

WORK PROGRAMME

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2023/2024

This document sets out the work programme for the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023/2024.

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 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
15 June 2023 10.00am	<p>'Living my Best Life': Report on the Joint Strategy for Disabled and Neurodivergent people in Staffordshire 2023-2028</p> <p>Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Andy Marriot & Nicola Day</p>	Pre-decision scrutiny – postponed from last municipal year	<p>The Committee supported the Strategy and look forward to seeing the action plan that will give more detail on how the vision and strategy will be implemented and how success will be measured.</p> <p>A decision on the Strategy adoption will be taken at the 19 July Cabinet meeting.</p>
	<p>Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Focus for the Future</p> <p>Cabinet Members: Julia Jessel, Mark Sutton, Jonathan Price, Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Richard Harling, Neelam Bardwaja, Catherine Mann</p>	Cabinet Members and Lead Officers highlight topics within their portfolio to support the Committee's work programme planning	Due to time restraints the Committee deferred hearing from the Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture. An extra informal meeting has been arranged for 10 July where this detail will be covered. Members will then use the combined information from 15 June and 10 July meetings to inform their work programme planning.
	<p>Work programme Planning</p> <p>Lead Officer: Helen Phillips</p>	Within the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, begin planning the work programme for 2023-24.	
27 July 2023 10.00 am	<p>Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Children's Social Care</p>	Report brought annually	The Annual Report was welcomed.

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant		
	Customer Feedback & Complaints Annual report – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant	Report brought annually	The Annual Report was welcomed. Members asked for their thanks to be passed to all Teams for their diligence, professionalism and commitment, and particularly to those responsible for receiving the 68 compliments shown within the report. The Committee made a referral to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny asking them to consider the impact of changes to the financial assessment accessibility and method of charging six months from implementation.
	PSHE Coordinator impact after first 12 months Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officer: Phil Pusey	The Inquiry Day report into Sexual Harassment in Schools asked that the O&S Committee consider the impact of the new PFCC funded PSHE Coordinator role after its first 12 months.	The impact of the PSHE Coordinator role after its first year was welcomed and Officers were congratulated for the impressive work completed.

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
14 September 2023 10.00 am	Impact of Cabinet Investment on Children's Services Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Considering the impact of the Cabinet's extra investment into Children's Services, looking at specific elements of investment and the differences made.	The Chairman congratulated the Cabinet Member and Officers on the improvements made through the effective targeted use of the Cabinet investment to date.
	The Children in Care Programme Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Item requested by Members during their June/July work programme planning.	Developments through the Children in Care programme were welcomed and supported by the Committee.
24 October 2023 12.30pm Extra meeting	Early Years Strategy Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Gibson	Item of pre-decision scrutiny.	
24 October 2023 2.00pm Extra informal meeting with the PFCC	Meeting with the Staffordshire PFCC	To discuss with the Commissioner: the changes made in response to the PEEL findings and the impact of changes to date; the neighbourhood safety delivery process to enable Members to better understand and reassure their communities; and, the Humberside pilot project "Right Care Right Person", whether Staffordshire is following this	

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
		method of working with those who have mental health concerns and the potential impact of this.	
23 Nov 2023 10.00 am	Placement Sufficiency Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody	Considering work to increase the number of children living locally, eliminate the use of unregulated placements, reduce placement breakdown and improve the quality of the care experience. This will also include the work to accommodate the increasingly complex needs of children post covid.	
	The work of the Family Improvement Boards Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody	Item requested by Members during their June/July work programme planning.	
	Trading Standards Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell	Scrutinising the work of Trading Standards in enforcing more than 250 pieces of legislation and its role in maintaining a safe and sustainable marketplace.	

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	<p>Vaping Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p>	<p>SCCs approach to dealing with vaping non-compliance, the unsafe nature of these products which are marketed at children and young people.</p>	
<p>4 January 2024 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>Staffordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report Independent Chair: Ian Vinall Lead Officer: Lynn Milligan</p>	<p>Report brought annually</p>	
	<p>MASH Review and adoption of a Staffordshire Children’s Front Door Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Clive Cartman-Frost</p>		

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
15 Feb 2024 10.00 am	Adult Safeguarding early response Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher	Considering work towards earlier responses to adult safeguarding to help reduce the number of section 42 referrals.	
	Adult Social care Assurance Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher	Adult Social care Assurance and the introduction of Adult Social care inspections from October 2023, considering how Staffordshire would respond to an inspection.	
	The Community Safety Agreement, performance and impact Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell	Looking at the Community safety Agreement, considering its performance and impact.	
18 April 2024 10.00 am	Domestic Abuse Contract – 6 months in Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell	Considering the new contract 6 months in, looking particularly at the new refuge and sanctuary duties and how these are implemented in Staffordshire.	
	Adult Vulnerability Hubs Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher	Looking at the development of adult vulnerability hubs, their intended outcomes and timescales to achieve these.	

Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Adult Safeguarding Assessment Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher		
	Hearing the voice of the child Cabinet Member – Mark Sutton Lead Officer – Neelam Bhardwaja	16 February meeting Members requested a better understanding of how the voice of the child is heard – particularly with respect to early identification of emerging online threats and challenges.	

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

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 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	Chairman and Vice-Chairman briefings on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 July – briefing on 14 July SSCSG

Standing Items 2022/2023

Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (SSCSG) to gain an overview of community safety within the County and identify areas for further scrutiny as appropriate.	
Children Improvement Board (CIB) Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja	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: 23.05.23, 28.06.23, 25.07.23, 27.09.23, 24.10.23, 28.11.23, 20.12.23	
Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja	Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review	Some areas picked up by the DHR review process

Briefing Notes / Updates / Visits 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	"Stable Homes Built on Love" Government's response to the Care Review		
	Adult Safeguarding Quality Assurance Framework		

Working Groups / Inquiry Days 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome

Membership – County Councillors 2022-2023

Bob Spencer (Chairman)
 Gill Burnett-Faulkner (Vice Chairman - Overview)
 Paul Snape (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny)
 Ann Edgeller
 Janet Eagland
 Johnny McMahon
 Gillian Pardesi
 Kath Perry
 Mike Wilcox
 Conor Wileman

Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2023-2024

15 June 2023 at 10.00 am
 27 July 2023 at 10.00 am
 14 September 2023 at 10.00 am
 24 October 2023 at 12.30 pm
 24 October 2023 at 2.00pm – informal meeting
 23 November 2023 at 10.00 am
 4 January 2024 at 10.00 am
 15 February 2024 at 10.00 am
 18 April 2024 at 10.00 am
 Meetings usually take place in the Oak rm, County Buildings