

WORK PROGRAMME

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee 2018/19

This document sets out the work programme for the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for 2018/19.

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 2018-19

John Francis (Chairman)
Conor Wileman (Vice Chairman)
Ann Beech
Mike Davies
Syed Hussain
Trevor Johnson
Jason Jones
Natasha Pullen
Paul Snape
Mike Worthington

Calendar of Committee Meetings 2018-2019

23 April 2018 at 11.00 am	Special meeting with the PCC & Chief Constable
8 June 2018 at 10.00 am	
10 July 2018 at 10.00 am	
3 September 2018 at 10.00 am	
8 November 2018 at 10.00 am	
11 December 2018 at 10.00 am	
22 January 2019 at 2.00 pm	
4 March 2019 at 10.00 am	

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

Work Programme 2018-19

Date of meeting	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
Extra meeting 23 April NB meeting starts at 11.00 am	Safeguarding concerns over the Rise in Crime PCC – Matthew Ellis Chief Constable – Gareth Morgan	Following concerns raised at the 15 January Select Committee and discussions at the 10 January Triangulation meeting the Chairman requested all Members of the Council forward details of crime and safeguarding issues within their area with a view to this Select Committee meeting with the PCC and Chief Constable to address these safeguarding concerns.	The Chief Constable Gareth Morgan and the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis responded to the questions raised by member around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact services, including call handling, emergency 999 calls, 101 calls and incident resources; • overall crime performance, acquisitive crime, violence against the person, public order and drug related offences; • use of body cams; • police and PCSO visibility; • PCSO powers; • Mutual aid deployment; • Cross boarder crime; • Motorway policing; • Crewing of police vehicles; and • Local issues.
8 June 2018 10.00 am	Children's Centres 3 years on Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Mick Harrison	At the Select Committee meeting of 5 March 2018 it was agreed that the Children's Commissioning Officer should attend the June meeting to update Members on progress since the Children's Centres Working Group 4 years ago.	A working group will be set up to consider the current work of the Children's centres in comparison with the findings of the 2014 Select Committee Review and the impact of the significant changes made as a result of the 2014/15 Best Start in Life consultation.
	Inquiry Group Report on Elective Home Education	Following a referral from the Corporate Parenting Panel a review group set up conflated with members of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee. Its first meeting was held on 12 January where Members received a briefing from officers. Further meetings were held, including the inquiry session scheduled for 21 March. The final report and recommendations will be considered by the Select Committee in readiness for forwarding to the Cabinet Member for his executive response.	The Select Committee congratulated the Review Group on their report and endorsed both the report and its recommendations for submission to the Cabinet Member. As this had been a joint review submission would be after the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee had considered the report.
10 July 2018 10.00 am	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison	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.	The Select Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wish to be informed of the outcome of the October SSRGB meeting to which Wolverhampton City Council representatives have been invited; • will write to the LGA outlining their concerns over inconsistency of licensing authorities practices and protocols and to request best practice guidelines; • asked for clarification on the advise and guidance given to taxi drivers/passenger assistants with regard to first aid.

	Provision of “places of safety” under section 136 MHA. Cabinet Member – Alan White Lead Officer – Jo Sutherland	Following the Triangulation meeting of 10 January the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing asked the Select Committee to consider undertaking an overview of the current provision of places of safety. A few years ago there had been circumstances where prison cells were being used, which was agreed as inappropriate. A review to assess the current provision was requested.	The Select Committee were reassured in the work undertaken to ensure those detained under Section 136 of the MHA are taken to health based Places of Safety and never routinely retained in police custody. They requested that the Chairman write to the PCC on their behalf to allay his concerns on this matter.
3 September 2018 10.00 am	Customer Feedback & Complaints, Adult Social Care Annual Report 17/18 Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Kate Bullivant	Adult’s Services have a statutory obligation to submit an Annual Report on complaints and representations to the relevant County Council Committee.	Concerns with Care Director were shared. Members congratulated the Complaints Services Manager on her report.
	Customer Feedback & Complaints, Children’s Social Care Annual Report 17/18 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant	Children’s Services have a statutory obligation to submit an Annual Report on complaints and representations to the relevant County Council Committee.	Members were pleased to note the effective work with colleagues in Children’s Services which enabled any lessons learned to inform service developments.
	Edge of Care Inquiry Report of the Inquiry Group	To consider the final report of the Edge of Care Inquiry Group	The Select Committee endorsed the report and recommendations for submitting to the Cabinet Member for his executive response.
	Quarterly performance update against Safeguarding Indicators Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton & Alan White Lead Officer: Andrew Sharp	Requested at the 29 May Triangulation meeting – KPI data will enable scrutiny of a range of services and inform further work as appropriate.	Members requested a future report outlining progress with the developments in improving consistency of data recording, including the work undertaken both locally and regionally and the results of the audit on the underlying reasons for repeat referrals. They also requested three year comparative data on the safeguarding indicators, which will be circulated to Members after the meeting.
	CSE Learning from Reviews (previously taken to the 10 July meeting – exemption paragraph 7) Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Vonni Gordon	This had been taken as an exempt briefing note to the 10 July meeting but Members requested this be brought to their September meeting as an item for discussion with appropriate Officer/Cabinet Member.	Members noted the learning from these reviews.

