

WORK PROGRAMME

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee 2019/20

This document sets out the work programme for the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for 2019/20.

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 Mandy Pattinson, Scrutiny and Support Manager on 01785 278502 or by emailing mandy.pattinson@staffordshire.gov.uk

Membership – County Councillors 2019-20

John Francis (Chairman)
Bob Spencer (Vice Chairman)
Ann Beech
Ron Clarke
Ann Edgeller
Trevor Johnson
Jason Jones
Paul Snape
Victoria Wilson
Mike Worthington

Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2019-2020

28 May 2019 at 10.00 am

23 July 2019 at 10.00 am

1 October 2019 at 10.00 am

7 November 2019 at 10.00 am

13 January 2020 at 10.00 am

2 March 2020 at 10.00 am

23 April 2020 at 10.00 am

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

Work Programme 2019-20

| Date of meeting | Item | Details | Action/Outcome |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| 28 May 2019 10.00 am | Missing Children 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. | Members requested the opportunity to see first hand the work that Catch 22 are commissioned to do and their internal audit systems. |
| | Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley | Requested at the 22 January Select Committee meeting. Presentation on the outcome of the inspection. | Members noted the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection and the focused visit. They considered the progress made on the Children and Families Improvement Plan which encompassed recommendations made from both visits. |
| | Children's Improvement Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley | The Improvement Plan is an outcome from the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care Services (4.2.19-8.2.19) and the Focussed Visit to Staffordshire County Council Children's Services (protection of vulnerable adults) 26 6.18 and 27.6.18). | |
| | SSCB New Arrangements Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley | Presentation on the new arrangements from 1 April 2019. | |
| | Work Programme Planning | The Select Committee will receive their work programme 2018-2019 which shows the work completed, outcomes and outstanding items. They will also receive a draft of their 2019-2020 work programme and plan their work going forward. | A number of new items were suggested by members and will be included on the Work programme. Members also agreed the proposed referrals to other committees as set out in the report. |
| 23 July 2019 10.00 am | Contextual Safeguarding Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Vonni Gordon/ Hazel Williamson | Presentation to inform Members of the broadening safeguarding emphasis. | Members welcomed the draft policy and requested a summary of the annual audit under Section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002 be brought to their Committee. The continued concerns of the Select Committee around EHE and the need for a statutory registration scheme be forwarded to the Minister of State for Education. (Letter send to Gavin Williamson MP 29.7.19) |
| | Safeguarding in Education Policy Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton/Philip White Lead Officer: Vonni Gordon/Clive Cartman- | Suggested at the 11 December meeting – this is an issue currently within the remit of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee, however a Safeguarding in Education Policy is being developed that looks at the range of issues, including those raised by Members around part | Members agreed to help support awareness raising of the issues around contextual safeguarding, particularly around the interface with the District and Borough Councils. |

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| | Frost | time education. | |
| 1 October 2019 10.00 am | Domestic Abuse Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell | Update on how the new contract is working. | Details of New Era projects would be circulated after the meeting along with clarification over whether the perpetrator programmes were Cafcass approved Members requested a six monthly update to enable them to consider progress made with the newly commissioned service |
| | Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2018-19 – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Kate Bullivant | Reports brought annually. | Members noted the difficulty in meeting prescribed timescales for completing complaints and that the most common reason for complaints was poor communication. They were pleased to note that learning from complaint investigations informed practise going forward. They noted the increase in complaints around SEND. |
| | Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2018-19 – Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant | Reports brought annually. | Members noted the number and type of complaints. In particular they noted work undertaken with finance colleagues to avoid silo working and reduce complaints. They note that the LGSCO have produced an annual report which would enable Staffordshire’s complaints to be seen in context and have requested this be shared with them. |
| 7 November 2019 10.00 am | 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. Consider quality of family support, third sector services, BRFC and use of earned autonomy fund. | |
| | Children’s Transformation Part 2 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley | NB Members of the SEND Working group will be invited to join the Select Committee for this item. | |
| | Regional Permanency Partnership Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale & Jo Sullivan | SCC, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Shropshire County Council and Telford and Wrekin Council are developing a regional model for wider permanence which includes fostering, connected persons and special guardianship orders. | |
| 13 January 2020 10.00 am | Trading Standards, Rogue Traders & Doorstep Crime Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell | At their 8 November meeting Members requested a further report in 12 months to update them on the work of the service. | |
| | Adult Safeguarding Referrals – result of | As part of their scrutiny of the Quarterly Performance data for adult safeguarding (at their | |

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| | audit & developments Cabinet Member: Alan White Lead Officer: Jo Sutherland | 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. | |
| 23 April 2020 10.00 am | Domestic Abuse Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell | At their meeting of 1 October 2019 Members requested a six monthly update on progress made with the newly commissioned New Era services | |
| | Catch 22 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: | Having met with members of the Catch 22 team the Vice Chairman and Members updated the select Committee on their work at their 1 October meeting. Members requested an update from Catch 22 in six month time | |
| tbc | Contextual Safeguarding Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Mick Harrison | Process around this and how it works with the MASH | |
| tbc | Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley | Requested at their 28 May meeting – Members wish to see progress made with the Plan following their consideration at the May meeting. | |
| tbc | LGSCO Annual Report Cabinet Member: Alan White Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant | At their October meeting Members heard that the LGSCO had produced an annual report which would help to give context to the Staffordshire Ombudsman complaints and requested this be brought to a future meeting. | |

Standing Items 2019-20

| Item | Details | Action/Outcome |
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| Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: | Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Select Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review | Some areas picked up by the DHR review process |
| MTFS Reforms and assessing the “no impact claims” | 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 | |

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| | <p>was accurate and/or whether the identified mitigating action has been effective.</p> <p>This is routinely scrutinised by Corporate Review, with that Committee referring specific issues to the appropriate Select Committee for further scrutiny as and when necessary.</p> | |
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Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2019-20

| Date | Item | Details | Action/Outcome |
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| 17 September | Catch 22 | At their meeting of 28 May Members requested the opportunity to visit Catch 22 and see first hand the work they do and their internal audit systems. | |
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Working Group and/or Inquiry Days 2019-20

| Date | Item | Details | Action/Outcome |
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| | <p>Transition & Preparation for Adulthood Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Deborah Ramsdale is working on adults transition, including transition clinics. TSU have undertaken a piece of work in this area. A Peer Review on Adults is due in October 2019. Proposed to stall working on this until post the Peer Review.</p> <p>A protocol has now been agreed and will be implemented in November 2019. It is proposed that the Committee scrutinise the impact and outcomes of this protocol at a time to be agreed at triangulation meeting on 7 November.</p> |