

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 6th March 2017

Executive Response to Preventing the Low Level Neglect of Children in Staffordshire

Recommendation

1. That the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee scrutinises the Executive Response and Action Plan and makes recommendations with regard to the follow up of any outstanding actions.

Report of Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

2. The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee formed a Working Group to consider Low Level Neglect. The focus of the Working Group's report was on the early identification of signs of neglect in children under five years of age and preventing the low level neglect of children and young people by addressing the risk factors and prompting good parenting.
3. The Working Group submitted their report that contained a number of recommendations, to the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for endorsement in June 2016. The report was then submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for a written response. The Cabinet Member reported verbally to the July 2016 meeting that the vast majority of the recommendations were linked with the work being undertaken as part of the Children, Young People and Families Transformation Programme.
4. The Select Committee is being asked to note the current progress in response to the Low Level Neglect Working Group and also to set a date in the next six months so that a further update can be provided to this Select Committee

Report

Background

5. In June 2016 the Committee received the Final Report which included a number of recommendations/actions.
6. These recommendations have been accepted and can be seen by the enclosed Action Plan. All have been acted upon, some of which have been completed and

are now enshrined in 'business as usual'. Those that have not been completed will continue to be worked in until properly embedded

Link to Strategic Plan

7. Living Well – Encouraging people to take control of their lives and to have good health and wellbeing.
8. Resilient Communities – How we can help communities and individuals to create strong and vibrant localities where people can prevent, cope and recover from harm.
9. Best Start – Making the most of the early years of life is fundamental for the delivery of all three of the council's priority outcomes. Which are:
 - a. We will work hard to ensure that the economy continues to grow and that everyone has a good job with good prospects
 - b. We will help people to help themselves to lead happy and independent lives with less need for services and support.
 - c. We will continue to support those least able to help themselves through creating new models of care in line with resources.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

10. Report being presented following Select Committee meeting 8th June 2016

Community Impact

11. Resources and Value for Money - Evidence shows that early recognition and intervention will enable resources to target and support lower level neglect issues and avoid escalation into higher level and more costly services.
12. Equalities and Legal - Tackling low level neglect is essential in achieving the County Council's priority outcomes that the people of Staffordshire will:
 - a. Be healthier and more independent
 - b. Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.
13. Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Local authorities undertake assessments of the needs of individual children to determine which services to provide and what action to take.
14. Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority, each of the authority's relevant partners and such other persons or bodies working with children in the local authority's area as the authority considers appropriate. The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of all children in the authority's area, which includes protection from harm and neglect.

15. Working Together to Safeguard Children, HM Government, March 2015 states that; 'Providing Early Help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early Help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care.
- a. **Risk** - Low Level Neglect impacts on every part of a child's life chances, with the impact also extending to their future prospects and ability to parent effectively.
 - b. **Climate Change** - There are no Climate Change implications identified.
 - c. **Health** - There are a number of implications for health services within this report and recommendations include work with Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups.

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Appendices/Background papers

Appendix A – Preventing Low Level Neglect Working Group – Executive Response Action Plan

Appendix B - Recommendation 5 referred to in Appendix A

Appendix C – Recommendation 14 referred to in Appendix A

Appendix D – Sharing Health data to improve outcomes for Families and Children: Staffordshire Executive Summary