

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

Tuesday, 26 September 2017

2.00 pm

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

NB. Members are requested to ensure that their Laptops/Tablets are fully charged before the meeting

John Tradewell
Director of Strategy, Governance and Change
18 September 2017

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2017** (Pages 1 - 8)
4. **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan and information regarding Revenge Porn & Sexting** (Pages 9 - 48)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
 - a) 'For the whole world to see' - DVD on sexting
5. **Cabinet Response: Preventing Low Level Neglect of Children in Staffordshire'** (Pages 49 - 88)
6. **Work Programme** (Pages 89 - 94)

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager
 - a) Edge of Care - Scoping Report (Pages 95 - 100)
7. **Exclusion of the Public**

The Chairman to move:-

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

Part Two

(All reports in this section are exempt)

nil

Committee Membership

John Francis (Chairman)	Kyle Robinson
Syed Hussain	Paul Snape
Trevor Johnson	Conor Wileman (Vice-Chairman)
Jason Jones	Victoria Wilson
Natasha Pullen	Mike Worthington

Note for Members of the Press and Public

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Scrutiny and Support Manager: Tina Gould Tel: (01785) 276148

**Minutes of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee Meeting held on
13 July 2017**

Present: John Francis (Chairman)

Attendance

Syed Hussain	Paul Snape
Trevor Johnson	Conor Wileman (Vice-Chairman)
Jason Jones	Victoria Wilson
Natasha Pullen	Mike Worthington
Kyle Robinson	

Also in attendance: Gill Heath and Mark Sutton

PART ONE

5. Declarations of Interest

There were none at this meeting.

6. Minutes of the Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee meeting held on 13 June 2017

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee held on 13 June 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

7. Children's and Families System Transformation

The Children and Families System Transformation Programme had previously been considered by this Select Committee at their meetings of 8 June, 8 July, 12 December 2016 and 16 January 2017. Members now considered the 21 June 2017 Cabinet Report which set out progress with the Transformation Programme and described the principles and proposed changes to the operating model and associated work practices.

Members applauded the focus on early intervention and prevention but sought clarification on how this would be achieved. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People informed them that there was already a lot of early intervention and prevention work in place, including, for example, under 5s commissioning services that focused on the most deprived areas, and the Healthy Child Programme which brought together the work of midwives, health visitors and the school nurses to provide a more joined up approach to the work of the children's system.

Members were pleased to note the place based approach which had been agreed with partners. They heard that this would allow better collective use of assets, resources and knowledge amongst the County Council and partners to produce a whole system approach. Local governance was built into this place based system to enable its sustainability and Members heard of the importance of the 3rd Sector within this.

Community asset mapping was taking place to support this work and build upon community capacity.

The work of Children's Centres was highlighted as key to building resilient families and helping to identify where support was needed. In particular the very pro-active approach of some of the services working within these Centres was commended as a way of targeting support. The District Advisory Boards (DABs) on Early Years, which were often based in Children's Centres, were an excellent opportunity for local members to become involved and be aware of the work within their areas. In particular the involvement of the Community Cabinet Support Members in the DABs was promoted to enable effective challenge and to support the work taking place within the local community.

Members raised the issue of home educated pupils and asked how progress was assessed when a child was home educated. Parents had a legal right to choose to educate their children at home and the County Council made every effort to work with those families to ensure the child's development. However pupils who missed out on education because of poor attendance (rather than being electively home educated) were significantly adversely affecting their life chances. Members heard that the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee had established a Working Group to consider the issues of children missing out on education, with their report produced in 2014 and requested a copy be forwarded to them for information.

The Select Committee queried the 4-6 weeks intensive support offered to those with drug and/or alcohol dependency, being concerned that this was too short a period of time in which to ensure the individual was able to address their dependency. Members were assured that this intensive intervention was part of the Family Intervention Model and gave intensive support for this relatively short period whilst maintaining a family support worker to work longer term in addressing the needs of the individual and the family. The Family Intervention Service offered up to 12 months intergenerational intervention to tackle issues faced by the family. Members welcomed the Cabinet Member's offer to bring anonymised case studies when the Select Committee next consider the Transformation Programme to help illustrate the work undertaken.

Members heard that there was a holistic approach to Tier 1 and 2 services, bringing together children and family services to provide a holistic offer within the place based methodology. Tamworth was given as a particularly good example of how this approach worked well.

The Select Committee noted the suggestion that in future, where appropriate, children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities should be included in local schools and communities (supported by a clear Inclusion Strategy embedded across the county). They had some concerns about this suggestion, praising the current Special School system in Staffordshire and reinforcing that a Special School was the right place for many children with specific needs. They had concerns that children's progress and development would be adversely affected if included in mainstream schools and that bullying would be a concern. The Cabinet Member reassured Members that the education of each individual would be informed by the requirements of their Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs).

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People was aware of the concerns previously raised by the Select Committee that this specific report had not been subject to pre decision scrutiny due to the constraints of the election. He suggested that the Select Committee could produce a written response to the 14 August Programme Board which would help inform their work going forward.

RESOLVED- That:

- a) the Children, Young People and Families Transformation Programme update be noted;
- b) a written response to the update be produced for consideration by the 14 August Programme Board; and
- c) a progress report on the Transformation Programme be brought to the 15 January meeting to include anonymised case studies to help illustrate the work undertaken.

8. Children, Young People and Families Pilots

Eight Pilot Projects had been initiated at the beginning of the Children and Families System Transformation Programme. Their purpose was to test different approaches to dealing with families and children who present with low level issues. Each of the Pilots were being measured to test whether the different approaches had evidenced that by working at a lower level demand on higher tier services would be reduced.

The Select Committee had received progress on the eight pilots at their meeting of 16 January 2017 and had requested a further progress report in six months. Members now received detail of progress within the eight pilots.

The Select Committee highlighted the importance of information sharing and in particular noted that the Newcastle pilot to create a locally based intelligence function had ceased. The Newcastle Pilot had initially scoped creating an intelligence system which would enable effective information sharing, however information governance and protocols had only been put in place around the Building Resilient Families & Communities (BRFC) and as the pilot developed to other forms of early intervention it had been necessary to develop at a local authority level further agreed protocols to enable the appropriate information sharing at this local level.

Newcastle had therefore focused on the successful Girl Power project and Members suggested that this no longer needed to be a pilot but should be embedded within the District and the successful practice used as a model elsewhere within the County as appropriate.

In Cannock 125 families had been identified as part of BRFC and Members queried whether this large number was too many to make significant change achievable. The BRFC number reflected the need within the District. Within Cannock governance of the BRFC and the DAB had been amalgamated to enable 0-19 wide partnership representation and help use funding effectively. The local community model had put in a lot of resource at a local level and helped support the targeted intervention with these

families. Where the support was targeted at the right level it was making a real difference.

Members noted that as part of the next phase of the East Staffs projects it was proposed to establish links with the Parish Council to provide a key access point for local residents. Whilst accepting the role of Parish Councils Members felt that the importance of the role of the local County Councillor should be highlighted as a key link with local communities.

Members were aware of the constraints of the 3rd sector and asked what risk prevention had been built into service provision where 3rd sector providers were used. A contract was in place with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) providers, S3, which supported the delivery of 3rd sector services.

Members were aware that the eight pilots were all at different stages of development and had differing levels of success. They felt it was important to move forward with those projects that were successful, finishing the pilot and rolling out the learning to inform best practice. A six month progress report would then be able to inform the Select Committee of how this best practice had transferred to other areas of the County. At their next 6 monthly update the report would indicate which pilots should cease and which would be used to inform best practice.

RESOLVED – That:

- a) the progress on the 8 pilot projects be noted;
- b) the importance of local County Councillors as links with the local community be included in the next steps for the East Staffs pilot project; and
- c) a progress report be brought to the Select Committee in 6 months which sets out which pilots will cease and how the learning from successful pilots will be used to inform best practice across the County.

9. Public Analyst and Scientific Services Laboratory

The County Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Public Analyst under the Food Safety Act 1990, and an Agricultural Analyst under the Agriculture Act 1970. However the Select Committee were informed that these statutory appointments did not have to be employees of the County Council.

Scientific Services provided Staffordshire with in-house statutory and non-statutory testing services and also undertook work for other local authorities. However the work had been declining and following a number of Service reviews and initiatives to reverse this trend, there remained a forecast for an £108,000 loss based on existing staff numbers. The proposal was therefore to close the Service and appoint both a Public and an Agricultural Analyst from either one of the five remaining local authority laboratories or one or more private sector laboratories.

The Chairman read two emails from Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy, which advocated keeping the Service and suggested a possible private/public company arrangement be considered.

Members heard that redundancies had been made from within the Service in 2014/15 following an initial review, with a further review and possible closure recommended at that time, should the financial viability of the Service not improve. Members heard that the Service had now seen three years of losses.

The Select Committee shared concerns over the use of private laboratories, feeling that though the costs given may seem reasonable initially, once the in-house service was lost the price was likely to increase. Members raised the example of closure of in-house forensic laboratories and shared their concern over the resulting court cases thrown out as a result of poor quality testing and asked whether the service from private providers would be of the same quality as that of our in-house service.

Whilst appreciating there had already been a small number of redundancies in 2016 Members asked whether further redundancies would be possible to help save the Service. The Select Committee felt that it was imperative to try and keep the service if at all possible, particularly in light of the changes that would follow as a result of Brexit. Members also felt the report lacked detail, particularly around cost analyses. They were aware that a business manager had been seconded to the Service in 2016/17 to promote a more commercialised approach. They asked whether consideration had been given to joining with another local authority laboratory as a way of making savings to the management structure, enabling the expertise to remain whilst reducing costs, with the possibility of working on a regional basis considered.

The Select Committee were informed that despite the work of the Business Manager the Service remained loss making and there was an expectation that local authority work across the Country would continue to reduce, as Staffordshire's had, as a result of increasingly reduced sampling budgets.

The amount of work undertaken by the Service for the County Council had been approximately £60,000 out of the circa £900,000 worth of work completed by the Service last year.

Consideration had been given to further redundancies, however whilst there may be some slight adjustment possible, it was necessary to keep the appropriate skill set to ensure the range of sampling could continue.

Members heard that whilst the accuracy of testing between the in-house service and private providers was comparable anecdotal information from returning customers was that the quality of service as a whole was better with the in-house service giving a value added service where appropriate testing options were discussed prior to testing. This had resulted in repeat business gained through the quality of that broader service offer.

The Select Committee agreed that further consideration should be given to a range of issues prior to any decision being made on the closure, in particular:

- the possibility of joining with another local authority laboratory to work regionally whilst saving management costs;

- consideration of the suggestion put forward by Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy for the creation of a public/private company;
- the possibility of further redundancies;
- the long-term consequences of Brexit and its impact on the work necessary in this field; and
- address concerns over the cost and quality of service from private providers once the in-house service was lost.

The Select Committee were aware that this was due to be considered by Cabinet on 19 July and asked that the Cabinet Member for Communities request that consideration of this item be deferred to allow for the areas of concern raised by this Select Committee to be investigated.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Member for Communities share the Select Committees concerns with Cabinet at their meeting of 19 July and request a decision on this item be deferred to allow consideration of those areas of concern raised.

10. Work Programme

The Work Programme had been amended to reflect both the outcome of the June meeting and the Chairman’s Triangulation meeting. The Select Committee considered the additions to their Work programme and agreed the following:

- an Inquiry day to consider the Community Safety Agreement be held on 31 July, 9.30 – 11.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford;
- a visit to the MASH be arranged for Thursday 10 August, 2.00pm, with a separate visit on 17 July, 9.30am for those Members unable to attend 10th;
- a working group be set up to consider the Children’s Centres, following a previous working group that looked at this 3 years ago. The new Group would re-visit the centres to consider if changes had been made;
- a 6 monthly progress report on the Pilot projects be included on the Work programme for their 15 January meeting, setting out those pilots that will cease and the learning from successful pilots and how this will inform best practice across the county; and
- a progress report on the Transformation Programme be brought to the 15 January meeting to include anonymised case studies to help illustrate the work undertaken.

RESOLVED – That the Work programme amendments listed above be noted.

Chairman

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 26th September 2017

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan and information regarding Revenge Porn & Sexting

Recommendation

1. Members are recommended to receive the progress report which explains how the County Council is working with its partners in respect of child sexual exploitation (CSE). This report has been produced at the request of the Staffordshire's Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee and provides an update on the progress made since the report to the Committee on 16th January 2017. The Committee is asked to review future reports on a six monthly basis.

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

Summary

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

2. The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee should read the information set out in this progress report to provide them with a clear understanding of the developments made in this area. This will provide an opportunity to provide and promote robust member scrutiny of this activity, provide a transparent, public account of the work of partners, identify areas of good progress, and highlight key areas in need of further development via the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF) which is held accountable by their respective Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB).

Report

Background

3. This issue has been discussed at the Committee meetings since December 2014. CSE continues to be a priority for Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (hereafter known as the SSCB) and its partners under their Child Sexual Abuse strategic priority. The Committee has previously requested quarterly updates to ensure that actions are being progressed. Please refer to previous reports for information on actions already reported to the Committee.

Work Progressed by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)

The Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF)

4. Both Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LSCBs have child sexual abuse (CSA) as one of their priorities until 2018. The Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF) was established by both LSCBs and their partners to share information, to coordinate and drive the work of sexual abuse and to hold agencies to account for promoting effective local working together arrangements.
5. Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LSCBs continue to have quarterly joint CSAF meetings to oversee service developments in this area. To date there have been eleven CSAF meetings which have taken place between 27th January 2015 and 11th July 2017. Stoke-on-Trent City Council took over the Chairing role from Staffordshire Police in January 2016.
6. A CSE coordinator for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was initially appointed in June 2015 and was funded by the Office for Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for two years. This post became vacant from the end of July 2016 until January 2017, when a new CSE coordinator for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was appointed. The CSE Coordinator post which was advertised amongst safeguarding partners. This temporary post is funded by the OPCC for twelve months and is hosted by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, with a matrix management arrangement in place with other key partners.
7. Staffordshire Children's Social Care recently engaged in a Pilot 'Inspection of Children's Social Care Services'. The report from this inspection is awaiting final sign off. However, we can share that the Inspectorate identified that strategic and operational work to manage CSE is effective and timely Staffordshire.
8. Work on tackling Child Sexual Abuse is established in Staffordshire and safeguarding children continues to be a priority.

CSE Action Plan

9. Since its conception in January 2015, the Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF) has continued to drive forward the work surrounding CSE (including missing children) through the delivery of its CSE action plan. The joint CSE Action Plan falls into the following four areas:
 - a. Prepare - Providing strong leadership, effective systems and working with partners to tackle CSE
 - b. Prevent - Raising awareness of CSE among young people, parents, carers and potential perpetrators
 - c. Protect – Safeguarding young people and supporting professionals
 - d. Pursue - Disrupting, arresting and prosecuting CSE offenders.
10. A review of the CSE Action Plan has been undertaken by the CSE Coordinator in consultation with partners and was presented to the CSAF on 25th April 2017.

The revised action plan has been extended to encompass 2017-2020 and it is aligned with the requirements set out in the CSE Strategy.

11. The following information highlights the progress made by CSAF since members last received a report in January 2017.

Other forms of Child Sexual Abuse

12. Whilst the CSAF was established in response to the emerging profile of CSE, partner agencies wanted to ensure that we had safe arrangements for all children at risk of sexual abuse however this abuse might take place. Having completed a mapping exercise about governance, it has been agreed that CSAF will focus on CSE and intra-familial child sexual abuse. With the publication of the Government's 'Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020' in May 2016) it has been proposed that the governance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage should reside with the newly formed Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Domestic Abuse Commissioning and Development Board. One meeting of the Board has been held to date and it has been agreed that a scoping exercise will be undertaken in respect of delivery of the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.
13. The Chair of CSAF is writing to the Chair of the Joint Domestic Abuse Commissioning Group detailing the need for CSAF to seek assurance that child sexual abuse within these areas would be appropriately managed and any relevant inter-agency issues escalated to CSAF.
14. In the interim a Joint LSCB FGM Policy and Procedure had been updated, ratified by the Board partnerships, widely disseminated to frontline staff and embedded into local inter-agency training. This has been supplemented by a recent Joint LSCB Briefing about FGM to help frontline staff to recognise and respond to children at risk of FGM. Please see Appendix 2 to view this document.
15. The need for a Safeguarding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was previously identified by the SSCB and has now been in development across the county and city; this assessment includes data and information relating to CSE and FGM during 2015-2016.
16. The Government's review of local children safeguarding boards (LSCB's) by Alan Wood has recommended wide-ranging reforms to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which will have an impact on the way that local authorities, police and health partners work together. It is expected that new statutory guidance on local inter-agency arrangements will be published by the end of 2017 and this may impact on our current CSAF arrangements.
17. The Joint LSCB Child Sexual Abuse Strategy was ratified by the respective Safeguarding Children Boards in June 2016 and is publically available on the SSCB website.

