

WORK PROGRAMME

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee 2016/17

This document sets out the work programme for the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for 2016/17. 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 Tina Randall, Scrutiny and Support Manager on 01785 276148 or by emailing tina.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk

Membership – County Councillors 2016-17

John Francis (Chairman)
David Williams (Vice-Chairman)
Maureen Compton
Michael Davies
Bob Fraser
Terry Finn
Sandra Hambleton
Robert Marshall
Christine Mitchell
Mark Olszewski

Calendar of Committee Meetings 2016-2017

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| Wednesday 8 June – 2pm |
| Friday 8 July – 10am |
| Monday 5 th September – 10am |
| Wednesday 9 th November – 2pm |
| Monday 12 th December – 10am |
| Monday 16 th January 2017 – 10am |
| Monday 6 th March 2017 – 10am |

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

Work Programme 2016-17

| Date of meeting | Item | Link to Council's Commissioning Plans | Details | Action/Outcome |
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| Wed 8 June 2pm | Low Level Neglect Working Group Feedback Councillor David Williams | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time. | This will be an opportunity for the Working Group to share their findings and recommendations with the Select Committee. | The report was endorsed by the Committee and submitted to the Cabinet Members for response. |
| | Children, Young People and Families Transformation Programme Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison | Resilient Communities Living Well Best Start Ready for Life Enjoying Life | This report follows on from the information presented in October 2015 on Commissioning for better outcomes for children, young people and families. | The Children's Transformation Programme was discussed. More detail would be provided regarding the pilot programmes to the Committee in July 2016. |
| | Update on work to address child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan and information regarding Revenge Porn & Sexting Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison | Resilient Communities Build a joint approach to crime and addressing the causes of crime. Enable people to access appropriate intervention at the right time. Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities | This item is considered on a biannual basis. At the Triangulation meeting in May 2016 the work undertaken to address revenge porn and sexting was queried. | It was confirmed that Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board was undertaking an audit of schools and that the findings of this audit could be shared with the Committee. The Vice Chairman had written to the Leader of the Council re Chelsea's Choice funding. The number of referrals to CSE Panels were increasing as they had shown to be useful. There had not been appropriate or sufficient interest from providers to commission bespoke support service. Members sought reassurances regarding licensing practices in the District and Boroughs and it was confirmed that South Staffordshire District Council had invited auditors in to assess the process. |

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| Fri 8 July 10am | Youth and Community Service update Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Paul Woodcock | Living Well Enjoying Life Resilient Communities | The Committee last considered this item in July 2015. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District Commissioning Leads share more information about local funding at Member Meetings. More information about the Liberty Staffordshire Community Interest Company be shared with Councillor Finn. |
| | C,Y &Fs Transformation Programme – Overview of Programmes including the Vision Pilot Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Janene Cox/ Barbara Hine | Resilient Communities Living Well Best Start Ready for Life Enjoying Life | This report will follow on from the Overview of the Children Young People and Families Transformation Programme presented in June 2016. There are a number of pilots that are being initiated by partners across Staffordshire to explore the delivery of different aspects of the Family System model. | The names of schools involved in the pilots will be circulated to the Committee and an update will be brought to in December 2016. |
| | New: Verbal Cabinet Response: Preventing the Low Level Neglect of Children in Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time. | The Working Group's report was endorsed by the Committee at the 8 June Committee meeting and an Executive Response to the recommendations requested in 3 months time. This verbal update will be followed by a formal response in September. | The Select Committee were informed that a full written response to the recommendations would be presented to the September Select Committee meeting. |
| Mon 5 Sept 10am | Update from Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner P&CC: Matthew Ellis | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities. Build a joint approach to addressing crime and the causes of crime. | The Committee has a responsibility to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account for safety issues. The Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing had suggested that the Committee scrutinise how successful diversion schemes had been. Responses to modern slavery, honour crime and the protection of those who are vulnerable and supporting victims may also be of interest. At the December 2015 meeting it was agreed that the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to attend a future meeting and that Members submit lines of inquiry in advance of this | Discussion centred around the PCC's safeguarding role. Key areas of inquiry being around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visible policing; Rises in violent crime including hate crime since Brexit; Protection of the most vulnerable within the community; Investigative policing hubs; The use of police cells as places of safety; Potential risks around sex offenders released from Stafford Prison; The current and future relationship between the Fire and Police Services; and Access to local crime statistics |

