

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 18 April 2024

10:00

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

The meeting will be webcast live and archived for 12 months. It can be viewed at the following link: <https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Tradewell
Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services
10 April 2024

Agenda

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2024** (Pages 5 - 12)
- 4. Development of the Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** (Pages 13 - 16)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Care

- 5. 5 April MASH visit - Feedback**

Verbal feedback by Overview and Scrutiny Members who attended the 5 April 2024 visit to the MASH

- 6. Work Programme** (Pages 17 - 28)

- 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)

8. Children's Services Ofsted Improvement Plan

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Membership	
Gill Burnett-Faulkner (Vice-Chair (Overview))	Kath Perry, MBE
Janet Eagland	Paul Snape (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))
Ann Edgeller	Bob Spencer (Chair)
Johnny McMahon	Samantha Thompson
Gillian Pardesi	Conor Wileman

Notes for Members of the Press and Public

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Minutes of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2024

Present: Bob Spencer (Chair)

Attendance	
Janet Eagland	Paul Snape (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))
Ann Edgeller	Conor Wileman
Gillian Pardesi	

Also in attendance: Paul Northcott, Mark Sutton, Mike Wilcox and Victoria Wilson

Apologies: Gill Burnett-Faulkner, Johnny McMahon and Kath Perry, MBE

Part One

13. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ann Edgeller declared an interest in minute no. 15 in her role as a governor of MPFT.

14. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 January 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

15. MASH Review and Adoption of a Staffordshire Children's Front Door

[Clive Cartman-Frost, Head of Access to Services and Family Support and Nisha Gupta, Assistant Director for Children's Social Care, in attendance or this item]

The Committee considered the report and presentation on the development of MASH arrangements and heard from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Originally developed in 2011 the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent co-located a range of agencies, including police, children's social care and adult social care, to share information and to meet statutory functions, identify emerging risks and issues, particularly in relation to domestic abuse.

In March 2019, an inadequate Ofsted judgement in respect of Stoke on Trent Childrens Services led to an examination of various elements of

practice within that authority. Whilst the original Ofsted judgement had not criticised the MASH, it did comment on the authority's interaction with it. As a result, there was a clear indication from interim and permanent senior managers in Stoke-on-Trent that they wished to leave the combined MASH and create separate arrangements. The Committee heard details of the separation process over the subsequent four years. The final separation of governance arrangements in March 2023 gave an opportunity to develop a specific Staffordshire Childrens multi-agency safeguarding arrangement.

Members queried the extended timescale taken by Stoke-on-Trent in their separation from the joint arrangements, noting that developing their own systems had taken longer than the anticipated six months.

The scope of the current MASH arrangements focussed primarily on statutory partners, that is, SCC, police and health and not necessarily partners in Housing, Education, Probation, and the youth offending service for example. As the MASH is developed there will be a need to consider what functions are retained in a centralised service and which are developed using a district footprint to correspond with the place-based approach and the development of Family Hubs and the Police Harm Reduction Hubs.

Members heard that during the 2021 Children's Transformation process, the Children's Front Door (at that time called First Response) underwent significant change. This saw predominantly unqualified staff supervised by a small group of social workers being replaced by a team of experienced qualified consultant social workers retaining a small group of unqualified workers, and a single team manager being replaced by two team managers. An IRV system and single phone number for Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support (SCAS) had now replaced the single First Response phone number. The IRV will be administered and managed by Customer Services and is the single front door for all children's enquiries. It was anticipated that the IRV system would enable better filtration of calls, enabling the MASH to receive those specific to its function.

The Committee queried whether the change in personnel had taken qualified social workers from front line positions. As part of the Transformation process personnel had moved across different parts of the service. The work force had not been diluted and Staffordshire was also attracting new social workers from other local authorities.

Members received details of new governance arrangements and systems development. They also considered details of the new performance framework and the new multi-agency audit form which had been developed to correspond to grade descriptors. The Committee were informed that two audits had been undertaken so far and that ten further

audits were planned over the next year.

The importance of the physical co-location of MASH partners was emphasised in effecting good communication. The MASH was a focused space that promoted excellent working relationships. Members heard that some challenges were present in non-urgent Police checks, where a backlog currently existed. Staffordshire Police were giving consideration to how this backlog could be addressed.