CSE Outcomes Framework

18. The CSE Outcomes Framework is now being implemented across Staffordshire, overseen by the Strategic CSE Coordinator; with data collation, analysis and reporting coordinated by the Families First Business Improvement and Development Team.
19. Due to the complexity involved in the implementation of the Framework, a decision was made by the CSE Outcome Framework Steering Group and the Safeguarding Children Boards to pilot some aspects of the Framework within particular areas in Staffordshire for a five month period (April 16 – August 16). East Staffordshire (Burton), Staffordshire Moorlands and Stoke-on-Trent (all localities) were chosen as the designated pilot areas. Willingness to participate, interest shown in CSE as well as the use of data and intelligence identifying greater prevalence of CSE in these localities were some of the reasons why these areas were chosen. A trial dataset has been produced and reported back to the CSE Outcomes Framework Steering Group covering the period March 2016 – April 2017. Collation and analysis of the data highlighted differentiations in data recording across organisations; a sub group was created and has met to clarify required datasets and reporting mechanisms.
20. A data officer has now been appointed to collate and report upon the CSE Outcomes Framework; the successful candidate will commence their post 07th August 2017 for a 12 month period.
21. The Child Sexual Abuse Strategy was signed off at the both Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent LSCBs in June 2016 and is published on the respective LSCB websites Collation of a dataset covering quarters 1 and 2 of the year 2017/2018 is now underway, to be reported upon November 2017.

Risk Factor Matrix

22. The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CSE risk factor matrix and associated guidance notes have been reviewed and revised by a multi-agency task and finish group representative of both local authorities. Utilising feedback from professionals the tool has been re designed to better reflect local risk indicators and allow more concise information to be presented to CSE Panels and those managing risk reduction interventions.
23. The revised risk assessment tool and associated guidance notes will be utilised across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent from 01st September 2017; continuing to support the assessment and identification of CSE concerns and evidence risk reduction actions.
24. There have been a series of multi-agency briefings delivered about the use of the new tool and its associated guidance notes. These have been well attended, with the revised documents receiving positive feedback from practitioners.
25. The tools aim to assist professionals in determining the right help at the right time for children at risk of or involved in CSE. The planned 'go live' date for these

revised documents was 16th May. After a six month pilot of this tool the Risk Factor Matrix has been revised to incorporate practitioner and partner agency feedback. The tools act to assist professionals in determining the right help at the right time for children at risk of or involved in CSE. The completed risk factor matrix, from the 01st September 2017 acts as a direct referral into the newly commissioned CSE and Missing service, Catch22. The tools will be launched with a planned review date of 01st March 2018.

Communications

26. A comprehensive and effective communications campaign ('Know about CSE') was implemented across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent from October 2015 to April 2016. The evaluation of this campaign was reviewed by members in January 2017.
27. Whilst evidence suggests that the original campaign continues to have an impact on awareness of child sexual exploitation and understanding of the 'warning signs', research has highlighted two areas of concern – the impact of 'grooming parties' and young people's understanding of consent. A comprehensive consultation with 200 young people ('What Works from a Young Person's Perspective' – The Children's Voice/ SCVYS) evidenced the alarmingly high number of young people that do not understand grooming, are not able to recognise risk whilst at parties and do not have the 'tools' to keep themselves safe.
28. Based on a comprehensive business case developed by partner communications teams, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have financed a campaign that will:
 - a. challenge young people's attitudes regards parties and help them to stay safe if they do attend
 - b. support and encourage parents to talk to their children about staying safe at parties by ensuring they have the right information at the right time
 - c. continue to impact on young people's perception that sexting is normal and to update their understanding as to the new laws
 - d. improve young people's understanding of what constitutes consent.
29. A range of new materials are currently in development (in collaboration with key schools) that will be first used across ten pilot schools and academies in the autumn term, followed by a full roll-out across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent in the spring terms.
30. The campaign will utilise new 'immersive' 360 degree/ Smart phone technology to develop a virtual-reality video that will engage young people in ways never before possible and help them to analyse the risks of a party in a safe and supportive environment.
31. The communications teams are also developing an activity plan of ongoing communications activity that will continue the 'drip feed' of information about CSE to relevant audiences.

32. See Appendix 1 for a summary of the campaign approach which was presented to and endorsed by CSAF earlier this year.

Workforce and development

33. During April 2016- March 2017 98 professionals have been trained over two days through the SSCB Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Training (4 events and 1 additional session due to demand) . Since April 2017 to date the end of June 2017 28 professionals have been trained and 40 more professionals are expected to be trained on the two day Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Training.
34. Virtual College and Pace (Parents against Child Sexual Exploitation) have provided everyone with free access to an e-learning module – Keeping them Safe – Protecting Children from Child Sexual Exploitation. We have put this course on our platform for everyone to access for free and 121 people have accessed this course so far.
35. The following offers some evidence of the impact this training has had on practitioners working with children and their families:

“We now discuss safeguarding issues on the agenda at every staff meeting. I feel more confident in challenging our way of thinking with other professionals. This has resulted in more male pupils being assessed against the CSE matrix.”

“The information provided when undertaking the training enabled me to identify a number of young people accessing our service as being at potential risk of CSE and I have accessed our CSE lead and information from the intranet to pursue this matter.”

“Been able to identify that the young person was at risk of CSE and put actions into place on their CP Plan and have become the CSE Champion for the team and also attend the CSE Panel meetings for our area.”

Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE)

36. A number of partners have recognised a gap in the local co-ordination and delivery of P and S H E in schools and other educational establishments., particularly around vulnerabilities such as child sexual abuse, youth violence, prevent, fire safety, road safety, substance misuse, healthy relationships and sexual health.
37. Additionally, whilst there are some examples of good practice in this work area across the county, it was felt that delivery / provision is currently inconsistent. There is no single agreed approach or tools used across the city and county, with some schools receiving regular input from external agencies and others less frequently.
38. In other areas of the country agencies have agreed a joint strategic approach concerning this agenda. There are examples of education tools and resources

being developed and adopted to cover all vulnerabilities with an agreed resource being made available to support its introduction, ongoing use and evaluation.

39. A county-wide strategic group, initially met to help provide some direction concerning a consistent local education safeguarding approach. A county wide task and finish group has also met to scope all work currently undertaken around the vulnerability areas, to help to understand what information is currently provided to children and young people and to identify any gaps or duplication.
40. Feedback from Staffordshire's Voice Project suggests that children and young people want resources that they can relate to and are interactive.
41. With this in mind Staffordshire OPCC has agreed to fund a dedicated post for a year to take this work forward. It will be hosted by Staffordshire County Council and will look to understand the spread and scope of the current provision; the resources being used; ascertain teacher views with a view to agreeing local resources / a toolkit; and seek to understand what related support is required to assist implementation and on-going delivery. The job description for this post is currently being drafted.

Sexting

42. Sexting is defined as images or videos generated by children under the age of 18, of children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are indecent. It refers to sending and receiving, naked pictures or nudes, underwear shots, sexual or 'dirty pictures', nude text messages or videos. They can be sent from a friend, boyfriend, and girlfriend, someone that has been met online, over text or instant messenger.
43. Most young people do not see anything wrong with sexting but it's illegal and has a number of consequences. It is sexual exploitation and can lead to more serious implications. It is worrying that so many young people think it's a normal part of a relationship and that they don't realise it is a criminal offence. Under British law it is legal to have sex aged 16, but it is illegal and a serious criminal offence to take, hold, share or distribute 'indecent' photos of anyone aged under 18.
44. It is the responsibility of every parent or carer and professional to understand sexting themselves and to help young people to be aware of the risks. As a result of this emerging risk we have produced a webpage for anyone to access on the SSCB website and on the Knowaboutcse.co.uk website. These webpages contain a number of resources that can be used to help family members and professionals to explain the implications of sexting. However, the SSCB partnership are aware that sexting is becoming a massive issue that children and young people are facing locally and it is becoming an increasing area of concern.
45. The National Crime Agency recently reported that child protection officers are investigating an average of one case involving sexting every day. The College of Policing published guidance for police officers responding to cases where young people are producing and sharing sexual images of themselves or others (sexting) in November 2016. This advice relates to where young people are voluntarily

creating and sharing images with each other. It advises police forces to use the recently introduced 'outcome 21' recording code to record that a crime has been committed, but that it is not considered to be in the public interest to take criminal action against the people involved. The aim of this is to help to provide a proportionate response to sexting, to reduce stigma and reduce the risk of criminalising children and young people.

For the Whole World to See

46. In addition, the 'Say No to Sexting' campaign (implemented as part of the wider 'Know About CSE' campaign) was implemented and was successful in reducing the number of young people who believe that sexting is a normal and part of a healthy relationship. The approach to impacting on sexting in Staffordshire was recognised nationally when John Wood, joint Chair of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent safeguarding children board, presented the approach at a national conference.
47. Burton and South Derbyshire College worked with the SSCB to produce a short film that would raise young people's awareness of sexting. Young people at the college were asked to produce a film that would appeal to young people from year 7 to year 11, to highlight what sexting actually was, the implications of sending indecent images to other people and that it is an illegal practice. The final version of the film was shared in December 2015 and has been extremely well received by professionals and young people with over 2,100 visitors during the 'Say No to Sexting' campaign alone; it has also been requested nationally. To view the SSCB sexting webpage please go to: www.staffsscb.org.uk/Training/Learning-resources/Sexting.
48. A new Joint LSCB '*Responding to Sexting (Youth Produced Sexual Imagery): Guidance for Professionals*' is also in the final stages of development. This document was sent to a wide range of professionals including Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in education establishments and the Youth Offending Services to help to ensure that it provides the right advice and gives professionals the confidence to respond effectively to sexting situations. The final document is scheduled to be disseminated to frontline practitioners in September.
49. Following the dissemination the above information and Risk Factor matrix in September, a review of existing sexting materials targeting young people will be undertaken. This review will identify whether existing materials are effective in enabling young people to understand the new laws around sexting and further impact on the zeitgeist that it is 'normal.' New content will be developed by the Communications teams as appropriate and will be rolled out across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Learning and improvement

50. A series of Joint Targeted Area Inspections and Local Authority Targeted Inspections by Ofsted focusing on child sexual exploitation and children missing from home school or education took place in 2016. Ofsted's thematic report '*Time to Listen- a joined up response to child sexual exploitation and missing children*'

details findings from the inspections and was published in September 2016. An Executive Summary of this report was shared across the LSCB partnerships.

51. As a result of the Ofsted thematic learning it was acknowledged that further work needed to be done to help practitioners to understand the role of CSAF. As a result a 'One minute guide' in relation to CSE and CSAF was developed and disseminated to frontline managers and practitioners.

An update of the work progressed by Staffordshire Police

52. There are now two Staffordshire Police teams responding to the issue of CSE:
 - a. The On-street Child Exploitation Team; and
 - b. The On-line Child Sexual Exploitation Team (working as Operation Safenet)
53. Funding for Preventing CSE Team concluded in March 2017 and this team is no longer in existence. However, starting on 1st September 2017, Catch 22 will be providing lower level CSE Prevent interventions as well as dealing with all missing children return interviews (which were formerly undertaken by Base 58).

Operation Safenet

54. The team is comprised of a Detective Sergeant, seven Detective Constables and an Investigative Officer and tackles all aspects of online abuse. Operation Safenet (On-line Child Sexual Exploitation) is a team of officers who are both proactive and reactive in dealing with on line child sexual exploitation. The team proactively targets groups or individuals who are seeking to distribute indecent images of children and those who are grooming children online in order to meet them to commit further sexual offences. The team work closely with regional, national and international law enforcement agencies sharing intelligence to safeguard victims and bring offenders to justice.

On Street Child Exploitation Team (CET)

55. The on street CSE investigative team comprises of a Detective Inspector, two Detective Sergeants, eleven Detective Constables and an Investigative Officer. Two social workers (from each authority) are attached to the team. With effect from 11th September 2017 the team will be working Monday to Friday 8am – 4pm so as to maximise partnership working in CSE cases.

Abduction Notices

56. There have been 69 abduction notices issued to individuals harbouring children in Staffordshire between April 2016 and March 2017.
57. These can be a useful deterrent for both young people and adults harbouring a child. Consideration is always given to this approach during risk management strategy meetings (missing meetings). This information is now being shared with children's services. The table below breaks this information down monthly:

Date	Notices issued
Apr – 16	12
May – 16	7
Jun – 16	11
Jul – 16	5
Aug – 16	0
Sep – 16	5
Oct - 16	0
Nov – 16	6
Dec – 16	14
Jan – 17	2
Feb – 17	6
Mar – 17	1

Joint Operations

58. Operation Linear and Operation Shade have now concluded and a multi-agency debrief has been held by Staffordshire police. A Joint Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Scoping panel meeting was held in October 2016 to consider multi-agency learning from nineteen of the children involved in the two police operations. The meeting was well attended by partner agencies and learning was immediately identified and shared. The terms of reference for this review were subsequently agreed and a respected independent reviewer was appointed to lead on this review; quality input is also being provided by a Professor of Young People and Public Policy at the University of Bedfordshire. It is envisaged that the review will be concluded by November 2017.
59. Work to coordinate the revision of the Joint LSCB Organised and Complex Child Abuse Investigation policy and procedure is in progress. This document incorporates learning arising from the scoping panel and from the management of the investigation and parallel proceedings, to help improve the coordination of any further inter-agency complex abuse incident. A Joint LSCB Consent briefing was also developed as part of the learning process, to help practitioners to have a greater understanding about CSE and consent. Please see Appendix 3 to view this briefing document.
60. As previously reported, in November 2016 after twelve weeks of evidence, the trial of four men charged with a total of twenty-three offences concluded. Three men were convicted of sexual offences against four girls and one was cleared by the jury. A Jury at Stafford Crown Court heard how the girls, aged between 14 and 16, were all abused between 2012 and 2015. The three men were subsequently sentenced to periods of imprisonment of 10 years, 33 months and 16 months respectively.
61. All SSCB partners and Staffordshire County Council members were advised of the outcome of the court case on the day the trial concluded.

An update on the work progressed by Families First

62. Multi-agency CSE Panels continue to be chaired by the county managers from the specialist safeguarding service and continue to operate in the following areas on a bi-monthly basis:
 - a. Newcastle/Moorlands
 - b. Stafford/South Staffs/Cannock
 - c. East Staffs (Burton/Utttoxeter)
 - d. Tamworth/Lichfield
63. The panel have had their second annual review and it was felt that the panels continue to offer an environment whereby the Incidence of CSE for each given district can be discussed and further disrupted with a multi-agency response from partner agencies. Work in this area has seen rapid development over the last twelve months and the response of partner agencies has been enormously important to these developments and the progress that has been made.
64. In order to manage the increasing numbers, the efficiency and effectiveness of the panels this was considered as part of the second annual review. Recommendations were made and agreed by the multi-agency group including ensuring there is management oversight from the panels chairs whereby children who have been presented to panel on 3 consecutive occasions with no reduction of risk to be reviewed by the county managers.
65. Further emphasis has been placed on ensuring that the Risk Factor Matrix for CSE is completed and regularly reviewed as part of the child's current plan and that there is team manager oversight of this. It was recognised that we needed to improve compliance with this, this being a contributing factor as to why the form has now been reviewed.
66. The annual internal CSE data report has now been completed and this has been shared with CSAF and SSCB and it has highlighted that there has been a 66% increase in the number of children referred to the panels.
67. The number of children discussed at panel from April 2016 to March 2017 has been 221, 90% females and 10% boys with the youngest child referred to panel being 10 years old and higher representation of 12 and 13 year olds. It is acknowledged that the age being referred is younger however it is felt that this is due to the fact that identification and awareness amongst the public and professionals has improved.
68. There was 81% identified as being from the family home however, some young people do move on into a care setting from this percentage but the majority of young people discussed are from a family home.
69. The annual internal data report has also identified that that the busiest panels are Newcastle/ Moorlands and Lichfield and Tamworth.