8 November 2018 10.00am	Missing Children/MISPERS Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Mick Harrison & Deborah Ramsdale	Suggested at the 29 May Triangulation meeting. To look at missing children in the broader sense, not just CSE.	The Select Committee were pleased with the progress made at the end of the first year since the contract for missing children was awarded to catch 22. They requested a further report in 6 months time to consider how the transition work has developed.
	Trading Standards, Rogue Traders & Doorstep Crime Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Suggested at the 10 January & 29 May Triangulation meeting. Consider the safeguarding issues following the service review in 2018.	Members were pleased to note the work of Trading Standards from a safeguarding perspective and requested a further report in 12 months time to update them on the service provision.
	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Peter Hampton	Last considered at their meeting of November 2017 where Members noted the difficulties with the number of referrals and the need to prioritise assessments. They had concerns that this meant the Council was effectively in breach of the law, but within the resource available they accepted this as the only current solution. (Previously considered by this Select Committee in July & November 2017)	The Select Committee are aware of the backlog in DoLS assessments and the need to prioritise assessing only high priority cases with the limited resource available. They have shared their concerns, particularly in light of the Ombudsman case and asked the Cabinet to consider again the resource allocation and prioritisation of assessments.
	Update from the October SSRBG meeting Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Robert Simpson	At the Select Committee meeting of 10 July Members were informed that representatives of Wolverhampton City Council had been asked to attend the October Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Responsible Bodies Group to discuss their taxi licencing. They requested an update on the outcome of this meeting.	NB Deferred until January Select Committee as the October SSRBG was cancelled.
11 December 2018 10.00am	Care Homes Quality Assurance data Including the role of Healthwatch Cabinet Member: Alan White Lead Officer: Andrew Sharp	Suggested at the 29 May Triangulation. To consider the how our care homes are scrutinised and quality assured. Included in this is an understanding of the independent work of Healthwatch.	Members applauded the Quality Assurance Team for their systematic and thorough analysis of data and for the transparency of care quality information for Staffordshire residents.
	Children's & Families System Transformation including Independent Futures, Children Centres & 0-19 Family Support Contract	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 and 5 March 2018. Members request a report on the Transformation to include details of Independent Futures, the	Members received details of progress made with this process.

	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison/Helen Riley/Janene Cox	work of the Health Visitors and Children's Centres, considering the Family Support 0-19 contract from a Safeguarding perspective.	
	Elective Home Education Review 2017 – Executive Response to the Review Group Final Report Cabinet Members: Mark Sutton & Philip White	This Select Committee agreed the submission of the Review Group's final; report and recommendations to the Cabinet Members at their meeting of 8 June. This is the Cabinet Member's Executive Response to the report and its recommendations.	The Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability accepted most of the recommendation and gave deadlines for the actions to be taken. Whilst having sympathy for recommendation 3 he was unable to allocate further officer resource at this time.
	Edge of Care Inquiry Executive Response Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton	The final report and recommendations of the Edge of Care Inquiry was considered by the Select Committee at their 3 September meeting. The report and recommendations were agreed by the Select Committee and endorsed for submission to the cabinet Member for his Executive Response.	The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People agreed the recommendations made by the Inquiry group and gave deadlines for the actions to be taken.
	DoLs Briefing Cabinet Member: Alan White Lead Officer: Peter Hampton and Kate Loader	Under exemption paragraph 5 Members received a briefing from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing on DoLs	Members supported the Cabinet Member in his approach.
22 January 2019 2.00 pm	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison	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. (Last considered at 10 July Select Committee meeting). Also included in the report is feedback from the SSRBG's meeting with Wolverhampton City Council about their taxi licencing (originally scheduled for 8 November Select Committee meeting).	Members welcomed the progress outlined in the report. They requested that preparation for adulthood and "transition" from children's to adult services be included on their work programme and also asked to see the video clip "Like a cup of tea" which was a successful example of the use of social media to target safeguarding messages at those most vulnerable.
	Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board	This is reported to committee on an annual basis.	Members welcomed the report.

