

WORK PROGRAMME

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2022/2023

This document sets out the work programme for the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022/2023.

The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny 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 Bob Spencer

Chairman of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

If you would like to know more about our Work Programme or how to raise issues for potential inclusion on a Work Programme, then please contact Helen Phillips, Scrutiny and Support Officer (helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
16 June 2022 10.00am	Community Safety & the Outcome of the Fishmonger Hall Investigation Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Findings from the Fishmonger Hall incident showed there had been inadequate management of Usman Khan. Members want to satisfy themselves that changes have been made to prevent further such incidents. This also impacts on the Committee's role as the designated crime and disorder panel.	The PFCC (the Commissioner) has arranged a meeting with colleagues and partners to discuss learning from the Inquiry on 28 June 2022. The Chairman has been invited as the O&S Committee's representative. Consequently the report has been put back to allow outcomes from the 28 June to further inform Members scrutiny.
	Low Level Neglect Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting to look at impact of long-term low-level neglect, the current changes to ways of working and challenges that remain.	The Committee were reassured at the work undertaken following the 2019 Serious Case Review in identifying the early signs of neglect. They were pleased to see the introduction of the GCP2 tool and the manner in which this has been introduced, noting the further work needed to measure the gains from its use.
	Work programme Planning Lead Officer: Helen Phillips	Within the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, begin planning the work programme for 2022-23.	The proposed amendments and additions suggested at the 23 may informal work programme planning meeting were agreed
19 July 2022 10.00 am	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Children's Social Care	Report brought annually	The Committee congratulated Officers on the report, noting the expectation that once the District Hub model was embedded

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	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant		complaints around SEND were likely to level off.
	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant	Report brought annually	Members welcomed the report and, in particular, commended the proactive work to identify and address future challenges from the new Social Care Act.
	Draft Early Help Strategy Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody	Draft Early Help Strategy for pre-decision scrutiny	The comments and concerns raised by the Committee inform the further development of the Early Help Strategy.
1 September 2022 10.00 am	Family Hub Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Ruth Blunn-Jennings	Pre-decision scrutiny	This initiative was supported and because of the importance of the proposed changes Members suggested a whole council briefing would be beneficial.
	Children’s Services Transformation Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja/Natasha Moody	The new Children’s Transformation went live on 1 October 2021. More than six months on this is an opportunity for Members to seek reassurance that it is delivering as intended, including on SEND.	The candid assessment and feedback of the Transformation process was welcomed. A mechanism for regular feedback on the action plan progress will be established, with a full review in 12 months.

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	<p>MacAlister Report Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta</p>	<p>Suggested at 17 June meeting – looking at the report’s proposals and how they impact on Staffordshire’s Children’s Services November date for this suggested at 3 Aug Triangulation Originally scheduled for 4 November meeting but moved back awaiting publication of the final report. Final report published on 23 May 2022</p>	<p>The Committee were pleased that much of the direction of travel proposed in the Report was reflected in the Staffordshire approach. Members now await details from central Government on the areas for implementation.</p>
	<p>Ofsted Focused Visit – improvement action plan Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta</p>	<p>The Chairman attends the Children’s Improvement Board (CIB) meetings on behalf of the Committee. At the June CIB details of the Ofsted Focused Visit were discussed, including the development of an improvement action plan. The Chairman requested this plan be brought to the O&S Committee.</p>	<p>Members welcomed the improvement action plan and will look to receive details of progress with its implementation.</p>
	<p>Domestic Abuse recommissioning arrangements Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell</p>	<p>Pre-decision scrutiny item</p>	<p>The Committee raised a number of issues for Cabinet to consider before taking a decision on the Contract renewal.</p>