70. Panels remain well attended and additional partner agencies have started to attend and are proving critical in supporting locality information. Following each district CSE panel information continues to be shared with all Families First Staff and partner agencies that has been gathered at the panel regarding areas that young people are known to congregate where CSE is a concern, substance and alcohol misuse occurs, anti-social behaviour and known safer areas where they may also congregate.
71. It is still felt that this locality knowledge will assist practitioners in becoming more adept at spotting the signs. Positive feedback continues to be received and has been provided from both practitioners internally and external partner agencies and as a result of this information is being shared. It is recognised that whilst the panel consider disruption techniques of CSE that there needs to be a collective multi-agency approach to continue to develop this further, such as utilising Civil Injunctions more.
72. Staffordshire have now started the second annual review of the CSE Panels which seeks feedback from partners as part of this process. The findings from this review will then also feedback to partners and the quarterly Strategic CSE Action Plan will continue to identify gaps and further develop the CSE Panel Process; this is underpinned by the internal operational CSE action plan. Both of these plans sit under the SSCB CSE action plan that is being coordinated by the Staffs/ Stoke Coordinator.
73. Staffordshire's CSE Coordinator continues to attend the Stoke-on-Trent CSE Panel and the Stoke CSE Social Worker attends the Newcastle and Moorlands CSE Panel in order to ensure that cross borders issues are identified and shared. We continue to share information with other Local Authority CSE Coordinator equivalent regarding Staffordshire children placed out of area and any locality knowledge and hotspots we become aware of to support the disruption of CSE in other areas. The panel also discuss any Out of County Looked after Children placed in Staffordshire we become aware of and ensure their allocated worker are invited to attend or share information.
74. A strategy was developed to consider post 18 young people known to Families First felt to be at risk of sexual exploitation. It has been identified to further develop CSE support for this age group and at present they will continue to be discussed at CSE panels in order to continue gathering victim/offender/location details. We will also link this to the Vulnerability Hubs as appropriate.
75. There is a process in place whereby the Gangs and Youth Violence Coordinator is cited regarding all children referred to panels and an invite extended to attend where possible.
76. The Voice Project is leading on capturing the voice of child through consultation with young people. This consultation is being delivered through a tiered approach with a wide range of young people who may be affected by CSE from prevention and raising awareness, through to those vulnerable young people who are most at risk of becoming victims of CSE. Initial consultation completed has been with

young people at the universal needs level and aims to understand and capture the voice of the child around interventions, prevention and awareness raising in CSE.

77. The CSE panels continue to cross reference cases with consideration of referral being made to the National Referral Mechanism under the Modern Day Slavery Legislation. There has been progress in the widening the understanding of trafficking as an aspect of CSE which faces young people within Staffordshire and consequently, referrals have now been made with the local authority as a first responder seeking advice and guidance from the Modern Day Slavery lead at Staffordshire Police. A separate update for the Modern Slavery scrutiny report has been provided. A good practice guide was developed for practitioners in order to promote the awareness of the duty to refer to the NRM and how to refer.
78. Steve Hewitt, Missing Education Officer is now cross referencing young people who are discussed at CSE panel with children missing education.
79. CAMHS are also now a panel member for three of our district panels now; requests have been made for this attendance to be considered at the North and Stafford panels and this is currently being considered. There is increasing support from CAMHS to contribute to the CSE panels and this will continue to be developed.
80. The FF CSE Co-ordinator and Education Safeguarding Lead propose to deliver further CSE education and awareness workshops to Designated Safeguarding Leads across the county for Primary, Middle and Secondary Education. These workshops aim to provide further awareness of CSE, consent, safeguarding advice and the local process surrounding the CSE Panels.
81. The Strategic Lead for Specialist Safeguarding and FF CSE Co-ordinator are also involved in the regional CSE strategic governance group (SGG) in response to the Regional problem profile and contribute to the action plan which supports this with partners.
82. The CSE Coordinator continues to attend the YOS re-offending panel that takes places on a monthly basis in order to cross reference children who are felt to be at risk of CSE in Staffordshire.
83. The FF CSE Co-ordinator continues to attend both the Operational and Strategic Missing Overview Boards, the Strategic Overview Board is also attended by the Specialist Safeguarding Development Manager; strengthening links between missing children CSE abductions and trafficking.
84. The Strategic Lead for Specialist Safeguarding and FF CSE Co-ordinator are also involved in the regional CSE strategic governance group (SGG) in response to the Regional problem profile and contribute to the action plan which supports this with partners.
85. The FF CSE Co-ordinator continues to attend the Staffordshire Police CSE Force Working Group on a monthly basis where there is a discussion regarding the overview of CSE Panels, themes and wider issues pertaining to CSE.

86. The Families First CSE Action plan has been further progressed, largely within expected timescales. It is now proposed that this will be reviewed on a quarterly basis rather than monthly.
87. A tracker continues to be used for teams to complete which includes all low, medium and high risk cases. This will be completed by teams bi-monthly in line with collating cases to be referred to CSE Panel.
88. The County Manager for Specialist Safeguarding Service continues to attend strategic meetings regarding gangs, youth violence and vulnerability and also chairs the CSE panel.
89. Agreement was given by the County Manager for Responsive Services to ensure that the FF CSE co-ordinator and Specialist Safeguarding Manager is copied into all referrals whereby CSE is an identified risk indicator. This will allow for further oversight of decision making at the front door and offers the advice and support of the FF CSE Co-ordinator as a single point of contact.
90. Learning from recent joint investigations with Staffordshire Police into cases of CSE has been progressed with Families First practitioners as part of the learning and development schedule.
91. A DIP sample audit has been completed to ensure that the CSE RFM and CSE panel minutes are recorded on files.
92. A CSE referral pathway flow chart is being developed by the FF CSE coordinator in order to ensure further compliance with the panel and also to raise awareness and support practitioners attending with a focus.

Update on work progressed by Commissioning Services

93. From 1 September 2017, national charity and social business Catch 22 started to deliver a new service that will tackle child sexual exploitation and missing children through a range of early work and targeted support with children, young people and families. The contract for the service has been commissioned by Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; it has been awarded following a detailed competitive procurement exercise over a number of months.
94. The service will cover Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire and will co-locate/hot desk in local authority and partnership buildings where possible to allow close working between agencies and make use of the space and resources available
95. The new service will deliver:
 - a. Early intervention support for young people and their families assessed as low risk, to help increase their resilience and prevent needs from escalating

- b. A relationship based approach where the professional who has the best relationship with the child will be supported by the service to deliver the work (this approach will be predominantly with low level cases)
 - c. Targeted support for children, young people and their families assessed as medium and high risk, to support them to change their behaviours and increase protective factors
 - d. Return interviews of missing children and young people in line with DfE Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care. The interview will focus on early prevention, intervention and targeted support in order to protect children and young people from the consequences of going missing.
96. The service will replace current services run by Brighter Futures and Families First. The current service arrangements we have in place will remain until the go live date of 1st September 2017. This consists of:
- a. The CSE support service pilot delivered by Brighter Futures operating in Newcastle, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford. The pilot service provides support for Staffordshire children aged 11- 18 years (this does not include out of area children/young people placed in the above Staffordshire districts)
 - b. The missing children and young people support service pilot delivered by Brighter Futures operating in Newcastle, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford. The pilot service conducts return interviews for all missing and absent children and young people aged 11 – 18 years living in the above Staffordshire districts (this includes out of area children/young people placed in the above Staffordshire districts)
 - c. The missing support service delivered by Families First operating in South Staffordshire, Cannock, East Staffordshire, Tamworth and Lichfield. The service conducts return interviews for all missing children and young people up to 18 years and those aged under 11 years in Newcastle, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford (including out of area children/young people placed in Staffordshire).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Support Service Pilot

97. The Child Sexual Exploitation support service called Base 58 (delivered by Brighter Futures) provides specialist support to children and young people at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation. The service delivers one to one support in partnership with the young person and also works closely with partners in order to reduce risk and improve outcomes.
98. Over the last quarter (January – March 2017) the CSE service has regularly supported 36 young people please see the below breakdown (please note there were no Staffordshire LAC supported during the quarter):

	Stafford	Staffordshire Moorlands	Newcastle	Total
Regularly supported	7	12	17	36
Level of risk:				

High	3	8	8	19
Medium	3	4	6	13
Low (Risk score reduced to low during the support programme)	1	0	3	4

99. A number of outcomes have been achieved during the last quarter as a result of the support offered this has included:

- a. Improved engagement in education, employment and training
- b. Reduction in missing episodes
- c. Improvements in resilience and positive choices
- d. Reduction in risk taking behaviour
- e. Increased awareness of grooming and exploitation

100. The service has also provided regular advice and support to professionals and family members in relation to CSE.

Missing Children and Young People Support Service Pilot

101. The Missing Children and Young People Service (delivered by Brighter Futures) conducts independent return interviews for those children/young people that have been missing or absent. The return interview provides an opportunity to uncover information that can help protect the child/young person from going missing again and from the risks they may have been exposed to whilst missing.

102. Over the last quarter (January – March 2017) the missing service completed 190 return interviews for missing/absent children and young people. Of those 26 children/young people were Staffordshire LAC and 67 children/young people were in the care of another local authority placed in Staffordshire. Please see the below district breakdown:

	Stafford	Staffordshire Moorlands	Newcastle	Total
No. of missing and absent episodes	102	77	58	237
No. of completed interviews	75	71	44	190
No. of individuals	56	50	41	147
No. of repeat children	24	16	11	51
No. in care of SCC	13	5	8	26
No. in care of other LA	23	34	10	67

Families First Missing Data	
Summary by Placement Type (episodes)	Q4
Independent Children's Homes	164

Home (recorded SW)	76
Home (recorded LST)	103
Foster carer not staffs	17
Foster carer	14
Supported accommodation	29
Family and Friends	0
External placed	3
Local Authority Children's Homes	12
Totals	418

Top 10 Locations (episodes)	Q4	Total
Stafford	54	194
Biddulph	42	191
Tamworth	39	188
Rugeley	33	165
Newcastle	40	154
Burton	27	133
Leek	11	120
Cannock	34	95
Buxton	11	58
Lichfield	9	57

Q4

% of all return interviews completed	78%
% from Other Local Authorities	31%

Q4

Episodes	418
Children	219

103. Data captured by Families First for Missing episodes (not including absences) show there were 418 episodes, relating to 219 children in quarter 4.
104. During quarter 4 on average 78% interviews were completed.
105. 39% of all missing episodes in quarter 4 were from Independent Children's Homes with a further 43% of episodes reported from Home (25% LSTs and 18% Social Worker at the time of the missing episode).

106. Stafford and Biddulph are the most prominent locations where children and young people go missing from in 2016/17. During quarter 4, the most likely reason given for going missing continues to be 'with friends'
107. The most predominant reason for going missing during the last quarter was 'stayed out longer than they should' this was followed by 'problems in care'.
108. The CSE Joint Commissioning Group has oversight of the CSE and missing pilot support service and the contract in place, membership of this group includes Staffordshire County Council, Stoke on Trent City Council, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner and Public Health.

North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group

109. Each GP practice has a lead GP for Safeguarding Children and young people who receive bespoke training that includes CSE. In addition we deliver half protected learning time training twice a year for all clinical GP practice staff. One is general safeguarding (which includes elements of CSE) and the other themed. Themed training continues as above when CSE will be delivered in depth by our Named GP and a police officer from the CSE team.
110. The GP practices receive a fortnightly newsletter where we send safeguarding updates and information and twice yearly a safeguarding newsletter that gives for example case study examples. An audit takes place twice yearly to ascertain in levels of training and to see how learning has embedded. The guidance and information is sent out and GPs have access to specific safeguarding support daily. The named GP also delivers up to date safeguarding to the out of hours GP service.

Update on CSE and Licensing

111. A task and finish group was set under the remit of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Responsible Bodies Group to develop a coherent policy in relation to licensing issues and strengthening current arrangements and ensuring a consistent and effective approach to licensing particularly of taxi drivers/private hire drivers in relation to safeguarding.
112. As the Committee will recall the practices and procedures for licensing authorities in Stoke and Staffordshire were approved by the Chief Executives Group on 3rd March 2016.
113. Work has been ongoing through the SSRBG to monitor implementation of the practices and procedures. Ultimately it is a matter for each authority to ensure that they are implementing the practices and procedures, however regular queries have been made to ensure that there is progress against the implementation. It is important to note that a great deal of work has been going on by each authority to implement the practices and procedures.
114. As the Committee will recall the practices and procedures broke into three key areas: a) intelligence b) training of staff/public/trade and c) licensing

procedures/rules (including enforcement). These break down to 17 specific actions. The update below focuses on the key actions. The current position is as follows:

a. Intelligence

- i. Additional checks through application questions – 5 out of 9 authorities have completed this, 4 of the others are nearing completion.
- ii. Additional requirements on disclosing/sharing information - 6 out of 9 authorities have completed this, 3 of the others are nearing completion.
- iii. Requirement that taxis/private hire operators keeping complaint logs – 6 out of 9 authorities have completed this, 3 of the others are nearing completion.

b. Mandatory Training

- i. Training of staff and Committee members on CSE/Safeguarding – all have completed or have nearly completed this and will have done by the time of the Committee meeting.
- ii. Mandatory training of trade on CSE/Safeguarding – this is the area where, in particular, a great deal of work has taken place in recent months.

115. As the Committee will recall the Councils cannot *require* drivers to attend the training until the policies have altered and a mandatory requirement has been brought in. An internal audit planned later in the year will aim to identify how many taxi drivers have completed the training as well as the impact this has had.

116. Alteration of the policies is a detailed process that takes some time; nevertheless the authorities have all pushed voluntary training, until the policies have been amended. This is in progress and will also be completed later this year.

Staffordshire County Council Disclosure and Barring Service Audit

117. An internal audit of safer recruitment practices relating specifically to taxi contractors Passenger Assistants and members of staff who have access to the Public Sector Network (PSN) was undertaken as part of Staffordshire County Council's Strategic Internal Audit Plan process. The Public Sector Network (PSN) connects all public bodies onto one Network and guidance from Cabinet requires all those who have full access to the PSN to undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and appropriate safe recruitment checks. These checks also apply to Staffordshire County Council contracts with third parties, including all taxi and PCV firm contracts for the carriage of children from home to school. Please note that the audit validated the original points which were identified by the Transport Team in 2014 and were already either being addressed, or plans were in place for action across summer 2016.

118. All taxi firms are required to adhere to the revised safeguarding requirements and policy with conditions of contract adjusted to reflect the safeguarding and DBS

changes. Taxi driver badges are only issued following a standard DBS disclosure, although the process for drivers is the responsibility of each District Licencing Authority and not under the control of the County Council. Passenger Assistants, however, were controlled at County Council level and the County maintains control of the DBS check process and maintains a database of approved Passenger Assistants.

119. The objective of the review was to provide assurance that the procedures for safer recruitment checks for PSN users are robust and that any decision taken to limit safer recruitment checks to only those with full access to the PSN network is appropriate.
120. The final audit report was published on 22nd April 2016, which coincided with the commencement of the introduction of the revised safeguarding and DBS requirements and found that further work was still required to be assured that drivers are subject to adequate safeguarding checks. The following strengths and areas for improvement have been identified to help reinforce current licensing and safeguarding controls:

Identified Strengths

121. A Task and Finish Group consisting of representatives from the County Council and Local Licensing Authorities has been established since July 2015. The group meets regularly to discuss how safeguarding improvements can be made in relation to local licensing arrangements for taxi/private hire.
122. The County Council has met the requirements imposed by the Government relating to PSN user access.
123. The Transport department has its own database of passenger assistants operating across the whole County and the database is used by compliance teams to ensure contractor teams on the ground are meeting some contractual requirements through unannounced audits.
124. County Council Compliance Officers (for Transport) undertake audits of taxi and PCV operators to ensure that only approved drivers are used on County Council contracts. There is only limited resource to undertake audits; however the team aim to visit each SEN and mainstream school at least once every academic year. Furthermore, ad hoc checks are also carried out in response to complaints or issues, for example if schools report that drivers and/or passenger assistants are not wearing their badges or ID. Last academic year, SCC carried out audits on 21 SEN schools and 16 other mainstream schools. SEN schools represent 90% of the pupils who are transported and supported by the passenger assistants.
125. There is a clear process in place for identifying new employees who require access to the PSN and for ensuring that they undergo appropriate safer recruitment checks.
126. Relevant staff members have received training specifically in relation to safeguarding in transport.

Areas for Improvement

127. In our last report we identified areas for improvement as the committee can recall, and as you can see all of these areas have been addressed and implemented through the DBS plan. These areas were initially identified and documented in 2014 and have been addressed through the revised DBS and Safeguarding plan, procedures, training and policy, which was planned and delivered in 2016 and has now been embedded as business as usual. The revisions cover all contracted personnel involved in the delivery and management of “regulated activity”, i.e. drivers, passenger assistants and depot staff. The revised arrangements also covers Transport Team members engaged in planning “regulated activity”.
128. There were inconsistent practices in applying DBS checks amongst Local Licensing Authorities as identified and documented in 2014. These have been addressed through the revised DBS and Safeguarding Plan, procedures, training and policy which was delivered in 2016 and is now ongoing as a business as usual activity. All identified inconsistent practices in the DBS checking and approval processes within licencing of PCV, Private Hire and taxi licencing, have been addressed through the revised enhanced DBS checks, accredited training, sign up to the DBS Update Service and the appeals process. The whole process is now carried out within the Council’s Transport Team.
129. In total 2,700 applications were received to work on the Council’s regulated activity home to school contracts. Of these 550 individuals were identified with DBS traces which resulted in all being interviewed and 103 applicants were deemed to be unsuitable to work on the Council’s contracts.
130. More than 110 half day mandatory and Level 1 accredited safeguarding training sessions have now been delivered. This helps to ensure that all contracted personnel comply with the revised processes and are consistently assessed against the revised Council Transport criteria. In-house functional responsibility is key to the delivery of the revised processes and in addressing identified gaps; providing greater assurance to children, young people, their parents or carers and the Council. It also provides contracted personnel with the skill sets to identify and effectively respond to any CSE concerns.
131. Insufficient DBS checks were previously placed upon drivers of PCVs. These have been addressed as per the revised DBS plan as above and addressed as detailed in paragraphs 117, 118 and 122. No PCV drivers will be permitted to drive on Staffordshire contracts unless they are compliant with the Council’s processes. Individual operating companies will no longer determine the suitability of PCV drivers for contracted “regulated activity” work.
132. Framework contract contractors may not have applied safeguarding checks consistently. Previously on the framework contract held with various taxi contractors, the contractor had to complete their own safeguarding checks i.e. undertake safeguarding training for their staff or undertake a DBS check. This has been comprehensively addressed as set out above. No Taxi or Private Hire drivers are permitted to drive on Staffordshire contracts unless they have been

through and are compliant with the Council's processes. Individual operating companies no longer determine the suitability of taxi or private hire drivers for contracted "regulated activity" work.

