effectiveness of the system by way of single and multi-agency audits and other performance measures, as well as an analysis of the support given in the very early days of signs emerging. Learning and actions related to Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership will be shared and jointly approached to ensure smooth transition of cases and workstreams.

Review of child deaths

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews deaths of all children and young people under 18 years resident in a specified area to learn what happened and why, whether there were any modifiable factors whereby local activity could prevent or reduce similar child deaths in the future. The local CDOP is made up from a range of partner agencies and an update is distributed to partners giving an overview of recent notifications and reviews with recommendations, learning points and any emerging themes. The CDOP also sends data to the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) so that learning can be identified and shared at a national level.

During 2020/21:

- 69 notifications of child deaths with neonatal deaths (deaths within 28 days of life) accounting for the largest proportion (57%).
- Of these, 18 (26%) were categorised as unexpected requiring a joint agency response (JAR).

Deaths from suicide were down from the previous year, which were the highest figures seen since the panel formed in 2008. (Note: fluctuating figures due to the very small numbers involved). However there remains concerns nationally that as Covid-19 restrictions and isolation continues the number of suicides may rise in subsequent years. As a result, we plan to conduct a thematic review during 2021/22 and participate in a region-wide review.

During the year 65 child deaths were reviewed in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Of these 15 were considered to have modifiable factors with the most frequent themes being:

- smoking
- non-attendance for health care appointments
- alcohol / drug use by parents/carers
- poor mental health of parent / carer and poor mental health of children.

Communication focusing on concerns that many families may not receive the level of health and care support they needed during the pandemic and would also be less willing to attend hospital for their children's health care needs until they escalated meaning that in some case children would be seen much later, arriving very sick, or worse, already deceased due to the fear of acquiring Covid-19 in hospital.

Focus for 2021/22: several areas of improvement activity will continue against recurring modifiable factors we have identified through campaigns, support and multi-agency training such as Safer Sleep; unintentional injuries. We will also roll out ICON to partner agencies and continue to seek to improve services by engaging child and families in the process.

The review of the arrangements for restraint of young people in Werrington Young Offenders Institute

The Review of Restraint Task Group meets quarterly within Werrington Young Offenders Institution (YOI) and is chaired on behalf of SSCB by the local authority's Head of Youth Offending. The group are keen to hear the voices of young people and during a meeting this year children have joined us to talk about their experiences of being restrained.

On average there are between 30 and 40 restraints monthly which are reviewed on weekdays by social workers within the YOI. However, in addition to this scrutiny, each quarter a small sample of around six to 10 incidents are reviewed further using video footage and the associated paperwork for these restraints. Once the footage is reviewed there is a reflective discussion highlighting good practice and learning.



During 2020/21 the group has been focusing on the following:

- **Reducing the use of pain inducing techniques** - these are used as a last resort, for example when there is a serious threat to life. In the one instance that took place during 2020/21 had pain not been applied there would have been a serious injury or death to another child.
- **Increasing the use of body worn camera footage** - there has been a steady increase in usage with 100% of incidents being captured with sound during January 2021.
- **Reducing the use of restraint for passive non-compliance** - the group has focused on reviewing restraints that happen following a child not complying with an order from an officer. The learning from this is being used to inform the behaviour policy within the establishment.
- **Hearing the voices of our children** - due to Covid-19 children have only attended one formal meeting to talk about their experience. However, it is intended that they become core members going forward to inform discussions.

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Some of the areas of concerns we identified during the year were:

- **Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) training** - the delivery of regular refresher training for officers has been affected by Covid-19 and there was some evidence within the footage reviewed that the lack of the refresher training was impacting on how restraints were applied. Training has now recommenced.
- **Levels of violence** - this is the biggest risk within Werrington. Despite all attempts the establishment remains one of a few sites with the highest levels of violence. The worst period was in May 2020, where there were 16 assaults on staff members alone. Feedback regarding the reasons and themes for violence have openly been shared by both staff and children; gang rivalry in the community; regime delivery; family group make-up; relationships; rewards and sanctions; separation; and time out of room. It is hoped that the return to a normal regime will reduce some of the violent episodes, which will be supported by the new behaviour management policy.

Review of restraint and the use of pain

An independent review on the use of pain in restraint by Charlie Taylor displayed several recommendations, including the establishment of a national scrutiny group to review individual restraints across the secure estate. The Governor at Werrington will be involved in initial discussions to set up this group and national learning will continue to be captured by the Review of Restraint Task Group.