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
24 October 2022 10.00 am	Community Safety & the Outcome of the Fishmonger Hall Investigation Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Findings from the Fishmonger Hall incident showed there had been inadequate management of the assailant. Members want to satisfy themselves that changes have been made to prevent further such incidents. This also impacts on the Committee's role as the designated crime and disorder panel. This will include outcomes from the Commissioner's 28 June meeting considering Inquiry findings.	Concerns were shared around the naming of the assailant and his heritage in the report. These details will be removed from future reporting. The detailed changes made within Police, CTU and Probation were welcomed.
	The LAs role in the Prevent Partnership & Feedback from the Commissioner's 28 June meeting Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	As part of their Crime and Disorder role the Committee wish to scrutinise the methods the LA has in addressing community safety. They also requested feedback from the Commissioner's meeting with partners around learning from the Fishmonger Hall inquest.	Overall Members recognised the importance of the Prevent work and the LA's role in this. Concerns remain around internet access, particularly outside of education settings, and how to educate individuals to ensure they can stay safe whilst using these services.
24 Nov 2022 10.00 am	Regional Permanency Partnership Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Scott Crawford & Jo Sullivan	Previously considered at 6 July 2021 O&S Committee where Members requested details of how the partnership progresses and specifically the two pilot projects TESSA and Mockingbird.	Members welcomed the progress made and congratulated Officers for the work done.

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	<p>Young Carers Report of the O&S sub-group</p>	<p>Report of the O&S sub-group that met with young carers to consider the support they receive and the levels of care they provide</p>	<p>All recommendations to be action. The Committee agreed that the Chairman would discuss with the Cabinet Member for Education ways in which the profile of the Young Carers Service can be raised in schools and how to extend the Member advocate initiative.</p>
<p>5 January 2023 10.00am</p>	<p>Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) – Annual Report Independent Chair: John Wood Lead Officer: Helen Jones</p>	<p>Report brought annually.</p>	<p>The Committee want to be part of the hidden abuse awareness training. They requested consideration of how more sophisticated data analysis could be used within the report. This will be included on the SSASPB's next Quality Assurance agenda. Having concern at how online abuse could be highlighted in future Annual Reports, this issue will be taken back to the SSASPB's next Audit and Assurance meeting.</p>
	<p>Adult Social Care Transformation – update Cabinet Member – Julia Jessel</p>	<p>Suggested at the 1 September Triangulation to update the Committee on developments and progress with the Transformation programme, including performance against KPI.</p>	<p>The Committee welcomed progress on the Adult Safeguarding Transformation Project, including details of Key Performance Indicators.</p>

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Lead Officer: Jo Cowcher, Ruth Martin		The Chairman to write to Sandwell Council, as lead commissioner for the West Midlands Ambulance Service, advising them of the Committee's concerns at the burden inappropriate Section 42 referrals places on the adult safeguarding system
	<p>Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report Independent Chair: Ian Vinall Lead Officer: Lynn Milligan</p>	Report brought annually	<p>The Chair of the Child Exploitation Task Group attend a future Safeguarding O&S meeting with the Independent SSCB Chairman to consider progress in tackling the issues raised.</p> <p>Further detail is shared with the Committee on work to tackle safeguarding concerns of teenage pregnancy.</p> <p>The SSCB Independent Chairman take back to the Board the Committees concerns and suggestions around online abuse and the 5 Rights campaign, updating the Committee on progress.</p>

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
16 Feb 2023 10.00 am	Children's Transformation - briefing Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja/Natasha Moody	At the Triangulation meeting of 1 September 2022 it was agreed that the Committee receive a progress briefing approximately every 4 months, with a full progress report at 12 months (September 2023)	The progress briefing was accepted, with qualms around the increase in the number of looked after children rationalised in light of the impact of the large increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people.
	Sexual Harassment in Education – Executive Response Cabinet Members: Mark Sutton & Jonathan Price	Cabinet Member's response to the Spotlight Review Recommendations	Recommendations accepted, with implementation action and deadlines shown. Recommendation 1 – further discussions to take place with the Cabinet Members towards drafting the joint letter to the Secretary of State in respect of the Online Safety Bill.
	Possible working group/inquiry day activity	O&S Members to consider possible areas for working group and/or inquiry day topics to form part of work programme planning moving into the new municipal year.	Two areas of work were highlighted for potential inquiry day/working group activity, dependent on the outcome of existing programme work as shown– <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safeguarding of permanently excluded pupils (initial report scheduled for 20 April) • action plan progress from the PEEL inspection report (dependent on the outcome of the Chairman's