133. There was not confidence amongst the Transport Team that checks were being applied in full or consistently for all contractors, particularly over smaller contractors. These have now been addressed as part of the revised DBS Plan set out above.
134. When re-tendering taxi contracts in 2015 disclosures were not provided in a manner which could be incorporated into contract conditions and therefore contracts were let without all safeguarding conditions being comprehensively set out. Gaps in disclosures have been addressed as per the revised DBS Plan detailed in previous paragraphs through sustainability assessments, revised DBS criteria, consistent application of this criteria, accredited training and sign up to the DBS Update Service.
135. Inconsistent practices for applying DBS checks for drivers of different vehicles were also previously evident. These have also been addressed as part of the revised DBS Plan and as set out above.
136. Safeguarding updates were typically held with the owners of the contractor organisations and it was expected that the contractors then passed on information to their staff and drivers. It was not clear whether the information in these updates was being adequately passed onto drivers, therefore greater steps have been made to help ensure training has been undertaken and understood by all contracted personnel, via class based and e-learning courses. These have been addressed via the revised DBS Plan and supplemented by continuous monitoring through the DBS Update Service, contract compliance systems checks and the delivery of the Council's accredited training programme.
137. An action plan to address the recommended areas in need of further development has been delivered. The complete action plan and associated policies and procedures going forward will be subject to monitoring, review and adjustment as required. The Transport Policy, including the suitability assessment criteria, is currently being revised based on 2016 and 2017 learning.

Link to Strategic Plan – Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity – Papers have previously been discussed at Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee on 16th January 2017, 12th December 2016, 8th June 2016, 18th January 2016, 6th October 2015, 10th June 2015, 9th March 2015, 15th December 2014.

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Appendices/Background papers

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (16th January 2017)

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (8th June 2016)

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (18th January 2015)

Update on work addressing Child Sexual Exploitation (6th October 2015)

Update on work addressing Child Sexual Exploitation (10th June 2015)

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (9th March 2015)

Child Sexual Exploitation (15th December 2014)

Appendix A - Child Sexual Exploitation Communications Campaign- Summary Report 2017

Appendix B - Joint LSCB Briefing on Female Genital Mutilation – July 2017

Appendix C - Joint LSCB Briefing on CSE and Consent – January 2017

Child Sexual Exploitation Communications Campaign 2017

Discussion paper for consideration by CSAF

Scope: This paper briefly outlines the proposed communications campaign that is in the initial stages of development.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire has agreed to fund the campaign at a cost of £15,500 based on a provisional business case, subject to CSAF agreeing the outline approach.

The more detailed business case is available on request.

Campaign context:

- The results of last year's campaign ("Know About CSE"), stakeholder views, preliminary focus groups and the results of available research (including the 'The Prevention and Raising Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation – What Works from a Young Person's Perspective' - authored by SCVYS and the Children's Voice) were used in assessing the most effective focus of this year's campaign.
- The results indicate that parental and young people's understanding of the more traditional signs of CSE, and what to do about any concerns, remains strong.
- However, the results also indicated that young people do not understand what constitutes consent, and they continue to be at risk from 'grooming parties.' They continue to make poor decisions whilst attending the parties that place them at risk. For example:
 - 68% of young people would go to a party held by someone they don't know if invited through social media and they had a friend in common
 - Alcohol would be accepted by half of young people because they want to fit in and don't consider the potential consequences
 - Parental awareness of the incidence of these parties varies and most believe that their child won't listen to them if they try and talk to them on this subject.

Research strongly illustrates that a campaign to try to deter young people from attending parties will not work. However, a campaign supporting young people with the tools they need to stay safe when they do attend, would be fair more effective. With regards to consent, national research illustrates that young people are unable to recognise that both verbal and physical cues are needed, are confused with regards to the age of consent and unaware of the principles of capacity to consent. Following further discussions with stakeholders, there is also ongoing concern regards the risk of sexting to young people and parental understanding of the risk children face from sexual exploitation when missing from home. Support to tackle these issues will be included in the campaign.

Campaign aims

As a result of the research it is recommended that the campaign will focus on:

- supporting young people (13 to 16 years) with an understanding of the wider consequences of these parties
- challenge the common perceptions that cause poor decision making and susceptibility to sexual exploitation whilst at parties
- providing the knowledge young people need to recognise and steer away from potential dangers, and provide practical tools and ideas to manage the situation whilst still 'saving face' in front of their friends , (e.g. pretending to be sick to get to a private room/last number redial before entering the party, etc.)
- supporting and encouraging parents to talk to their children about staying safe at parties by communication of these practical tools
- developing young people's wider understanding of consent to sex
- support young people to question their perception that sexting is a normal part of a relationship
- ensure that parents of children at a higher risk of missing are aware of the potential for CSE, and who to contact if they are concerned.

Provisional campaign objectives (subject to challenge and refinement and testing with young people):

- At least a 15% increase in the positive/safe decisions made by young people (aged 13 – 16) when faced with a party scenario
- At least 60% of parents are aware of the incidences and dangers of grooming parties
- At least 30% have spoken with their child with advice on how to keep themselves safe
- At least 60% of young people understand consent
- % of young people do not thinking sexting is normal (a 5% increase on last year's campaign)
- At least 60% of targeted parents are aware of what to do when their child is missing
- Longevity:
 - Provide a campaign structure and resources that will become part of mandatory sex education classes in the future.
 - Key young people measures above have only decreased by a maximum of 10%

Strategy:

1) The 'Price you Pay' campaign- encouraging awareness, understanding and attitude change across targeted young people by:

- a. working with a key school to develop a campaign that can be syndicated across all Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent schools
- b. an almost entirely digital (no print) 10 week campaign from October 2017 through the festive period.
- c. Core communications products:

- i. **Development of a video** - based on party scenario presented in research. This video would first highlight the consequences of going to a party, and then retrospectively provide opportunities for young people to make decisions in-situ given certain options. This experience would be immersive as possible, and depending on the audio-visual partner chosen, would support young people to make decisions in a virtual reality set –up. If successful, the materials would then be available to schools across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
 - ii. **Media and social media** would accompany the launch of the video to target schools.
 - iii. **Young ambassadors** would produce monthly content/ vlogs based on the theme of keeping safe, which would include their experiences / thoughts and key messages around party safety.
 - iv. Perception change would be supported by **parent intervention** through direct communication through schools and partner email communication.
- 2) **The consent campaign – use of the government’s ‘Disrespect Nobody campaign’** – which includes a popular video, and also offers advice to young people on how to recognise consent and the potential consequences. .The key message of the national campaign will be that young people cannot give consent if they are affected by drink or drugs. Our local campaign would complement this with key social media / Instagram activity that would help young people to know that ‘16 + drunk +sex = rape’ and ‘they don’t have to say no to not consent’ and that consent needs to be given through both verbally and by physical cues. Target schools would be provided with classroom materials to help support these conversations which would then be available to all schools.
- 3) **Sexting campaign – February –to coincide with national Internet Safety Day.** Use of the government’s ‘Disrespect Nobody’ campaign would further impact on young people’s thinking that sexting is ‘normal.’
- 4) **Missing campaign** – A campaign targeted at parents of high risk groups and timed with the launch of the new Missing Service. Information about the high risk of CSE to missing children will be distributed to parents through appropriate channels across the city and county (e.g. through the Virtual School).

Please note - Targeting for effectiveness and evaluation: To ensure that limited resources make the most impact, and that campaign evaluation is truly representative, it is proposed that the campaign Steering Group (detailed below) will select no more than ten key schools in which to implement and evaluate this campaign. Although media, social media and email communication activity will reach parents across the county and city, research has illustrated that considerable activity needs to be take place both in the school setting and with parents to make a long lasting impact.

Oversight and governance

- A Communications Team comprising of Communications professionals from the OPCC, Police, SCC and Stoke-on-Trent City Council will design and implement

the campaign. The Senior Campaigns Officer at Staffordshire County Council will take the lead and be responsible for the co-ordination of this group.

- The campaign team will ultimately be responsible to CSAF but will be guided on a month-to-month basis by the campaign Steering Group– a group chaired by the CSE Co-ordinator and comprising of young people, safeguarding professionals and representatives from the voluntary and community sector. The purpose of this group will also be to ensure the implementation is appropriate, make decisions on key deliverables and provide professional insight.
- The Communications lead will seek guidance / check in with the CSE Coordinator once a week.
- An interim (January) and final evaluation report will be circulated to key stakeholders. The impact of the campaign will be measured again in May/June to ascertain the impact of the campaign on longer term perception change.

Next steps/ outline timescales:

- A campaign Steering Group will provide further challenge and direction, supporting the identification of key target schools and the school with which to develop the key video/materials
- Implementation of a survey in these key target schools to gain pre-campaign baseline measures
- Confirmation of audio-visual partner and development and test of the video prior to the school summer break
- Early liaison with relevant partners to explore opportunities for the campaign to be included in tools for sex education/PSHE inclusion
- Full communications plan to be developed for circulation and sign-off by July

'The Price you Pay' campaign roll out across key target schools	Late October to December	
Interim evaluation report	Early January	
Consent campaign	January	
Sexting campaign	February	
Full evaluation and report	March	
Outflow measures in key schools (June 2018	

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www.staffsscb.org.uk



www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk

Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Boards Briefing Note for Practitioners & Managers July 2017

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

What is Female Genital Mutilation?

“Female genital mutilation (FGM) includes procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.”
(World Health Organisation, 2014).

FGM is known by a number of names including ‘female genital cutting’, ‘female circumcision’, ‘initiation’ or ‘sunna’. FGM is a collective term for procedures which include the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs, or injury to the female genital organs for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons.

FGM has serious physical and emotional health consequences both at the time of the procedure and in later life. It is extremely painful, has no medical benefits and a number of girls die as a result of the procedure from blood loss or infection. It can also be psychologically damaging. Women who have undergone some form of FGM are twice as likely to die in childbirth and four times more likely to give birth to a still born child.

FGM is also linked to domestic abuse, particularly in relation to ‘honour based abuse’ and forced marriage. FGM is deeply rooted in tradition widely practiced among specific ethnic populations in Africa (such as Somalia, Sudan, Guinea, Djibouti, Mali and Ethiopia, Eritrea, Egypt) parts of the Middle East (Yemen and Kurdish regions of Iraq, Bahrain, Oman) and Asia. FGM has also been found in communities in Israel, the United Arab Emirates, the occupied Palestinian Territories, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan.

Why is female genital mutilation performed?

FGM is a complex issue. It is often seen as a natural and beneficial practice by a loving family who believe that it is in the girl’s best interests. There are a number of potential reasons for this, including maintaining their cultural identity, thinking it is a religious requirement, social acceptance especially for marriage, preservation of virginity/chastity, increasing sexual pleasure for the male, men’s control of female reproductive functions, beliefs about hygiene and cleanliness, family honour and fear of social exclusion.

Many women believe that FGM is necessary to ensure acceptance in their community. They are often unaware that it is not practised in most of the world.

How many children are at risk and at what age?

It is difficult to estimate how many children due to the hidden nature of FGM, but it is estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 years could be at risk in England and Wales and over 125,000 females aged 15 years and over are living with the consequences of FGM (*HM Government, Multi- Agency Practice Guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation; 2014.*)

The age at which FGM is performed varies from area to area. It can be performed on female infants who are a few days' old, female children and adolescents and occasionally on mature women. **The majority of cases are thought to happen between the ages of 5 and 8 years.**

FGM is a crime in the UK

FGM is a serious criminal offence and is child abuse. Anyone found guilty of an FGM offence, or of helping somebody commit the offence, can face a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison. Any parents, carers or adult may also be guilty of an offence and face up to 7 years in prison if they fail to protect a child (up until the age of 18 years old) from FGM being carried out.

Even if someone is taken overseas to undergo FGM, it is still a crime in the UK if the mutilation is done by a UK national or a UK resident. It is also a crime if a UK national or resident assists or gets a non-UK national or resident to carry out FGM overseas on a UK national or resident.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 strengthened the legislation on FGM and now places a mandatory duty on professionals (health, social care and teachers) to notify police when they discover that FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18.

Applications for an FGM Protection Order can also now be made to the High Court of family courts to help protect a girl or woman.

Identifying girls at risk of FGM

A girl from a practicing community may be at risk of FGM but it cannot be assumed that all families from practicing communities will want their females to undergo FGM.

The risk of FGM to an individual is greater when the community is less well integrated into British society, when their own mother or sister has been the subject of FGM or when they have been withdrawn from Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons at school. The withdrawal from such lessons may be the parent's way of keeping the girl uninformed of her rights and her own body.

A girl may be taken out of the country for a holiday for the procedure to be carried out abroad with time for recovery, but there is also evidence that FGM is carried out in the UK. **Girls are particularly vulnerable during the summer holidays, both for female genital mutilation and forced marriage. All professionals, particularly those in education settings, are encouraged to be particularly alert to the signs of potential abuse at this time of year.**

Potential signs you need to be look out for include:

- The family belongs to a community which practices FGM and/or their own mother or other siblings have had FGM.
- A visiting female elder being in the UK from the country of origin.
- A professional hearing reference to FGM e.g. having a “special procedure”.
- The family are making plans to go on holiday / requested extended leave from school
- The child is talking about a long holiday to one of the countries where FGM is practiced.
- The child talks about a forthcoming special celebration
- The child may have difficulty walking or sitting.

Even if FGM may have already taken place, it is really important that this information is shared with the police and/or children’s social care services as soon as possible, so that help and protection can be offered to the child and any other family or community members who may at risk.

FGM may have already been carried out if:

- A child seems to have difficulty walking, sitting or standing.
- A child spends longer than normal in the bathroom/toilet due to difficulties urinating.
- A child spends long periods away from the classroom with bladder or menstrual problems.
- A child misses a lot of time off school or college.
- A child has a change in behaviour.
- A child being unduly reluctant to have a medical examination.
- A child confides in someone or may ask for help but not be explicit due to fear or embarrassment.

Please remember that children and young people need to know that if they are worried that this may happen to them or to someone they know that they can speak to you. For many children from communities practising FGM the only time they can get support is at school.

These children need to know that you will be able to help, support and protect them, so please read our local guidance to educate yourself.

What to do if you are worried about a child

Please call the police on 101 if you have any information about FGM, believe a child may be at risk, or feel out of control about decisions being made about a child and FGM.

In an emergency always dial 999

The NSPCC's FGM Helpline can also be contacted on **0800 028 3550** for information and advice (or visit their website at: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk).

This free helpline is aimed at anyone who is concerned that a child's welfare could be at risk because of female genital mutilation; particularly teachers and medical staff. The helpline is run by NSPCC child protection experts who have had training, along with experts who work with women and girls who have undergone this form of ritual mutilation.

Local inter-agency guidance

All practitioners working with children and their families should become familiar with the **recently revised**
Joint LSCB Female Genital Mutilation Policy and Procedure
– It's there to help you to know what to do to help children.

To view this policy and procedure please go to your LSCBs website:

For Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (Section 4M) go to:
<https://www.staffsscb.org.uk/FGM>

For Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board (Section F09) go to:
<http://www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk/FGM>

Other sources of information:

Home Office – FGM fact sheet:
https://www.gov.uk/government/FGM_mandatory_reporting_Fact_sheet

HM Government - Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (2016):
https://www.gov.uk/government/Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM

Home Office – FGM Support materials
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-suppport-materials>

Home Office – FGM Resource Pack
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>



Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Boards Briefing note for Practitioners and Managers January 2017

Learning from Local Reviews- Child Sexual Exploitation & Consent

This briefing has been produced to help professionals to be aware of the lessons to be learnt from a recent child sexual exploitation learning process; it is aimed at all frontline practitioners working with children and their families.

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse in which a person exploits, coerces and/or manipulates a child or young person into engaging in some form of sexual activity and facing significant risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and wellbeing. A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person believes they are in a consensual relationship and do not recognise the coercive nature of this or see themselves as a victim of exploitation. Any child or young person under the age of eighteen, male or female, can be a victim of CSE, including those who can legally consent to sex.