Focus for 2021/22: we will continue to provide assurance to the Scrutiny and Assurance Group that the national learning is reflected locally; continue to focus on and celebrate the positive outcomes and strengths of the Review of Restraint Task Group, both locally and nationally. We will also focus on our strategies for reducing the levels of violence.

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board

www.staffscb.org.uk

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References

Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing

<https://staffsyc.com/#jp-carousel-284>

<https://staffsyc.com>

<https://staffsyc.com>

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Staffordshires-Covid-19-Residents-Survey-January-2021.pdf>

Learning from Rapid Reviews Nationally

https://www.staffscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Child-Safeguarding-Practice-Review-Panel_Letter.pdf

Development of Multi-Agency Guidance for Neglect

<https://www.staffscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Neglect-Guidance.pdf>

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2015/spotlight-preventing-child-neglect>

Child Exploitation

[Staffordshire Youth Commission Annual report](#)

[Child safeguarding Annual Report](#)

[TCE Support Programme](#)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 November 2021

Safeguarding, Prosperous and Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees Joint Review on Sexual Harassment in Schools – Scoping Report

Summary

What is the Review Group being asked to do and why?

1. At the beginning of the new municipal year each of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees raised sexual harassment in schools as an item of concern and something that needed further scrutiny. Each separate Committee included this issue on their work programme.

2. To avoid duplication the Committees agreed a joint piece of work to spotlight the issues and report findings back to their respective parent committees. It was agreed that one representative from each committee should undertake this work, as follows:

- Rev Preb Michael Metcalf, Prosperous Staffordshire Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Chairman of this spotlight review)
- Ann Edgeller, Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Kath Perry, Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3. Sexual harassment in school is an issue of concern nationally. The “Everyone’s Invited” website gave an indication of the level of the issue. The Government study conducted by Ofsted considered the extent of any problems and gave recommendations for addressing these.

4. This spotlight review is to consider the issues highlighted nationally and scrutinise whether they are reflected in Staffordshire Schools, to what extent and how and whether these are being address.

Report

Background

5. In June 2020 the Everyone’s Invited anti-rape movement created an on-line forum which provided a safe place for survivors of sexual harassment and abuse to share their stories anonymously. It focused on exposing this abusive culture through “conversation, education and support”. This forum raised issues of harassment and abuse nationally.

6. “Keeping Children Safe in Education” is the statutory guidance to which all schools and colleges in England must have regard when carrying out their duties to

safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The most recent version came into force in September 2019.

7. Advice for schools on “Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges” sets out advice on how to deal with incidents and allegations.

8. Statutory Relationships Education at primary school, and Relationships and Sex Education at secondary level, became compulsory in all English schools from September 2020.

9. In March 2021 the Government asked Ofsted to undertake a review of safeguarding policies and of incidents of sexual abuse in schools and colleges with relation to sexual harassment and abuse. The review was published in June 2021, evidencing widespread sexual harassment in schools, and made recommendations for action in schools, government, and Ofsted to combat the problem.

Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Review

Scope

10. The purpose of this scrutiny review is for Members to:

- investigate the current issue of sexual harassment in schools, considering the national context and recent Ofsted report and recommendations;
- establish the extent of any of these issues within Staffordshire;
- consider whether work is already in place to address these, and if so, how successful this is,
- consider the remit of designated safeguarding leads in schools and how/if they are identifying and addressing sexual harassment;
- identify whether there are any concerns not currently being addressed; and,
- consider the longer-term impact of sexual harassment and what, if any, support is in place for both victims and perpetrators.

Review Arrangements

11. Members of the Review Group will determine the information and evidence they require to address the Terms of Reference. It is recommended that Members undertake a spotlight review session where they may wish to invite representative of:

front line school based designated safeguarding leads; head teachers; Chairs from both the Primary and Secondary School Head Teacher Forum; the youth offending service; Police; social media specialists; The Voice Project; SCCs Education Safeguarding Officers; and officers responsible for this service area.

Timing

12. With Members' agreement the Spotlight Session will be scheduled to accommodate the diary commitments of invitees, but hopefully will take place before the end of November 2021. Members will then need to determine whether they wish for further inquiry before producing their final report and recommendations.

13. To expedite this matter, the draft scoping report will be shared with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND). The Review Group will be expected to produce a final report, containing any recommendations they may wish to make for submission to the Cabinet Members and/or other body.