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| Wed 9 Nov 2pm | Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards: update on the impact of central government cuts on assessments. Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Peter Hampton | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities. | This item was suggested at the Triangulation Meeting in May 2016. | The Select Committee requested a report to their January meeting highlighting the implications of the White Paper and addressing their continued concerns around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the anticipated elimination timescale of June/July 2018 for high priority backlog; the budgetary overspend; and how to address the medium and low level referrals. |
| | Customer Feedback & Complaints Adult Social Care Annual Report 15/16 Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Kate Bullivant | Running the business well | Adults' Services have a statutory obligation to submit the Annual Report on complaints and representations | The Select Committee commended the Customer Complaints and Feedback Manager on the thoroughness of the report. They have requested detail on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> timescales for implementation of "learning actions", and comparative data for children's services from those authorities considered by the DfE to be comparators for Staffordshire Members also suggested that where an investigation had not been completed, this should be recorded as "ongoing" rather than "outcome not known" |
| | Customer Feedback & Complaints - Children's Social Care Annual Report 15/16 Cabinet Members: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant | Running the business well | Children's Services are required to submit an annual report on complaints and representations to the relevant County Council Committee. | |
| | Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board 2015-16 Annual Report Cabinet Member: Alan White Independent Chair: John Wood | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our | | The Select Committee had continued concerns over the limitations of Care Director. They agreed to raise these with the Corporate Review Committee, suggesting that the Committee consider a review of IT systems to highlight concerns and corporately address these. |
| Mon 12 Dec 10am | Confidential HR Update Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Liz Kealy/Mick Harrison/Deborah Ramsdale | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our | Item requested by Shadow Cabinet Member for Safe and Strong Communities in November. | Members requested consideration be given to when and how the Select Committee should be informed of any such issues and that governance arrangements should be amended to address this. |

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| | <p>Transforming Care Partnerships – Adults Safeguarding Implications (previously referred to as “Quality of Care in Adult Residential Care Homes”) Cabinet Member :Mark Sutton Officer: Nichola Glover-Edge</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our</p> | <p>This item was suggested at the Triangulation Meeting in May 2016.</p> | <p>The Select Committee raised concerns around the reliability of CCG funding, the quality of care providers and the stigma and discrimination and asked that their concerns influence the Programme of transforming care and be considered during the re-tendering process of domiciliary care packages.</p> |
| | <p>Progress with the Children and Families Transformation Programme Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison</p> | | <p>This report will follow on from the information presented in June/July 2016.</p> | <p>The Select Committee congratulated officer on the success of the Partnership programme so far and will receive progress reports on the individual projects to their January 2017 meeting.</p> |
| | <p>Modern Slavery Officer: Mick Harrison Tim Martin and Lindon Evans, Staffordshire Police</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.</p> | <p>It was agreed at the April 2016 meeting that update on Modern Day Slavery would be shared with the Committee in July 2016 however it was suggested in June 2016 that an update in December would be more timely.</p> | <p>The Committee congratulated Officers on their thorough report and supported the progress made to date in relation to tackling modern slavery. They also asked that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they receive details of the number of modern slavery prosecutions; • post the January Task and Finish Group meeting the action plan timescales be shared with the Select Committee; and • to receive regular updates on the number of reported cases and prosecutions in relation to modern slavery. |
| <p>Mon 16 January 2017 10am</p> | <p>Update on work to address child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan and information regarding Revenge Porn & Sexting Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Build a joint approach to crime and addressing the causes of crime. Enable people to access appropriate intervention at the right time. Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities</p> | <p>This item is considered on a biannual basis. This issue was last considered on 8 June 2016.</p> | |

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| | <p>Children and Families Transformation Programme Pilot projects Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.</p> | <p>Following the 12 December meeting Members requested details of developments with the projects.</p> | |
| <p>Mon 6 March 2017 10am</p> | <p>Modern Slavery Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Mick Harrison And Becky Murphy</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.</p> | <p>At the 12 December meeting Members requested a further report giving progress on the Task and Finish action plan following their January meeting.</p> | |
| | <p>Adult Social Care Market Failure Policy Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Nichola Glover-Edge</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Build a joint approach to addressing crime and the causes of crime.</p> | <p>Requested at the 12 December meeting.</p> | |
| | <p>Missing Persons Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton & Alan White Officer: Mick Harrison</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Build a joint approach to addressing crime and the causes of crime.</p> | <p>Requested at the 12 December meeting.</p> | |
| | <p>Cabinet Response: Preventing the Low Level Neglect of Children in Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Mick Harrison</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time.</p> | <p>This item is the formal response to the Working Group's recommendations</p> | |
| | <p>Staffs Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 15/16 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Independent Chair : John Wood</p> | <p>Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities Build a joint approach to addressing crime and the causes of crime.</p> | <p>SSCB is a statutory inter-agency forum for agreeing how different services and professional groups should co-operate to safeguard children throughout Staffordshire and for making sure that arrangements work effectively to promote better outcomes. The 2014/15 report was considered in December 2015.</p> | |
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Items carried over from the 2015/16 Work Programme