The abuse most frequently upon those of a post-primary school age and can be perpetrated by adults or peers on an individual or group basis and also be from within or from outside a child or young person's family. The gain for those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse can include financial benefit, status or control. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic or emotional vulnerability.

CSE can take place in person, or using technology through mobile phones and on-line and involve both contact and non-contact sexual activities, including the production and distribution of sexual images or exposure to such images. Although CSE is not a specific criminal offence in itself, different manifestations of CSE incorporate different criminal sexual and other offences.

CSE and Consent

What is consent?

Consent is agreeing by **choice** and having the **freedom and capacity** to make that choice¹. Consent for any sexual activity is therefore a voluntary positive agreement between participants to engage in this activity.

Consent shouldn't be presumed in the absence of clear positive agreement and must be clear and unambiguous. Professionals should remember that alcohol and drugs render a person incapable of giving valid consent. There can be a number of factors that impact on a young person's ability to provide informed consent to engage in sexual activity and sometimes young people don't say no as they are afraid of the consequences.

What is the age of consent for sex?

In England and Wales the age of consent to engage in any form of contact sexual activity is 16 for both men and women. The age of consent is the same regardless of the gender identity or sexual orientation of a person; and whether the activity is between people of the same or different sex. Differing ages of consent in a person's country of origin, or cultural practices does not override his legislation.

It is an offence for anyone to engage in sexual activity with a person under the age of 16. However, Home Office guidance is clear that there is no intention to prosecute teenagers under the age of 16 where both mutually agree and where they are of a similar age. It is also an offence for a person aged 18 or over to engage in sexual activity with a person under the age of 18 if the older person holds a position of trust (for example a teacher or social worker) as such sexual activity is an abuse of the position of trust.

The fact that a young person is 16 or 17 years old and has reached the legal age of consent should not be taken to mean that they are no longer at risk of sexual exploitation. These young people are defined as children under the [Children Act 1989](#) and [2004](#), and they can still suffer significant harm as a result of sexual exploitation. Their right to support and protection from harm should not, therefore, be ignored or downgraded by services because they are over the age of 16, or are no longer in mainstream education.

[The Sexual Offences Act 2003](#) provides specific legal protection for **children aged 13 and under; they cannot legally give their consent to engage in any form of sexual activity**; perpetrators face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for rape, assault by penetration, and causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

¹ Sexual Offences Order 2008; Northern Ireland).

Gillick competency and Fraser guidelines:

When we are trying to decide whether a child is mature enough to make decisions people often talk about whether a child is 'Gillick competent' or whether they meet the 'Fraser guidelines'. The Gillick competency and Fraser guidelines are aimed at helping us all to balance children's rights and wishes with our responsibility to keep children safe from harm.

The Fraser guidelines refer to those set out by Lord Fraser in his judgment of the Gillick case in the House of Lords (1985; related to contraception) Lord Fraser said:

"...whether or not a child is capable of giving the necessary consent will depend on the child's maturity and understanding and the nature of the consent required. The child must be capable of making a reasonable assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the treatment proposed, so the consent, if given, can be properly and fairly described as true consent..."

Lord Scarman's following comments in his judgment of the Gillick case are often referred to as the test of "Gillick competency":

"...it is not enough that she should understand the nature of the advice which is being given: she must also have a sufficient maturity to understand what is involved."

National and local learning

National serious case reviews highlight that confusion around young people's rights and their capacity to consent to sexual activity means both young people and professionals often wrongly view exploitative relationships as consensual. This means that sexual exploitation often goes unidentified, and young people can be reluctant to engage with services. This national learning is reflected within our local experiences of child sexual exploitation.

The learning from these reviews highlights that professionals need to be aware of the warning signs of potential sexual exploitation and consider the child protection implications of underage sexual activity.

Practitioners need to persevere to engage with young people and make sure the services provided are on-going and child centred. The focus should be on ensuring young people's safety, protection and wellbeing, rather than just on managing their challenging or risk taking behaviour.

Investigating sexual activity with claimed consent

When the police are investigating a case where a child claims to be consenting to sex, the police and children's social care should liaise to ensure that all relevant information is shared and a decision is made about any risk of harm and how to proceed in the best interests of the child. For example, where it is clear that a child over 13 is engaged in consensual sexual activity with another child of a similar age, this may include determining the degree to which the police need to become involved.

A child's right to respect for a private and family life and the claim by the child to be consenting to sex do not affect the duties on agencies to consider the possibility that a child may be suffering harm; and to take appropriate action to protect the child and any other children at risk of harm.

Key facts practitioners need to remember in practice:

- The fact that young people are engaged in what they view as consensual sexual activity does not mean that they are not being exploited.
- Victims of sexual exploitation may be coerced into sexual activity with the perpetrators or they may feel unable to say no.
- Some young people may not recognise they are being sexually exploited, instead believing they are behaving as they wish.
- 16 and 17 year olds are often incorrectly viewed as being more in control of their own choices and so less vulnerable to exploitation.
- Sexual activity between young people of the same age is often perceived as being consensual, but exploitation may still be occurring.
- **A child cannot consent to their own abuse.** Firstly, the law sets down 16 as the age of consent to any form of contact sexual activity. Secondly, any child under 18 cannot consent to being trafficked for the purposes of exploitation. Thirdly, regardless of age a person's ability to give may be affected by a range of other issues including influence of drugs, threats of violence, grooming, a power imbalance between victim and perpetrators. This is why a 16- or 17-year-old can be sexually exploited even though they are old enough to consent to sexual activity.
- Professionals working with children need to consider how to balance children's rights and wishes with their responsibility to keep children safe from harm.
- Underage sexual activity should always be seen as a possible indicator of child sexual exploitation
- Sexual activity with a child under 13 is a criminal offence and should always result in a child protection referral.

Know your local inter-agency policies and procedures:

To access further information and the Joint Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedure, please go to either of the following websites:

Staffordshire SCB:

www.staffsscb.org.uk/Child-sexual-exploitation

www.staffsscb.org.uk/Professionals/Procedures/ Go to Section 4

Stoke-on-Trent SCB:

www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk/professionals/child-sexual-exploitation

The following information can be used by practitioners as a guide to help them to discuss consent with children and young people; it includes child focussed websites and resource links:

Information for children and young people on consent and sex

What is Consent?

Consent means giving permission for something to happen or agreeing to do something, fully understanding what it is and being comfortable with that decision. It doesn't matter what your gender identity is, if you're planning to do anything sexual then both of you must give consent.

Consent has to be given freely and no one can be made to consent to something. It's not consent if someone does something because they feel like they have to. You can also never assume that someone is giving consent – you have to be sure.

Consent is an essential part of healthy relationships and it's really important to know what it is and the [many ways to spot it](#). Both you and the person you're with always need to consent before sex or any intimate activity.

If you want to do something sexual with your partner, the responsibility lies with you to check for consent, not with your partner to say 'no' if they don't want to.

Signs to Spot

Consent is an essential part of a healthy relationship, as it's crucial to respect the other person's wishes. It's important to know how to recognise consent because you need to have it for everything sexual that you do together.

You need to take responsibility for seeking consent from your partner every time, as people can change their mind at any point, even during sex. Just because someone consented to something once, it still means you have to ask again as they could feel differently from last time. Also, consent to engage in one sort of sexual activity does not mean consent to everything.

Talk to the other person and check if they're happy.

Good communication is a really important part of a healthy relationship. You can read more about sex and relationships on the [Rise Above](#) site.

Body language

They may tell you verbally that they do or do not consent to sex or they may show you through their body language. Someone cannot assume another person is giving consent. Remember they don't have to actually say the word 'no' and that they can communicate through body language just as much as speech.

If your partner seems tense, they may be nervous or frightened and are probably trying to hide how they feel.

They may stop kissing you, or not want to be touched or hugged.

These could be signs of non-consent, so don't ignore them – check with the other person.

Being pressured to give consent

If somebody agrees to sexual activity because they've been pestered, intimidated, or faced physical or emotional threats, they have not given consent. Consent needs to be given freely.

Signs of being pressured to give consent can include:

- Being made to feel stupid or bad for saying 'no'
- Being made to feel you have to.
- Someone might try to pressure you by calling you frigid or say 'if you loved me you would . . .'
- Being encouraged to drink lots of alcohol or take drugs to make you more likely to have sex
- Making someone feel bad for changing their mind
- Someone might try to pressure you into something to 'prove' you are not lesbian, gay, bi, or transgender.

Someone has to have capacity to give consent – what does this mean?

People have to be able to freely give their consent. So if someone's unconscious, drunk or asleep, they cannot freely give consent. Someone may have consented to sex whilst awake, but if they then pass out or fall asleep before you're finished, you have to stop. You can't assume they want to carry on.

Further information on consent can be found at:

- <http://thrivebradford.org.uk/sex-and-sexuality/consent-and-being-ready.html>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4hPrqzTRSBvzHkTckNYNZ5/age-of-consent>

Consequences

Pressuring someone to give consent

Pressuring someone into sex or sexual activity is either 'rape' or 'sexual assault', depending on who is involved and what happens. The consequences of both rape and sexual assault can be very serious for everyone involved.

Legal consequences can include a prison sentence with a criminal record and sex offender registration.

Being pressured to give consent

Consent is defined in law as *"an agreement made by someone with the freedom and ability to decide something"*. Under the law, it is the person seeking consent who is responsible for ensuring that these conditions are met.

Sex without consent is rape or sexual abuse. Also, if you are a man forcing someone to perform oral sex on you, this is still rape. What's more, forcing someone into anal sex when they don't want to, even if that person has consented to vaginal sex, is still rape.

In the UK, people must be over 16 to legally consent to sex and they must be able to make informed decisions for themselves.

Quick facts about consent and sex for young people

- Consent in simple terms means choosing for something to happen. The [legal definition](#) says a person gives consent when they ***'agree by choice, and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice'***.
- For example, someone does not have the capacity to give consent if they are unconscious, asleep and / or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They do not have the freedom to consent if they are forced or influenced into engaging in sexual activity.

- If someone doesn't give consent this could be sexual assault or rape. Consent needs to be given for any sexual activity or sexual touching, not just full sex.
- You should never assume consent has been given – you should get consent before anything happens.
- Remember – you should never feel forced or pressured into giving consent - it is absolutely your right to say no. And you have every right to change your mind about giving consent.
- If you're under 16, you cannot consent. If you have sex with someone over 16, they risk prosecution. [See more in our factfile on Age of Consent.](#)

Further supporting information and educational video clips for children and young people can be accessed at:

<http://knowaboutcse.co.uk/spot-the-signs/>

Sources and other useful information:

1. [LGA - www.local.gov.uk/documents/Tackling CSE 2015](http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/Tackling_CSE_2015)
2. NHS Choices – CSE What is consent:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46wg_QZLEyM
3. <http://www.fpa.org.uk/factsheets/law-on-sex#age-consent>
4. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/>
5. University of Bedfordshire- Contextualising 'consent' in Child Sexual Exploitation- secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/JP_Consent_in_CSE.pdf
6. Police-<http://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/child-sexual-exploitation/#consent>
7. Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent – 'Think you Know' CSE Campaign: <http://knowaboutcse.co.uk/>

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 26th September 2017

Cabinet Response: Preventing Low Level Neglect of Children in Staffordshire

Recommendation

1. That the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee scrutinises the Executive Response and Action Plan and makes recommendations with regard to the follow up of any outstanding actions.

Report of Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Summary

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

2. The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee formed a Working Group to consider Low Level Neglect. The focus of the Working Group's report was on the early identification of signs of neglect in children under five years of age and preventing the low level neglect of children and young people by addressing the risk factors and prompting good parenting.
3. The Working Group submitted their report that contained a number of recommendations, to the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for endorsement in June 2016. The report was then submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for a written response. The Cabinet Member reported verbally to the July 2016 meeting that the vast majority of the recommendations were linked with the work being undertaken as part of the Children, Young People and Families Transformation Programme.
4. The Select Committee is being asked to note the current progress and requested a follow up report in September in response to the Low Level Neglect Working Group.

Report

Background

5. In June 2016 the Committee received the Final Report which included a number of recommendations/actions.
6. These recommendations have been accepted and can be seen by the enclosed Action Plan. All have been acted upon, some of which have been completed and

are now enshrined in 'business as usual'. Those that have not been completed will continue to be worked in until properly embedded

Link to Strategic Plan

7. Living Well – Encouraging people to take control of their lives and to have good health and wellbeing.
8. Resilient Communities – How we can help communities and individuals to create strong and vibrant localities where people can prevent, cope and recover from harm.
9. Best Start – Making the most of the early years of life is fundamental for the delivery of all three of the council's priority outcomes. Which are:
 - a. We will work hard to ensure that the economy continues to grow and that everyone has a good job with good prospects
 - b. We will help people to help themselves to lead happy and independent lives with less need for services and support.
 - c. We will continue to support those least able to help themselves through creating new models of care in line with resources.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

10. Report presented following Select Committee meeting 6th March 2017.

Community Impact

Resources and Value for Money

11. Evidence shows that early recognition and intervention will enable resources to target and support lower level neglect issues and avoid escalation into higher level and more costly services.

Equalities and Legal

12. Tackling low level neglect is essential in achieving the County Council's priority outcomes that the people of Staffordshire will:
 - a. Be healthier and more independent
 - b. Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community
13. Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Local authorities undertake assessments of the needs of individual children to determine which services to provide and what action to take.
14. Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority, each of the authority's relevant partners and such other persons or bodies working with

children in the local authority's area as the authority considers appropriate. The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of all children in the authority's area, which includes protection from harm and neglect.

15. Working Together to Safeguard Children, HM Government, March 2015 states that;
16. 'Providing Early Help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.
17. Early Help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care.

Risk

Low Level Neglect impacts on every part of a child's life chances, with the impact also extending to their future prospects and ability to parent effectively.

Climate Change

There are no Climate Change implications identified.

Health

There are a number of implications for health services within this report and recommendations include work with Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Contact Officer

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Appendices/Background papers

Appendix A – Executive Response Action Plan

Appendix B – Family Strategic Partnership Strategy Outcome Framework

Appendix C – Family Strategic Partnership Strategy – Delivery Plan

Appendix D – Action Plan Response

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

Name of Select Committee
Date

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee
6th March 2017

Recommendation		Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
	Members recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People;			
1	Reports to the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee the learning and outcomes of the Children’s Transformation Pilot Programmes.	<p>Performance frameworks for each of the pilot programmes are in place and baseline measures are being established: this will ensure that impact is captured.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update</u> Continue to work with the Strategic Delivery Managers and district Commissioning Officers and Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain appropriate baseline data • Create meaningful measures • Refocus activity where appropriate • Continue to draw lessons learned from the pilots 	Janene Cox	Ongoing until July 2017
	Members recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Care and Wellbeing ensure that;			
2	County Council and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commissioners work together to map antenatal group support currently provided in Staffordshire and ensure that this information is incorporated into the Best Start Pathway.	<p>CCGs are forming a Pan Staffordshire Maternity Network. SCC will be members of this network and this will provide an opportunity to explore this recommendation through the network.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update</u> The Plan Staffordshire Maternity</p>	Tilly Flanagan	Sept 2017

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

	Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
		<p>Transformation Board was formed in June 2017 to deliver the Better Births programme. SCC are leading on the prevention work stream of this Board and will do this through the Children Centre’s local District Advisory Boards (DABs). The DABs already map out support and groups available in each district from a wider range of partners such as midwifery, health visiting and the community and voluntary sector. This included information on antenatal support. Such information is promoted through a variety of media including a digital offer.</p>		
3	<p>County Council and CCG commissioners work together to ensure that evidence based preparation for parenting programmes are available and long term support networks encouraged.</p>	<p>Local Support teams use evidence-based parenting programmes in their work with families. This includes those that are specifically designed for expectant families and those with young children, where they are considered to be vulnerable. This will be included as part of the 0-19 procurement. Whilst discussions can take place with CCGs they do not have a responsibility to commission parenting programmes.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update</u> Parenting support was identified as a high impact area for the Children’s Health and Wellbeing Programme (0-19). SCC are still in a tender process for this contract to mobilise a new service by April 2018.</p>	Tilly Flanagan	July 2017

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

	Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
4	The Health Visiting contract includes antenatal support in group settings	<p>This recommendation will be reviewed as part of the 0-19 procurement process within the constraints of the resources available.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update</u> Parenting support was identified as a high impact area for the Children’s health and Wellbeing Programme (0-19). SCC are still in a tender process for this contract. Antenatal support has been identified as a mandated check within the specification however due to financial resources we have not been prescriptive as to how this is delivered i.e. through a group setting.</p>	Tilly Flanagan	
	Members recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People ensures that ;			
5	As part of the Children’s Transformation Programme, the provision for children and families in each District is mapped and information is made available in one place for professionals and families. This should include details of local partners and online parenting advice and guidance.	<p>Local Support Teams have mapped this information for their own use, and for use by schools in ensuring that families can access local support.</p> <p>This mapping process is complete. See attachment.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update TF update</u> SCC are developing the digital offer to the public and partners. This will consolidate a number of existing digital platforms currently used by SCC to provide information, advice and guidance on areas such as parenting support. The existing mapping undertaken</p>	Vonni Gordon	January 2017.