The Committee queried the range of health-based services that were part of the MASH, specifically whether mental health services were included. A specific health team provided information to the MASH, overseen by MPFT (Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust). However, this team gathered information from across the health family, including mental health services.

Members considered the range of activity undertaken within the MASH, including child sexual exploitation and modern slavery. The MASH had a clear process to identify concerns, following due diligence.

The Committee had previously considered the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report, during which concerns were raised around the effectiveness of communication. Members asked what barriers prevented effective information sharing and whether GDPR considerations created difficulties and how these were resolved. The "Working Together to Safeguard Children" statutory guidance had considered information sharing and multi-agency working. Whilst some local authorities had retreated to providing statutory functions only, moving away from MASH arrangements, Staffordshire felt the MASH enabled strong partnership working and remained committed to co-location to support this. Whilst the independent chairman of the SSCB had noted that poor information sharing and communication was a common concern in all Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), the Committee were informed that there were no barriers to information sharing within the MASH. GDPR was not used as an excuse to block information within the MASH. However there remained some challenges to information sharing across some Child Safeguarding Practise Reviews (CSPRs), which included the current difficulties with the backlog in non-urgent Police checks. A further challenge existed within the Health sector as systems across Health services weren't able to share information across the Health Service itself. Information sharing at ground level was therefore not currently well triangulated. The Committee heard that whilst the Independent Chair of the SSCB had been right to raise this as a concern, service leadership had already been aware of these challenges and was working to ameliorate these.

Members queried what data existed to evidence that safeguarding was effective within Staffordshire. Data existed on two levels, from Care

Director for Children's Services and from the information services log for performance. It was suggested that a report evidencing this data be brought to a future O&S meeting.

Resolved: That:

- a) changes to the MASH multi-agency safeguarding arrangements be noted;
- b) a visit to the MASH be arranged for O&S Committee Members to consider first hand the changes made and the effectiveness of communication, information sharing and safeguarding arrangements;
- c) a performance report showing the effectiveness of safeguarding be included on the Committee's work programme.

16. Community Safety Agreement 2023 - 2026

[Catherine Mann, Assistant Director for Culture, Rural and Safer Communities and Trish Caldwell, County Commissioner, Regulatory Services and Community Safety, in attendance for this item.]

Members considered the report and heard from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture.

The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlined the key community safety priorities for Staffordshire. The CSA is reviewed and refreshed every three years and is mandatory for two tier authorities, helping to meet the statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the delivery of all their duties.

Staffordshire County Council must meet the obligations of the statutory duty but also had an additional role in providing the overarching governance for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities. The 2023-2026 CSA aimed to develop a joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It recognised that community safety issues did not always respect district boundaries, and that coordination of effort could lead to economies of scale, and more effective

outcomes.

The Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, known as the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (SSCSG) was responsible for the efficient and effective delivery of the Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement priorities to comply with statutory responsibilities. Members received details of the partnership's priorities and performance against these.

The Committee scrutinised details of: community cohesion and tackling extremism; fraud; local priorities; anti-social behaviour; safeguarding vulnerable persons and child exploitation; and Domestic Abuse (DA). Members had previously scrutinised the new contract for DA and asked for a future report to consider progress with this.

Members were aware that Staffordshire County Council was the specified authority for tackling extremism under the Prevent Duty. They were informed that at the latest Prevent board a presentation had been delivered by a Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) analyst, providing reassurance on the referral process within Staffordshire. The number of referrals converted to cases progressing to Channel was 25%. However, whilst they were informed that this was significantly higher than other authorities within the West Midlands, the Committee felt they were unable to establish whether this was positive as they had no reference point to understand what number the 25% figure represented. They were informed that this figure evidenced the effective training and awareness raising which resulted in high quality and appropriate referrals. Whilst the Committee accepted this, they remained concerned that they were unable to establish what local threat existed on the basis of the information provided. The Committee were aware of the sensitive nature of this information. It was suggested that the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, could receive an overview of the CTU briefing to help establish the parameters of any current threat and risk.

The Chairman shared with Members that he had been offered, on behalf of the Committee, the opportunity to see a redacted copy of the Local Plan for counter terrorism, which would enable him to share with Members whether there was reassurance from this. The Chairman thanked Officers for arranging this.