	Cabinet Member: Alan White Independent Chair: John Wood/Helen Jones		
	Staffs Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2016/17 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Independent Chair: John Wood/Kate Sharratt	This is reported to committee on an annual basis.	Members congratulated the Independent Chairman and Members of the SSCB on their Annual Report. Members asked that the paper giving proposed new arrangements from April 2019 for the SSCB be forwarded to them for information on the likely ways forward for the Board. They also intend to discuss the future scrutiny of the Board with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young people at the next Triangulation meeting. Members also asked for an outline of the current child protection figures with respect to the number of children placed on a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.
4 March 2019 10.00am	Domestic Homicide Reviews & emerging themes Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton and Alan White Officer: Mick Harrison/Julie Long	To consider possible themes emerging from an overview of these reviews and considering these from both an adult and children's safeguarding view point. (suggested at the 29 May Triangulation).	
	Children's Centre Visits Report from the Select Committee visits to Children's Centres	Four years ago the Select Committee completed work to assess the role of the Children's Centre. Four years on the Select Committee re-visited this work, visiting the Centres to assess the current situation in comparison with the findings of the original working group report.	
	Youth Offending Service Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Vonni Gordon & Hazel Williamson	Consideration of the YOS Review	
	Prevent Strategy Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Mick Harrison/ Becky Murphy	To consider and be updated on the work of the Prevent Strategy	

	Ante Natal Visits and the work of the Family Improvement Board Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody & Alex Birch	Requested by the Vice Chairman at the 11 December Select Committee. In particular to consider the East Staffs pilot.	
Awaiting the final report of the APMG	Stresses within mental health service Cabinet Member: Lead officer:	Suggested at the 29 May Triangulation. To ensure duplication is avoided this work will be postponed until the report of the Innovation APMG has been published.	
Tbc? 12 months after start of contract	Domestic Abuse Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Mick Harrison	Update on how the new contract is working.	
tbc	Adult Safeguarding Referrals – result of audit & developments Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Andrew Sharp	As part of their scrutiny of the Quarterly Performance data for adult safeguarding (at their 3 September meeting) the Select Committee requested a report on developments in improving consistency of recording, including the work undertaken both locally and regionally and the results of the audit on the underlying reasons for repeat referrals.	
tbc	Vulnerable Adolescents Focused Visit Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Tony McGregor	To update Members on progress with implementation of the Focused Visit Action Plan on the LA Arrangements for the Protection of Vulnerable Adolescents.	
Post March 2019	Mental Health North – Transfer Cabinet Member: Alan White Lead Officer: Jon Soros	To consider the safeguarding implications of the Mental Health North transfer.	
Tbc – possibly May 2019	Missing Children/MISPERS Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Mick Harrison & Liz Mellor	At their 8 November 2018 meeting Members requested a report in 6 months time to consider how the transition work has developed with Catch 22 delivering the Missing Children Services contract.	
tbc	Trading Standards, Rogue Traders & Doorstep Crime Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Trish	At their 8 November meeting Members requested a further report in 12 months to update them on the work of the service.	

	Caldwell		
December 2019	Early Help Family Support Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Barbara Hine	At their meeting 11 December Members asked for details of progress made with early help and family support in 12 months to update them on progress made.	
tbc	Health Visiting & Community Midwifery Contracts (0-19 contract) Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Mick Harrison/Tilly Flanagan	Suggested at the 11 December meeting – this is an issue currently within the remit of the Health Scrutiny Committee	
tbc	Children's Mental Health Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Vonni Gordon/Danny Mulligan	Suggested at the 11 December meeting – this has recently been part of an APMG	
tbc	Alternative Education eg PRUs Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officer	Suggested at the 11 December meeting – this is an issue currently within the remit of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee	
tbc	Transition & Preparation for Adulthood Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Vonni Gordon	At their 22 January 2019 meeting Members requested this issue be included on their work programme – with consideration to be given to whether this should be considered by a working group. In particular they wanted to look at the transition between children's and adult services, the gaps, those that remained vulnerable but under the Care Act did not meet the criteria to receive adult services and how to prepare individual's to be resilient and prepare for as independent an adulthood as possible.	
tbc	Ofsted Children's Services focused visit Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen	Requested at the 22 January Select Committee meeting.	

	Riley		
tbc	SEND inspection Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:	Requested at the 22 January Select Committee meeting.	
tbc	Care Packages and Communication Cabinet Member: Lead Officer:	Requested at the 22 January meeting. Members wished to consider care packages and the speed at which they are put in place as well as any barriers in communication between the north and south of the county.	