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

	Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
		by Local Support Teams, wider partners and providers will be disseminated through this offer.		
	Members recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People together with the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills ;			
6	Write to all school Governing Bodies in Staffordshire highlighting the importance of identifying and preventing low level neglect and providing information on where to seek advice in supporting Young Carers and those with low level disabilities.	Letter is in draft format and waiting sign off by Senior Leaders. Need to ensure the information regarding supporting young carers is also linked into action 5.	Andrew Jepps	Ongoing (verbal update to be provided)
	Members recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People;			
7	Seeks reassurances that the work of the Family Strategic Partnership Board results in services being commissioned proactively rather than reactively to meet the root causes of issues experienced by families.	<p>The FSPB has a sub-committee for Integrated Commissioning and there is a key acknowledgement of the importance of tackling root causes and being more intelligence led and evidence based in our joint approach. This approach is being supported by the development of a children's JSNA.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update</u> The Children's JSNA was completed and shared with the FSP Board in ?? (see appendix ?). The JSNA was used by all partners at workshop in March 17 to review the Outcome Framework for the Children and families Strategy and the delivery plan. This delivery plan clearly identifies the</p>	Michael Harrison	Ongoing

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

	Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
		partnership approach to proactively commission based on needs and priorities (see appendix 1&2)		
	Members recommend that the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Care and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People;			
8	Write to the CCGs in Staffordshire highlighting the importance of the Building Resilient Families and Communities (BRFC) Programme, recognising the positive developments already made, highlighting the importance of the BRFC Programme and seeking a formal commitment that the relevant health providers will be engaged with the project.	CCGs were invited to a Building Resilient Families & Communities (BRFC) & Centre of Excellence for Information Sharing (CEIS) Workshop in Nov 2016. GP Information Sharing Pilot in Tamworth and Cannock. DCLG have produced a supporting statement for the work we are undertaking with CEIS, DoH and PHE. CCG have committed to attend the BRFC Partnership Group. There is also ongoing work in relation to the Place Based Approach and conversations are ongoing to weave partners, such as CCG's, to support this approach.	Barbara Hine	Completed GP Pilot ongoing
	Members recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People;			
9	Ensures that commissioners include in contracts with specialist providers, that they work with BRFC to provide training to Key Workers/Lead Professionals who have regular contact with families to ensure a skilled workforce that is able to meet the needs of families, understand complex agendas and help families manage their	In Nov 2016 the BRFC & Early Help Workforce Working Group was formed. It is a sub group of the Early Help Implementation Steering Group and the Families Strategic Partnership Executive. The Working Group exists to lead the implementation of the BRFC Workforce Development Pathway and the Early Help	Barbara Hine	Completed September 2017

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

Recommendation		Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
	own lives without the need for future intervention.	Strategy Workforce Development Priority.		
10	Ensures that the Key Worker model, recognised in the work of the Children's Transformation Programme, ensuring a 'whole-family', holistic approach is embedded when working with families, to build community resilience.	This is embedded in the work of Local Support Teams in working with whole families where there are concerns that the additional needs of children in those families are unmet ('early help'). This remains unchanged since Sue Coleman's previous submission. The Early help Assessment and FIP Models utilised in LST's have the Key Worker Model as standard practice. Ongoing work around the Early Help Assessment (EHA) is currently being reviewed both internally and externally with Partners.	Vonni Gordon	Completed January 2017
11	Reports progress on the Breathing Space project to the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for scrutiny in six months' time.	The Breathing Space Project is delivering a service county wide with referrals in each district of the county having been accepted. The delivery of the service is now available to young people in care and care leavers who are pregnant with their first child. There are currently 19 open cases to the service. Mellow Bumps Parenting programme delivered to or in the process of being delivered to all of the women and their partners on a 1-1 basis. A Practical Parenting Programme continues to be delivered 1-1 with both parents during the pregnancy to support their understanding and aid them in being able to respond to baby's needs.	Richard Hancock	Ongoing

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline	
		<p>Responses from the allocated Safeguarding Social Workers is positive of both programmes of work being deliver to the parents in aiding their assessments of the family.</p> <p>Freedom programme is being delivered on a 1-1 basis with woman accessing both parts of the project that have a history of domestic abuse and poor relationship choices this is enabling a proactive, timely response.</p> <p>Named Health visitors were identified in each geographical area at the beginning of the project to ensure a more robust responsive service is in place to women accessing the project. This is achieving positive outcomes and parents are engaging well and resources are being shared between services to ensure consistency of information.</p> <p>A male worker has been identified to provide specific sessions with fathers on the project where they are deemed to be the protective factor in caring for the baby when born.</p> <p>A cost avoidance framework is being developed in partnership with finance.</p> <p>During the period from 01/04/2016 to 01/02/2017 14 babies have been born and 13 have remained in parents care.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update</u> Project highlight report RAG rated Green</p>		

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
		<p>On track and delivering service ahead of target with specific focus now on Intensive Support. 17 Intensive Support open cases 5 Prevention open cases</p>	
12	<p>Encourages commissioners to include, use of the Early Help Assessment, as a tool for working with families to identify the issues for them, in contracts with providers of all services where contact with children and families may identify additional unmet need.</p>	<p>The Families Integrated Commissioning Group (FiCG) will have a standing agenda item to discuss the embedding of EH and use of EHA assessments where appropriate. This maybe specifically in a contract or as part of supporting community capacity from a central and district perspective. This is then reported back to the Early help work stream steering group to update. The early help workstream is also looking at 'impact' and developing a dashboard to capture the number of EHA's completed by all organisations.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update</u> Built into new SCC specification such as the Children's Health and Wellbeing –(0-19).</p>	<p>Liz Mellor</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>This is discussed with commissioners at the FiCG workshop, FPEG and regularly at six weekly at the early help steering groups.</p>
13	<p>Ensures that Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) undertakes an audit of the quality of Early Help Assessments undertaken and reports to the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee the number and quality of Early Help Assessments completed by individual</p>	<p>There has been a delay in progressing this action due to serious case review priorities and SSCB Business Team staffing capacities. However, an Early Help Assessment (EHA) audit is currently in the process of being arranged with members of both the SSCB and the Families Strategic</p>	<p>Carrie Wain SSCB Manager</p> <p>March 2017</p>

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
	<p>agencies, the take up of training and details of any agencies that have been reluctant to use or undertake training on the Early Help Assessment.</p>		
14	Undertakes a study to establish the	Matt Biggs	

Partnership and is scheduled to be completed before the end of March 2017. Performance data relating to the completion of EHAs is reported to the SSCB on a quarterly basis. Partner agency contribution to EHAs will be included in this audit report.

To date 5100 people have successfully completed the SSCB EHA e-learning module. 4288 Licenses have been allocated from 1st April 2016 – 31st December 2016.

September 2017 update
 An SSCB Early Help Assessment (EHA) multi-agency audit on four cases was conducted on 19th May 2017. A report on the learning arising from this audit activity was shared with the Joint Performance LSCB Subgroup on 27th July 2017. Good practice was identified in general and recommendations for learning and improvement were made. These recommendations are being monitored via the Performance Subgroup. Performance data relating to the completion of EHAs is reported to the SSCB on a quarterly basis. From 1st January 2016 to 15 August 2017 4137 people have successfully completed the SSCB EHA e-learning module and 8921 licenses have been allocated.

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline	
	<p>sustainability of the childcare sector and report back to the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee for scrutiny, with key information shared with Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee Members, recognising the potential safeguarding implications.</p>	<p>September 2017 update (MB) Further to report I submitted earlier this year, changes in SCC's commission with Entrust means we need to re-evaluate the way we support safeguarding in early years. MB has meetings with colleagues to look at capacity within EYAS to support EY providers in future. In addition, we have widened the coverage/network for concerns to be reported in early years provision (re practice, quality, safeguarding) – these will be raised at the Early Education Funding Review Group and additional support will be allocated via Entrust as/when required.</p>		
15	<p>Writes to District and Borough Councils and Registered Social Landlords recognising the good work of housing providers in supporting families and highlighting the positive impact of involvement in BRFC, with details of how providers can get involved and develop their offer to families.</p>	<p>During the national evaluation of TF 70% of families were found to be living in social housing compared to 17% of the national population. Central contracts in place with Trent & Dove and Aspire Housing. District partnership working in Moorlands and Cannock. Barbara Hine to meet with Stafford Borough Council Housing Lead following Domestic Abuse Steering Group. The Better Opportunities funding have commissioned Work Routes, a delivery model for voluntary employment and employability provision includes a Housing Consortium of which BRFC families are one</p>	Barbara Hine	July 2017

Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline	
	<p>of their target groups.</p> <p><u>September 2017 update</u> The Better Opportunities delivery model has been mobilized. Relationships within the district have been developed to support the implementation.</p>			
	<p>Ensures that Housing Providers are included in the Children’s Transformation Pilot Programmes, where appropriate.</p>	<p>The DCLs and DCOs are communicating via the pilots and supporting families via a network.</p>	<p>Barbara Hine</p>	<p>Completed</p>

Family Strategic Partnership Strategy Outcome Framework

Strategic Outcome	Description of outcome	Contributing outcomes	Deliverables (delivery plan)	Plan Code	Overarching Indicators (draft)
Happy and Healthy	All children and young people are resilient, happy and healthy making choices that support wellbeing.	Children, young people and their families are in good physical, mental and emotional health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Recommendations set out in the National Maternity Review 'Better Births' Developing the future model of children's community services Pan-Staffordshire (aligned to the STP and Place based approach) Utilise the EYAB and local DABs to deliver lifestyle and prevention elements of the maternity transformation plan and the obesity compact Delivery of an integrated 0-19 Healthy Child programme offer Deliver the Mental Health Five Year Forward View priorities and improve mental health outcomes for children and young people 	ICG4	Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth (leading causes of death) (CCG / SCC)
				ICG4 ICG5	Infant mortality and child mortality rates (CCG / SCC)
				ICG5	Mothers with postnatal depression (<i>data source to be confirmed</i>)
				ICG9	Smoking in pregnancy (CCG / SCC)
				ICG5 ICG9	Breastfeeding initiation and prevalence (CCG / SCC)
				ICG4	Low birthweight of term babies (CCG)
				ICG5 ICG9	Excess weight at Reception (aged four to five) (CCG / SCC)
				ICG5	Childhood immunisation (CCG)
				ICG5	Tooth decay in children aged five (PHE)
				ICG8	Hospital admissions due to self-harm (ages 10-24) (CCG)
ICG10	Unplanned hospital admission rates for children under 19 for long-term conditions (CCG)				

Strategic Outcome	Description of outcome	Contributing outcomes	Deliverables (delivery plan)	Plan Code	Overarching Indicators (draft)
		To make positive life choices and have a sense of control over one's life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a multi-agency Strategic Children & Families Voice Network Identify mechanisms for seeking the views, opinions and experiences of children, young people and families in Staffordshire The development of a Families Strategic Partnership Children & Families Voice Strategy The development of a high level Families Strategic Partnership Consultation & Engagement Delivery Plan Develop and deliver a co-ordinated approach to school based Personal Social and Health Economic Education Delivery of an integrated 0-19 Healthy Child programme offer <p>Captured through other partnerships/Boards</p> <p>1 Alcohol and Drugs</p>	ICG5	Under 18 teenage conceptions (SCC)
				ICG5	Smoking prevalence in 15 year olds (CCG / SCC)
				NA	Alcohol-specific hospital admissions (under 18) (CCG) ¹
				Voices 1,2,3&4	(Additional outcomes around voice to be added)

Strategic Outcome	Description of outcome	Contributing outcomes	Deliverables (delivery plan)	Plan Code	Overarching Indicators (draft)
			Executive Board		
Feel safe and belong	All children and young people feel safe in their community and at home, are safeguarded from harm and have a sense of belonging, form friendships and are part of a stable family unit	Families look after their children well	To deliver the Early Help Strategy Implementation Plan with a focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Experience • Leadership & Strategy • Culture • Workforce development • Implementation, delivery structures and processes 	EH1,2,3&4	A child who has been identified as needing early help – children identified as having social, emotional and mental health problems (SCC)
				EH1,2,3&4	A child who has been assessed as needing early help – Repeat referrals to Children’s Social Care (SCC)
				EH1,2,3&4	Rates of early help assessments, children in need, child protection plans or looked after children (SCC)
		Communities are safe places to live and free from environmental and personal harm e.g. homes and roads whereby children and young people are good to others in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build on the two Place Based Approach pilots and roll out across Staffordshire. • Deliver the Mental Health Five Year Forward View priorities and improve mental health outcomes for children and young people • Identify a lead organisation to co-ordinate PHSE and engage with partners including schools to develop a project scope. • To work collaboratively with partners to identify funding 	Voices 1,2,3&4	Proportion of young people who feel safe in their community (SCC)
				NA	Children aged under 18 who are killed or seriously injured on the roads (Fire service) ²
				ICG8	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0-14 years)
				NA	Young people (aged 0-17 years) making repeat calls to Police by aggrieved or perpetrator (SCC and Staffordshire Police) ³
				NA	Rate of children who are victims of

Strategic Outcome	Description of outcome	Contributing outcomes	Deliverables (delivery plan)	Plan Code	Overarching Indicators (draft)
			<p>and resources to deliver PHSE this works ensure the most is made of existing funding in relation to prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of a jointly commissioned county wide Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing children and young people service <p>Captured through other partnerships/Boards</p> <p>2 Road Safety Partnership 3 Community Safety partnership 4 Offender management and Commissioning Board</p>		crime (Staffordshire police) ³
				EH1,2,3&4	A child (aged 0-18 years) who has received an anti-social behaviour intervention (or equivalent) in the last 12 months (SCC)
				NA	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 -17 (SCC) ⁴
				NA	Number of children (aged 10-18 years) who has been convicted of a proven offence in the previous 12 months (SCC) ⁴
				NA	Reoffending rates for children aged 10-17 (MOJ/SCC) ⁴
		Resilient individuals and community, strong family units, good self-esteem and worth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define, identify and increase the availability of community capacity in Staffordshire • Utilise existing contracts to build and develop community capacity within local communities 		Indicators to be developed

Strategic Outcome	Description of outcome	Contributing outcomes	Deliverables (delivery plan)	Plan Code	Overarching Indicators (draft)
		Accessible, empowered community groups, support networks with respect for the individual, family and community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define, identify and increase the availability of community capacity in Staffordshire Utilise existing contracts to build and develop community capacity within local communities 		Indicators to be developed
Achieve and contribute	All children and young people achieve their potential including a good education and employment and are supported to make a positive contribution to communities.	Families understand and can receive help to support developmental milestones of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of an integrated 0-19 Healthy Child programme offer Review and develop governance and partnership arrangements to improve outcomes in early years 	ICG5 ICG9	Improved outcomes for those who take up offer of early provision / children's centres (e.g. Early Years Foundation Stage, EYFS) (SCC)
				ICG9	School readiness (measured through EYFS) – all children / vulnerable, e.g. FSM / SEN (SCC)
				EH1,2,3&4	Pupil absence (SCC)
				EH1,2,3&4	Worklessness households (SCC)
				EH1,2,3&4	Eligible families benefitting from the childcare element of Working Tax Credit (SCC)
		NA	Achievement at key stages – all children / vulnerable, e.g. FSM / SEN (SCC) ⁴		
		NA	GCSE achievement – all children / vulnerable, e.g. FSM / SEN / LAC (SCC) ⁴		
	Children and young people achieve their educational milestones and potential	Captured through other partnerships/Boards 4 Education Trust 5 SEND Partnership Board			

Strategic Outcome	Description of outcome	Contributing outcomes	Deliverables (delivery plan)	Plan Code	Overarching Indicators (draft)
				NA	Ofsted standards of schools and settings including prepared for SEN (SCC) ^{4&5}
		Children and young people have access to further education and jobs	Captured through other partnerships/Boards	NA	A young person (aged 16-18) who is about to leave school with no planned education, employment or training (i.e. at risk of becoming NEET) ⁴
				NA	Young people not in education, employment or training (SCC) ⁴