Safeguarding Vulnerable Children

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Link to the Council's Commissioning Plans</i> | <i>Background</i> | <i>Possible Option</i> |
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| Social work staffing levels and caseloads Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Richard Hancock | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities. | Discussed at the March 15 meeting. Within the Specialist Safeguarding Units (SSUs) caseloads of between 17 and 23 were considered acceptable, but in Oct 13 and early summer 14 there was a significant increase in referrals. At the same time the 40 week legal process was reduced to 26 weeks and Court work had to be undertaken by the SSUs. Teams largely fully staffed and the referral rate stabilised but some staff having caseloads are over 23. | Briefing note by Richard Hancock before July meeting. |
| Impact of the Staying Put Policy Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Richard Hancock | Resilient Communities Ready for Life Living Well | Staying Put Policy arrangements are where young people aged eighteen and older who were previously looked after, remain living with their former foster carers. The broader policy issue was considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel on 16/06/16 and is discussed on a regular basis. | Briefing note by Richard Hancock before July meeting. |
| Fostering and adoption: availability of places Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Richard Hancock | Resilient Communities Enable people to access the appropriate intervention at the right time Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities. | The MTFs report in Feb 15 identified concerns about the non delivery of savings in respect of foster care placements. Adoption support was considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel in March 2015. | Briefing note by Richard Hancock before July meeting. |
| Evolve YP Pilot Project Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Richard Hancock | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities | The predecessor Committee evaluated the Social Work Practice (SWP) pilot: Evolve YP. The SWP contract was extended to April 16 to allow time for the commissioning for children's services to become clear and the future role of SWP contract to be considered. | Briefing note by Richard Hancock before July meeting. |

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Link to the Council's Commissioning Plans</i> | <i>Background</i> | <i>Possible Option</i> |
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| Protecting from harm those who are vulnerable and supporting victims. Cabinet Member; Alan White Officer: Mick Harrison | Resilient Communities Ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities. | In December 2015 HMIC published PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (Vulnerability). An inspection of Staffordshire Police . This report considered how effective the force was in protecting from harm those who are vulnerable, and supporting victims. HMIC | At the January 2016 Councillor Frank Chapman, Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel explained that Her Majesty's Inspection of Constabulary (HMIC) had undertaken an inspection of Staffordshire Police Force in December |

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| | | <p>found serious weaknesses in the services Staffordshire Police provides to protect and support victims, most notably victims of domestic abuse. Some staff were focused on identifying and protecting vulnerable victims. Where vulnerability is identified and the risk to victims is assessed properly the force works well with partner agencies to safeguard and support victims. However, there are several areas where urgent improvement is needed to ensure that the force provides a consistent service, and that victims are kept safe. HMIC has particular concerns about Staffordshire Police's poor approach to formally assessing the risks faced by domestic abuse victims. Given the scale of the challenge in this area and the significant risk that these weaknesses pose to some of the most vulnerable people, HMIC judges that overall, the force is inadequate. In many cases, Staffordshire Police responds well to victims but this standard is not achieved consistently.</p> | <p>2015 and that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief of Staff would be held account at a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel. It was agreed that a copy of the report would be shared with Members. A backlog in the MASH was referred to in January 2016, the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel discussed with Suggested that this item be programmed as part of the 2016/17 Committee Work Programme.</p> |
| <p>Care Director Cabinet Member: Alan White Officer: Ian Benson</p> | <p>Running the business well</p> | <p>The Chair proposed an investigation into the implementation of Care Director across children and adults services, to compare and contrast the implementation.</p> | <p>A letter was sent to the Chairman from the Cabinet Member and circulated to the Committee 04/08/15. Information was included in the 07/09/15 Care Act report. At the Sept 2015 meeting the Cabinet Member discussed the work undertaken with the architects of Care Director to ensure that the system was Care Act compliant. At the Nov meeting it was suggested that the use of Care Director in adult services be added to the work programme. At the Triangulation meeting on the 9 December it was agreed that a briefing note would be provided giving an update on the current situation.</p> |