

Local Members' Interest
N/A

**Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee –
Thursday 08 November 2018**

**Children and Young People who go Missing
from Home and Care in Staffordshire**

Recommendations

1. Members are recommended to receive this report to help understand how the County Council is working with key partners in respect of children and young people who go missing from home or care.

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

Summary

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

This report has been produced at the request of the Staffordshire's Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee with reference to children and young people who go missing from a variety of places including independent children's homes

The report will provide a transparent account of the work undertaken with Catch 22 who have been commissioned to provide this Statutory Duty on behalf of the Local Authority. It will identify proactive measures taken to reduce missing episodes and to protect children when they do going missing. It will identify areas of good practice and highlight key areas in need of further development and our plans in relation to these.

The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee is asked to read the information detailed in the report which provides them with a clear understanding of the statutory requirements and local commissioning arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who go missing from care and home. Members are invited to offer scrutiny of this activity.

Report

Background

1. Prior to September 2017, Children who go missing from home services were delivered by Staffordshire County Council (SCC), Families First and Brighter Futures. Whilst there was a high quality of practice in some areas this created inconsistency in model of service, quality, reporting methods and challenges for other partners across the sector, such as Police, Schools, Health and other providers.

2. In 2017 Catch 22 were commissioned to deliver Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Services across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, the link between missing children and CSE was highlighted by the Children's Commissioner's enquiry (2012) and further strengthened by recommendations outlined in the 2014 Statutory Guidance on Children who run away or go missing from home or care. The first year of operation has focussed on transitioning to the new delivery models, gathering a baseline of data, working with partners to ensure consistency and protecting and safeguarding children at risk.
3. For the purpose of this report analysis has been provided by both SCC and Catch 22; it reflects the current transition period.

Link to Strategic Plan – “Ensure Children and Families have a network of support to help manage their own problems and stay safe and well.”

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity – N/A

Community Impact – N/A

Contact Officer

Name and Job Title: Liz Mellor, Children's Commissioning Development Manager

Telephone No: 07870 179012

E-Mail Address: elizabeth.mellor2@staffordshire.gov.uk

List of Background Papers:

Appendix A - Full Report (Background Document)

Appendix B - <https://www.staffscb.org.uk/Professionals/Procedures/Section-Four/Section-4-Promoting-the-Welfare-Safety-of-Children-in-Specific-Circumstances.aspx>

Appendix C – Catch 22 – Quarter 4 and Annual Report (January-March 2018)

Appendix D - Catch 22 – Quarter 1 (April-June 2018)