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			attendance of the PFCP meeting considering this issue on 21 February)
20 April 2023 10.00 am	<p>Safeguarding of Permanently Excluded Pupils Cabinet Members: Mark Sutton & Jonathan Price Lead Officer: Tim Moss & Karl Hobson</p>	Looking at the safeguarding issues of those pupils who have been permanently excluded from school. Particularly in connection with the high level of exclusions in Staffordshire. Suggested by the Chairman at the 24 November O&S meeting and agreed for the April meeting at the 7 December Triangulation meeting.	
	<p>DoLs Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Pete Hampson</p>	Suggested at the 7 December Triangulation	
June 2023	<p>Whole Life Disabilities Strategy 2023 Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Andy Marriot & Nicola Day</p>	Pre-decision scrutiny [moved to new municipal year]	
tbc	<p>Early Intervention & prevention Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton</p>	Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting.	

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja		
tbc	Placement Sufficiency Strategy Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody	Suggested at the Triangulation meeting of 7 December. Proposed for 20 April meeting but now going to Informal Cabinet	
tbc	Governance Model Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja	Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting. Considering how to work better together. Trying to develop a better and more effective governance model.	

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2022/2023

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting

Standing Items 2022/2023

Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Crime & Disorder Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell	This O&S Committee is the LAS designated Crime and Disorder Panel. Following discussions with the Chairman and Officers from the PFCC and the	Chairman and Vice-Chairman briefings on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 19 May (at the conclusion of Full Council) to brief

Standing Items 2022/2023

Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	<p>Cabinet Member and Officers responsible for community safety, it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairmen will meet with the Cabinet Member and Officers after each Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (SSCSG) to gain an overview of community safety within the County and identify areas for further scrutiny as appropriate.</p>	<p>on performance discussed at the 18 May 2022 SSCSG NB the May SSCSG was moved to 16 June and consequently the briefing was moved to 20 June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 13 September to brief on performance discussed at the 12 September 2022 SSCSG • Wednesday 1 March to brief on SSCSG of 13 February
<p>Children Improvement Board (CIB) Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja</p>	<p>The Chairman attends the CIB on behalf of the O&S Committee and feeds back developments to Members at each meeting as part of the work programme agenda item. CIB scheduled dates: 28.04.22; 25.05.22; 30.06.22; 20.07.22; 25.08.22; 29.09.22; 27.10.22; 24.11.22; 22.12.22</p>	<p>Concerns shared around safeguarding of children permanently excluded from schools included on the CIB in November 2022 was raised by the Chairman at their November O&S meeting and included on the work programme for 20 April 2023.</p>
<p>Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja</p>	<p>Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review</p>	<p>Some areas picked up by the DHR review process</p>

Briefing Notes / Updates / Visits 2022/2023

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome

Working Groups / Inquiry Days 2022/2023

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
21 September 2022	Young Carer Visits	Following scrutiny of the Young Carers Service in April, Members requested the opportunity to speak first hand with young carers to consider the service they receive.	Findings reported back to the Committee at their November 2022 meeting. All recommendations agreed and actioned. The Chairman agreed to discuss with the Cabinet Member for Education ways in which the profile of the Young Carers Service can be raised in schools and how to extend the Member advocate initiative.

Membership – County Councillors 2022-2023

Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2022-2023

Bob Spencer (Chairman)
Gill Burnett (Vice Chairman - Overview)
Paul Snape (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny)
Janet England
Derrick Huckfield
Johnny McMahon
Gillian Pardesi
Kath Perry
Mike Wilcox
Conor Wileman

16 June 2022 at 10.00 am

19 July 2022 at 10.00 am

1 September 2022 at 10.00 am

24 October 2022 at 10.00 am

24 November 2022 at 10.00 am

5 January 2023 at 10.00 am

16 February 2023 at 10.00 am

20 April 2023 at 10.00 am

Meetings usually take place in the Oak rm, County Buildings