Standing Items 2018-19

Item	Details	Action/Outcome
Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Richard Hancock	Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Select Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review	
MTFS Reforms and assessing the “no impact claims”	<p>Suggested at the 29 May Triangulation meeting. To scrutinise those areas of the MTFS that promise “no impact” from the changes made to assess if this was accurate and/or whether the identified mitigating action has been effective.</p> <p>This is routinely scrutinised by Corporate Review, with that Select Committee referring to the appropriate Select Committee for further scrutiny as and when necessary.</p>	

Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2018-19

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
22 August 2018	Direct Payments Cabinet Member: Alan White Lead Officer: Andrew Jepps	Following the 15 January consideration of Home Care Members requested an item on Direct Payments to clarify how the system worked. The Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed that this should be dealt with via a briefing note in the first instance.	The Briefing note was emailed to Select Committee Members on 22 August 2018.
22 August 2018	Post 18 Transition Services Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Andrew	At the 10 July Select Committee Members requested a briefing note on this issue.	The Briefing note was emailed to Select Committee Members on 22 August 2018.

	Sharp & Clare Owen		
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Working Group and/or Inquiry Days 2018-19			
Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
Inquiry Day 30 January 2018 + follow-on meetings on 12 February 13 March	Preventing Children coming into Care- now called “Edge of Care” Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Richard Hancock	This item was initially proposed by the Commissioner for Community Safety, Children and Families. The Chairman has met with the Head of Families First and a scoping report has been prepared for Members’ consideration.	The 30 January Inquiry has been held. A further Member meeting on 12 February identified a range of further information they required. This detail will be presented by Officers at the 13 March meeting. The final report was agreed by the Select Committee at the 3 September meeting and has been forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People for his executive response.
June and July 2018	Children’s Centres – 4 years on Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison	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 situation in comparison with the findings of the original working group report.	At the Select Committee meeting of 26 November Members agreed to a request that this review be put back until the current significant changes within Children’s Centres were completed. At the 8 June Select Committee Members agreed to set up this working group, with Members visiting the Centres before the end of the 2018 summer term.
12 January 31 January 21 March Reporting to 8 June 2018 Select Committee	Elective Home Education	Referral from Corporate Parenting Panel – August 2017 (NB – also referred to Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee)	A review group has been set up jointly with members of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee. Its first meeting was held on 12 January where Members received a briefing from officers. A planning meeting was held on 31 January with the inquiry session on 21 March. The Inquiry Group then compiled their report and recommendations which were submitted to the 8 June Select Committee for their comment and/or endorsement. Both this Select Committee and the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee endorsed the report and recommendations. The report was therefore sent to the Cabinet Member for his executive response.

Current & Related Work of Select Committees and/or All Party Member Groups 2018-19			
Timescale	Area of Work	Details	Action/Outcome
30 May 2018 Special joint meeting	All Age Disability Strategy Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Martyn Baggaley	The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee has the All Age Disability Strategy on their work programme with the original intention that this issue would be considered by them and their findings shared. However it has now been agreed that this will be considered at a special joint meeting between Healthy Staffordshire, Prosperous Staffordshire and the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committees on 30 May 2018.	Detailed scrutiny took place at the joint meeting with the thoughts, questions, concerns and comments of members at the Meeting being taken into consideration by the authors and Cabinet Members in the preparation of the final version of the Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023 Consideration is being given to whether a further joint meeting is needed
September 2017 - June	Children’s mental health & wellbeing	Innovation APMG: Terms of Reference ‘how to promote children’s emotional and mental wellbeing	The final report of this APMG is due to be considered by Corporate Review in June 2018.

2018	<p>Cabinet Member: Alan White Officers: Tilly Flannigan & Divya Patel</p> <p>APMG Membership Keith Flunder (Chair) Johnny McMahon Bernard Peters Ron Clarke Bryan Jones Ann Edgeller</p>	to reduce referrals to specialist services across SCC and other partners, by intervening earlier to ensure better long-term outcomes'	The final report was considered by Corporate Review at its meeting of 3 September.
August 2017 – February 2018	<p>Increasing S3 Capacity Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officers: Angela Schulp & Adam Rooney</p> <p>APMG Membership Mike Davies (Chair) David Smith Kyle Robinson Maureen Compton Julia Jessel</p>	Community APMG: How do we increase the capacity and utilise the services of S3 to deliver 'People helping people' and reduce the involvement of SCC	The final report of the APMG was considered by Corporate Review on 19 February 2018.