Appendix C: Family Strategic Partnership Strategy – Delivery Plan

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
<p>Voices 1 Children Young People & Families Voices</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 71</p>	<p>Establish a multi-agency Strategic Children & Families Voice Network, led by SCVYS, to oversee the work stream and underpin future work in relation to Children & Families Voice on behalf of the Families Strategic Partnership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations across the Families Strategic Partnership have a coordinated and targeted approach to Children & Families Voice, ensuring that engagement is not duplicated and thereby maximising efficiencies. The priorities of the Families Strategic Partnership are reflective of the views, opinions and experiences of children, young people and families and there are effective mechanisms for ensuring such insight is actively used across the partnership to improve outcomes. 	<p>Phil Pusey</p>	<p>Children & Families Voice Strategic Network</p>	<p>Established in April 2017</p>
<p>Voices 2 Children Young People & Families Voices</p>	<p>Undertake a mapping exercise across the Families Strategic Partnership in order to develop a deeper understanding of mechanisms currently in existence for seeking the views, opinions and experiences of children, young people and families in Staffordshire in addition to identifying insight currently accessible across the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Families Strategic Partnership has a deeper understanding of mechanisms currently facilitated across the partnership in relation to Children & Families Voice and is aware of the insight which is currently accessible across the partnership. 	<p>Phil Pusey</p>	<p>Children & Families Voice Strategic Network</p>	<p>Completed mapping exercise presented to FSP/FPEG in Summer 2017.</p>

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
	partnership.				
Voices 3 Children Young People & Families Voices	The development of a Families Strategic Partnership Children & Families Voice Strategy (2017 – 2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By June 2017, organisations across the Families Strategic Partnership have a consistent approach to Children & Families Voice with an agreed set of common standards for community engagement, ensuring children, young people and families receive the same standard of engagement regardless of the organisation. 	Phil Pusey	Children & Families Voice Strategic Network	Strategy approval in June 2017.
Voices 4 Children Young People & Families Voices	The development of a high level Families Strategic Partnership Consultation & Engagement Delivery Plan (2017 – 2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations across the Families Strategic Partnership have a coordinated and targeted approach to Children & Families Voice, ensuring that engagement is not duplicated and thereby maximising efficiencies. 	Phil Pusey	Children & Families Voice Strategic Network	Delivery plan developed and approved by the end of Summer 2017.
CC1 Community Capacity	To build on the learning from early implementers of the Place Based Approach (PBA) pilots and roll out across Staffordshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree and develop local governance arrangements for delivering a PBA. Develop mechanism are in place to ensure appropriate data is collated, and intelligence/insight gathered to improve, and develop the quality and offer of the place based approach. 	Mick Harrison	Strategic Delivery Managers	<p>Agreement and sign off by HWBB Sept 2017</p> <p>Local LSP action planning October 2017</p> <p>Roll out of PBA</p>

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local performance measures to assess success factors • Produce a community engagement strategy and plan. • Manage current demand in a more cohesive manner and develop effective pathways 			workshops and governance arrangements September 2017 to April 2018
CC2 Community Capacity Page 73	Define, identify and increase the availability of community capacity in Staffordshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand current community assets operating across communities and identify gaps • To identify learning from the 8 Children's' pilots and share across the wider partnership • Develop community capacity and resilience in the community. 	Janene Cox	Tilly Flanagan	Quarterly updates
CC3 Community Capacity	Utilise existing contracts to build and develop community capacity within local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an action plan as part of the VCSE contract to target activity that focusses on gaps • Embed the role of social prescribing through existing and new contracts • Ensure the Early Years Coordinators maximise the value added by the community including volunteers, peer support, parent led groups 	Tilly Flanagan	Natasha Moody	April 2018
EH 1 Early Help Strategy	To deliver the actions set out in the Early Help Strategy Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families trust their keyworker and feel "plugged in" to a range of support through them. They are 	Phil Pusey/Jennie Hammond	Natasha Moody	June 2017: Revised Early Help Implementation Plan

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
Page 74 Implementation: The Family Experience	Plan in relation to the Family Experience in order to enable Staffordshire to achieve the “Maturing” level of the DCLG Transformation Maturity Matrix.	<p>confident to access services independently when their keyworker no longer works with them, and they have been supported to access a range of community and voluntary based services that meet their medium/long term need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family keyworker is clearly able to work across services to deliver support that’s needed for the family - the service the family get is no longer dependent on which agency provides it. • The families needs and circumstances are captured in one assessment and one family plan, with the family keyworker having access to all of the information that’s relevant to provide support to the family. • The family are able to “own their own road to change” and are positive about the future. 			<p>agreed by the Staffordshire Children’s Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>Six Weekly Progress Updates to FPEG.</p> <p>Quarterly Early Help Strategy Implementation Performance Report.</p>
EH 2 Early Help Strategy Implementation: Leadership & Strategy	To deliver the actions set out in the Early Help Strategy Implementation Plan in relation to Leadership & Strategy in order to enable Staffordshire to achieve the “Maturing” level of the DCLG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All senior leaders in core partners have a demonstrable focus on services that best meet local need for families; • There is a common purpose across all partners in the statutory, community and voluntary sector to commission outcome based 	Phil Pusey/ Jennie Hammond	Phil Pusey	<p>June 2017: Revised Early Help Implementation Plan agreed by the Staffordshire Children’s Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>Six Weekly Progress Updates to FPEG.</p>

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
Page 75	Transformation Maturity Matrix.	<p>services that have whole family working at their core.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong governance arrangements underpin common purpose with clear plans in place to manage future demand, deliver value for money and achieve cost saving with a clear approach to using evidence and analysis to understand demand and inform commissioning of services. • Leaders demonstrate a shared purpose to deliver services for families that are locally determined but at the same time have clear links to wider local and national priorities. • There is a clear commitment to integrated family focussed, outcome based services is embedded in strategic plans for all partners. Sustainability of services after 2020 is part of the area's strategic ambition. • Strategic commitment informs integrated commissioning of services which is based on evidence of what works and on the needs of the local population. • Strategic plans reflect the local landscape, adapted as necessary to the needs of localities and neighbourhoods, whilst 			Quarterly Early Help Strategy Implementation Performance Report.

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
		<p>demonstrating clear links to wider transformation programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic plans clearly set out ambition for families including for financial stability and resilience. 			
<p>EH 3 Early Help Strategy Implementation: Culture</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 76</p>	<p>To deliver the actions set out in the Early Help Strategy Implementation Plan in relation to Culture in order to enable Staffordshire to achieve the “Maturing” level of the DCLG Transformation Maturity Matrix.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a clear shared vision and ambition across all partners which is effectively communicated to and embraced by staff. An understanding of demand and commitment to transform the way public services work with families with multiple problems and an understanding of why integrated whole family working and shared priority delivers sustained outcomes for families across the 6 key problem headings of the programme. This vision and ambition is evidenced through all tiers of staff and elected members, across all partners, and they are communicated to the community. Staff take personal responsibility and ownership to work across boundaries to support families with complex needs. 	<p>Phil Pusey/ Jennie Hammond</p>	<p>Liz Mellor</p>	<p>June 2017: Revised Early Help Implementation Plan agreed by the Staffordshire Children’s Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>Six Weekly Progress Updates to FPEG.</p> <p>Quarterly Early Help Strategy Implementation Performance Report.</p>
<p>EH 5 Early Help Strategy Implementation:</p>	<p>To deliver the actions set out in the Early Help Strategy Implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce development is embedded in practice across all agencies depth and breadth of 	<p>Phil Pusey/ Jennie Hammond</p>	<p>Joe Sullivan</p>	<p>June 2017: Revised Early Help Implementation Plan</p>

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
<p>Workforce Development</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 77</p>	<p>Plan in relation to Workforce Development in order to enable Staffordshire to achieve the “Maturing” level of the DCLG Transformation Maturity Matrix.</p>	<p>opportunities. There is clear consistency of opportunity for training and development, with recognition of different agency cultural starting points. Training is provided both for the core family team and to lead workers across partners. Development is informed by evidence based practice. Impact of workforce development is evaluated and impact informs future workforce development plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are shared performance objectives and training opportunities across professions. Core principles and behaviours of family working are shared and understood across agencies. • Promotion routes are linked to integrated working and not contained within agency. Promotion opportunities are visible and recruitment is transparent with cross organisational equal opportunity values embedded in recruitment policy and practice. Strong links exist with the voluntary and community sector to support complex families in the community. • Frontline staff have a clear understanding of the impact of 			<p>agreed by the Staffordshire Children’s Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>Six Weekly Progress Updates to FPEG.</p> <p>Quarterly Early Help Strategy Implementation Performance Report.</p>

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
Page 78		<p>their work. They have access to the right training at the right time – including evidence based programmes and training from a range of partners. Frontline staff are support to common purpose by structures, governance and clear direction from managers and have access to promotion and development opportunities that are clearly communicated to them. Workers from different agencies have shared priorities and access to pooled budgets for families. Frontline staff have a clear understanding of the principles of family working (FI factors) and a clear sense of a focus on a family assessment, plan and outcomes for families. Frontline staff are supported by regular development reviews. Peer support opportunities and opportunities for reflective practice.</p>			
<p>EH 6 Early Help Strategy Implementation Delivery Structures and Processes</p>	<p>To deliver the actions set out in the Early Help Strategy Implementation Plan in relation to Delivery Structures and Processes in order to enable Staffordshire to achieve the “Maturing” level of the DCLG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisational structures enable professionals from different disciplines work together to shared priorities. High quality whole family assessments take an agreed single form and understanding of whole family assessments is embedded across partners. 	<p>Phil Pusey/ Jennie Hammond</p>		<p>June 2017: Revised Early Help Implementation Plan agreed by the Staffordshire Children’s Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>Six Weekly Progress Updates to FPEG.</p>

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
Page 79	Transformation Maturity Matrix.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners have shared integrated data systems underpinned by robust data sharing agreements. Core partners can access one single data system to access case management information. Data systems are picking up early indications of need and moving towards use of predictive analytics. There is a clear commitment by all partners to shared analysis of what works and how to meet future demand for services for families. Professionals from different disciplines use shared whole family approach and evidence-based tools to deliver a shared vision for early intervention. Outcomes evidence is used effectively to drive delivery and improve performance; evaluation is integrated within delivery and used to reform services. 			Quarterly Early Help Strategy Implementation Performance Report.
PSHE	Develop and deliver a co-ordinated approach to school based Personal Social and Health Economic Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a lead organisation to co-ordinate PHSE and engage with partners including schools to develop a project scope. To work collaboratively with partners to identify funding and resources to deliver PHSE this works ensure the most is made of existing funding in relation to 	Jennie Hammond	YOS, FARS	

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
		prevention.			
ICG 1 Commission joint ways of working	Identify Intelligence gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To utilise the Children's JSNA and soft intelligence to identify any data and intelligence gaps. To develop a research programme based on agreed priority areas Embed intelligence led practice within case management (BRFC). 	Kate Waterhouse Barbara Hine	Divya Patel	Quarterly reports to FPEG
ICG 2 Commission joint ways of working Page 80	Develop a partnership approach to commissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree joint commissioning intentions across the partnership based on the priorities outlined in the JSNA and the delivery plan. Review current joint commissioning arrangements and gain greater understanding of what works well and what could be improved. Identify all future opportunities and agree mechanisms to work together to share resource, outcomes and impact. 	Janene Cox	Liz Mellor	Quarterly reports to FPEG
ICG 3 Commission joint ways of working	Redesign the BRFC accreditation Scheme in line with increased tare set by DCLG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the voluntary and community sector to develop capacity to provide key work interventions for 500 families 	Barbara Hine	Natasha Moody	End of year Review March 2018
ICG 4 Commission joint ways of working	Implementation of the Recommendations set out in the National Maternity Review 'Better Births'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver a pan Staffordshire Maternity Transformation programme by 2020 	Alexandra Birch		Potential full roll out by 2020

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work across commissioners and providers to ensure synergy and alignment of children's services 			
ICG 5 Commission joint ways of working Page 81	Delivery of an integrated 0-19 Healthy Child programme offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure a new service Work with stakeholders to mobilise integrated Healthy Child Programme provision Undertake research with service users and provider to identify and develop digital options for alternative service delivery Work with stakeholders to embed the new delivery model across the children's system Work with the provider to mobilise and integrate Children Centre provision 	Tilly Flanagan	Natasha Moody Kate Sutcliffe	October 2017 Oct 17- April 18 Oct 17- April 18 April 2018- March 2022 April 2019-March 2020
ICG 6 Commission joint ways of working	Developing the future model of children's community services Pan-Staffordshire (aligned to the STP and Place based approach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a sustainable model for children's health services that deliver effective and high quality acute care. Roll out Big 6 work programmes to improve quality of care and outcomes for children 	Alexandra Birch		To be completed by June 17 for implementation in Nov 17
ICG 7 Commission joint ways of working	Deliver the Mental Health Five Year Forward View priorities and improve mental health outcomes for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current CAMHS strategies and agree footprint and approach for future CAMHS and Children's System Transformation Plans Produce a single plan to 2021 that will cover both north (including 	Roger Graham Sheila Crosbie	Jill Mogg/Paula Willman	Quarterly reports to FPEG

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
		<p>Stoke CC) and south Staffordshire delivery and align plans as much as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan should meet the requirements for the CAMHS Local and Children's System Transformation Plans and the Children and Young people's as reflected in the Emotional Health and Wellbeing strategy. Utilise the Thrive model recognising the opportunities for commissioning across the partnership 			
ICG 8 Commission joint ways of working Page 82	Improve outcomes in early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review governance and partnership working of Early Years Board Better use and alignment of the EYAB and local DABs to deliver lifestyle and prevention elements of the maternity transformation plan 	Tilly Flanagan	Natasha Moody	TBC
ICG 9 Commission joint ways of working	Delivery of a jointly commissioned county wide Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing children and young people service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the provider and stakeholders to mobilise the service ready for service go live 1st Sept 2017 Develop a strong strategic relationship with the provider in order to work jointly with commissioners re: learning, emerging ideas/themes, gaps 	Liz Mellor/Carolyn Higgs	Sally Ellis	June – Sept 2017 Ongoing from June 2017

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
Page 83		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of a CSE and missing service that seeks the views, opinions and experiences of children, young people and families to inform and shape delivery • Awareness raising and upskilling of the workforce and communities in relation to CSE and missing in order to build community capacity and resilience so that support is available locally for those at low risk • CSE and missing themes/ trends, gaps are gained from the service intelligence, data and insight this will inform service delivery and will be shared with stakeholders and communities to ensure a coordinated response is achieved • Improved outcomes for children and young people accessing the service:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children are not victims of CSE ○ Children are protected from CSE by parents /carers, communities, professionals and businesses ○ Children are not perpetrators of CSE ○ Children are protected from the adverse consequences of 			<p>Ongoing from 1st Sept 2017</p> <p>Ongoing from 1st Sept 2017</p> <p>Ongoing from 1st Sept 2017</p> <p>Will be reported at the CSE Joint Commissioning Group</p>

No.	Actions	Outcomes	Accountable Lead	Delivery Lead	Key Milestones
<p data-bbox="91 778 136 922">Page 84</p> <p data-bbox="91 331 320 448">ICG 10 Commission joint ways of working</p>	<p data-bbox="405 331 763 427">Delivery of a jointly commissioned county wide Domestic Abuse service</p>	<p data-bbox="904 268 1088 296">going missing</p>	<p data-bbox="1337 331 1552 395">OPCC, SoT City Council, SCC</p>		<p data-bbox="1863 331 1928 360">TBC</p>
		<ul data-bbox="801 336 1308 671" style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Police & Crime Commissioner, Stoke on Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council to commission countywide domestic abuse service provision by 2018. • Delivery of domestic abuse support services that addresses the needs of victims, children, perpetrators and families. <p data-bbox="801 743 1272 882">In relation specifically to children and young people, the service is intended to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <ul data-bbox="801 906 1290 1321" style="list-style-type: none"> • increased resilience / protective factors; • Increased knowledge of domestic abuse-related issues; • Increased knowledge of positive relationships; • Increased knowledge of support services; • Increased safety; • Identified needs met; • Improved health and well-being; • Increased attendance at school. 			

The Childcare Sector in Staffordshire: The current picture, future challenges and implications for Safeguarding

1.0 Context – Childcare sector & statutory duties

Under legislation, all three and four year olds are entitled to fifteen hours of free early education/childcare and approximately forty per cent (32% in Staffordshire – scheme known as Think2) of less advantaged two year olds. From September, most working families will be entitled to thirty hours of free early education/childcare. Staffordshire is currently one of eight local authorities trialling an offer (415 places).

Staffordshire benefits from a mixed economy of provision across the county. Access to different types of provision in summer term for three year olds was:

- 81% in Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI)
- 16% in schools

This highlights how important the PVI sector is in Staffordshire in terms of childcare sufficiency.

2.0 Free entitlement: Take up & quality

Think 2 take up peaked at 86% in autumn term against a national take up of 68%. Take up is also good amongst cohorts from vulnerable groups:

- Child Protection = 98%
- Children in Need = 91%
- Looked After Children = 83%
- SEND = 78% (with a further 9% being supported to access places)

Currently, 96% of places in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector (non-domestic) are in good and outstanding provision. 84% of Childminders operate at good or outstanding.

3.0 Sufficiency duty

Under section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, local authorities are required to 'manage the childcare market'. This is essentially involves working with the PVI sector and schools to create, develop and sustain places aligned to demand and changing demographics.