Members noted that Safer Streets Fund monies had been allocated to Newcastle-under-Lyme, Burton and Stafford following a successful bid by the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office and partners. Detail of the Stafford funding was requested by Stafford Committee Members.

Resolved: That:

- a) details of the Community Safety Agreement 2023-2026 within Staffordshire be noted;
- b) an item be included on the Committee's work programme to scrutinise progress with the new Domestic Abuse contract;
- c) the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, receive an overview of the CTU briefing to help give parameters to any current threat and risk; and,
- d) detail of the Safer Street Fund successful bid for Stafford be forwarded to Cllr Edgeller and Cllr Pardesi.

17. Early Response in Adult Safeguarding

[Ruth Martin, Principal Social Worker and Safeguarding Lead, in attendance for this item.]

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mike Wilcox to the Committee and congratulated him on his new role as Cabinet Member for Health and Care.

The Committee heard from the Cabinet Member for Health and Care and the Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Integrated Care.

The committee had previously received updates on the adult safeguarding transformation project, which was completed last year. Members now received details highlighting the wider work to ensure an early response to safeguarding matters and the actions being taken to reduce risks and ensure that concerns had the right response at the earliest opportunity. Since the close of the transformation project the response from the Staffordshire Adult Safeguarding Team (SAST) had improved significantly, meaning that safeguarding concerns were being responded to in a timelier way. Members received performance data on timescales for dealing with safeguarding concerns evidencing the substantial reduction in delays.

The Committee received details of the changes that had enabled this improvement, which included a change in practise to enable decisions to be taken in a much timelier way. They were also pleased to note that continuity planning was in place which would be triggered should the number of safeguarding concerns waiting for decision increase. Members noted there had been no need so far to enact the continuity plan.

The Committee were pleased to hear that the quality of decision making had been retained. Although the number of agency staff had been reduced, some remained. Should funding for these agency staff be removed this may have an impact on the timeliness of decisions.

Work had also been undertaken to provide tools enabling appropriate referrals to be made. An on-line portal was currently being developed for

providers which would further support appropriate referrals. Alongside this an on-line training platform was being developed which would be available through the Learning Hub and it was hoped that councillors would take this training once it became available. Members also noted that there was a hope for this training to be made mandatory for all SCC officers.

Resolved: That:

- a) the latest position for early adult safeguarding response in Staffordshire be welcomed; and
- b) Members undertake and promote the on-line referral training once this becomes available.

18. Right Care Right Person Scrutiny

Having raised concerns about the Right Care Right Person initiative the Committee had undertaken to investigate how this would work within Staffordshire. They had met with the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) and the County Police Commander to understand how the initiative would be implemented in Staffordshire. They had also looked at its implementation in the Humberside Policing area, which had piloted the initiative.

This report by the Chairman outlined their work undertaken and the conclusions drawn. In principle the Committee support the introduction of this initiative and recommend that progress on its implementation be referred to the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board to enable a wider strategic consideration of its development as their membership included representation from both health and police colleagues.

Resolved: That:

- a) introduction of the Right Care Right Person initiative be supported; and
- b) monitoring of progress of the phased implementation be referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

19. Work Programme

The Committee received details of their current work programme.

Members were informed that the letter to District and Borough Council Planning Committee Chairmen had been sent. This letter raised the Committee's concerns around vaping and sought their consideration of these concerns as part of their Health in all Policies.

Members noted that no Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) had been shared with the Committee for some time. It could be that there hadn't been any, however this would be raised at the Triangulation meeting next week by

the Chairman with Cabinet Members and Officers.

During scrutiny of the SSCB Annual Report at their January meeting Members had resolved to raise their concerns with Chief Officers of the statutory partners around the issues highlighted. On further discussion it was suggested that the Committee undertake a visit to the MASH to see first hand this work and to discuss the concerns from the Annual Report. This will enable a more informed decision on whether the request to Chief Officers should be made and the questions that remain.

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

Chair

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 18 April 2024

Development of the Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Recommendation(s)

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Review the new multi-agency arrangements for adult safeguarding and the development of an adults' MASH.

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of the Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Integrated Care.

Summary

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

1. We are asking for the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the new multi-agency arrangements for adult safeguarding and the development of an adults' MASH.

