

Local Members Interest
N/A

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 16 February 2023

Working Group and/or Inquiry Day suggested activity

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- a. Suggest and consider possible areas for working group and/or inquiry day activity, to form part of their overview and scrutiny work in the next municipal year.

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Officer

1. Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the flexibility to undertake working group and/or inquiry day activity outside of their calendared committee meetings. During the year a range of queries and areas for further scrutiny have been raised by the Committee and Members may also have additional suggestions they wish to highlight at the meeting. This is an opportunity for Members to raise and consider a range of issues, deciding whether there is further scrutiny work to be undertaken in the new municipal year and the most appropriate way this work could be carried out.

Report

Background

2. The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has seven calendared meetings in each municipal year. It also has the ability to undertake work outside of the scheduled meetings as appropriate. This can be in the form of briefings, external visits, inquiry days, spotlight reviews or working groups.
3. Any additional work needs to add value. To achieve this each piece of work needs to have clearly defined aims and terms of reference as well as an agreed time schedule.

Summary

4. Over the past year the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has identified the following areas for further scrutiny:
 - a) Introduction of the District Hub model and its impact (particularly noted in connection with the expectation that this new model would result in a decrease in SEND complaints) (considered at the 19 July meeting)
 - b) Early Help, and the implementation of the Strategy (considered at 1 September meeting) alongside partnership approaches to Early Help and emotional and behavioural support (raised at the 5 January 2023 meeting) (NB it has been proposed that Early Help should be considered as part of the wider Family Hub model)
 - c) Family Hub (considered at 1 September meeting and scheduled to come to the November meeting in 2023)
 - d) Children's Transformation (considered at 1 September meeting) (it has been agreed that the Committee will receive 4 monthly updates on progress with this implementation, 3 of these to be briefings only and the fourth to be a full progress report)
 - e) On-line safety, abuse and grooming (raised at the 5 January 2023 meeting)
 - f) Safeguarding concerns of children permanently excluded from school (requested at the 24 November meeting with a report being brought to the 20 April 2023 meeting)
 - g) separation of the MASH (raised at the 5 January 2023 meeting)
 - h) work of the SSCB Child Exploitation Sub-group (raised at the 5 January 2023 meeting)
 - i) the progress with the PEEL inspection action plan (this is being considered by the PFCP at a special meeting on 21 February. The Chairman has been invited to attend that meeting. It is anticipated that the Commissioner will attend a Safeguarding O&S meeting later in the year to discuss a range of areas raised by the Committee around the action plan)
 - j) MacAlister Report (considered at the 1 September meeting and included on the new work programme, with the meeting date dependent on confirmation from Central Government of the report proposals they intend to implement)

5. Members may have other topics and/or areas of concern to be considered for additional overview and scrutiny work.

Next Steps

6. Any agreed areas for further overview and scrutiny activity should be agreed amongst the Committee, with consideration to what added value

any proposed work would have. Where a number of pieces of additional work are proposed, Members are asked to prioritise these.

7. Once this work has been agreed and prioritised, the preparation work will be undertaken by the Scrutiny and Support Officer, with a view to this being part of the first meeting of the new municipal year.

Link to the Strategic Plan

8. Offer every Staffordshire child and young person the best start in life, and the chance to achieve their potential; and
9. Encourage good health and wellbeing, resilience and independence.

Implications

10. The equalities and legal; resource and value for money; and risk implications will depend on the future work agreed by the Committee.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-2023

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