

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. | The Committee were happy to support the strategic vision for the early years' service, welcoming the work to reorganise the service delivery model and the planned budget profile. |
| 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 | The Commissioner shared with the Committee details of the Right Person Right Care process, rationale and timescales, including partnership working and transition planning. Further discussion was around developments resulting from the PEEL report and monitoring of the |

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. | current situation with regard to possible increased terrorist threats |
| 23 Nov 2023 10.00 am | <p>Family Hub update and the work of the Family Improvement Boards Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody</p> | Item requested by Members during their June/July work programme planning. | <p>The Committee support the emerging Family Hub model and congratulated Officers and the Cabinet Member for the progress to date. Members agreed to consider becoming advocates and pledge their support for the Staffordshire Co-Production Promise.</p> <p>Details of: the Bump to Toddler Pathway; the Risk register; and the location of the Family Hubs were requested and progress against the performance framework will shared with the Committee at either 6 or 12 months (at the discretion of the Chairman in consultation with the Cabinet Members).</p> |
| | <p>Trading Standards Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p> | Scrutinising the work of Trading Standards in enforcing more than 250 pieces of legislation and its role in maintaining a safe and sustainable marketplace. | The Committee welcomed detail of the successful work undertaken by Staffordshire Trading Standards. They requested detail of enforcement data. |

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>They also suggest the Chairman and Portfolio Holder write to the chairs of the eight district and borough planning committees raising the issue of vaping, and seeking their consideration to include planning restrictions through their Health in all Policies to prevent Vaping premises being positioned near schools and colleges. Members will also consider becoming scam champions.</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>The Committee welcomed the Annual Report 2022/23 of the SSASPB thanked Mr John Wood, Independent Chairman for his 8 years' service as SSASPB Chairman</p> |
| | <p>Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report Independent Chair: Ian Vinall Lead Officer: Lynn Milligan</p> | <p>Report brought annually</p> | <p>The Committee scrutinised the work of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board through their annual report. From this they have concerns around communication, information sharing and delegation and will</p> |

Work Programme 2023/2024

| Date of Meeting | Item | Details (Background) | Action / Outcome |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| | | | look to arrange engagement with Chief Officers from the statutory SSCB partners to highlight these concerns and seek assurances for work taken to ameliorate these issues |
| | <p>Family Help Pilot Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta</p> | Item for pre-decision scrutiny | The Committee supported the Family Help Model pilot to be trialled in Lichfield and Stafford. |
| | <p>Provision of Services for Children and Young People Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Karen Coker/Shahid Munir (report entitled "Homes for children in our care")</p> | Item for pre-decision scrutiny (the item covers the placement sufficiency detail requested by the Committee) | <p>The Committee supported proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) open six in-house local authority run children's homes; b) request a Contribution of £0.3m in 24/25 from the Council's transformation fund to meet upfront costs incurred during the transition process; c) join the West Midlands Framework for the Provision of Residential Placements – from October 2024; and join the West Midlands Foster Care Framework from April 2024. |

Work Programme 2023/2024

| Date of Meeting | Item | Details (Background) | Action / Outcome |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| 15 Feb 2024 10.00 am | <p>Adult Safeguarding Early Response Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher</p> | <p>Considering work towards earlier responses to adult safeguarding, considering the process, numbers and seek assurance that these are dealt with in a timely way.</p> | <p>The Committee welcomed the latest position for early adult safeguarding response and the improvements made. Members will undertake and promote the on-line referral training once this becomes available.</p> |
| | <p>MASH Review and adoption of a Staffordshire Children's Front Door Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Clive Cartman-Frost</p> | | <p>The Committee noted the changes to the MASH multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. They requested a visit to the MASH to consider firsthand the changes made and the effectiveness of communication, information sharing and safeguarding arrangements. A performance report showing the effectiveness of safeguarding will be included on the Committee's work programme.</p> |
| | <p>The Community Safety Agreement, performance and impact Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p> | <p>Looking at the Community safety Agreement, considering its performance and impact. To include any potential impacts identified from the Right Care Right Person initiative.</p> | <p>Members welcomed the detail of the Community Safety Agreement 2023-2026 within Staffordshire. They have requested a future item to scrutinise progress with the new Domestic Abuse contract. They request that the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee,</p> |

Work Programme 2023/2024

| Date of Meeting | Item | Details (Background) | Action / Outcome |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>receive an overview of the CTU briefing to help give parameters to any current threat and risk. Members also requested detail of the Safer Street Fund successful bid.</p> |
| | <p>Right Care Right Person Report of the Scrutiny Chairman</p> | <p>Outline of the work undertaken by the O&S Committee on Right Care Right Person, including their informal meeting with the Commissioner.</p> | <p>The Committee welcome the initiative in principle and have referred the monitoring of this to the Health & Wellbeing Board as they have representation from Health, SCC & Police in their membership.</p> |
| <p>18 April 2024 10.00 am</p> | <p>Ofsted Inspection Outcome Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bardwaja</p> | <p>To consider the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of children's services</p> | |
| | <p>Adult Vulnerability Hubs Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher</p> | <p>Looking at the development of adult vulnerability hubs, their intended outcomes and timescales to achieve these.</p> | |

Work Programme 2023/2024

| Date of Meeting | Item | Details (Background) | Action / Outcome |
|-------------------|---|--|------------------|
| | Feedback from MASH visit | Following scrutiny of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report and concerns raised there around effective safeguarding, the Scrutiny Committee visited the MASH on 5 April to investigate the concerns raised and consider what further scrutiny is required. | |
| tbc | 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. | |
| Tbc | 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. | |
| TBC May or Nov??? | Family Hub – development monitoring | | |

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

| Suggested Item | Details (Background) | Proposed Date of Meeting |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| | | |

Standing Items 2023/2024

| Item | Details (Background) | Action / Outcome |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Crime & Disorder Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p> | <p>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 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>Chairman and Vice-Chairman briefings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 July – briefing on 14 July SSCSG |
| <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: 23.05.23, 28.06.23, 25.07.23, 27.09.23, 24.10.23, 28.11.23, 20.12.23</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 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 2023-2024

Bob Spencer (Chairman)
 Gill Burnett-Faulkner (Vice Chairman - Overview)
 Paul Snape (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny)
 Ann Edgeller
 Janet England
 Johnny McMahon
 Gillian Pardesi
 Kath Perry
 Samantha Thompson
 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