Report

Background

2. The Staffordshire Adult Safeguarding Team has been based within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) since 2011. The MASH was originally set up as joint arrangement for both children and adults by Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council, along with police, the NHS, and more latterly the probation service.
3. There have been a number of reviews and changes to the way the MASH functioned, with a significant review precipitated by the decision by Stoke on Trent City Council's children's services to leave the MASH in 2019.

This review was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic as well as improvement to adults' safeguarding procedures.

4. In February 2023 it was agreed that there would be separate MASH arrangements for Staffordshire and for Stoke on Trent and for children and adults. The Police have separated their children's and adults' safeguarding functions and structures.

New Arrangements

5. Staffordshire Adult Safeguarding Team will remain co-located with Staffordshire Police at Lindum House as part of a Staffordshire adults' MASH. This also remains the base for Staffordshire children's MASH. This will ensure that links between adults' and children's social care are maintained.
6. The Adult Safeguarding Enquiry Team (ASET) who are responsible for completing high risk enquiries and jointly with Staffordshire Police will also be moving to Lindum House from their current base of Staffordshire Police Headquarters. This will mean that all specialist adult safeguarding functions for adult social care and the Police will be co-located.
7. There will be two dedicated Staffordshire adults' MASH police sergeants who will link with the police adult investigation team. This will ensure that adult safeguarding is accorded sufficient priority and resources and that there are contingencies in place against any absences from the policing team.
8. We will continue to use the Information Sharing Log (ISL) to share information between partners and will still be able to request information from children's social care and NHS colleagues through this system. This also gives an audit trail as to what information has been shared between partners.
9. Joint training will be completed to improve knowledge, understanding and skills of social care, police, and other colleagues. This will upskill staff and help to develop multi-agency relationships.
10. Moving forward we will be able to engage and bring in other services, such as housing, drug and alcohol services that are relevant to adult safeguarding.

Governance

11. An Adult MASH Strategic Group has been established to monitor the effectiveness of the arrangements. Performance will be monitored, and

future developments discussed. Outcomes of multi-agency audits will also be fed into this group and any areas of risk identified and actions agreed to address these.

12. Within the Council performance will be monitored through the Adult Social Care and Safeguarding Quality and Performance group. The timeliness of response to safeguarding concerns is also reported to corporate Senior Leadership Team monthly and Cabinet quarterly. We would be happy to provide performance updates and further reviews of the new arrangements to the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Link to Strategic Plan

13. Encourage good health wellbeing, resilience, and independence.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

14. N/A

Community Impact

15. N/A

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

16. N/A

Contact Details

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WORK PROGRAMME

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2023/2024

This document sets out the work programme for the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023/2024.

The Safeguarding Overview and 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 and Scrutiny Committee

If you would like to know more about our Work Programme or how to raise issues for potential inclusion on a Work Programme, then please contact Helen Phillips, Scrutiny and Support Officer (helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
15 June 2023 10.00am	'Living my Best Life': Report on the Joint Strategy for Disabled and Neurodivergent people in Staffordshire 2023-2028 Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Andy Marriot & Nicola Day	Pre-decision scrutiny – postponed from last municipal year	The Committee supported the Strategy and look forward to seeing the action plan that will give more detail on how the vision and strategy will be implemented and how success will be measured. A decision on the Strategy adoption will be taken at the 19 July Cabinet meeting.
	Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Focus for the Future Cabinet Members: Julia Jessel, Mark Sutton, Jonathan Price, Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Richard Harling, Neelam Bardwaja, Catherine Mann	Cabinet Members and Lead Officers highlight topics within their portfolio to support the Committee's work programme planning	Due to time restraints the Committee deferred hearing from the Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture. An extra informal meeting has been arranged for 10 July where this detail will be covered. Members will then use the combined information from 15 June and 10 July meetings to inform their work programme planning.
	Work programme Planning Lead Officer: Helen Phillips	Within the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, begin planning the work programme for 2023-24.	
27 July 2023 10.00 am	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Children's Social Care	Report brought annually	The Annual Report was welcomed.