4.0 Future challenges and implications for safeguarding

With the exception of two Nursery Schools, SCC no longer provides or commissions childcare and therefore, a sustainable, quality childcare sector is essential. Often, settings will see vulnerable children more than any other professional so they play an essential role in the safeguarding and monitoring of children. Challenges over the next eighteen months are:

- Sufficiency – With a new 30 hour entitlement imminent, there is a requirement to sustain current provision and develop new places in identified areas. We are working with providers to ensure that '30 hour' places are not at the expense of 'Think2' places as a result of sector re-modelling. We are also trying to ensure that the introduction of a new local funding formula will not result in closure of provision. Many providers are concerned that the introduction of 30 hour childcare is impinging on their opportunity to privately charge parents for hours beyond the current entitlement. In addition, retaining childminders continues to be an issue (nationally). In Staffordshire, we have 450 less childminders operating than in 2009.
- Quality – Maintaining an overall high percentage of good and outstanding settings countywide as sector support is reduced.

5.0 Mitigating risks

We will initiate and continue with a number of key actions to ensure we maintain and develop a thriving mixed economy of provision that keeps children safe and supports best outcomes. These include:

- Twice yearly sufficiency audits and sector analysis. This provides us with intelligence to RAG rate areas in terms of priorities for business/development support.
- Close working with School place planning team – We work closely to share information with colleagues and ensure any decisions regarding new schools and expansions is cognisant of current and future childcare requirements
- Early Years Take up Dashboard – We have now enhanced our analysis to understand where our most vulnerable children are attending, by type and quality of provision. This helps us to know where to target support.
- New Local Funding Formula for Early Years – Introducing a new formula will signal an end to the current variable rate model where different providers receive different rates, simplifying a model from sixteen bandings to three. We hope this will help sustainability in the sector.
- Continue to target our sector support in Entrust by:
 - Focussing on welfare requirements & safeguarding which encompasses, policies, procedures and recruitment with all providers
 - Intensive packages of support for Requires Improvement and Inadequate settings

- Undertake analysis of the core themes for 'Inadequate' graded settings to learn lessons and share with all providers
- Introduce a new 'Attendance Policy' which offers support and guidance to settings to ensure families are supported into consistent attendance patterns and routines and provides information on who to contact for further support
- Increase the number of audits to support attendance monitoring and ensure providers understand the importance of regular and consistent attendance.
- Continue to pull together and triangulate all information regarding settings causing concern at our Nursery Education Funding (NEF) and Sufficiency Operational Group. Escalate issues to Ofsted (as the regulator of PVI provision) via our termly meetings.
- Continue to focus on improving the uptake of Think2 places & closer working with Families First to ensure vulnerable children access free entitlements.

Author

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WORK PROGRAMME

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee 2017/18 – July 2017

This document sets out the work programme for the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for 2017/18. The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee is responsible for scrutinising: children and adults' safeguarding; community safety and Localism. The Council has three priority outcomes. This Committee is aligned to the outcome: The people of Staffordshire will feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

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

Councillor John Francis

Chairman of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme, please get in touch with Tina Gould, Scrutiny and Support Manager on 01785 276148 or by emailing tina.gould@staffordshire.gov.uk

Membership – County Councillors 2017-18

John Francis (Chairman)
Conor Wileman (Vice Chairman)
Syed Hussain
Trevor Johnson
Jason Jones
Natasha Pullen
Kyle Robinson
Paul Snape
Victoria Wilson
Mike Worthington

Calendar of Committee Meetings 2017-2018

13 June 2017 at 2.00 p.m.
13 July 2017 at 10.00 a.m.
26 September 2017 at 2.00 p.m.
9 November 2017 at 10.00 a.m.
11 December 2017 at 2.00 p.m.
15 January 2018 at 10.00 a.m.
5 March 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Work Programme 2017-18

Date of meeting	Item	Link to Council's Commissioning Plans	Details	Action/Outcome
Tues 13 June 2017	Introduction to S&SC SC	Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.	The Committee received a presentation which gave an overview of the remit of the Select Committee and highlighted some of the key issues going forward.	As a result of the presentation and subsequent discussion on developing the work programme Members requested the following items be included on their work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The West Midlands Peer Review of Adult Safeguarding • How to engage with hard to reach communities • Modern day slavery and domestic violence • CSE
Thurs 13 July 2017	Children's & Families System Transformation Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison/Helen Riley	Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.	The Transformation programme for Children and Family Services has previously been considered by this Select Committee on 8 June, 8 July & 12 December 2016.	Due to meeting timings and restrictions during the recent elections it had not been possible on this occasion for the Select Committee to undertake pre-decision scrutiny, with this report being included on the 21 June 2017 Cabinet agenda. Comments and/or concerns raised were therefore reported to the 19 August Transformation Programme Board, with these then helping inform future working.
	Children, Young People & Families Pilots Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison/Janene Cox	Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.	The Pilots support the work of the Transformation Programme and were last considered by this Committee on 16 January 2017.	Progress on the Pilots varied and Members requested that in their next 6 monthly report they receive details of which pilots will cease and how the success of the others will inform best practise across the County.
	Public Analyst & Scientific Services Laboratory Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Trish Caldwell [exempt item]	Well Run Council Making the most of our Assets, Managing Change Well, Transforming Ourselves, Innovation in ICT, Continued Modernisation of HR, Outcome Based Performance Management	To inform the Select Committee of a review carried out into the operation of the in-house Public Analyst and Scientific Services laboratory.	The Select Committee did not endorse the recommendations but asked the Cabinet Member for Communities to take their concerns to the 19 July Cabinet and ask for a deferment on the decision to close the service pending consideration of their concerns/alternative suggestions.

Mon 26 Sept 2017	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan and information regarding Revenge Porn & Sexting Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Mick Harrison	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.	The Committee has requested a six monthly update on this issue. The Chair of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Stoke City Council has been invited to attend this meeting and this arrangement is reciprocated.	
	Cabinet Response: Preventing Low Level Neglect of Children in Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities	The Committee received an initial response to the recommendations contained within its Working Group report on Low Level Neglect on 6 March 2017. It was agreed to follow up outstanding actions in 6 months' time.	
	Community Safety Agreement Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Mick Harrison	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities.	Select Committee response to the SCC Stronger Communities Strategy Group Draft Agreement and results of the Strategy Group's 13 September meeting.	
Thurs 9 Nov 2017	Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Cabinet Member: Alan White Independent Chair: John Wood	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities	This report is presented to the Select Committee on an annual basis.	
	West Midlands Peer Review of Adult Safeguarding Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Andrew Sharp	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities	This review took place in February 2017. Councillors Francis and Olszewski participated in this review. At the June meeting Members requested feedback on the review to a future meeting.	
	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Peter Hampton	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities.	At its meeting on 9 November 2016 Members were told that the anticipated backlog of referrals should be cleared by June/July 2017. The Committee should monitor and review this matter.	
Mon 11 Dec 2017	Customer Feedback & Complaints, Adult Social Care Annual Report 16/17	Well run Council	Adult's Services have a statutory obligation to submit an Annual Report on complaints and representations to the relevant County Council Committee.	

	<p>Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Kate Bullivant</p>			
	<p>Customer Feedback & Complaints, Children's Social Care Annual Report 16/17 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant</p>	<p>Well run Council</p>	<p>Children's Services have a statutory obligation to submit an Annual Report on complaints and representations to the relevant County Council Committee.</p>	
	<p>Domestic Abuse Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Mick Harrison</p>	<p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.</p>	<p>Select Committee Members requested an item on this issue at their meeting of 13 June.</p>	
	<p>Youth Offending service Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Vonni Gordon</p>	<p>Well run Council</p>	<p>Consideration of the YOS Review</p>	
<p>Mon 15 Jan 2018</p>	<p>Modern Slavery Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Mick Harrison and Becky Murphy</p>	<p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.</p>	<p>At the 12 December meeting Members requested a further report giving progress on the Task and Finish action plan following their January meeting. Following this meeting there was no significant developments to report and this item has therefore been deferred for consideration in the new municipal year.</p>	
	<p>Children, Young People & Families Pilots Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison & Janene Cox</p>	<p>Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.</p>	<p>The Pilots support the work of the Transformation Programme and were last considered by this Committee on 13 July 2017. Progress on the Pilots varied and Members have requested that this report give details of which pilots will cease and how the success of the others will inform best practise across the County</p>	
	<p>Children's & Families System Transformation Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison/Helen Riley</p>	<p>Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.</p>	<p>The Transformation programme for Children and Family Services has previously been considered by this Select Committee on 8 June, 8 July & 12 December 2016 & 13 July 2017.</p>	

Mon 5 March 2018				
tbc	Staffs Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2016/17 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Independent Chair: John Wood	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities	This report is presented to the Select Committee on an annual basis.	

Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2017-18

Date	Item	Link to Council's Commissioning Plans	Details	Action/Outcome
17 July, 10 August and 15 September 2017	Visit to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities	Select Committee Members requested a visit to the MASH to see first hand the multi agency partnership working and the rationale for creating this facility.	The main visit took place on 10 August jointly with members of the Corporate Parenting Panel, with those unable to make 10 August visiting separately.

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Working Group and/or Inquiry Days 2017-18

Date	Item	Link to Council's Commissioning Plans	Details	Action/Outcome
Monday 31 July 2017 9.30 – 11.00 am	Community Safety Agreement – shared priorities Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Mick Harrison	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities.	The SCC Stronger Communities Strategy Group (chaired by Gill Heath and including representation from District and Borough Councils) has produced a draft Community Safety Agreement Safe which sets out shared priorities. This will be agreed at their meeting of 13 September. The Select Committee will consider the Draft Agreement at an informal review session, reporting their findings to both the Strategy Group on 13 September and the Select Committee on 26 September.	Findings from the informal meeting were agreed by Members and forwarded to Becky Murphy, Safer Communities Commissioning Officer, to share at the 13 September Strategy Group meeting. Feedback from the Strategy Group meeting will be shared with the Select Committee at their meeting of 26 September.
tbc	How to engage hard to reach communities Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Mick Harrison	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.	Possible Review to identify hard to reach communities within Staffordshire and the most effective way of addressing the issues identified.	
tbc	Children's Centres – 3 years on Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the	Three years ago the Select Committee completed work to assess the role of the Children's Centre. Three years on the Select Committee will re-visit this work, visiting the Centres to assess the current	

	Officer: Mick Harrison	appropriate intervention at the right time.	situation in comparison with the findings of the original working group report.	
Monday 14 August	Local Business Case for Joint governance of Police and Fire & Rescue in Staffordshire PCC: Matthew Ellis	Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.	The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has produced a business case proposing the joint governance of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services in Staffordshire. The consultation ends at the beginning of September. This informal session will be an opportunity for the Select Committee to consider the business case in detail and formally respond to the consultation.	The Select Committee's informal workshop session was held jointly with the Corporate Review Committee and the Police and Crime Panel. The findings from this scrutiny will be formally reported to a special meeting of the County Council on 31 August where they will agree the County Council's formal response to the PCC's consultation.

Current & Related Work of Select Committees and/or All Party Member Groups 2017-18

Timescale	Area of Work	Link to Council's Commissioning Plans	Details	Action/Outcome

Local Members' Interest

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

26 September 2017

A review of children's services for children on the edge of care – Scoping Report

Recommendation

1. That the Select Committee considers this Scoping Report for a Scrutiny Review and agrees the Terms of Reference and arrangements for a review of children's services for children on the edge of care.

Report of Scrutiny and Support Manager

Summary

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

2. It has been proposed that the Committee consider undertaking a review to investigate why more children are entering care in Staffordshire, the impact that this has on the Council and the mechanisms in place to prevent children from coming into care – looked after children (LAC).

3. The cost of children coming into care places a significant and increasing financial burden on the Council at a time of significant financial challenge.

4. The Council has a number of mechanisms in place to prevent children coming into care. The Committee is asked to consider these and to make recommendations to the Cabinet Member on any improvements that could be made. To take this forward, the Select Committee is asked to consider and agree the Terms of Reference and arrangements for the review, as proposed in this report.

5. Members are asked to indicate if they wish to participate in this review.

Report

Background

6. In Staffordshire, the number of LAC was 1009 as at the end of June 2017, showing an increase of 34 over the year. In June 2017 there were 595 children subject of a Child Protection Plan, which has increased from 563 in May, but was down overall and below statistical neighbours' average. The number of Children in Need cases has increased slightly in June from 2914 to

2946, but is down overall and below statistical neighbours' average. The number of Early Help 'open' family cases has increased steadily over the same period.

7. The LAC rate in Staffordshire is stable at 58.9 per 10,000 of the 0-17 population at the end of June. This remains lower than the published West Midlands rate (74.7) at the end of December 2016, but we have seen an upward trend over the past few months.

8. However, the Head of Families First reported to the MTFs Working Group in 2016/17 that there was a projected overspend of £3.5m in the LAC budget. He reported that there were a significant number of initiatives in train to prevent those 'on the cusp of care' from coming into the system and various projects were showing positive outcomes (see paragraph 10).

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

Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Review

Scope

10. The purpose of this scrutiny review would be for Members to understand why children are entering care in Staffordshire. The following key factors have been identified:

- Behavioural problems
- Risks of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Gang Related involvement
- Substance/alcohol misuse of the child and or parents/carers
- Lack of full time educational placement (part time timetables, exclusions, SEN/PRU)
- Emotional/mental health issues- child -parent/carers
- Domestic violence
- Housing issues
- Financial hardship
- Risk of abuse: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse.

11. To understand what work is being done by the Council and partners to impact on the numbers entering care.

12. To consider the current mechanisms that the Council has in place to prevent children coming into care – referred to as children ‘on the cusp of care’ and to make recommendations.

13. The Council has the following schemes in place to prevent children coming into care and arrangements could be made for Members to learn more about these:-

- Intensive Prevention Service;
- Breathing Space;
- Short Breaks Unit,
- Intensive Family Support Service (Drugs and Alcohol project)

14. Members may wish initially to interview lead officers from the Independent Reviewing Officer Service (Caroline Dunn/Claire Cartwright); Accommodation Panel (Vonni Gordon), the Independent Placements Overview Panel (Deborah Ramsdale) and SSU County Managers to discuss the systems and processes that are in place before a child is admitted into care. Members are advised also to interview Sarah Rivers (Head of the Virtual School) to advice on the educational issues/needs of children entering the care system and Liz Kelay on the placement needs and costs of children entering care. The Cabinet Member is particularly keen for Members to be aware of the factors around children coming into care who were not previously known to the Council. Members may identify others that they wish to interview during the course of the review e.g. representatives of partner organisations and these arrangements will be made as required.

Review Arrangements

15. The Committee is advised to appoint a Working Group of Members to undertake this Scrutiny Review and to appoint a Chair to lead the review.

16. The Committee/Working Group will be provided with a strategic overview of the LAC Service at the beginning of the review.

17. Desk top research on mechanisms in place to prevent children coming into care in other local authority areas would be undertaken by the Scrutiny and Support officers.

18. Members of the Working Group will determine the information and evidence they require to address the Terms of Reference. It is recommended that Members undertake an Inquiry Day to which lead officers could be invited to present details of the services for which they are responsible. Members may wish to ask for details of anonymised case studies to assist them in understanding this matter. Members may wish to consider if they wish to invite any others to participate in this Inquiry Day. The Inquiry Day will be held in public.

Timing

19. With Members' agreement it is proposed that the Inquiry Day be held in October. This will enable a final report to be produced as part of Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Working Group considerations, if appropriate.

20. To expedite this matter, the draft scoping report has been shared with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and he is in agreement. The Working Group will be expected to produce a final report, containing any recommendations they may wish to make for submission to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and/or other body.

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

Intended Outcome

22. The aim would be to provide a draft report on the outcome of the Inquiry Day and research to be presented to the Committee 11 December 2017 and then to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for an Executive Response. The report would capture the findings from the background research and Inquiry Day and it is intended that this would be an objective assessment of the findings that could lead to further improvements in the service. The report would be prepared by the Scrutiny and Support Manager.

Key Objectives

23. The key objectives are:-

- To understand why children are coming into care in Staffordshire
- To understand how children coming into care is managed in Staffordshire, including current and anticipated future demand on the service, impact on children and families and financial impact;
- To examine the current mechanisms that the Council has in place to manage the numbers of children coming into care;
- To review what mechanisms there are to manage children coming into care in other local authorities;
- To learn about issues and challenges and how they are being managed;
- To identify if any improvements can be made to our current arrangements.

Lines of Enquiry

24. It is proposed that an initial meeting of the Working Group be set up in late September/early October and the Working Group decide what information they require, who they would like to invite to the proposed Inquiry Day and develop a questions they would like to ask invitees. This would not prevent additional questions being asked on the Day but would enable a report on common issues to be written.

Link to Strategic Plan

25. The County Council's Business Plan 2017-18 is based on seven commissioning priorities including Resilient Communities - "Build a joint approach to reducing demand for high cost services through addressing root cause", Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time" and "Ensure effective safeguarding for most vulnerable in our communities".

Link to other Scrutiny Activity

26. There has been no previous specific scrutiny on this area of work.

Community Impact

27. 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.

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Appendices/Background papers – none.