14. An Executive Response to any recommendations will be requested.

Intended Outcome

15. A draft report of the Spotlight Session and research to be presented to the Safeguarding, Prosperous and Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees. With their agreement the final report will then be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and to the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) for an Executive Response. The report will capture the findings from the background research and Spotlight Session and make recommendations based on these.

Lines of Enquiry

16. Lines of inquiry will be agreed at the initial preparation meeting with the Review Group Members, where they will decide what information they require, who they would like to invite to the Spotlight Session and develop questions they would like to ask invitees. This will not prevent additional questions being asked on the day but will enable a report on common issues to be written.

Link to Strategic Plan

17. The County Council's Staffordshire Vision is to be "A county where big ambitions, great connections and greener living give everyone the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.' Within this one of the key priorities is to: "Support more families and children to look after themselves, stay safe and well."

Community Impact

19. The Committee will be expected to consider the implications of work, or proposed action, on the subject under review and to make reference to implications including those below in their final report:

- Equalities and Legal
- Resource and Value for Money
- Risk
- Climate Change.

Contact Officer/s

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helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk

Appendices/Background papers – none.

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.

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 Bob Spencer

Chairman of the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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
30 November 2021 at 10.00 am (<i>re-arranged from 4 November</i>)
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: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Martyn Baggaley	Pre-decision scrutiny prior to its inclusion on the July Cabinet agenda	Members agreed the recommendations. They want to receive details in the future of how this has progressed, and will specifically want to see how any gaps in skills have been addressed for those adults providers that have moved to provision for children.
	Introduction to the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Officers: Helen Riley & Ruth Martin	To consider the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Detailed presentations and discussions will form the basis of work programme planning
	Work programme Planning Lead Officer: Helen Phillips	Within the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, begin planning the work programme for 2021-22.	A long list of suggested scrutiny items has been drawn up from Members suggestions and from details shared in the presentations and discussions with Officers and the cabinet Member. These will be discussed by the Chairman and Vice Chairmen, along with the Scrutiny Officer and included on the draft work programme for Members consideration at the July meeting.
6 July 2021 10.00 am	Domestic Abuse Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson 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.	The Committee were very impressed with the mitigation actions put in place during the pandemic. They supported developments with the perpetrator and victim programmes. Further detail was requested in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analysis results on rationale behind disparity in referral figures between SCC and Police; • learning from police led analysis on impact of targeted work with repeat offenders; • waiting times for perpetrator services; • DA Act requirements around access to services, particularly victim services.
	Family Hub Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Joseph Sullivan	Item for pre-decision scrutiny Also requested at 17 June for inclusion on work programme around support for new and young parents and the importance of early years parenting support	The Committee supported the development of the Family Hub model, recognising the proposed incremental development across Staffordshire of an integrated model of working. Further developments will be considered by the Committee following the public consultation process.
	Regional Permanency Partnership	Following consideration of the arrangements at their 7 November Select Committee Members	The Committee welcomed the developments made since the introduction of the regional permanency partnership known as

	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale, Scott Crawford & Jo Sullivan	had requested an up-date on progress with the arrangements.	Together4Children. They intend to receive further detail as the partnership progresses, including detail of the two pilot projects TESSA & Mockingbird.
3 August 2021 10.00am	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant	Report brought annually	The Committee commented on the report – in particular they were pleased to note the reduction in complaint numbers. They asked for a percentage comparison for complaints and compliments with the previous year. They congratulated the Complaints Services Manager for the detail and timeliness of the report.
	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant	Report brought annually	The Committee noted the reduction in complaints, particularly the reduction around SEND complaints. They were pleased to note the 17% increase in the number of compliments. They congratulated the Complaints Services Manager for the quality and timeliness of her report.
14 Sept 2021 10.00am	Safeguarding Adults on the cusp of care Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin	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.	The Committee have asked for comparative data with regard to GP referrals during the pandemic compared to the previous year to help identify the impact of the Pandemic on referrals. They welcomed the update to Care Director and the increased capacity of the Adult Safeguarding Team. The timeline for the Transformation changes is expected to be complete in December 2021 and Members will monitor this along with quality performance data against the newly developed KPIs.
	Adult Safeguarding Transformation Project Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin	Suggested at 17 June meeting to look at the rise in service demand and whether changes to service delivery are needed to manage this increase.	The Committee intend to consider this further – looking in more detail at what merit the development of such a forum may have in Staffordshire. The Chairman and Vice Chairmen will meet to consider the most appropriate way to take this work forward.
30 Nov 2021 10.00 am (re-arranged from 4 November)	Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report Independent Chair: Sue Barnsley Lead Officer: Lynn Milligan	Report brought annually.	