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Page 19	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant		
	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant	Report brought annually	The Annual Report was welcomed. Members asked for their thanks to be passed to all Teams for their diligence, professionalism and commitment, and particularly to those responsible for receiving the 68 compliments shown within the report. The Committee made a referral to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny asking them to consider the impact of changes to the financial assessment accessibility and method of charging six months from implementation.
	PSHE Coordinator impact after first 12 months Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officer: Phil Pusey	The Inquiry Day report into Sexual Harassment in Schools asked that the O&S Committee consider the impact of the new PFCC funded PSHE Coordinator role after its first 12 months.	The impact of the PSHE Coordinator role after its first year was welcomed and Officers were congratulated for the impressive work completed.

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
14 September 2023 10.00 am Page 20	Impact of Cabinet Investment on Children's Services Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Considering the impact of the Cabinet's extra investment into Children's Services, looking at specific elements of investment and the differences made.	The Chairman congratulated the Cabinet Member and Officers on the improvements made through the effective targeted use of the Cabinet investment to date.
	The Children in Care Programme Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Item requested by Members during their June/July work programme planning.	Developments through the Children in Care programme were welcomed and supported by the Committee.
24 October 2023 12.30pm Extra meeting	Early Years Strategy Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Gibson	Item of pre-decision scrutiny.	The Committee were happy to support the strategic vision for the early years' service, welcoming the work to reorganise the service delivery model and the planned budget profile.
24 October 2023 2.00pm Extra informal meeting with the PFCC	Meeting with the Staffordshire PFCC	To discuss with the Commissioner: the changes made in response to the PEEL findings and the impact of changes to date; the neighbourhood safety delivery process to enable Members to better understand and reassure their communities; and, the Humberside pilot project "Right Care Right Person", whether Staffordshire is following this	The Commissioner shared with the Committee details of the Right Person Right Care process, rationale and timescales, including partnership working and transition planning. Further discussion was around developments resulting from the PEEL report and monitoring of the

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
		method of working with those who have mental health concerns and the potential impact of this.	current situation with regard to possible increased terrorist threats
23 Nov 2023 10.00 am	<p>Family Hub update and the work of the Family Improvement Boards Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody</p>	Item requested by Members during their June/July work programme planning.	<p>The Committee support the emerging Family Hub model and congratulated Officers and the Cabinet Member for the progress to date. Members agreed to consider becoming advocates and pledge their support for the Staffordshire Co-Production Promise.</p> <p>Details of: the Bump to Toddler Pathway; the Risk register; and the location of the Family Hubs were requested and progress against the performance framework will shared with the Committee at either 6 or 12 months (at the discretion of the Chairman in consultation with the Cabinet Members).</p>
	<p>Trading Standards Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p>	Scrutinising the work of Trading Standards in enforcing more than 250 pieces of legislation and its role in maintaining a safe and sustainable marketplace.	The Committee welcomed detail of the successful work undertaken by Staffordshire Trading Standards. They requested detail of enforcement data.

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	<p>Vaping Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p>	<p>SCCs approach to dealing with vaping non-compliance, the unsafe nature of these products which are marketed at children and young people.</p>	<p>They also suggest the Chairman and Portfolio Holder write to the chairs of the eight district and borough planning committees raising the issue of vaping, and seeking their consideration to include planning restrictions through their Health in all Policies to prevent Vaping premises being positioned near schools and colleges. Members will also consider becoming scam champions.</p>
<p>January 2024 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>The Committee welcomed the Annual Report 2022/23 of the SSASPB thanked Mr John Wood, Independent Chairman for his 8 years’ service as SSASPB Chairman</p>
	<p>Staffordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report Independent Chair: Ian Vinall Lead Officer: Lynn Milligan</p>	<p>Report brought annually</p>	<p>The Committee scrutinised the work of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board through their annual report. From this they have concerns around communication, information sharing and delegation and will</p>

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			look to arrange engagement with Chief Officers from the statutory SSCB partners to highlight these concerns and seek assurances for work taken to ameliorate these issues
	<p>Family Help Pilot Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta</p>	Item for pre-decision scrutiny	The Committee supported the Family Help Model pilot to be trialled in Lichfield and Stafford.
	<p>Provision of Services for Children and Young People Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Karen Coker/Shahid Munir (report entitled "Homes for children in our care")</p>	Item for pre-decision scrutiny (the item covers the placement sufficiency detail requested by the Committee)	<p>The Committee supported proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) open six in-house local authority run children's homes; b) request a Contribution of £0.3m in 24/25 from the Council's transformation fund to meet upfront costs incurred during the transition process; c) join the West Midlands Framework for the Provision of Residential Placements – from October 2024; and join the West Midlands Foster Care Framework from April 2024.

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
15 Feb 2024 10.00 am	Adult Safeguarding Early Response Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher	Considering work towards earlier responses to adult safeguarding, considering the process, numbers and seek assurance that these are dealt with in a timely way.	The Committee welcomed the latest position for early adult safeguarding response and the improvements made. Members will undertake and promote the on-line referral training once this becomes available.
Page 24	MASH Review and adoption of a Staffordshire Children's Front Door Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Clive Cartman-Frost		The Committee noted the changes to the MASH multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. They requested a visit to the MASH to consider firsthand the changes made and the effectiveness of communication, information sharing and safeguarding arrangements. A performance report showing the effectiveness of safeguarding will be included on the Committee's work programme.
	The Community Safety Agreement, performance and impact Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell	Looking at the Community safety Agreement, considering its performance and impact. To include any potential impacts identified from the Right Care Right Person initiative.	Members welcomed the detail of the Community Safety Agreement 2023-2026 within Staffordshire. They have requested a future item to scrutinise progress with the new Domestic Abuse contract. They request that the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee,

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Page 25			receive an overview of the CTU briefing to help give parameters to any current threat and risk. Members also requested detail of the Safer Street Fund successful bid.
	Right Care Right Person Report of the Scrutiny Chairman	Outline of the work undertaken by the O&S Committee on Right Care Right Person, including their informal meeting with the Commissioner.	The Committee welcome the initiative in principle and have referred the monitoring of this to the Health & Wellbeing Board as they have representation from Health, SCC & Police in their membership.
18 April 2024 10.00 am	Ofsted Inspection Outcome Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bardwaja	To consider the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of children's services	
	Adult Vulnerability Hubs Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher	Looking at the development of adult vulnerability hubs, their intended outcomes and timescales to achieve these.	

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Feedback from MASH visit	Following scrutiny of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report and concerns raised there around effective safeguarding, the Scrutiny Committee visited the MASH on 5 April to investigate the concerns raised and consider what further scrutiny is required.	
tbc	Hearing the voice of the child Cabinet Member – Mark Sutton Lead Officer – Neelam Bhardwaja	16 February meeting Members requested a better understanding of how the voice of the child is heard – particularly with respect to early identification of emerging online threats and challenges.	
tbc	Domestic Abuse Contract – 6 months in Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell	Considering the new contract 6 months in, looking particularly at the new refuge and sanctuary duties and how these are implemented in Staffordshire.	
TBC May or Nov???	Family Hub – development monitoring		

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting

Standing Items 2023/2024

Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
<p>Crime & Disorder Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p>	<p>This O&S Committee is the LAs designated Crime and Disorder Panel. 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"> • 24 July – briefing on 14 July SSCSG
<p>Children Improvement Board (CIB) Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja</p>	<p>The Chairman attends the CIB on behalf of the O&S Committee and feeds back developments to Members at each meeting as part of the work programme agenda item. CIB scheduled dates: 23.05.23, 28.06.23, 25.07.23, 27.09.23, 24.10.23, 28.11.23, 20.12.23</p>	
<p>Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja</p>	<p>Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review</p>	<p>Some areas picked up by the DHR review process</p>

Briefing Notes / Updates / Visits 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	"Stable Homes Built on Love" Government's response to the Care Review		
	Adult Safeguarding Quality Assurance Framework		

Working Groups / Inquiry Days 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome

Membership – County Councillors 2023-2024

Bob Spencer (Chairman)
 Gill Burnett-Faulkner (Vice Chairman - Overview)
 Paul Snape (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny)
 Ann Edgeller
 Janet England
 Johnny McMahon
 Gillian Pardesi
 Kath Perry
 Samantha Thompson
 Conor Wileman

Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2023-2024

15 June 2023 at 10.00 am
 27 July 2023 at 10.00 am
 14 September 2023 at 10.00 am
 24 October 2023 at 12.30 pm
 24 October 2023 at 2.00pm – informal meeting
 23 November 2023 at 10.00 am
 4 January 2024 at 10.00 am
 15 February 2024 at 10.00 am
 18 April 2024 at 10.00 am
 Meetings usually take place in the Oak rm, County Buildings