	<p>Sexual Harassment in Schools Scoping report Lead Member: Kath Perry Officer: Helen Phillips</p>	<p>Scoping report for the joint spotlight review between this committee and a representative from the Prosperous and Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p>	
<p>10 January 2022 10.00am</p>	<p>Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) – Annual Report Independent Chair: John Wood Lead Officer: Helen Jones</p>	<p>Report brought annually.</p>	
	<p>DoLs Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Peter Hampton</p>	<p>Suggested at 3 August Triangulation</p>	
	<p>Safeguarding Adults on the cusp of care Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin</p>	<p>Update on progress with the Transformation, with all changes anticipated to be in place by December 2021 and the introduction of KPIs (follow-up from 14 September meeting)</p>	
<p>28 Feb 2022 10.00 am</p>	<p>Low Level Neglect Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody</p>	<p>Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting to look at impact of long-term low-level neglect, the current changes to ways of working and challenges that remain.</p>	

	<p>Community Support (including Domiciliary Care) and 1-1 intensive support for Children with Disabilities Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Martyn Baggaley</p>	<p>This was requested at 17 June meeting – looking at progress made and particularly how well those adult carers who have moved to provide care for children have filled skill gaps and how successful this provision has been</p>	
	<p>MacAlister Report Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley</p>	<p>Suggested at 17 June meeting – looking at the report's proposals and how they impact on Staffordshire's Children's Services November date for this suggested at 3 Aug Triangulation Originally scheduled for 4 November meeting but moved back awaiting publication of the final report.</p>	
31 April 2022 10.00 am	<p>Children's Services Transformation Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley</p>	<p>The new Children's Transformation went live on 1 October 2021. Six months on this is an opportunity for Members to seek reassurance that it is delivering as intended, including on SEND. (Suggested at 3 August Triangulation)</p>	
	<p>Young Carers Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody</p>	<p>To consider how well young carers are supported within Staffordshire Suggested at 17 June meeting.</p>	
tbc	<p>Early Intervention & prevention Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley</p>	<p>Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting.</p>	
tbc	<p>Community Safety & the Outcome of the Fishmonger Hall Investigation Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer:</p>	<p>Findings from the Fishmonger Hall incident showed there had been inadequate management of Usman Khan. Suggested at 17 June meeting Members want to satisfy themselves that changes have been made to prevent further such incidents. This also impact on the Committee's role as the designated crime and disorder panel.</p>	

		<p>A further proposal at 17 June meeting was concerns around adolescent anti-social behaviour, including cross boarder issues. This is a further community safety concern that could be raised as part of this scrutiny</p> <p>A discussion is proposed between the Chairman, Commissioner and PFCP Chairman to consider ways forward and avoid duplication</p>	
tbc	<p>SEND Review Cabinet Members: Mark Sutton & Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Tim Moss & Helen Riley</p>	Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting. Responding to the Review and moving forward.	
tbc	<p>Governance Model Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley</p>	Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting. Considering how to work better together. Trying to develop a better and more effective governance model.	

Standing Items 2021-22

Item	Details	Action/Outcome
<p>Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:</p>	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
<p>Crime & Disorder Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Janene Cox/Trish Caldwell</p>	<p>This O&S Committee is the LAs designated Crime and Disorder Panel.</p> <p>Following discussions with the Chairman and Officers from the PFCC and the Cabinet Member and Officers responsible for community safety, it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairmen will meet with the Cabinet Member and Officers after each Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (SSCSG) to gain an overview of community safety within the County and identify areas for further scrutiny as appropriate.</p>	<p>Chairman and Vice-Chairman briefings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 21 February to brief on performance discussed at the 17 February SSCSG • Thursday 19 May (at the conclusion of Full Council) to brief on performance discussed at 18 May SSCSG

Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2021-22

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
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	Sexual abuse investigations	Requested at 17 June meeting – details of the number of child sexual abuse investigations over the last 5 years, how many of these resulted in prosecution and if the investigation was proportionate and reasonable.	Request withdrawn

Working Group and/or Inquiry Days 2021-22

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
14 January 2022	Sexual Harassment in Schools	Suggested at 17 June meeting, considering the concerns recently in the media of sexual harassment and abuse in schools. A need to consider the issue within Staffordshire schools and how this is addressed.	This was included on the work programme of this Committee as well as the Prosperous Staffordshire and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees. As a result the three Committees have agreed that a spotlight piece of work will be undertaken with one representative from each Committee who will then report back.

